



The Pointer

Spring 2006

To The Point

Willis Point has seen many changes over the past year with longtime neighbours moving away and new neighbours moving in. We will miss our old friends but are happy for the opportunity to meet new ones. So, to all our new neighbours, welcome to the Point and I look forward to meeting you at a Happy Hour or walking on the trails.

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, Elena Pennell, and Helen Resnick.

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Who's Who

WPCA Chair	Don Robin	652-0209
Pointer Editor	Pat Williams	652-0223
Acting Fire Chief	Darren Pine	544-0202
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	Dianne Twamley	652-3519
Land Use Committee	Patrick O'Rourke	652-5598
Advisory Planning Com.	Larry Resnick	652-8278
Firefighter's Assn. Chair	Aran Puritch	652-7018
CRD Advisory Committees: Environment, Solid Waste & Sludge Management	Larry Resnick	652-8278

Holiday Events

Firefighter Christmas Party, December 16

Photos by Brendan Pause



Carol Singing, December 22





Community Organizations

There are 2 community organizations at Willis Point, each with an executive committee comprised of directors or commissioners elected from the community.

1. The Willis Point Fire and Recreation Facilities Commission (WPFRFC) has the administrative powers of the CRD Regional Board. It is comprised of 8 voting commissioners, 7 are residents and one is the CRD Director. Commissioners are elected for a 2 year term (3 people one year, and 4 people the next year). The WPFRFC (locally called Fire & Rec) meets monthly and extends a continuous invitation to a representative from the WP Community Association and the WP Fire Chief to attend all meetings. The WPFRFC has the following responsibilities: appoints the Fire Chief; sets the annual budget for the Hall and Fire Department; responsible for the day-to-day operation, maintenance and management of the fire/community Hall.

2. The Willis Point Community Association (WPCA) is a society with a paid membership under the B.C. Societies Act. Members of the WPCA are resident electors, tenant electors or property owners. The WPCA executive meets monthly and has 8 voting directors, 7 elected from the community and one representative from the WPFRFC. The WPCA undertakes the following activities: discuss and help mitigate concerns and problems in the community; holds social functions and fund raising activities; publishes a community newsletter, The Pointer.

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.

December 12, 2005

- discussion regarding a possible website for the WPCA, perhaps linked to the Firefighter's site, further investigation required
- funding for the annual fireworks display will be discussed at the next AGM
- a license agreement between the Fire & Rec Commission and the WPCA is being drafted to formalize Hall use, insurance payments and profits.

February 13, 2006

- further discussion of the possible website for Willis Point, public site or combination of public and private, costs involved, connections with The Pointer, training for volunteers
- debate about the licensing agreement for the Hall- Fire & Rec or WPCA to hold license?
- a locked container will be placed at the mailboxes for recycling junk mail
- cost of liability insurance impacts Happy Hours and Hall functions, discussion regarding possible cover charges or donation jars to offset costs for any event serving alcohol, distinctions between public and private events
- several people are interested in raising community awareness regarding emergency preparedness. They will be invited to the next WPCA meeting.

March 13, 2006

- plans for the Willis Point website are proceeding
- concerns about notices being removed from the notice boards, Barbara Ende will maintain the lower board and a volunteer will be sought to maintain the upper board
- Fama representative Frank Edgel wanted to discuss the lot for sale. It was suggested he bring a proposal forward.
- the excess lumber stored behind the Hall has been offered to the WPCA. Discussion about how this could be cut up and used as a fundraiser
- there will be an emergency preparedness presentation to the community in the future.

Neighbourhood Notices

For Sale

Virtually Brand New 7" Portable DVD Player in original packaging
\$150 or best offer
Aaron Hawkes 652-7718

For Sale

Gray leather couch
\$350, Pat Williams, 652-0223

Aerobics

Aerobics will be cancelled March 21 and 23 and resume March 28. Drop-In fee is \$3 per session. 7 pm at the Hall, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Around daylight savings time aerobics will end and the group will walk into the Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Watch the Notice Board for dates and times. All welcome, and of course, it's free!

