The Pointer

Autumn 2006

To The Point

We are looking for someone who is willing to deliver The Pointer along Willis Point Road on both sides. There are 27 papers to deliver in this area. The job was held by Elena Pennell until she moved away this summer. Many thanks to Elena for her good work over the past year. For anyone interested in this volunteer job, this route is suitable for kids or adults and could easily be completed in less than an hour. The Pointer is delivered 4 times a year at about the time when the seasons change. If you can donate a bit of your time, please give me a call.

Cheers, Pat Williams
652-0223
pwill@telus.net

Your Pointer is brought to you by a dedicated group of volunteer deliverers. Thanks to Joyce Menzies, Ken Leighton, Andrea Martin and family, Pat Orr and family, and Helen Resnick.

Advertising Rates

Business Listing	FREE	Full Page	$25
Buy and Sell	FREE	Half Page	$12.50
		Quarter Page	$6.50

Who's Who

WPCA Chair	Don Robin	652-0209
Pointer Editor	Pat Williams	652-0223
Fire Chief	Mark Roozendaal	588-6860
Hall Custodian	Janet Tombu	652-4097
Hall Sign	Joan Wright	652-3254
Saanich Inlet Protection	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
Fire & Recreation Chair	Vern McConnell	652-2996
Rural Observer newspaper	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
Kids PreSchool Play Group	Alicia Pine	544-0202
Aerobics Instructor	Deanna Roozendaal	544-4355
Land Use Committee	Patrick O'Rourke	652-5598
Advisory Planning Com.	Larry Resnick	652-8278
Firefighter's Assn. Chair	Aran Puritch	652-7018
Parks Commission Rep	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
CRD Advisory Committees: Environment, Solid Waste & Sludge Management	Larry Resnick	652-8278

Willis Point Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday October 1, 2006
4 PM at the Hall

FREE BBQ
with no-host bar
directly following the meeting.

Hartland Landfill Open House
Saturday September 16
9:30 – 2 PM

The Canada Trust
Great Canadian
Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday September 16th at 10 AM
At the Tod Inlet Beach, southeast end of Mark Lane
Contact Janet or Eryn Tombu 652-4097 to register, or just show up.
All equipment will be supplied, but bring garden gloves if you have them.
More info at www.vanaqua.org/cleanup
The Tod Beach location is listed as Brentwood Bay (Gowlland Tod).

Willis Point Community Association

WPCA Executive

Chair	Don Robin	652-0209
Vice-Chair	Don Gorling	652-6149
Corresponding Secretary	Sally McMillan	652-9468
Recording Secretary	Norma Jones	652-5792
Treasurer	Barbara Ende	544-1110
Member-at-Large	Gerri Gorling	652-6149
Member-at-Large	Ken Leighton	652-2686
Member-at-Large	Bob Scott	652-8522
Fire & Recreation Rep.	Jerry Tombu	652-4097

WPCA Minutes Summary

The following are summaries of the major points discussed, NOT complete minutes. Complete minutes are posted on the bulletin boards or can be obtained from the Recording Secretary.

June 12, 2006

-The WPCA will lease the Hall from the Fire and Rec Commission

-For the annual general meeting, the positions of Chair, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary will be up for election. Gerri Gorling will head the nominating committee.

-discussion of the approval process for Hall rental. The WPCA leases the Hall and has insurance covering rentals by WP residents. Non-residents must provide their own coverage. Rentals are subject to approval by the committee.

-a Dart Night is being planned for October 21, 2006.

Dart Night

Coming This Fall

Watch the Notice Boards and Hall Sign for dates and times and sharpen those darts!

The Point of Golf in the Point.

A new pair has earned the right to wear the coveted *'double wide green jacket for two'* that symbolizes backyard golfing excellence in Willis Point. For the past six years the 'Willis Point Nine&Dine', or 'Willis Point Open', or the 'Father's Day Willis Point Golf Tournament', or whatever you want to call it has brought out strong fields and enthusiastic galleries of 'Pointers' and 'Outsiders' alike. The 6th annual tournament was no exception. For the uninitiated, the golf tournament is an important fundraising event for the Willis Point Volunteer Firefighters Association as well as a valuable community social event that is inclusive and fun for all residents and friends of Pointers.

