

Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society

Vol. 2 Issue 4  
September 2005

# Rural/OBSERVER

Celebrating Our Rural Community Lifestyle

Serving the Communities of Port Renfrew

Jordan River

Shirley

Otter Point

East Sooke

Songhees

Malahat

Willis Point

## Happy Trails

### Close Encounter

### A Wee Bit of Magic in East Sooke

## LUND SEEKS SECOND TERM

Photo by Noelle LeDrew of East Sooke

## The Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society Mission Statement

A group of Juan de Fuca residents has formed a non-profit society to launch a news and advertising publication for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

*We will provide a forum for our rural communities to share news, exchange ideas and develop a sense of community. At the same time the publication will give businesses within and outside the electoral area an opportunity to promote their products and services and reach potential customers. We also hope to make current information about the region and its services available to the many tourists who visit the area each year. Our goal is to protect, preserve and enhance rural life.*

The publication will rely on community members to share their interests and points of view through articles, correspondence and photographs. We welcome articles and letters reflecting the very diverse interests of our member communities and expressing all points of view. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit for brevity, accuracy, clarity and taste. Though every reasonable precaution will be made to verify the accuracy of material submitted, the editorial committee assumes no responsibility for the content of published articles. The responsibility is that of the writers. References and descriptions of products or services are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied.

If you wish to submit an article for an upcoming issue of the Rural Observer, please email it to:

submissions@ruralobserver.com

Or mail to: Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society  
6790 East Sooke Road, Sooke BC  
V0S 1N0

Please support this important project. We invite you to volunteer and/or become a member of the society, which is open to all residents of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area interested in an effective publication to serve our area. Copy and fill out the application form here, and return it with \$10 per person to the address above.

**We're online!** [www.ruralobserver.com](http://www.ruralobserver.com)

## Volunteers Needed!

Are you able to help the Rural Observer with distribution, one day every two months? Would you like to be a reporter or offer other help? For more information, please call 646-2528

### what's inside the *Rural* OBSERVER

CRD Director Seeks Second Term	3
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society	4
Readers' Forum	5
Otter Point Community News	8
Omnivore Or Opportunivore?	9
Shirley Community News	12
Close Encounter	13
East Sooke Community News	14
Mount Matheson Conservation Society	15
Magic & Romance in East Sooke	15
Cooking With Claudia	16
Kids' Page	17
From Our CRD Director	18
Advertisers' Directory	19

#### Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to help? \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: JdF Rural Publication Society,  
6790 E. Sooke Road, Sooke BC V0S 1N0



Enjoy a FREE coffee or tea and dessert with your meal and this AD.

Welcome Neighbours!  
Please drop in for lunch,  
dinner or Sunday brunch.

# Stone Pipe Landing

at Cooper's Cove

(250) 642-0566  
reservations suggested

PRESS RELEASE

# LUND SEEKS SECOND TERM AS REGIONAL DIRECTOR



**Erik Lund, Regional Director for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, today announced he will seek re-election in the Electoral Area in November.**

In making the announcement, Lund focused on what he has been able to accomplish, saying, "I feel honoured to have been able to serve the community for the past three years and have kept all of my campaign promises. I am asking for an opportunity to continue the work I have begun."

Since Lund has been in office, there has been unprecedented public input and communication through two dozen town hall meetings, a JdF website and regular weekly office hours to allow greater public access and involvement.

Lund has been instrumental in bringing positive changes and direct local involvement to the Electoral Area, including:

- Establishment of a new elected Land Use Committee, with representation from all communities in the Electoral Area;
- A properly funded Search and Rescue program, making it a CRD service;
- Creation of an effective JdF emergency preparedness committee and emergency preparedness plan;

- Establishment of a community-based Juan de Fuca Parks Commission, with responsibility for planning park acquisition and development in the Electoral Area; and
- Completion or upgrading of Official Community Plans for all six communities of the Electoral Area.

Lund indicated that he is seeking re-election in order to complete projects now under way in the area, such as a fire hall for the Malahat, water lines to settlement areas in Otter Point and East Sooke and work on several projects in Port Renfrew.

He also cites acquisition of the Sheringham Point Lighthouse property for a passive park, establishment of Seagirt Ponds Nature Park, development of a JdF parks plan and management plans for local family parks in the Electoral Area as being among his priorities for Electoral Area communities.

In making his announcement, Lund thanked residents of the Electoral Area for their confidence and support saying, "I look forward to being able to complete the important work now underway and to respond to the needs and wishes of member communities of the Juan de Fuca over the next three years."

# TIRECRAFT

**2079 Otter Point Road Sooke 642-6665**  
Fax: 250-642-6638

Total confidence now and down the road.

• Passenger Tires • Truck Tires • Used Tires • Custom Wheels

VICTORIA'S OFF-ROAD SPECIALISTS

We also carry all your favourite brands of tires including: • Toyo • Super Swamper

We specialize in:

- Lockers & Gears • Lift Kits • Shocks
- Wheel Balancing • Custom Exhaust
- Brakes • Suspension • Snow Chains
- Tune-Ups • Oil Changes
- Government Certified Mechanics
- Government Inspection Facility

COURTESY CAR

NO interest NO Down Payment Extended Terms O.A.C.

# Toward a Legacy of Community Trails

article & photo submitted by Rosemary Jorna



A group of mountain bikers meet and chat with the Jornas on the trail.

Surprisingly, a Rural Observer article on recreation opportunities in East Sooke spurred the formation of the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society. The article, "Come Play in My Back Yard" was published just at a time when residents of Otter Point and Shirley were realizing that some of their favourite recreation spots might be lost. Rosemary and Sid Jorna had recently moved back to the area and saw a connection. As they became involved in community affairs, and Sid began attending meetings of the Otter Point Official Community Plan (OCP) Committee, the loss of public access to the land, particularly of recreational trails, emerged as a real public concern. Part of a popular trail network around Kemp Lake had been closed while that section of property is prepared for subdivision. The proposed sale of Crown Land just south of Otter Point Road threatened another well-used trail system. What was happening to the "Back Yard" west of Sooke District?

At this point several families were working together to find a solution. In their dismay at discovering how vulnerable the informal trail systems are, they looked at areas in the CRD that have well known and well-defined trail systems. They asked Bob McMinn from the Highlands District to talk to residents of Otter Point and Shirley about the Highlands experience in creating a trails system.

An ad in the Sooke News Mirror and posters spread around the community produced over 40 people who attended McMinn's presentation in November 2004. From that meeting, a Steering Committee stepped forward to establish the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society. The Society was chartered in February 2005, and by August had over 55 members. It seems to expand monthly. Executive members from the Steering Committee were President Sid Jorna, Vice-President and Mountain Biking Director Lorien Arnold, Equestrian Directors Laurei Fontaine and Ginny Seabrook, Hiking Director Rosemary Jorna, Secretary Heather Phillips, and Treasurer Margaret Rodman. The Officers and Directors were acclaimed at the first AGM held in June of this year. We are especially pleased to have Ginny Seabrook on the Board, as she gives us a sense of continuity with the earlier Sooke Hills Trails Club.

The Community Trails Society formed to advocate for the needs of equestrians, cyclists and walkers. The value of trails is put forward by the long range plans of the Capital Regional District Parks, the Juan de Fuca Parks Commission and the Regional Growth Strategy. As a Society, we want to support planners in making the long range plans become reality for our community.

The economies of Juan de Fuca communities are in transition with a shift from resource extraction to tourism, retirement living and recreation, and the well-being of the community requires that the natural beauty of the region be preserved and remain accessible. This means protection of important habitats and the development of recreational parks and trails. Applying principles of smart growth to subdivisions and communities will ensure access to viewpoints, hikes and beach areas for everyone. The feeling of wilderness in our "Back Yard" should be preserved, with a focus on undeveloped parklands and a network of trails in the community linking to the more challenging and remote trails such as the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail. Clearly, we need to put trails in place while land use is in transition.