Willis Point Website

A committee is being formed to investigate and implement a website for the community of Willis Point. If you are interested in helping, have expertise, questions, or would like further information, please call Don Robin, 652-0209

<p>Shevaun Cunningham</p> <p>16 years old, will look after children of all ages. St. John's Ambulance training, babysitter training</p> <p>Call 652-1908</p>	<p>Do you need a trustworthy, dependable babysitter who will insure your kid(s) ultimate safety and fun at all times? Call me, Kristi Martin 652-6585 I have my Red Cross Babysitting Certificate and I love to take care of kids 5 years and up. I also take care of friendly rodents.</p>	<p>Childminding</p> <p>Elena Pennell 652-9942</p> <p>Red Cross Certified Children 3 years and up</p>
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50 Years at Willis Point

Glen Twamley has been a part of Willis Point since the mid 1950's when he owned pretty much the whole area. In 1956 he built a cabin on the waterfront and had the land here surveyed and divided into lots. At that time, Willis Point was water-access only. Glenn built the first road and named it after his son Mark.

In the early 1970's the cabin was expanded and Glen and Beth moved to the Point permanently. Around 1983 they built a big new house on the bluff above the cabin and moved up.

Now Glen and Beth have moved into their new residence nearby in Brentwood Bay. Happily they are near enough to Willis Point to continue to visit us. We wish Glen and Beth much happiness in their new home.



Firefighter News

Open Burning Restrictions

Hello Pointers,

Please take note that as of **April 15/05** burning permits will be required for all outdoor burning. There will be signs at the hall and on Willis Point Road to remind you of this. Permits may be obtained on Wednesday nights from 7-10 PM.

A complete ban on outdoor burning will take affect between **May 15/05** and **October 15/05** weather dependant.

Regards,

Darren Pine, 544-0202

Acting Fire Chief, Willis Point Volunteer Fire Dept.

Farewell to Willis Point

We had been extraordinarily happy in our house at Willis Point. In many ways, it was our dream home. Just the right size for two people, but with plenty of room for guests. Most importantly, and the feature that had made us fall in love with the place when first we saw it, a constantly changing vista across the Saanich Peninsula and the San Juan and Gulf Islands as far north as Vancouver and the Coast Mountains and, on a clear day, a magnificent view of Mount Baker to the east. It was a view that changed every time we looked out of the window. Sometimes the fog was so dense that we couldn't see the beautiful arbutus trees right outside the windows. Sometimes it was so clear that we could see a whole range of mountains picked out against the horizon, the snow fields shining in the sunlight.

Then suddenly, with no real warning other than some discomfort in swallowing, the diagnosis that Hilary had cancer. Our world was turned upside down. Hilary wanted to return to the UK to be with family. She has always felt the tug of family connections there, probably more than I have. By great good fortune, we had bought a house in the UK in Devon, where we always wanted to live, some 18 months previously and our tenants were just moving out. So we had somewhere to go. We decided to have as normal a Christmas as possible, then sell the house and many of our possessions and move back to the UK after an absence of nearly ten years.

All our plans for 2006 had to be changed. After three years in BC, with lots of friends and family wanting to visit us, we had decided that 2006 was going to be a selfish year and this time were really were going to devote a significant amount of time to sailing in the Gulf Islands. We had also booked a villa in the south of France in August to share with our family and celebrate our 40th anniversary. How quickly all this changed. Just the amount of time it takes for a concerned doctor to say "I am afraid that I found an obstruction in your oesophagus and I think it is probably a tumour."

So, in a little less than two months, we have sold the house, packed all our belongings in a container bound for England, sold two cars, and sold and given away all the stuff that we don't need anymore or won't work in the UK. And, as I write this, we are sitting in a hotel room in Vancouver waiting to catch our flight.

So now, we are no longer Pointers. But we have our memories of living there, and what memories they are. Beautiful, clear mornings looking out over the Saanich Peninsula. Hiking over Partridge Hills and finding a seemingly infinite number of trails criss-crossing the forest. Walking down to McKenzie Bight and looking back up the Saanich Inlet and thinking that this must be one of the most beautiful places on earth. Then walking back up the Cascade Trail past a waterfall that, in the UK would attract tourists by the bus-load, but we could enjoy all on our own. The most wonderful display of spring flowers.