This year the tournament was held on the Saturday before Father's Day under mixed weather conditions. Aside from snow and hail we experienced pretty much everything from sun to rain in warm conditions. Thankfully, play was completed without rain delays and with no need to squeegee the greens. Best of all, we had perfect conditions for the dinner and awards ceremony.

The tournament raised approximately $700 for the WPVFFA, thanks to a good turnout of about eighty people, including 31 teams of two and the kind donation of prizes from several local businesses. Thanks from the WPVFFA to Red Barn Market, The Zone FM, ING Insurance, Kirby's Sports, Canada Post, Dean Hyland, J&J Embroidery, Lighthouse Brewery, Acuity Funds, Royal Mutual Funds, HMV, Titan Sports, ICBC, Wawanesa Insurance, Cannor Nursery, Urban Oasis Nursery, Axa Insurance, Knotty Pine Cedar Products, McDonalds, Capital Iron, Optimum West Insurance, Boston Pizza, Columbia Fire and Safety, Armchair Cynics, and the BC Forest Service. Thanks are also in order to the residents who kindly set up golf holes in their yards (....well, trails and driveways in some cases) and others who helped tend the holes and work the event.

And the winners of the '*double wide green jacket for two*'?

Congratulations to Danielle and Dave Connor. They required just 43 strokes to complete the par unknown nine hole 'Fire Hall Course #1'. Darren and Isaac Pine scored an unbelievable 45 to win the mixed division with Ian Espin and Mark Thomson taking the honour for the youth division. No group scored over 100 and pretty much everyone won a prize or two (or three in some cases). Well done everyone!

See you next at the Halloween Party (details will be posted on the trees and message boards).

Aran Puritch,
WPVFFA President

Photos by Brendan Pause

JUAN DE FUCA LAND USE COMMITTEE

WILLIS POINT REPRESENTATIVE

POINTER REPORT– September 2006

Summaries of the three meetings of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee since my June 2006 Pointer Report (June 6, July 18 and August 1, 2006) are in the June and September reports to the Community Association, and posted on the bulletin boards. The next scheduled meeting is September 18; the location is not confirmed at time of writing.

This report provides general information on land use planning, and poses three questions that I plan to discuss at the upcoming Community Association Annual General Meeting..

Land Use Planning

In BC, municipal governments make the majority of land use decisions, such as sub-division applications, zoning and rezoning, development permits and community plans. However, in unincorporated areas such as the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, most, but not all, decisions are made by the Regional District. The main exception is sub-division applications, which are approved by an "approving officer" of the Ministry of Transportation. The approving officer normally requests the views of the Regional District, in part to avoid approving a sub-division then finding out that the Regional District will not issue Development or Building Permits for the new lots.

Most Regional Districts have several unincorporated areas, and the Regional Directors for those areas collectively make land use decisions. After Sooke and Highlands incorporated, the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is the only area on the mainland within the CRD, and a single Regional Director cannot make land use decisions.

The CRD initially established two land use committees, one for Willis Point and the Malahat, the other for the areas around Sooke. This proved unmanageable, and in 2004 the CRD adopted the current structure. The Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee is composed of representatives from each of the six "sub-regions" in the Electoral Area, plus the Regional Director and representatives from neighbouring municipalities who have agreed to participate (initially only Central Saanich joined, but earlier this year Metchosin joined). The sub-regional members are elected during local government elections every 3 years (in 2005 only Willis Point had an election –in other areas candidates were acclaimed). The Committee makes recommendations to the CRD Board, and to my knowledge the CRD has approved all recommendations.

The Committee meets the first and third Tuesdays, usually at the Sooke Council Chambers (the most central site); the public is welcome. Agendas are posted on the Community Bulletin Boards, and are also available online at www.CRD.bc.ca.