The Society has been well received by local officials. We depend on our members and members of the community to come forward and tell us what trail systems and green spaces they use and value in their neighbourhoods. For more information on the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society, call Rosemary or Sid Jorna at 642-2767, or email [sid2767@shaw.ca](mailto:sid2767@shaw.ca).

## Come Celebrate the Rural Observer!


We are having a celebration/AGM to mark the first anniversary of the Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society. Members, supporters and friends, and community members in the JDREA are invited to attend.

**Sept 18, 3-6 pm**  
at Pioneer Park  
next to the Shirley Community Hall

There will be a concession with hot dogs, hamburgers, vegetarian samosas and other goodies, desserts and beverages for sale by the Shirley Community Association.

**A very brief AGM with election of officers for the coming year will take place at approximately 4 pm.**


For more info: call 646-2528



**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
Broker

Coast Capital Realty  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

**Charles Isherwood** B.Com  
Associate Broker  
101-6661 Sooke Road  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0  
T 250.642.6361 24 hours  
T 800.461.5353 F 250.642.3012  
[realtor@islandnet.com](mailto:realtor@islandnet.com)  
[www.idealator.com](http://www.idealator.com)



We welcome articles and letters reflecting diverse interests and expressing all points of view.

## The Esau Syndrome - or why did we sell our inheritance for a mess of pottage?

This is the question we will have to answer if we do not elect rural-minded anti-amalgamation candidates to the job of Regional Director, and to the Land Use Committee (LUC) and Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) in the upcoming November elections. Also, enough of us who have the time, energy and skills to do the jobs, have to be willing to stand as candidates. Failure to stand can actually result in land speculators, developers, real estate agents and contractors, who have been 'elected' by acclamation, sitting on the LUC or APCs. This happened in 2002. If we are not willing to participate in democracy we will lose it, and lose our rural way of life.

East Sooke, Otter Point and Shirley overwhelmingly rejected amalgamation with Sooke District. A minority may have voted "no" because of the fear of paying substantially higher taxes with no improvement in services, but I believe the main reason most of us voted "no" was to enhance our chances of staying rural. We looked at Sooke and were revulsed by its indiscriminate pro-development policies. So, how does this translate into how those of us who want to stay rural should vote in November?

Firstly, determine whether a candidate would have anything to gain personally by accelerating the rate of development or by undermining our Official Community Plans. Does he (read he or she throughout) or do his close associates own large chunks of land from which he or they would stand to benefit financially if they were rezoned for denser development? Would his business or professional interests be enhanced substantially by growth and increased population?

Secondly, determine how the candidate makes his living. Is he a land speculator, developer, contractor or real estate agent? Do such people appear to support his candidacy? Does he make his living working with or for such people or for large local landowners or major Sooke businessmen?

Thirdly, what organizations is he involved with? What sorts of statements have been attributed to him in the local media? Is he a member of or chummy with members of the B.C. Landowners Association? Is he an active member of "downtown Sooke" business and other associations that appear to support aggressive growth and development? A person is influenced by and his values can usually be fairly judged by the company he keeps.

Fourthly, who seems to be supporting his candidacy with money, flyers, labour, etc?

Fifthly, what philosophy does the candidate have? A pro-development candidate is unlikely to come out and admit it. Candidates who state they stand for 'enhanced democracy', rail against the 'dictatorship of the CRD', complain about CRD influence in land use decisions and who are vague on where they stand on the inviolability of our OCPs and their support for our rural way of life versus 'progress and development' should be viewed with suspicion.

Sixthly, get out to all-candidates meetings and ask searching, blunt and pointed questions of those standing for office. Unfortunately, all-candidates meetings are often poorly attended and

not always covered by the media. Write a follow-up letter to the media when you feel you have found a candidate's Achilles heel through an indiscreet remark or failure to answer a question forthrightly.

At this point, with the exception of our very own excellent, but infrequently published Rural Observer, the 'media' is in fact the 'medium' --- The Sooke News Mirror. I am glad this publication's title is what it is, because its coverage of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is spotty at best, and of the Regional Director's governance generally critical and negative. I expect the bias of this pro-Sooke District paper will be against whatever candidates run on a rural ticket. After all, a free newspaper has to rely heavily on revenue from business advertising.

Let me say here that I can empathize with families or individuals who have owned large pieces of property for decades. Naturally they will fight to realize the best profit they can when they dispose of these properties. However, they have paid low taxes on these rural-zoned properties and should accept that investment in land is no guarantee of huge returns. I have neither empathy nor sympathy for land speculators who really don't give a damn about whether or not their goals are congruent with those of the community and the need to protect our rural ecosystem.

At the beginning of this article I emphasized the need for rural-minded candidates to stand for election. Now I must conclude by equally emphasizing that we do not want rural-minded candidates running against each other. We need one good electable Regional Director candidate and enough candidates to ensure solid majorities on the LUC and APCs. We must not have a repeat of the situation that occurred in 2002 when two excellent rural-minded candidates ran against each other, each one genuinely believing he was the best candidate for the job and had the best chance of winning. I was sure they would split the vote, and we would get the very candidate the majority definitely did not want. Everything worked out fine, but let's not play that game again! Ego must be sacrificed for the good of our community. Toss the dice or flip a coin, if necessary, to decide which team should carry the rural banner! NO VOTE SPLITTING, please!

Remember, democracy is best served by a heavy voter turnout by an informed electorate. Please get out and vote on November 19! Our future as a rural area depends on your discriminating vote.

Byron Tweedy  
Otter Point



**AC & EQUIPMENT LIMITED**  
2615 TURNER ST., VICTORIA V8T 4T8  
**RENTALS • SALES • SERVICE**

- OUTDOOR POWER PRODUCTS FOR THE HOMEOWNER AND THE PROFESSIONAL
- PARTS & SERVICE FOR ALL MAKES OF GAS, AIR OR ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

**PHONE: (250) 386-5331 FAX: (250) 386-5335**  
EMAIL: [ac.equipment@telus.net](mailto:ac.equipment@telus.net)

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write another letter to the people of East Sooke about our community park, Coppermine Park. A short update and also a note of encouragement to all other parents to continue to work towards better recreation facilities in our community.

Several issues ago, I wrote a letter to the Editor voicing my disgust at the condition of our community park. I asked that anyone who had similar opinions contact me and with the help of a few, perhaps something could be done. A few people did call me after the letter was printed and a lot of people that I met on the street or at the store had similar feelings. This response spirited me to contact Erik Lund's office to see what could be done. Mr. Lund invited me to bring my concerns to the newly formed Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission meeting.

I made a short, nervous, presentation to the board. In hindsight, I realized quickly that I should have been more prepared. I had a list of improvements that were necessary for safety but I had no concrete idea on how much those improvements would cost. The end result, after that meeting, and then a following SEAPARC meeting, was that SEAPARC is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our park and they set \$2000.00 towards improvements.

I spoke to the Facilities Supervisor at SEAPARC about what they planned to do. His list of things was wonderful, containing all the suggestions that I brought plus a few extras. They gave me about a week's notice of when the work would begin and I did my best to round up volunteers. Unfortunately, SEAPARC had to delay the work because they were told that the Fire Hall might be expanding sometime in the near future and that might then affect the children's park. Before they would begin, they needed to make sure that there were no plans to move or demolish the existing park in the near future. The real work began several weeks later. Thank you to the volunteers that showed up when I asked, and then later when they just happened to see people working in the park. East Sooke really does have community spirit! I also want to thank Bev Sawatzky and Trent Arterberry for the generous donation of the three park benches.

For the most part I am pleased. Quite a bit of work has been done. The park has a nice clean pea gravel surface and the boards for the hockey players in the tennis court are fabulous. A lot of sweat was lost while cleaning the broom and blackberry bushes away from the perimeter of the park and that looks wonderful as well. Thank you. There is still a lot left on that list though, and I also have some concerns about the "dirty" sand that was removed from under the climbing structures. It is piled very close to the play area. My children see that big mountain of sand and just want to play in it. I have not been able to get in touch with Jim Govan, Facilities Supervisor at SEAPARC, 642-8000, to see what they are planning to do next. I will keep trying and maybe you could too?