Above all, of course, the people we have met. The kind, generous friends who have been such a support to us in this difficult time. The camaraderie of the Fire Department, who have put up with my occasional lapses into English English ("Pass the torch" during a First Responder course. "Why, do you want to set fire to the patient?" Woops, flashlight. "Dipped headlights" "What are those?" Low beam.). The fun of the annual golf tourney. And many, many more.

So, thank you to all our friends for making our time at Willis Point such a joy. We wish you well in the future. We hope that Willis Point doesn't change too much. Some change is inevitable, of course, but it would be tragic if it loses its magical charm. A mixture of its independence and gorgeous surroundings. It seems to us that this is quite fragile just now and could easily be lost through a mixture of greed or indifference. We hope not and that people will recognize what a gem it is, not only to the people who live at Willis Point, but to Greater Victoria as a whole. As more and more of the CRD becomes developed, relatively unspoilt areas will become increasingly rare and important. We hope that Willis Point remains one of these.

As for us, we are planning to spend the next several months in the UK. Hilary remains generally well. She is very fit, thanks to a large degree to the many hikes that we did from our house. We are hopeful that she will be able to fight this thing that threatens to take over our lives. Will we ever come back to Willis Point? Probably not. We have always tried to move on in our lives and not try to re-live the past. But we may well come back to BC, if only for long summer vacations. So we hope that we may see you all again one day.

In the meantime, fare-thee-well.

Bruce and Hilary Burton
Ex 6630 Willis Point Road



Photo by Brendan Pause

BRIDGING SAANICH INLET?

by Patricia Sloan

Overview

The Malahat Highway— from its early beginnings in 1861 as a cattle trail, to 1884 when it became wagon traversable (at 5 mph in good weather!), to 1911 when it was first paved, to the 4 and 5 lane freeway we now know, has always presented challenges to builders and drivers. For decades, the “Hat” was ominously referred to as “Suicide Hill” and, even today, all our technology is no match for Mother Nature. The terrain-confined route is steep, narrows at Goldstream, and is treacherous in winter, and yet is still the only practical way up Island.

Today, way-stations and settlements along the early trails have grown into towns and cities, many of whose inhabitants now use the Malahat as their daily commute. Six million vehicles per year travel the Hat. Simply by odds alone, there have been more frequent and more serious accidents, occasionally resulting in a full closure of the road. This situation has prompted the Ministry of Transport (MoT) to commission the Malahat Route Study to assess and then recommend routes which would avoid the tight Goldstream and dangerous Tunnel Hill stretches.

The alternate routes under study include bridging Saanich Inlet, a larger capacity ferry crossing, more efficient use of rail, and widening the present highway or a combination. Because of CRD concerns with the watershed, it is highly unlikely that an inland route will be considered. Stantec Consulting Inc., an American-owned firm, was hired in August 2005 to carry out the study and Phase 1 of two phases has already been completed. According to the Ministry timetable, Phase 2 is now in progress (or soon to be) with a finish date of late summer 2006, at which time recommendations will be made to the MoT.

Saanich Inlet Crossings Under Consideration:

1. Bridge over Saanich Inlet at Squally Reach from Shepherd/McCurdy Point to Willis Point, connecting to/from Hwy 1 in Langford by a highway through Highlands and Gowlland-Tod Park.
2. Bridge over Saanich Inlet from Cobble Hill to Moses Point with traffic being routed to/from Hwy 17 via Tatlow, Chalet, and Wain roads.
3. Bridge over Saanich Inlet from Cobble Hill to Coal Point, with traffic being routed to/from Hwy 17 via Wain Road.
4. Ferry between Bamberton (cement plant) to Brentwood, connecting to West Saanich Road through Brentwood.