Each sub-region has a five person elected Advisory Planning Commission, which provide advice and recommendations to the Land Use Committee on such things as development permits, Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws. Elections are held as part of local government elections (in 2005 only Willis Point had an actual election).

There is also an unelected Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks Commission, which has authority regarding parks dedications in sub-divisions. Members of the Commission are appointed by the CRD on the sole recommendation of the Regional Director.

Two CRD Bylaws play the largest role in land use – Bylaw 3027, the Willis Point Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, sets out general principles regarding development, establishes Development Permit Areas and Permit requirements, and establishes land use zones and permitted uses. Bylaw 3110, which has a long title, sets out the process for obtaining various approvals. There is also a Building Permit Bylaw, but this deals with actual construction, not land use.

Copies of these Bylaws are on the CRD web site, or you may contact me

Three Questions

1. In June, the Committee agreed with CRD staff that the Willis Point OCP does not allow for Bed and Breakfast operations and referred to the Advisory Planning Commission the question of whether to amend the OCP. As of writing the APC has not scheduled a meeting, so I would like to hear residents' views at the AGM.

2. Earlier this year the Committee adopted guidelines for the content of geotechnical reports that are part of Development Permit and similar applications. The Willis Point OCP sets out requirements for Development Permits. I think the guidelines need to be revised to better meet the OCP's requirements, and will be asking for residents' views as to whether I should propose revisions to the guidelines.

3. Bylaw 3110 deals with when and what applications are referred to adjacent landowners. In 2004 the Bylaw was amended to read, "Development Permit applications will not be referred to any adjacent landowners." I have questions about the fairness of this rule, and again would appreciate residents' views about whether to propose that these applications be referred to immediate neighbours.

I would be pleased to answer any questions, provide copies of reports, applications and Bylaws, or to discuss any land use matters.

Pat O'Rourke
(652-5598)

The Fire Chief is Back

It's great to be back in the Point after a year away! As most of you know, Dee and I were on our boat visiting Mexico and Hawaii. Now that we're back I sure have a new appreciation for running water, ice cream, and clean feet.

If you need to reach me regarding Fire Department business please call me at 588-6860. Of course, in all emergency situations please call 911. As well, call 911 for any potentially urgent situations such as smoke reports, out of season open burning, etc. By calling 911 you can ensure that someone from the department will respond even when I am out of the area.

Finally, my thanks go to Darren Pine for the many extra hours of time that he put in this last year in his role as Acting Fire Chief.

Mark Roozendaal,
Fire Chief

Fire Department Update

Over the summer months we've had about a call a month, an average number for our department. The first call was for a fall from a tree. Upon arrival at the scene we found that a hired professional had fallen from over thirty feet and was seriously injured. Our team was able to successfully stabilize the patient and then prepare him for transport. This situation was a good test of many aspects of first response medical training that all of our members receive.

Two of the calls were smoke reports. We responded quickly and fortunately the smoke did not lead us to any fires. However, even though the Summer months are over, the fire risk will continue at extreme for a while yet. The woods and grasses are tinder dry and even a rainfall or two will do little to reduce the fire danger. Never throw any butts out the window and please continue to observe the burning ban. If you do smell smoke don't hesitate to call 911. We would much rather check it out and find nothing than give a small fire time to become a big one.

The final and most recent call was to a motor vehicle accident near Ross Durrance and Willis Point Road.

At all of our calls this year we were able to put our new truck, "103," to good use. If you have been in the Point for more than a year you will remember that our old mini-pumper was on its last legs after a long and useful life. After completing our research we went to tender for a new mini-pumper / medical first response vehicle based on a large pickup truck. Our specifications included the ability to get more responders on scene in a shorter period of time, the size and agility to enter steep twisty driveways impossible for a larger truck, and the capacity to effectively attack small fires. Of course, all of these needs had to be met within our small budget.

