

LOCAL

Where You Live

A quick look at what's shaping and shaking Greater Victoria

Portage Inlet totem finds new home

A Jim Gibson wannabe with an itchy chainsaw trigger finger writes anonymously from East Sooke: *What shall befall the little totem pole which now graces the car pullover on the highway at Portage Inlet?*

AskUs

Don't start measuring the welcoming totem for your fireplace, says Catherine Abel at the Highways Ministry. The pole will be moved this summer to the Arbutus rest area on the Malahat.

To contact Ask Us, e-mail timesc@interlink.bc.ca, fax 380-5353, or send a letter to TIMES COLONIST, PO Box 300, Victoria, B.C., V8T 4M2.

Painting used to entice home buyers taken down

No nudes is good nudes in a Saanich neighborhood.

Craig Anderson of Annie Street said Tuesday the "revealing" For Sale sign in front of his house comes down by today.

"I think it's done the job," he said with a laugh. "It was just meant for fun."

The homemade sign featured an Anderson painting of a naked woman. The sign said the house was free to any buyer who cared to ante up \$200,000 for the painting.

Anderson's unique sales pitch offended some of his neighbors and prompted a visit from a Saanich bylaw officer.

"He was a very nice man, and he explained the intricacies of the situation to me," Anderson said.

Castle competition nears

The Parksville leg in the "triple crown" of international sandcastle competition hits the beach July 19 and 20.

Organizers say the annual competition on Parksville's expansive sandy shores belongs to a three-part circuit that includes the U.S. Open at Long Beach, California (dubbed the Olympics of sand art) and the World Championships at Harrison Hot Springs.

Entries will be taken until the time of competition, but if you plan to participate, organizers are asking that you sign up as early as possible. Entry fees range from \$100 for a team in the international category to \$20 for a team in the teen event.

There's no charge for kids to enter the children's sandcastle competition.

The Parksville event, now in its 16th year, regularly attracts teams from across the province. Victoria castle-builders have been prominent participants over the years.

Wonderful world of wet

OK, it's been raining a lot and everyone's tired of rubber boots and the smell of wet dogs. Here's a top-10 list of tips for coping until the sun shines steadily again.

10. Constant blue skies are so boring. Admire ever-changing pearly shades of grey and silver.

9. Remember rain gets deep-seated road salt out of corroded spots on fenders.

8. Free synonyms: drenched, dripping, sopping, soured, ankle-deep, moist.

7. Wet weather equals peaches-and-cream complexion. How do you think the British do it?

6. Check up on rainwear etiquette. Is Gore-Tex OK at the symphony?

5. Fashion tip: Wear wool. When wet, it remains warm.

4. Count number of conversations that start. "At least you don't have to shovel it."

3. It's the one time of year clogged drains and sump pumps are legitimate small talk at parties.

2. Think positive. Silver linings, rainbows, good for ducks, April showers (your cliché here).

1. No waiting at the car wash.

Hands off seal pups

'Tis the season... for seal pups.

Harbor seals are well into their birthing season, and the SPCA is advising the public to take note.

Seal pups are born in July and August and nurse for up to six weeks. Mother seals continue to feed while nursing and often leave their young alone on the beach while foraging in the water.

In the Greater Victoria area sympathetic and well-intentioned beachwalkers sometimes pick up or disturb the lone pups, but it serves only to drive the mother away.

Pups should not be touched, but should be checked on over 24 hours. If a pup is still alone a day later, it could indeed be abandoned. If you suspect one is abandoned or hurt, call the SPCA at 385-6521.

—Compiled by Jeff Bell

Fisherman Terry Jackson looks out on the dock in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, while an American fishing boat sails out of the harbor Tuesday afternoon

RAY SMITH/TIMES COLONIST



American salmon catch exceeding expectations

By Judith Lavoie
Times Colonist staff

The Americans have caught about 10,000 more fish from the early Stuart salmon run than they intended.

The U.S. set itself a limit of 85,000 fish from the run and infuriated Canadians by starting to fish last Saturday before Pacific Salmon Commission tests confirmed the run was healthy.

Preliminary catch figures show that a reef net fishery — a type of fish trap set by the shore — and the Treaty Indian fishery, which ended Tuesday morning, caught about 85,000 fish, said Bill Robinson, U.S. federal government representative on the Fraser Panel.

However, before the catch figures were in, a gillnet fishery had already started around the San Juan Islands and near Point Roberts, said Robinson, who is also northwest sustainable fisheries chief for the National Marine Service.

"It was too late to stop the fishery and we expect they took about 10,000 fish."

A purse seine fishery scheduled for today has been cancelled and will be

allowed to go ahead only if it is found the catch figures have been over-estimated or if the Pacific Salmon Commission confirms the run is bigger than forecast, Robinson said.

Current estimates put the run at about 1.04 million fish.