Traffic Volume and Other Concerns

The traffic volume on the Malahat is approximately 6,000,000 vehicles per year (CRD data). It is doubtful that a bigger ferry would divert a significant volume of traffic from the Malahat. If a bridge were to divert even a quarter of the current volume, we could expect 1.5 million vehicles per year crossing the Inlet into Willis Point or the northern Peninsula. Bridges, cloverleaves and freeways have attached infrastructure of their own, such as maintenance yards, gas stations etc. Whole communities such as Willis Point, Deep Cove and Brentwood would be completely swallowed, if not obliterated. The Municipality of Highlands and Gowlland-Tod Park would be cut in half. And we haven't even looked at the large-scale environmental damage as well as air, noise, visual, and light pollution created by even one of these crossing options. Is the MoT taking any of this into consideration? Saanich Inlet is blessed to be recognized as a valuable component to a National Marine Park/Conservation area—unlikely if any crossing existed.

Procedural Concerns...Do You Feel Left Out?

So far, the MoT is stonewalling efforts to find out:

- 1) What information was collected in Phase One?
- 2) Which alternatives have survived and will be expanded upon in Phase Two?
- 3) Which stakeholder organizations will be contacted to comment on the subject? (There have been none so far.)

Municipality, Council and Other Reaction:

Municipalities have been excluded from this Study. The Ministry will not divulge which ones, when, or even if, they will be involved. North Saanich Mayor Daly and all council members are unanimously against a northern peninsula bridge. Highlands is extremely concerned and has demanded to be involved in the Study. Central Saanich and Sidney are greatly concerned about countless issues which would affect their communities.

Associations on record to date against any bridging include: North Saanich Residents Assoc.; Saanich Inlet Protection Society; Deep Cove Property Owners Association.

Public Consultation:

As of February, a survey shows that 80% of those surveyed are against any bridging. However, the total survey population was small—only 35 people. The public will not be asked for comment, apparently, until AFTER the consultant's recommendations have been made available in draft to the MoT. Only two public open houses are planned for public comment— one on each side of the Inlet. These meetings will be announced on the Study website and by notices in local newspapers. (I will certainly inform Willis Point residents.)

Make SURE You Have Your Say! Do it Now!

Comments should be sent to: malahat@stantec.com

Information on timelines etc.: on BC Ministry of Transportation, Malahat Route Study website: www.bcfm.org/profile/malahat.htm

For information call Patricia Sloan 652-0226

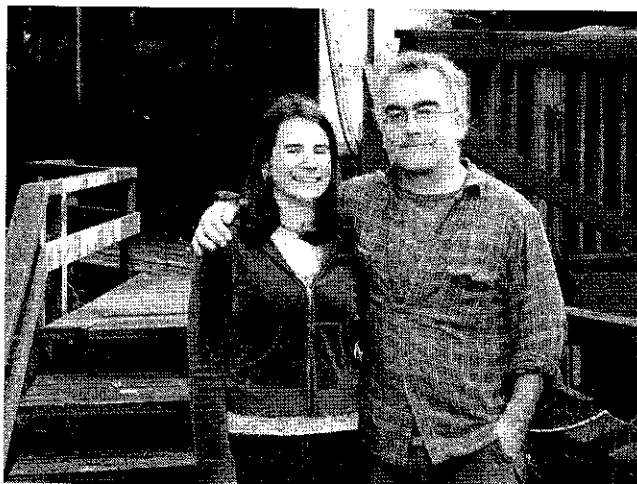
Willis Point Welcomes New Neighbours

By Ken Leighton

Luke Carson and Maleea Acker
860 Melody Pl. (formerly Young`s)

Maleea attended Royal Oak School, Claremont Secondary, and the University of Victoria where she obtained a B.S.A., M.S.A., and Master of Fine Arts. She presently teaches at Camosun College and enjoys writing poetry.

Luke has lived in Victoria for thirteen years. He has a B.A. from McGill and a PhD. in American literature from U.C.L.A.. He teaches American Literature at the University of Victoria. Maleea and Luke have a sailboat handy at Brentwood Bay. They love their new house, which they are presently renovating. They also love the birds, deer, and the view.



Jessica Alford and Roger Harper
6630 Willis Point Road (formerly Burton`s)

Jessica and Roger came to Willis Point because they loved being near the forest, the wildflowers, and the deer. Also, they love the fantastic view from their new home. They really appreciate not having a garden to look after. Roger has been involved in the high tech industry and both our new neighbours volunteer with local organizations.