The new 103 has been in service for almost a year now. Although I have not been here to personally review its performance, the reports from the team have been very favourable. In the past, using the old 103, only two firefighters could be first on scene. Now, our first team arrives with at least four firefighters and arrives sooner, especially when the destination is up the big hill. More people at a fire faster means that we fight a smaller fire. For medical calls the difference in our response greatly increases patient care and comfort. For a cardiac call, arriving faster with our AED (defibrillator) could mean

the difference between life and death. We haven't yet had the opportunity to test 103 in a live fire situation. However, with its modern compressed air foam system (CAFS) we do believe that it will add significant punch to our fire fighting ability. You can see pictures of 103 at www.willispoint.ca.

Does what we do sound interesting to you? If so, and if you're an able-bodied person of nineteen years or older, we'd like you to consider becoming a member of our department. We generally take in new members twice a year and are starting a training cycle for recruits now. You don't need any prior experience, just a great attitude and a willingness to work hard at practice once a week. I invite you to come up to the fire hall on Wednesday at 7pm to check us out.

Mark Roozendaal,
Fire Chief

Willis Point Welcomes New Neighbours

By Ken Leighton

Bob and Shelly Lane
7103 Willis Point Road (formerly Pennell's)

Bob operates his own insurance business, Bob Lane Insurance Services, and he is past president of West Shore Chamber of Commerce. His hobbies are photography and golf, and he looks forward to taking up kayaking. Bob is originally from Newfoundland and has two grown children.

Shelley has worked as a pub manager but more recently has been a volunteer at the West Shore Chamber of Commerce. Previously, she lived in Winnipeg for eighteen years. Shelly has two sons and three grandchildren in Victoria.

Bob and Shelley searched for a year to find a water-view house before they found their dream home at Willis Point. As well as enjoying this view they also love to travel.

Neighbourhood Notices

Retirement

Brentwood Physiotherapy will be closing in September as I will be retiring. A big Thanks to all my previous clients. Records will be transferred to Brentwood Massage and Physiotherapy, 6967 Wallace Drive, 652-6515. I will continue to provide craniosacral therapy and also canine rehabilitation when I am here.
Thank You,
Gillian Jackson 652-0472

Aerobics

Watch the Hall Sign for notice of the start of aerobics classes. They will be held Tuesday and Thursday at 7 pm at the Hall.
Information: Deanna Roozendaal 544-0426

Babysitting

Shevaun Cunningham, 17 years old, will look after children of all ages. She has St. John's Ambulance training and babysitter training. Call 652-1908

It's not too early to place your order for

Christmas Cakes and Sugarplums

Large Christmas Cakes (approx. 2 lb) light or dark, with or without nuts, $16
Small Christmas Cakes (approx. 1 lb.) light or dark, with or without nuts, $8.50
Sugarplums – a confection made of dried fruit, nuts and ginger
Box of 8 - $10 Package of 2 - $3
Please call Mariann Malvet at 544-1681 to place your order.

WILLIS POINT FIRE & RECREATION COMMISSION

Re: Willis Point Community Hall Maintenance Position

This fall, the Commission will confirm the duties and remuneration of this position, and will post a description and application procedure on the community bulleting boards.
For more information, please contact: Mary O'Rourke (652 – 5598).

Discreet, reliable Pointer available for vacation maintenance and security, watering plants, feeding fish, cats, etc., on-site supervision of tradespeople while you are at work or on vacation. Emergency rides or pick-up for kids to sports, appointments or school. If you can't do it, maybe I can!

Pat Sloan, 652-0226

Wedding
Congratulations

Jennifer Chapman and
Stewart Story
August 26, 2006

4-H Winners

Hello Fellow Pointers, hope everyone had a great summer. The Pointer has asked us to share our kids' summer 4-H fun. We had a very busy August with our 4-H club, showing our chickens at several Island Fairs including Coombs Aug 11&12, Nanaimo Aug 19&20, Cobble Hill Aug 25 and the Saanich Fair Sept 2,3&4.Chantelle is raising Old English Game chickens and Jessica is raising Belgium D'uccle (Mille Fleur) chickens. At each fair the girls are judged in several different ways. Some of these include showmanship, presentation and knowledge of their individual breed and how well they have looked after their birds. The girls worked hard and were rewarded many ribbons. We have met lots of 4-H members from Vancouver Island and shared great memories. The 4-H experience is awesome and we are excited about next year's projects.