Linda Mellish  
East Sooke



A tire swing hangs in wait under a giant maple tree.  
Photo by Noella LeDrew

### Rain? - What Rain?

I don't even notice the rain, unless it's coming down so hard my rubber boots start to fill up and I have trouble breathing without continuously spitting out water; the rest of the time it's just like having little fairy sprinkly things bursting all over on your skin - I don't measure the rain, I measure the sun - and I love the sun best in the time when its wonderful presence turns our lands into tinder - you know - "fire season" - when the pacific high settles over the great ocean and we can have sunshine sometimes for two months solid, and thankfully for us, living in the land of natural air conditioning, we have only to lapse into the shade to avoid suffocation.

Then - it's far too much sun for black flies and mosquitoes, here near the water, when the rest of the country is being eaten alive, where the sun just means more bugs, I casually enjoy the wonderful heat, shirtless, no stinking bug repellent slimed all over me, just a hint of sweat and tanning skin.

I measure the sun and the sunshine. I know it comes at odd times, quite unexpectedly, January, February - sometimes even June, but we all know it will get here eventually - and if it doesn't we'll just get more next year.

So don't measure the rain - we all know we get rain - that's why we have trees. Measure the sunshine, cause that's why we have blue skies.

N.E. McNab, Shirley

**Healthy Living**  
with Dr. Fei Yang

**Traditional Chinese Medicine**

Specialized in Acupuncture  
Chinese Herbs  
Gynecologic Disorder

Tel: 382-9108

**ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW - AGAIN**

Dear Rural Observer:

I am writing to share information and stimulate community discussion regarding an issue that affects East Sooke and potentially all of our rural neighbours within the JDF electoral area. This issue concerns, yet again, boundary extension and proposed annexation of properties in our community by the District of Sooke.

I recall that the majority of residents within the JDF electoral area (80%) voted a resounding NO to amalgamation with Sooke. Reasonable people would therefore conclude that an 80% NO vote is evidence of strong public opposition to boundary extension and amalgamation. A majority NO vote told me that our residents want their communities to remain rural, and any future development should proceed consistent with the process and principles outlined in the Official Community Plans. In fact, these plans are now ready for submission to the Ministry of Community Services for approval. Nonetheless, in apparent disregard for the outcome of the referendum and strong public opposition to any amalgamation, the District of Sooke has advertised for lands to be included within its boundaries and submitted another request for boundary extension to the Ministry.

A very small number of individual landowners responded to the advertisement. To bolster the effort to bypass a legitimate and valid public process, the small number of landowners have been encouraged by Sooke Council to operate as a block or group to give "legitimacy" to another petition for annexation.

While I respect an individual's right to express their desires regarding their own properties, a valid public referendum has been concluded. These redundant events indicate to me Sooke Council's disregard for the JDF Regional Growth Strategy, disrespect for the residents who have worked with their communities to develop the OCPs and who voted 80% NO to amalgamation with Sooke.

The Sooke Council may want us country folk to believe that their resurrection of the boundary extension issue is merely their fiduciary obligation to respond to a handful of unhappy property owners unwilling to concede to the majority decision. From my way of thinking, this is a blatant "end run", an effort at "cherry picking" in order to bypass a valid vote expressing THE MAJORITY WILL of rural residents. These actions are calculated measures intended to incrementally destroy rural land, erode rural life and promote urban sprawl.

Special interest and incremental annexation was not part of my NO vote. So, what part of NO don't they get? Enquiring minds want to know - again!

*E. Hughes  
East Sooke*

**UVic in Metchosin - for the love of learning**  
UVic's Division of Continuing Studies is offering a non-credit course in Metchosin this fall: **Philosophical Foundations of Indian Religions**. More Info: Elizabeth Bowman at 721-6477.

**BEST REPAIR SERVICE IN TOWN**



**MISTER SWEEPER VACUUMS**  
HEALTHY • HOME • CENTRES

**BAGS BELTS PARTS ALL BRANDS**

Serving the Western Communities for Over 30 Years

NEW & USED
CANISTERS & UPRIGHTS
CENTRAL VACS

- ELECTROLUX
- PANASONIC
- TRI STAR
- HOOVER
- EUREKA
- MIRACLE MATE
- BUILT-INS
- ORECK
- KENMORE
- ETC...

**WARRANTY ON REBUILTS**



THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE  
"YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE BEST TILL YOU SEE A SEBO"  
[WWW.SEBOCANADA.CA](http://WWW.SEBOCANADA.CA)



**SHAMPOOERS & VACUUMS**  
**AIR CLEANERS & POND VACUUMS**






**MISTER SWEEPERS BUILT-IN VACUUMS**  
\* POWERFUL YET QUIET  
\* EASY EMPTYING BAG OR NOT  
\* EXCELLENT WARRANTY  
\* GREAT PRICE!



**WET OR DRY SHAMPOOER SALES & RENTALS**

**EUROPEAN MICRO FIBER CLOTHS & MOPS**  
CHEMICAL FREE CLEANING

[www.mistersweeper.ca](http://www.mistersweeper.ca)  
HATLEY PARK PLAZA  
109-2244 Sooke Rd. (Next to Liquor Store)  
Open Mon - Sat  
**474-1011**

**REGULAR VACUUMS**  
**SANYO**  
[WWW.SANYOCANADA.COM](http://WWW.SANYOCANADA.COM)

## The Long-term Forecast *by Tom Rahme*

It may be September as you're reading this, but as I'm writing, it's early August, and I'm starting to wonder what this coming fall will bring for weather. As a surfer entering my 4th full winter season on the South Island, I'm getting used to this late summer excitement of thinking about what's to come. Will it bring the bounty of last year's storms in Sept and October, or will I have to wait through a "First Nations" summer like the previous two before the onslaught of winter weather arrives? Perish the thought of 3 more months of flat water.

As a meteorologist, I am often asked one of two, dreaded questions around this time of year; what will the winter be like, or how long is this summer going to last? This is a lot of responsibility to shoulder, but I feel obligated to provide some sort of comment, if not answer. In my mind, I'm thinking that we're likely to have some nice warm days in September before things start to cool down. Then some storms will arrive and by early-mid winter we may get a few days of snow here and there, and likely a cold snap or two before spring starts to show up. How lame is that! So instead of committing to any personal hunches, I usually just shrug my shoulders and answer sheepishly, I really have no idea. But who is there to answer these questions?

Science is a good place to start. Scientific experts have been notoriously inaccurate in long term forecasting since they began trying. Our own Environment Canada (<http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/>) produces seasonal forecasts for a period of up to 12 months in advance. These forecasts are based on complex computer models that predict temperature and precipitation values for the coming months and compare them to values that have been averaged over a period of thirty years. They then summarize whether the coming season will have temperatures and precipitation above, below or near the average for that time of year. A look at the statistical analysis of these forecasts reveals an accuracy that is at best only slightly better than a mere guess.

Next up is The Old Farmer's Almanac (<http://www.almanac.com/>). They claim an accuracy rate of 80%, and derive their forecasts "from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of the Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792". Looking back over the past year, they were somewhat less than their claimed accuracy, at least for our region.

As a third alternative, I came across a rather obscure method when I was living in New Zealand a few years back. A guy down there was putting out a book of daily weather maps for the country for the entire year. He claimed that these maps were based on basic atmospheric science combined with the tidal influences that the moon exerts on the atmosphere. Interested in his approach, I purchased the book and found in most cases his maps to be nowhere near the actual weather maps on a given day. But he got my money, and actually I don't really want to say any more about that.

These are by no means the only peddlers of long-term forecasting snake oil, but it leads me to the question: will we ever find a key to the weather of the future?