Tony and Margaret Gill

7100 Mark Lane (formerly Armstrong`s and originally Twamley`s)

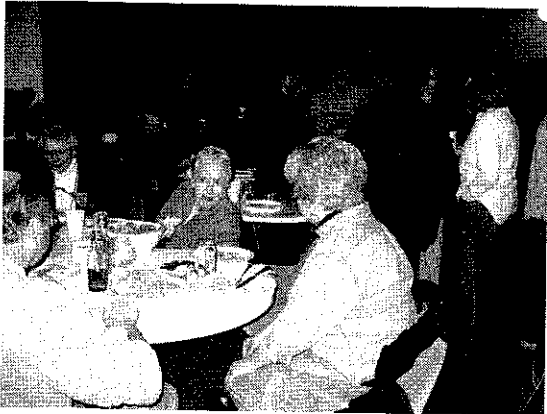
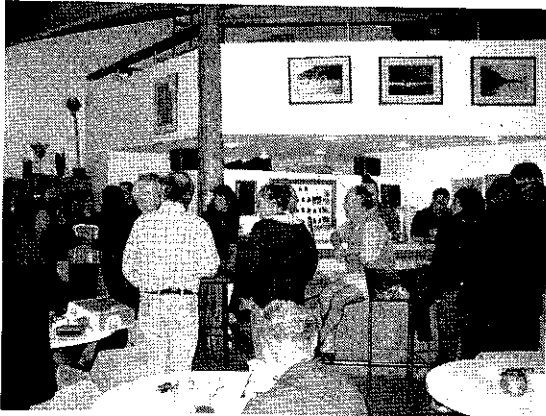
Tony and Margaret are originally from Essex in England and have lived in Cordova Bay since 1983. Tony has owned his own business as a dental technician. His hobbies include woodworking and making jewelry. Margaret worked in the Provincial Ministry for Children. Tony and Margaret have four children and four grandchildren. Their son, Robert, lives with them. They had seen Willis Point several years ago, and they bought their house over the internet while they were in Spain.



St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour

March 18





JUAN DE FUCA LAND USE COMMITTEE

WILLIS POINT REPRESENTATIVE

POINTER REPORT– March 2006

The Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee held three meetings since my December 2005 Pointer Report – on December 5, 2006, January 17 and February 21. The other scheduled meetings were cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is March 21 at 7:00 PM in the Shirley Community Hall; the agenda is not yet available.

Summaries of these Committee meetings are in my March 12 report to the Community Association, and are posted on the bulletin boards. The Committee dealt with several Willis Point applications, and a report on community concerns about the Development Permit process and a specific Willis Point Permit. If you would like a copy, please contact me at the number below.

The “Rural Observer” recently included an article about a meeting Committee Chair Eric Lund and others had with the Mayor of Metchosin regarding an “alliance” between parts of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and the District of Metchosin. The article stated that funding was being sought for a feasibility study of the idea. The article also stated that the Land Use Committee participated in the meeting, and suggests people contact their Committee representative for more information.

At the February 21 Land Use Committee, I requested an explanation from Committee Chair Eric Lund about the meeting and the references to the Committee being involved. Chair Lund confirmed the meeting had occurred, and that several Land Use Committee members were invited. He also clarified that meetings did not involve the Land Use Committee, nor would any future meetings.

I wish to confirm that I was not invited to this meeting, nor would I have attended if invited. As your Land Use Committee representative, I have no mandate or authority to speak on your behalf on political questions such as amalgamation. Having said that, I think it is critically important that Willis Point interests be considered in any feasibility study, and that the study include options for Willis Point should other areas amalgamate with Metchosin. I have written the provincial Minister on this. Please contact me if you would like a copy of my letter, or wish to discuss this further.

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

Pat O'Rourke
(652-5598)

Six Months Aboard Salacia

Hola neighbours!