The Elvedahls

Saija Connor and
Vinko Poldrugvac
August 27, 2006

Congratulations on Your Engagement

Congratulations
to Jason Connor
for making the Lower Island Soccer Association
Select U14 (Metro) Soccer Team

Congratulations to Lisa Bradley

who repelled down a 13 story building in downtown Victoria this summer to raise funds for the Easter Seals 'Camps for Kids' Campaign. Thanks from Lisa to all those Pointers who donated to the fund and encouraged her in her effort.

Pointer Delivery

We need someone to deliver The Pointer on Willis Point Road. This would take less than one hour, four times a year. This volunteer job is suitable for kids or adults. To offer your help, please call Pat Williams 652-0223.

School Is In

Please drive with extra caution when the school bus is loading and unloading.

Thank You

you taking care of you

According to the Medical Chi Kung system, our body's energy functions on 3 different levels. They work together and are interwoven like a 3-strand rope. The most physical of these levels is known as CHING: the vibrant life within our cells. If our ching is strong, we feel strong; our cells are receiving adequate nutrition and metabolism is balanced. Ching can also be described as our constitution – to some degree genetic but mostly influenced by how we take care of ourselves and our lifestyle choices.

There are 4 areas that we can focus on to improve our vitality:

nutrition – drinking 2 litres of water a day and eating plenty of high water content and alkaline foods*. The acid/alkaline or ph balance is so key to good health. Disease thrives in an acidic ph environment. When our blood is slightly on the alkaline side of the scale, disease cannot take hold.

breathing – is a form of nutrition. We'd die without oxygen – all our cells need it. The more we can get, the better we feel and the more efficiently our bodies function.

exercise – is one of the best ways to get a good dose of oxygen. Exercise gets our circulatory systems working, moving oxygen, nutrients and hormones to cells and organs. Exercise also helps with eliminating toxins and cellular waste that, if not cleared out, leaves us feeling tired, sluggish and crabby.

posture – poor posture is like gradually hurting ourselves and the #1 reason people walk through the Healing Studio door. It causes muscle tension that sooner or later will become chronic. Learning how to correct our posture can save us a great deal of pain in our upcoming years.

massage – aids all 4 of these areas. It promotes circulation, opens up and relaxes tight areas, allowing bloodflow to nourish and oxegenate muscles and organs – which means strengthening. Stretching and smoothing out muscles, tendons, ligaments and nerve pathways allows our structure (bones) more room to move effortlessly and without pain. Harmoniously, these lifestyle choices will help us move from fatigued and tense to vibrantly energetic and peaceful within. Life is too short to fell anything other than fabulous!

Fiona Percy – The Willis Point Healing Studio – 544-4057

*for a ph food chart. Look under form downloads at www.victoriahealing.com

Not In MY Backyard?

By Pat Sloan

With all of Willis Point on septic as well as over 20% of the Saanich Peninsula, and 700 new application each year, septic systems are here to stay. Your personal treatment plant is as crucial to your household as your well, and can be a lot more expensive to fix. So far, they are not covered by household insurance. Adhering to the basic principles of maintaining a healthy system may save you the nasty experience of having your septic back up into your bathroom or contaminating your neighbour's well.

Unfortunately, many people assume an attitude of flush and forget, but here in WP any problems that arise do so literally in our own backyards. With a septic system, you either treat it properly or it will clog up and overflow.

In a healthy system, all household drains lead to the septic tank, which in turn leads through a series of perforated pipes to the septic field, and through this process waste is treated by microorganisms which transform waste into clean water.

So, what can go wrong in such a simple system? The wrong stuff- grease, hair, kleenex, paper towels, Q-tips, seeds, tampons, condoms, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, pet litter, garburator output, etc. – is NOT treated by the system but remains in the tank, forming a sludgy biomat which clogs the tank. Chemical cleaners such as bleach and disinfectants destroy the friendly organisms. As little as 2 Tablespoons of Saniflush can render your system useless until these organisms can repopulate. Human bacteria is best to restore the balance, a chili and pizza party can do the trick.