Well personally, I'll continue to search thrift stores and garage sales for that special crystal ball, but until then may I suggest that you stop asking about the long-term and take the Buddhist approach of concentrating on the weather of now, or at least on the weather of a few days from now... that I can provide at [www.coastwatching.com](http://www.coastwatching.com). No charge.



**DISCOVERY**  
Computers & Wireless  
**SOOKE**

- Sales
- Service
- Repairs

Evergreen Centre - 1160-6660 Sooke Road  
[sooke@discoverycomputers.com](mailto:sooke@discoverycomputers.com)  
**642-5827**



**Holistic Animal Health**  
"All Animals Deserve The Best"  
**Michelle Marier**  
Animal Therapist

(250) 642-1864  
EMAIL: [hah35@shaw.ca](mailto:hah35@shaw.ca)

10% off with this ad

## Omnivore or Opportunivore?

by David Evans

The animal that ultimately led to the death of our goat arrived on a Saturday morning early this summer. Debbie had just finished milking Tomiko and had returned her to the lower field where she would finish the grain and hay left by our other doe. As my wife ate breakfast we were in the backyard, our daughters and I, playing on the swing set when we heard the wailing.

Our little farm is a mixture of fenced enclosures. The tallest and sturdiest fence surrounds our backyard mostly to protect our combined 20 years of plant collecting. The lesser fences surround our livestock and poultry.

Expecting to see Tomiko with her head stuck in the livestock-mesh fencing or in some other, "dumb goat" position, I left the girls under-ducked on the swing set and went to see.

She was off the ground, four feet flailing toward the far fence in the grip and bite of big black blur. The predator we had expected to cull our herd is cougar. Black bears, as I understood it, were omnivores that prefer a log of ants and some huckleberries to a warm, kicking goat. Wrong! My brother wryly jokes that omnivore really means opportunivore.

I grabbed the other doe - she was mute with fear - and we sprinted back to the house, called for Deb to take the girls inside, explained what was happening. I grabbed what I could - 2 long-handled garden tools - thinking I might be able to...I don't really know what I thought. Saving Tomiko wasn't going to happen. I knew from the way her head swung that her neck had been broken. To see her being eaten alive is what I wanted to avoid.

Adrenaline! From 30 meters I threw rocks in wild directions, not even close, not even once. Hoping the bear's dedication was single-minded enough to let me with my shovel and my dandelion puller get closer, I moved in. From 6 meters I let-go the shovel and watched it helicopter inches above the bear's head. Options were running out. I was in the field, the bear was on the other side of the fence, between him and me was the fence and the food source: our milk/his meal.

Everything I remembered about attacks by dominant animals is that you fight back when they attack YOU. I knew nothing about intervening when an animal attacks prey. I knew nothing about an animal that wasn't actually on the top of the food chain. Everything I knew - which was nothing - led me to believe that if I attacked this bear, it would scurry away like a kicked dog. Moving sideways, dandelion puller cocked like a metal-ended baseball bat, I was within 6 feet.

I swung, and the tool tore a loop out of the livestock fence. The bear didn't stop but he looked at me; he was all dark eyes and rubbery nose, teeth and long black claws. He kept looking at me as I swung again hard with the hickory handle and he watched me as the metal hit him just below the ear. He turned, ran off without a sound and left me with a dying goat. Tomiko was a mess. Awful. Debbie and I calmed her down; her eyes were less crazed, her breathing more regular. She recognized us.

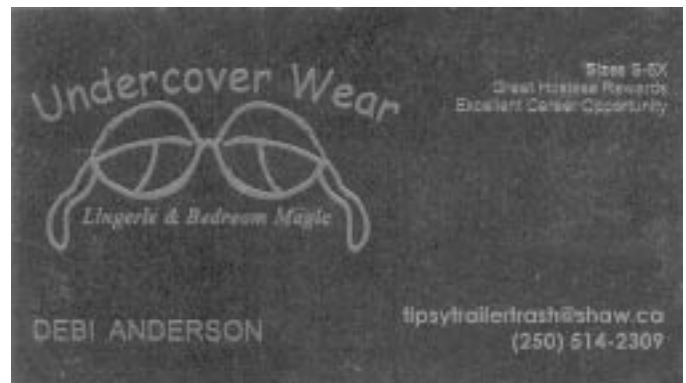


My philosophy on wild animals hasn't changed. Their most significant threat on Southern Vancouver Island is the same as anywhere else. The most significant threat to wildlife is you and I. I moved into the bear's and the cougar's neighbourhood. I put out the buffet. For me to be angry when once in 5 years a beast comes to dine poses a paradox I can't overcome. Just as I expected rabbits and deer to eat my lettuce and beans, I thought it possible that one day something would come and take a goat or dog or cat or...something.

The lives of both Tomiko and the bear were ended by bullets within a few hours of one another. The former from the 22 of a neighbour; she wouldn't die in our arms. The latter from the gun of a conservation officer after a short tracking by hounds. Tomiko is buried in our lower field. The bear rests somewhere nearby.

It turned out that a neighbour had reported a bear attack on one of his goats. The people across the street mentioned a black bear menacing their dogs. Clearly, this bear was becoming what decent folk would classify as a nuisance. Am I vindicated?

My eldest daughter still has nightmares, and we tell her that the bear probably wasn't a bad bear but a shade of grey on the good-bad spectrum. We want her to be empowered by knowledge of and respect for wildlife, not hampered by fear. To classify an animal and his brethren as bad goes against what I believe. We took her to see Bears at the IMAX and she loved it. Maybe she thinks differently about the dead black bear and the bears in our neighbourhood, generally...but she's only 3 and a half and has been raised on Tomiko's milk.



# Proposed Tra

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission is proposing to develop a community bus service for local neighbourhoods in the East Sooke, Otter Point and Sooke areas.

## Your opinion counts.

Drop by the display, phone, fax or email. We want to hear from you.

**When:**

September 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:**

East Sooke Community Hall  
1397 Copper Mine Road

**When:**

September 22, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:**

Sooke Community Hall  
2037 Eustace Road

## Community Bus means local service

Community buses are 20 passenger vans. These smaller buses offer several benefits:

- More flexible routing as they can operate on smaller streets
- Lower cost to operate
- Fully accessible through a rear lift

## Proposed Community Bus Service

Initially, one local community bus will provide transit service. The community bus will connect with the **61 Sooke** bus to provide the major trunk service between Sooke and Victoria.

We are asking you to help us identify the service priorities for your area. We need your answers to our questions.

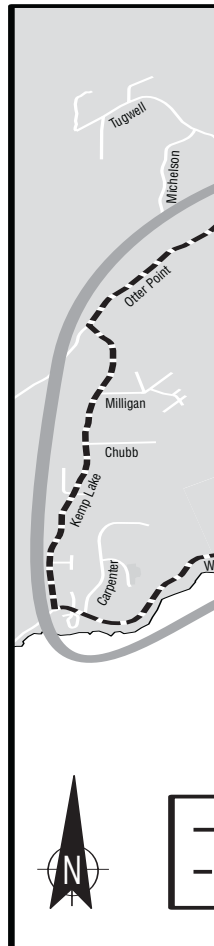
1. Is local bus service important?
2. Which areas have the greatest needs for local buses?
3. Should additional resources be put into increasing the frequency of existing bus service or improved Park 'n Ride locations before providing local bus service?

Sooke is currently served by handyDART twice a week.