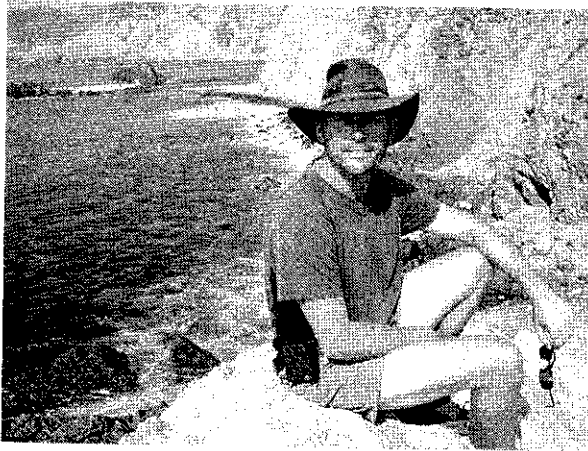
We've passed the half way point of our trip and settled into an easy lifestyle on Mexico's Pacific Coast. Since early December, we've experienced near perfect weather every day. It's unbelievable - we awake to sunny skies each morning and we haven't seen a drop of rain since October. After six months aboard Salacia, time has slowed down. I enjoy pondering what to do rather than feeling that I have too much to do. We don't wear watches, although it took me till January to give mine up and we generally have no idea what day of the week it is.

We spent lots of time in Mazatlan where I first learned about the power of the Mexican margarita - Mexicans are very generous with their tequila! They are also generous with their patience as we struggle with their language. Mazatlan's friendly people, quiet beaches, gorgeous sunsets and old style downtown area make it one of our favorite places in Mexico.

We spent Christmas anchored in La Cruz bay near Puerto Vallarta which was thronging with holiday visitors. We threw our strange tasting turkey overboard, but we enjoyed the trimmings while lounging in our bathing suits. Our personal hygiene standards have gone out the window. Being a clean freak, I see this as somewhat of an accomplishment. We are pretty healthy. We have less stress, more cervesas, and a better diet. We could use more regular exercise. On land days we walk for hours but it is at a slow pace in the heat. On boat days we are lucky to take 100 steps. Another change in our lifestyle is that now Mark wears jewelry and I don't, a complete reversal.

Moving south, we spent time at Melaque and Barra de Navidad, two havens for Canadian snowbirds. Melaque is very laid back and undeveloped, whereas Barra is more touristy. Santiago Bay, near the city of Manzanillo, has one of the prettiest beaches we've visited and is especially memorable because we found and adopted a beach kitten there. Unfortunately, Santi was with us for only a few weeks as we discovered she would need to be quarantined in Hawaii. Fortunately, we found a great home for her when we reached hot and easy-going Zihuatenejo, our southernmost destination.





In mid-February, we took a four day inland trip to Guadalajara and Colima, which gave us a glimpse of real, non-tourist Mexico.

Guadalajara's love of futbol was evident with all the red and white "Las Chivas" soccer shirts worn by the residents. The lovely zocalos -city squares- were jammed with people and free outdoor entertainment, day and

night. Impressive historic cathedrals, museums and theatres reminded us more of Paris than any North American city. All in all, we enjoyed our land trip, but found travelling in areas where no one speaks English to be very challenging.

We are now anticipating the long sailing trip to Hawaii. As soon as we get a good weather window in April, we'll sail west and we won't see land for 20-30 days. We are excited and nervous about the experience that lies ahead. After May and June in the Hawaiian Islands, we are homeward bound. We have been living in 42 feet of space within a few feet of each other for six months now. We are certainly less independant, which has its advantages and disadvantages, but we are stronger as well. I'm certain I'll feel a sense of loss when we return to our normal lives where we spend so much of our time separately.

But oh how wonderful it will be to return to BC, although we won't be back in our house until September. If you see a rugged, dirty looking couple walking down Mark Lane at the end of August - a woman with scraggly long hair and a bearded guy wearing jewelry - don't be afraid to say hello. We'll get back to normal sooner or later!

Enjoy those cherry blossoms of spring, dear neighbours. Stay well and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Deanna and Mark



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 Ken Leighton, Rob Leighton 652-2686
Brentwood Physiotherapy & Canine Rehabilitation Gillian Jackson 652-4489	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

Please Slow Down When The School Bus Is Loading And Unloading. Use Extra Caution At These Times.

THANKS!