The main rule is: Nothing goes down the drain except natural body products and toilet paper. Good quality toilet paper is better than the wispier kind which can clog the pipe perforations. Post a sign if you have to, especially if you have city visitors. Have plenty of waste baskets handy, especially in the bathroom. Use a 'hair snare' in bathtubs and showers. Do not use products containing phosphates. Unless labeled "phosphate free', assume otherwise. Use biodegradable products. Garburators overload the system; compost instead. Baking soda mixed half and half with vinegar makes a good cleaner. Wipe grease off dishes before washing. Have your tank inspected and pumped regularly, every 3-5 years.

Your septic field is equally important. Don't park, drive, pave or put heavy objects or machinery over the drainfield. Don't plant trees or shrubs in the drainfield area. Their roots can damage or plug drainfield pipes.

The CRD will soon enact new regulations requiring documented inspections, which will be discussed in the next issue of The Pointer. If there is enough interest, this community could have an information session put on by the CRD. Please call Pat Sloan, 652-0226 for more information, or to indicate your interest in a seminar, or check out the following website http://www.crd.ba.ca/ and follow the links to "septic savvy".

Can the OCP (Official Community Plan) Protect Us?

What is the OCP supposed to do? In general, it is meant to sustain the viability of our community. More specifically, it:

- Protects the wetlands essential to our well water.
- Protects the forested ecosystem.
- Safeguards the steep slopes from destabilization and excessive surface water runoff.

Is the OCP really up to the task?

The OCP is a CRD Bylaw: its provisions include strong safeguards in the three areas above. For example, it forbids any development or site disturbance on a wetland or within 30 metres of a wetland. Secondly, all of the 30 acre lots are designated as sensitive ecosystems which must not be altered without a development permit issued by the CRD. One specific aim of the permitting process is to "minimize disturbance of mature vegetation." And finally, development or site disturbance of a steep slope requires a development permit which sets conditions aimed at protecting neighboring properties from slope destabilization and excessive stormwater runoff.

BUT, as with all laws, the OCP is useful only if it is enforced. That's where there is a serious problem. It's especially serious if a new owner, who may be unaware of the requirements of our OCP, begins developing the property without a permit. It only takes a few days to alter a site more or less permanently in ways which are expressly forbidden in the OCP. Wetlands can be seriously compromised, large areas of protected trees can be clearcut and steep slopes can be destabilized before the enforcement procedures even begin to operate. The strongest tool of enforcement is a stop-work order which can delay construction for months – but, of course, it comes into play only after the law has been violated. Furthermore, CRD Bylaw Officers cannot possibly monitor all the sites at which bylaw violations may be taking place; they respond only to complaints. No complaints – no enforcement.

What can the Willis Point community do? We need to be more proactive. For example, we could:

- Explore ways of getting the names of new owners as soon as possible after the property changes hands.
- Include the OCP section on development permits in a "Welcome to Willis Point" package for new owners.
- Formally request the Juan de Fuca Planning Department to provide up-to-date information about the status of development permit applications for Willis Point.
- Alert community members to report signs of new development to …
- a small committee charged to coordinate the information and, in a neighbourly way, to clear up any misunderstandings about the requirements.

Conclusion: Doing nothing maximizes the risk. There's a lot at stake. No person or agency outside of Willis Point is responsible for giving new owners a "heads up" about the requirements. If, in a worst-case scenario, an important wetland is destroyed, the CRD will eventually issue a municipal ticket. But if our water supply is seriously compromised, our only option, so I have been told by a CRD official, is to sue the owner who didn't follow the rules. **We need to avoid worst-case scenarios.**

Larry Resnick, ex-chair of the OCP Planning Committee

Questions or comments? Please phone 652 8278

Looking back on One Year Afloat

Clean feet, green trees and an ocean view that stays horizontal – I appreciate these things as I look out of my office window in Willis Point. Mark and I are thrilled to be back in our comfortable home, enjoying friendships and the beauty of Willis Point. However, it's sad that our adventure is now over.