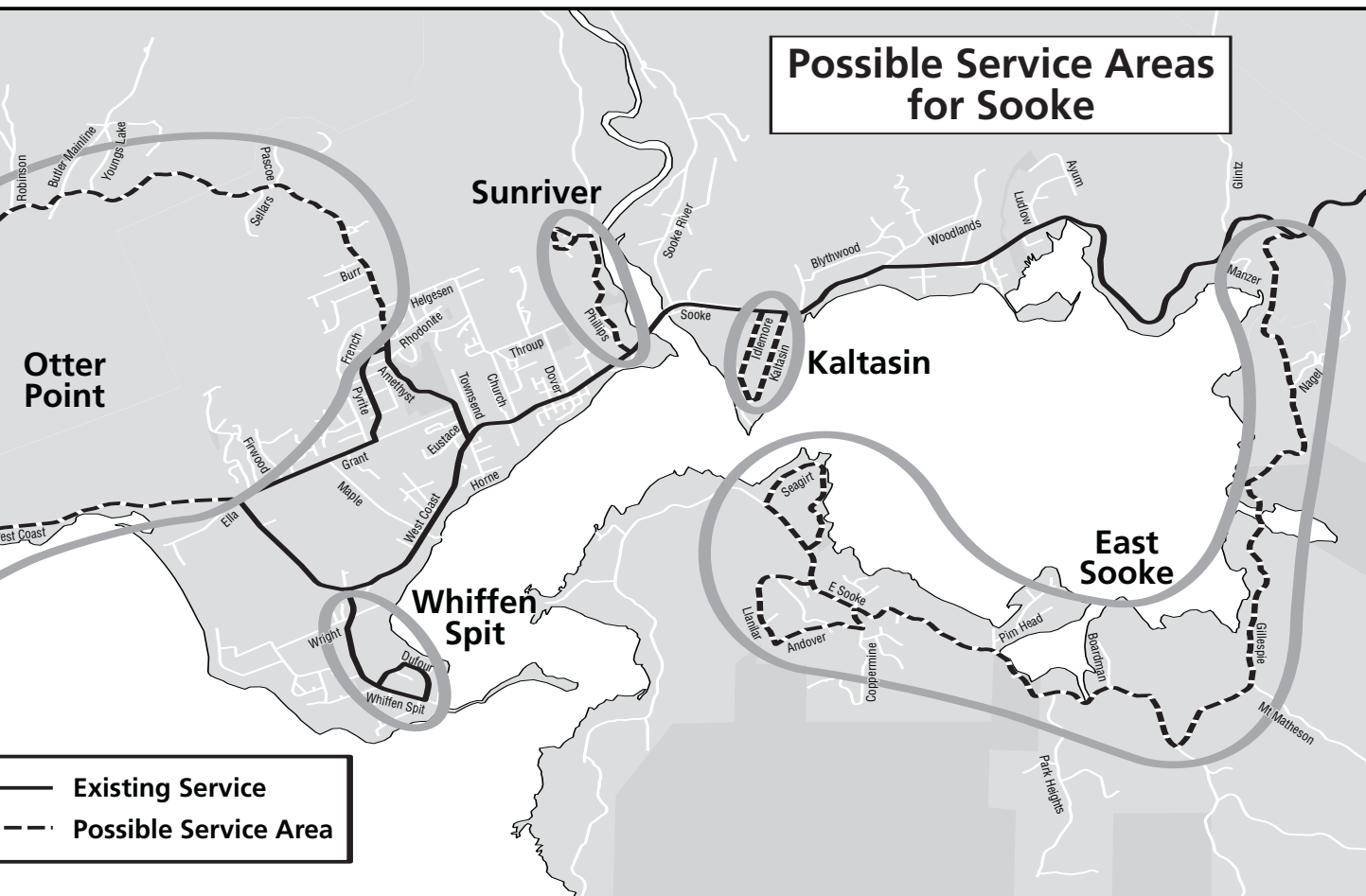
4. Is additional handyDART service important?

With your input, Transit will prepare a plan for increased service to the area. This plan will form part of the on-going service implementation process as funds become available.

Funding for transit in the greater Victoria region comes from the passenger revenues (40%), provincial government (32%), and local property and gasoline taxes (28%). There would be no tax increases specific to these increases in service.



# Transit Service



## Tell Us What you Think.

Please send us your comments by:  
September 30, 2005  
Email: [june\\_klassen@bctransit.com](mailto:june_klassen@bctransit.com)  
Mail: BC Transit, 520 Gorge Road East,  
PO Box 610, Victoria, BC  
V8W 2P3  
Fax: 995-5639

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise indicated, events held at the Shirley Community Hall.

### SVFPS General Meeting

September 11, 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Dominique - 646-2528

### Shirley Community Association Meeting

September 14, 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Chuck - 646-2077

### Rural Observer Anniversary Party and Annual General Meeting

September 18, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Pioneer Park next to Shirley Hall

Everyone in the JdF EA welcome

Contact: Terri - 646-2528

### SEAS AGM

October 2, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Maureen - 646-2820

### Shirley Community Association Meeting

November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Chuck - 646-2077

### Remembrance Day

November 11, 10:45 a.m.

Contact: Chuck - 646-2077

### Christmas Craft Fair

November 13, 10 - 4

Contact: Chuck

### Electoral Area Elections

November 19, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Contact: CRD

### Shirley Volunteer Fire Dept Practices

Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Carl - 646-2107

### Shirley Quilters and Crafters

2nd & 4th Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Shirley Community Association,  
President Chuck Minten 646-2077  
SVFPS, President Dominique Bernardet  
646-2528  
Fire Chief Carl Nelson 646-2107*

## Shirley, BC - On The Map, And On Our Mail!

by Terri Alcock

Did you know that the community of Shirley had its own post office from the mid 1890s to 1916? Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Clark opened a store in their home opposite the Community Hall in 1893. Shortly thereafter, they petitioned Ottawa for a post office. Mr. Clark was the first postmaster and courier for Shirley. The post office closed in 1916, about the time a post office opened in Jordan River.

More recently, many residents of Shirley have expressed a desire to have their mailing addresses reflect the community's unique identity, so in March of this year a request was made to Canada Post [as has been done many times over the years] to have Shirley's official address changed from Sooke back to Shirley, BC.

Canada Post flatly refused to consider this request, which led to a complaint being filed with Canada Post's Ombudsman, Michel Tremblay on May 15th. His office advised that they would investigate, and a file was opened. SEAS, the Shirley Community Association and the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society wrote to the Ombudsman expressing the support of their memberships for the address change.

On August 2nd, the community received a letter from Tremblay advising that the investigation was complete, and that Canada Post had now agreed that if the CRD would inform them of Shirley's boundaries in relation to Otter Point and Jordan River, Canada Post would assign Shirley its own postal code. At last the name of our feisty little community is going back on the map, and on our mail!

All house addresses in Shirley changed recently, due to a civic addressing project carried out by the CRD. Efforts were made at the time of the changes to combine them with the postal code changes planned by Canada Post. However, Canada Post's changes were slated for 2007, so this was not possible.

Now, with the help of the Ombudsman, in 2007, when major changes are made to postal codes in the Sooke area, Canada Post will give Shirley its own postal code. This means that mail will then be addressed to residents at SHIRLEY, BC; yet another example of what we can accomplish when we work together as a community. Congratulations Shirley!

## SEAS Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers

Sunday, October 2, 2005  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Shirley Community Hall  
For more info call 646-2820

# Attention!

## Shirley Businesses, Artists, B&Bs

The Shirley Community Association is updating Shirley's Business Directory. If you do business in Shirley or Jordan River, from cutting lawns to creating works of art, contact us for a FREE 4 line listing or pay \$25 to include your business card.

Deadline for submissions is October 15, 2005, with distribution by November 30 to all households in Shirley and Jordan River.

Call 646-2820, 646-2627 or 646-2528 to get your business listing or business card included in our local directory.

**Your neighbours may be  
your best customers!**

### **Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission**

The JdF EDC was created by a Capital Regional District bylaw and has the following objectives:

1. To develop a complete business resource listing for the electoral area
2. To prepare a development strategy
3. To coordinate economic development activities, including developing an active marketing program to encourage both new and existing investors
4. To liaise with other levels of government, the private sector and the media in matters related to economic development.

The JdF EDC funds community-based initiatives to further these objectives. It makes grants to individuals and groups to improve the local economy and create jobs. Projects are expected to be self-sustaining following an initial grant so that ongoing activity is not normally supported.

For more information including copies of our grant policy and application for funding visit [www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/meetings.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/jdf/meetings.htm) or call 250-642-1620.

The Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at a central location. Members of the public are always welcome.

## Close Encounter *by John Corsiglia*

On June 11th, the day before daughter Alicia's wedding, I was returning to East Sooke from Victoria with daughter Laura who, as maid of honour, would be reading Keroac in radiant Bhuto style at the St. Ann's ceremony. We drove through Langford, Colwood and Metchosin, and eventually wound along East Sooke Road as it meanders the perimeter of exquisite East Sooke Park. Laura loves deer, and we always look for them on this drive. We drove slowly, chatting about Linescape, Laura's two week long visual arts and dance exhibit, at a Seattle City Arts Centre. We saw two fat does, each with a lively fawn following.

Turning onto Seagirt Road, we began coasting slowly down hill toward home. Seagirt Road residents often see a magnificent buck along these swooping turns. Suddenly our breathing stopped as we both noticed a large tan form emerging from a neighbour's driveway into a patch of bright sunshine. It glowed golden and seemed very large... neither a big deer with short legs, nor the neighbour's grizzly, old Ridgeback. Then I saw the tiny ears, golden eyes, and the enormous thick, long tail. Happily, I was able to stop the car without spooking him. Elegant and serious, Mr. Cougar didn't seem bothered by or interested in our car as he tossed a penetrating gaze through the windshield and into our DNA. He conducted his saunter, or strut, down the driveway directly in front of us and across the road toward the Sword Fern and Oregon Grape undergrowth.

He was huge--certainly more than 200 lbs. There were no hollows along his abdomen--this was a very healthy and well-fed specimen. I noticed how magnificent his fur was--it seemed surprisingly thick and somehow I found myself looking deep down into it. As he sauntered into a shaft of clear sunlight, the "tan" of his fur broke into tiny dots of red, silver and gold. At the same time, his eyes seemed to share and magnify these metallic possibilities. No domestic kitty, this! These were eyes dedicated to watching and seeing cougar territory, cougar home-place matters. I felt grateful to have seen daughter Alicia, graphic artist, bride to be, using multiple strokes of pencil crayon to create wonderful illustrations of seashore animals that leap off the page.... these were radiant golden eyes in a gold and tan head attached by long neck to an enormous gold and tan body. I don't recall even a hint of a black pupil in those eyes.

His tail was very, very thick. It reminded of the largest sausages in the Italian Deli--the Mortadellas six or seven inches in diameter. His feet were huge. Immediately I began to wonder how Laura, accomplished Poet /Surrealist, was seeing this being. She would capture these moments with all her gifts and training and experience as an accomplished surrealist painter. We would share our contemplations about this moment through whatever years and decades lay before us.

A few days earlier I'd come across one of Laura's wonderful gifts: a stick of driftwood that she'd used stamping tools on to imprint with a message: "Be like the deer and sail on through!" Seems like good advice. We felt quite blessed. Folks hereabouts often live an entire lifetime without ever seeing a cougar! And here we were visiting with a mature and fully functional forest prince who could still make his living despite developer-ravaged wounds in the rainforest. It's as if clear cuts and other excesses of urbanization still seem repulsive to enough of us to prevent our communities from sliding down those slippery slopes.

I should mention that when I got home after the sighting, I did call neighbours with chickens and lambs, trusting that our informal grapevine would once again help neighbours avoid conflicts with these magnificats.

# East Sooke COMMUNITY NEWS



## We Have ESP (East Sooke Perceptions)

by Robert McCourty

By the time you read this article my family and I will have relocated from East Sooke to the Nanaimo area. The decision was not an easy one to make. We have lived in the East Sooke area for the past seven years.

During our time here our two daughters have grown and sprouted like Scottish Broom. I have watched with glowing parental pride as they naturally adapted to their rural environment. Planting seeds for the garden. Watering every day until harvest time. - Tasting that first sweet pea from the vine. Watching their faces light up as they pull a huge carrot out of the warm earth or enthusiastically dig for the buried treasure of that elusive giant potato. Helping Dad split and carry wood for the stove. Standing by that same stove later in the evening, in anticipation of a warm 'blankie' after a bath. Mom

standing by the laundry machine, emptying pockets crammed with 'pretty rocks' after a day hike on Pike Road.

I remember both girls bugging me for a solid week to go Blackberry picking. This was an annual event for our family as Daddy always made Blackberry jelly, the taste of which on warm toast, on a cold January morning was beyond mere appreciation. The children learned that a little work is necessary to reap rewards. They also learned to accept getting pricked by berry bushes if you wanted the taste of that jelly... And they accepted these life lessons without prejudice. I remember once finding a newly opened egg

shell on the ground. The unmistakable Robin's egg blue. This of course, lead to a discussion with my daughters about baby birds, nests, nee, the entire cycle of life. It has been a great place to raise our young children.



Growing up rural, there are numerous splendours we simply take for granted. Watching deer run through the yard has become common place. Chasing Raccoons from the compost. Collecting wild mushrooms on your own property. Helping our neighbours crush apples for cider. Erecting a greenhouse in a modern day barn-raising. Strolling along a west coast beach with the salt air wafting through your senses. Watching the sun set over calm water. Listening to the wind sing through the trees. Playing music around the campfire. It is almost too easy to forget the immense privilege of living in harmony with nature here in East Sooke. These snippets of memory are priceless and beyond compare.



The quality of the people we have met here and the friendships we have developed will be cherished forever. We leave East Sooke to enter a new chapter of of lives, but if Heaven allows, we hope to return one day. Until then, thanks to everyone for your kindness, encouragement, friendship and open sincerity. On behalf of our entire family, we'll miss you. Be excellent to each other and for heaven sake, (all political persuasions aside) get involved with this community! Don't just talk about it. Do something to retain the quality of life here. Believe me, it's worth fighting for.

*"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They paved paradise, put up a parking lot." Joni Mitchell*

Cheers and best wishes. Hope to see you all again soon.  
Robert McCourty, Sylvie Dolbec,  
Vanessa, Melodie, and Laddie (bark bark)

**Dun-rite Painting**  
Neil Horsford  
commercial & residential specialist  
with 25 years experience  
tel: (250) 893-4261  
**PAINTER**

## What's Happening in East Sooke

If you have an event that you would like published in an upcoming issue please contact **Linda at 642-7949** or e-mail [shane.linda@shaw.ca](mailto:shane.linda@shaw.ca)  
subject:community announcements.

### BC Transit Display for Proposed Service Route

September 21, 7-9 pm. at the East Sooke Community Hall See page10 for more info.

### East Sooke Fire Improvement District Meetings

Meetings scheduled for Sept. 12 and Oct. 3 at 7:30 pm in the Firehall

### Fitness Classes

East Sooke Community Hall  
Classes are offered several days of the week and at a variety of times. Participation is by donation. Contact Holly-Anne at 642-0681 for times and dates.

### Karatedo Shindokai

East Sooke Community Hall  
Contact Drew Mackinnon at 642-0113 for information.

### East Sooke Go Ju Ryu Karate Club

East Sooke Community Hall  
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.  
For more information call Sensei Armin Seilopp at 642-3926.

### New to East Sooke or having a baby?

Your welcome wagon representative would be pleased to give you a wonderful basket of gifts. Call Sonia Lambert 642-212

## Magic and Romance in East Sooke

by Lynda Chambers

Music and laughter fill Tir Na NOg. And no wonder. It's the East Sooke home of two talented, funny musicians who live there with an eight-year-old dancing Australian terrier named Riley and a long haired tuxedo-clad cat named Maurice Born Four Times . . . Mo-mo, for short.

"Riley is our dog-child. He sits up on his hind legs and looks over his shoulder to make sure people are watching him perform," says Patricia De Gabrielle, an accomplished vocalist and musician who plays Celtic harp and bodhran or Irish drum, not to mention zills, castanets and spoons.