I've spent hours reviewing website updates and photos from our trip. Thank goodness we wrote and photographed so much, as details of our experiences have already faded from our minds even though we've only been home for a couple weeks now.

Salacia's trip home from Hawaii was uneventful and ironic. In sharp contrast to our fast, turbulent ride from Mexico to Hawaii, the trip from Hawaii to Victoria had very little wind and calm seas. After a very long passage, the professional crew happily got off the boat and we gladly took her back as our home.

In early July, we headed north to Desolation Sound to enjoy familiar waters and anchorages. We quickly remembered that few places rival the cruising grounds of BC. Our anchorages were lovely, safe places to enjoy the lush natural surroundings and tuck in for shelter from the weather. It was great to sleep soundly, without wave motion and threat of a dragging anchor. No waves over the bow and no overnight passages – it was good to be in home waters!

Although cool for us, the summer weather was perfect for boating in Desolation Sound. We hiked, kayaked, rowed and swam in the ocean and lakes. We put our prawn trap to good use and feasted on some great fish, courtesy of keen fishing friends who stayed with us for a week. Finally, the summer and our sailing year ended on a high note, when Pointers Ken and Trish Smith met up with us on their sailboat for a few days of fun in the Gulf Islands.

Now, most of our boxes are unpacked, I'm back to work and Mark is busy with fire department duties and projects at home and on the boat. In some ways, we've slid back into our old lives with ease. In other ways, everything has changed. Having experienced a different lifestyle over the past year, my perspective and priorities have changed - I appreciate people and simple things that I had previously taken for granted. I'm finding it's easier to discern what's important in life and what's not. Also, after seeing how the Mexican people live, I'm questioning the pace of life that I see around me. Mark and I certainly haven't transformed into a laidback, slow moving couple, but we're trying to retain the simple lifestyle and balanced perspective we gained living on our boat.

Looking back at a year of new experiences and 8000 miles of sailing and traveling through the US and Mexican Pacific Coasts and the Hawaiian Islands, I am certain that I love living in Willis Point. I have no question that all of us have made our homes in one of the very best places in the world. On the other hand, I can't wait to travel again, even if it means crossing an ocean on a sailboat. There is something alluring about the sea and sailboat living so I'm sure that we'll do it again. However, arriving in Mexico in just a few short hours via a plane is appealing as well.

Finally, thanks for keeping in touch with emails and on our website. This contact with our community was really important to us through our year away from home. Thank you for sharing in our adventures and we look forward to hearing about yours!

Deanna Roozendaal

Business Directory

Gears Transmission Neil Tregear 389-0624	Housework Maid Easy Gerri Gorling 652-6149
Avalon Cottage Brew on Premises Vern McConnell 386-4030 Avalon@jdmicro.com	Knotty Pine Cedar Products Darren Pine 544-0202
Piano and Flute Instruction Monica Maxwell 544-1822	Leighton Photography Rob Leighton 652-2686
Canine Rehabilitation Gillian Jackson 652-0472	Peninsula Wholesale Plus Dean Hyland 652-3182, fax 652-5139
Chandler Construction Ken Ilott 477-7431, fax 477-7528 chandlerconstruction@shaw.ca	Hyland's Fish & Chips 10153 Resthaven Drive Sidney, B.C. 656-4435
Editorial Services Patricia Sloan 652-0226	Photographs by Modigliani Jennifer Modigliani, 652-1938, fax 544-4989 photosmodi@coastnet.com
Escape in Thyme Aroma Therapy & Reflexology Paulette Blunt 818-0149	Rangel Tours, Unique & Exotic Travel Jay Rangel 652-1938, fax 544-4989
Cedarwood Video Editing and Production Karen Davies, 544-1313 www.cedarwoodvideo.com	Reflexology By Linda Parker 652-6466
Fitz Photos 544-0166 Specializing in Family, Teens & Child Portraiture www.fitzphotosvictoria.com	Dave Phillips Willis Point Specialist, Holmes Realty 656-0911
Chi-Kung Massage Studio Fiona Percy 544-4057	