"In Irish legend, Tir Na NOg is a magical, mythical place where it is said time stands still, and you never grow old," says Patrick De Gabrielle.

Patrick is a skilled vocalist as well and a composer. Born in Dublin, he grew up "on the road" in the sixties as the youngest member of Ireland's oldest - and last - travelling vaudeville show called the Shannon Players.

"We were a theatrical family," he explains. "I started playing guitar for a living when I was only eleven."

Now he plays mandolin and Irish flute too and, after studying classical guitar for years, teaches all styles from country to jazz. Together with Patricia, Patrick is a member of "Celtic Reflections". It's a local band that, with James Young on stand up or double bass, performs everything from traditional Irish ballads to classical, Latin, contemporary and world music.

Not only does this East Sooke couple perform dreamy Celtic ballads together; they're specialists in the business of love and fantasy too! Tir Na NOg, in addition to being their home, is an Irish musical bed and breakfast, catering to couples who want to elope. "We provide a secluded getaway for people who want small, intimate and spontaneous weddings," explains Patrick.

The De Gabrielles were attracted to East Sooke by the park and trails and sense of nature everywhere. "It's beautiful and peaceful and the forest all around is a living organism that heals and nurtures," explains Patricia.

*cont'd on page 17*



## MT. MATHESON CONSERVATION SOCIETY CURRENT PROJECTS

by Kelly Le Blanc

Anyone passing through the Mt. Matheson area recently would have noticed workers clearing Scotch broom from the roadside. The project, sponsored by the Society, is in keeping with our goals of conservation and preservation by removing invasive plant species. There most certainly is not a shortage of broom, and it can take decades to deplete the seed bank. However, is it possible to have a "broomless" East Sooke? MMCS would love to receive your ideas on developing a long-term plan to eradicate broom from the community. Please let us know if you would like to receive a copy of our information sheet explaining the origins and management of Scotch broom.

MMCS recently made a \$3,000 donation to West Coast Environmental Law. WCEL contributes valuable information to make changes to environmental law and policy to better protect our natural ecosystems. For more information please visit the WCEL website at: [www.wcel.org](http://www.wcel.org).

Early this year, MMCS granted CRD Parks an easement access from Mt. Matheson into Roche Cove / Matheson Lake Regional Park. This access will provide residents the opportunity to enter the Park conveniently from the local neighbourhood. The Society will be meeting with Park staff this fall to discuss building a trail along the easement to complete this project.

MMCS is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia and is a registered charity. New members welcome! A 2005 membership is just \$10.00 single, or \$12.00 for a family. Lifetime memberships are \$200 (a tax receipt will be issued). Donations are greatly appreciated!

For more information contact the Mt. Matheson Conservation Society, 5065 Mt. Matheson Road, Sooke, BC V0S 1N0. Phone/Fax: (250) 642-0238, or [mmcs@shaw.ca](mailto:mmcs@shaw.ca)

**SERIOUS COFFEE** AIR ROASTED

**NEW TO SOOKE**

Warren & Jennifer Van Eyk  
invite you to a 10% discount  
with this ad

OPEN to 9 pm  
7 days a week  
Located next to Village Foods



## Cooking with Claudia

The summer has been wonderful in many ways. For me it has given me time to relax and browse through my favourite magazine, Cuisine, a food, wine and good living magazine from New Zealand, and it is from this magazine that I have chosen my recipe. It is very simple and doesn't require any baking.

### Bitter Chocolate, Raisin and Sherry Torte

75 gr. amaretti biscuits  
250 ml raisins  
125 ml sweet sherry  
300 gr. bitter chocolate  
150 ml cream

Line a 17cm springform cake tin with a large piece of Saran wrap. (Don't worry about wrinkles in the sides - they add character to the torte). Lightly crush the amaretti biscuits (easily done with your fingers) and spread over the base of the cake tin. Combine the raisins and sherry in a medium saucepan and simmer for 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and add chocolate, stirring until melted. Transfer to a bowl to cool for 10 minutes. Beat cream until soft peaks just start to form. Fold 2 tablespoons of cream through the chocolate then fold in the remainder of the cream.

Spoon the mixture over the biscuits and smooth the top with a knife. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight until firm. Remove from the fridge half an hour before serving. Serve slices with fresh fruit and extra whipped cream if desired. Serves 8.

Enjoy something different and delicious!

Claudia Berry

[www.ruralobserver.com](http://www.ruralobserver.com)

To advertise in the Rural Observer

Contact: Blake Edwards

Phone: 642-5949

Email: [bedwards@ruralobserver.com](mailto:bedwards@ruralobserver.com)

Web: [www.ruralobserver.com](http://www.ruralobserver.com)

**REAL CERTIFIED ORGANIC FOOD  
MARKET**

April - Christmas Saturday only  
11 - 3

**Ragley Farm** Circa 1912

5717 East Sooke Rd. East Sooke  
Ph: 642-7349 Email: [ragley@telus.net](mailto:ragley@telus.net)



**West-Mont School**

4075 Metchosin Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 4A4

Tel. (250) 474-2626 Fax. 478-8944

**Becky Warren**  
PRINCIPAL

[becky@west-mont.ca](mailto:becky@west-mont.ca)

**Hatha Yoga Lessons**  
Chakra Balancing - Breath Work - Relaxation

in Beautiful Cooper's Cove

2 Locations Flexible Times

Private or Group Lessons

Merle Enge CYT

250-642-4548 or 250-881-8929

[merle62@hotmail.com](mailto:merle62@hotmail.com)

# Kids' Page

When I was putting together this page I was flipping through a book written by Bev Bos. Her rule one for children and art is "don't interfere". She goes on to explain that in art there is no right or wrong, it is just about creating and in creating, the artist only needs to please themselves. With that in mind, I hope you and your child will enjoy the following activities.

## Corncob Prints

What you will need:  
dried corncobs without kernels  
liquid tempera paint on cookie sheet  
corn holders or nails  
large paper  
covered work area

Save corncobs after corn has been eaten and dry them on a shelf. Pour puddles of paint on cookie sheet. Push corncob holders into the ends of the corncob to use as handles while painting. If holders are not available push nails into the ends of the corncob. You could also just hold the ends with fingers. Roll the corncob through the paint on the cookie sheet like a paint roller. Roll the corncob through the paint on the cookie sheet like a paint roller. Roll the paint covered cobs across the large sheet of paper and create!

## Multi-coloured Muffin Crayons

What you will need:  
peeled crayons  
oven  
old muffin tin

Place crayon pieces in muffin tins. Completely fill each section. Keep in mind that some of the colours will mix so choose colours that are similar or that blend well. Place tin in oven and warm at low temperature until crayons are melted. Remove from oven. Let cool. Pop the crayon out of the mold and colour.

## Salad Spinner Art

What you will need:  
liquid tempera paint - two or more colours,  
salad spinner  
paper

Cut paper in circles that fit inside the salad spinner. Squirt a few drops of paint on the paper. Replace the lid and spin. Add paint and spin several times. Children really love this and the only messy spot is inside the salad spinner!

## Yeast Dough

You will need:  
1 package yeast  
1-1/2 cups warm water  
1 tsp. salt, 1Tbs. sugar  
4 cups flour, 1 egg beaten

Measure warm water into a large bowl. Sprinkle yeast into the water and stir until soft. Add the salt, sugar and flour. Mix until dough forms a ball. Knead on floured surface until smooth and elastic. Roll and twist dough into shapes and letters, animals or whatever your imagination can think of! Place the dough sculptures on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double in size. Brush each sculpture with beaten egg. Sprinkle with salt. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes at 350 degrees until sculptures are golden brown. Cool slightly. Eat and enjoy!

"Magic..." cont'd from page 15

Since launching their website for Tir Na NOg, the couple's bed and breakfast has attracted visitors from around the world, including Japan, Belgium and Ireland as well as California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Montana and New York.

For some, it's the novelty of enjoying a private Celtic concert before bed that draws them to East Sooke. Others are tickled with the idea of starting a day of hiking in the nearby regional park with a hearty Irish breakfast of tea, soda bread, black pudding and fruit. Japanese, Mexican and French breakfasts are on the menu too, as are items for all and any special diets. Increasingly though, guests are enamoured with Tir Na NOg's picturesque west coast garden setting ideal for customized weddings complete with original music written and performed by Celtic Reflections.

Everything is tailored to a couple's personal preferences and

practically everything is taken care of from venue to music to photography to honeymoon and even more.

"We offer personalized song writing too," says Patrick. He and Patricia meet with the betrothed and elicit from them their thoughts and feelings on what stands out in their relationship. It is the couple who actually write the lyrics, with help from the musicians. The lyrics are then put to music and the original love song is performed for the very first time at the wedding. "We've just, for example, finished an absolutely beautiful song for a woman in Montreal," says Patricia.

Chances are Riley the dog-child will dance to this song too. The talented terrier has been known to attend quite a few weddings, when personally invited. The cat, though, keeps to himself as most cats do even though Mo-Mo, with his furry black tuxedo-style coat and white bib and gloves, would not be at all out of place at these garden weddings. Tir Na NOg - where magic and music harmonize!



## From Juan de Fuca CRD Director Erik Lund

In November of this year we go to the polls to elect a new local government. It seems like yesterday that the last election was held. Time has gone by too quickly. It has been an honour to serve in the capacity of Regional Director, and I am grateful for the support I have received during my term.

In view of the foregoing, it is timely to reflect on what has been accomplished over the past three years. In assessing what has gone right, it must be recognized that many people have contributed to the result. As Regional Director, I can only take credit by saying, "it happened during my watch".

Some of the major achievements in the past three years have been:

- We now have local influence on the Land Use Committee through elections every three years;
- Six OCPs will have been completed by year-end;
- The rural communities came together and declined to join Sooke by a large NO vote; and
- There have been minimal permanent tax increases during the past three years.

### Other important highlights are:

Port Renfrew received a large infrastructure grant;  
Juan de Fuca Search & Rescue was established as a local government service;  
The Electoral Area now has its own Parks Committee;  
Water lines were extended into Tideview Road and Eliza Point Road;  
A new Economic Development Commission Bylaw was created; and  
Seagirt Ponds Nature Park has been established.

### There is still work to be completed:

A zoning by-law to support the Official Community Plans;  
SEAPARC service review;  
A satisfactory outcome of Sooke's latest attempt to annex rural land from the Electoral Area;  
Several park acquisitions in the works;  
Continuation of programs to reduce or maintain taxes to an acceptable level;  
Establishment of a suitable transit system for Otter Point and East Sooke;

Creation of an OCP for the unsettled lands of the Electoral Area;  
Identification of trails used by the public, and wetlands, by means of GPS mapping techniques; and  
Continued promotion of more public influence into decisions made by local Government.

During the past term of office, regular office hours have been maintained where the public has had access to the Regional Director. A sincere effort has been made to maintain open government and increase the influence of each community in the process. Having come from the private sector it has been an adjustment to work within government and to realize that things move more slowly in government than they do in private business.

There have, of course, been disappointments such as seeing Silver Spray petition to join Sooke, and now facing another boundary extension application from Sooke for yet more land. It has also been a letdown to find that the province generally does not regard the unincorporated Electoral Areas as equal partners when it comes to local government.

In spite of the lack of influence an Electoral Area has on neighbouring municipalities and the provincial government of the day, the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area has definitely done its best to be recognized during the past three years. As we approach another election season I encourage people to put their names forward for the Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs), the Land Use Committee (LUC) and Regional Director. Elections are a perfect time to debate issues and present wish lists for the future. Remember, we get the government we deserve. It's up to us, the public, to make sure we put up good candidates and get out to vote.

**To advertise in the Rural Observer**  
**Contact: Blake Edwards**  
**Phone: 642-5949**  
**Email: [bedwards@ruralobserver.com](mailto:bedwards@ruralobserver.com)**  
**Web: [www.ruralobserver.com](http://www.ruralobserver.com)**

HEALING CHIROPRACTIC CARE

**KAREN QUINN, D.C.**

**477-1170**

2229 Lifton Place Victoria, BC V8N 6B2

**Vi Brown, B.A. Associate Broker**

Direct (250) 360-7373  
vi@askvibrown.com  
www.askvibrown.com

Toll Free 1-866-806-0981  
Office (250)474-4800  
Fax (250)474-7733  
Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty  
501-1913 Sooke Rd.  
Victoria, BC V9B 1V8

Urban & Rural Residential - B & B's - Waterfront - Revenue

# Advertisers' DIRECTORY

Please help the Rural Observer by supporting our advertisers. When you use their services, tell them you found them in the **Rural Observer!**

A&C Equipment Ltd. p.5 386-5331  
Charles Isherwood - Royal LePage Realty p.4 642-6361  
Discovery Computers - Sooke p.8 642-5827  
Dr. Fei Yang - Traditional Chinese Medicine p.6 382-9108  
Dumont Tire p.3 642-6665  
Dun-rite Painting - Neil Horsford p.14 893-4261  
Hatha Yoga - Merle Enge p.16 642-4548  
Healing Chiropractic Care - Karen Quinn p.18 477-1170  
Holistic Animal Health - Michelle Marier p.8 642-1864  
JdF Economic Development Commission p.13 642-1620  
Mr. Sweeper Vacuums p.7 474-1011  
Mystical Illusions - Kitchens & Reno p.9 642-7927

Peoples Drug Mart - Sooke p.19 642-2226  
Ragley Organic Farm p.16 642-7349  
Serious Coffee - Sooke p.16  
Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society p.20 646-2528  
Shirley Community Association p.13 646-2627  
Shirley Education & Action Society p.12 646-2820  
Stone Pipe Landing Restaurant p.2 642-0566  
Undercover Wear p.9 514-2309  
UVIC Continuing Studies p.7 721-6477  
Vi Brown - Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty p. 18 360-7373  
Victoria Regional Transit System p.10 & 11  
West-Mont School p.16 474-2626



## 2005 Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your membership in the Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society.

Our fee structure is as follows - you may renew at the basic level of \$10, or become a "Friend" of the Rural Observer for \$25, a "Supporter" for \$50, or a "Lifetime Member" for only \$100. We recommend the lifetime membership - you won't need to remember to renew each year! The Rural Observer needs your support to keep it strong, viable and independent.

Please send renewals to the Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society, 6790 East Sooke Road, Sooke V0S 1N0.

We can mail the Observer to you for \$25 per year if it is posted to a Canadian address and \$30 per year if you wish it to be posted to the United States.

Please send your information and cheque to :  
**Head of Subscriptions Department, 6466 East Sooke Rd. East Sooke, B.C., V0S 1N0.**  
Cheques need to be made out to Juan de Fuca Rural Publication Society.

More advertising info on our website:  
[www.ruralobserver.com](http://www.ruralobserver.com)

# PEOPLES DRUG MART

## 642-2226

**Pharmacy service the way it used to be.....after over 15 years of service in the communities of Sooke, East Sooke, Otter Point, Jordan River, Shirley, and Port Renfrew, we have changed our practice to benefit the needs of OUR community and more importantly..... with PEOPLE in mind.**

**PEOPLES DRUG MART ..Where People Come First**

**Talk to our staff about how to transfer prescriptions to our pharmacy.**

**Ron Kumar  
Pharmacist/Owner**

*"A Lighthouse*

*is a beacon  
of hope;  
a symbol  
of human  
Solidarity."*

*Gary Geddes, BC poet and author*

**Join the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society**

Your time and financial support will help preserve this important part of our West Coast heritage.

To find out how you can help:

Visit our website at: [www.sheringhamlighthouse.org](http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org)

Or phone 646-2528

*(Paid for by private donation to the Society)*