However, Premier Glen Clark attacked the Americans for continuing to scoop up fish despite no firm estimates on the total size of the run.

"It shows the lack of commitment the Americans have to conservation and I think it shows what we said all along," he said Tuesday.

"They're being reckless with British Columbia's fish."

Canadian aboriginal fisheries at the mouth of the Fraser have caught about 25,000 sockeye, while a small commercial fishery in Johnstone Strait netted about 10,000.

Bud Graham of the federal Fisheries Department said a 12-hour Fraser River commercial opening today and continued fishing in Johnstone and Georgia straits are expected to catch fewer than 80,000 fish.

Fish fight?

U.S. fisherman unsure what the fuss is about

By Richard Watts
Times Colonist staff

FRIDAY HARBOR, Washington

Terry Jackson is an American fisherman — born on the Fourth of July — who has been making his living with salmon for nearly 50 years.

When Jackson speaks about salmon, he doesn't talk about species the way a Canadian fishermen will. He always attaches the name of the spawning creek where the fish are bound, like Stuart River or Weaver Creek.

He doesn't speak in anger, threaten revenge, or point his finger in this so-called "salmon war."

"I don't see any clear picture or thing to do, but I'm sure there is a way," he said as he worked on his nets Tuesday. "Everybody can't get exactly what they want. Something has to give but we just haven't found that out yet."

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Terry Jackson, American fisherman

Jackson, 63, was born in Friday Harbor. His mother was born in Friday Harbor. His four children are third generation San Juan Islanders.

He started fishing for a living at the age of 14, two years before he was legally old enough to buy a licence. He went to work after high school for his father in the family-owned smokehouse and cannery operation.

After the cannery was sold in the early 1970s he bought a gillnet boat. By the early 1980s the lure of a bigger boat, quicker results and more rest time saw him buy a seiner.

The boat is paid off now, which is a good thing, since he got fewer than two days fishing in last year.

Jackson takes a long-term view of the current salmon war, an issue he has followed closely from U.S. and Canadian news reports.

Canada, and British Columbia politicians are forgetting U.S. moves to ban highly efficient fish traps way back in the '30s, he said.

They are also forgetting that it took help from the U.S. Corps of Engineers to build fishways around the Hell's Gate slide on the Fraser. Canadian National Railways construction caused the slide in 1913. (The *Canadian Encyclopedia* says the fish stocks plummeted and have never

fully recovered.)

And as for the revenge moves like B.C. Premier Glen Clark's threat to close the submarine torpedo range near Nanoose, Jackson wonders how Clark explains it to the 90 Canadians who work at the range.

He agrees, however, that Alaska, where fishermen intercept fish bound for Canadian streams, should impose more regulation on its fishermen. But that's just the way Alaska is.

"Alaska has a lot of resources and they don't get too excited until they are in trouble," said Jackson. "It's the last frontier. It's the place where you are supposed to be able to do whatever you want."

But he doesn't think it is right for Canada and B.C. to smack Washington and Oregon fishermen because of Alaska's failure to act.

On the other hand, he has studied Canada's program to buy back fishing licences to bring down the number of fishing vessels, and it's a move he believes Washington should copy.

Jackson has every confidence that if B.C. can resist the urge to put dams on the Fraser River and its tributaries, there should be fish for a long time.

"It's too bad that fish management is controlled by politicians in both countries," said Jackson.

"They should just leave it to the biologists, they do the best job. They have a little tendency to overstate things at times, but they know how best to look after the fish."

Ed Barrett, harbor master for the Port of Friday Harbor, said most of the fishermen from around the San Juan Islands don't think too much about the disputes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations.

They feel more threatened by moratoriums on salmon fishing put in place by federal fish and wildlife authorities in recent years, said Barrett.

"They are much more under the thumb of the Department of Fish and Wildlife than they are any treaty."

Don Shepherd is a sport fisherman who was born in Oregon and has lived for about 10 years in Friday Harbor where he owns the Hungry Clam restaurant.

Shepherd has fished the waters of every state in the Pacific Northwest, and B.C. and Alaska. He is now following the salmon treaty negotiations with some anxiety.

"I hope my kids can enjoy in 20 years what I have enjoyed so much for the past 10 years," he said.

Rescuers battle conditions to reach hiker

Ambulance attendants suffer mild cases of hypothermia

By Kim Westad
Times Colonist staff

The rain plunged down and the fog rolled in as 30 volunteers slipped and slid on the treacherous mud on the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail to help an injured hiker.

It was high drama and high stakes for what turned out to be a sprained ankle and a few upset teenagers.

But when the call came in Monday evening, it sounded serious.

A young hiker, in and out of consciousness, with a fractured ankle was going into convulsions just before nightfall on a trail that is underestimated by many urban hikers.

"We treated it as life-threatening," Victoria Weber, ground manager for the Sooke

Search and Rescue said Tuesday. The harsh conditions made the rescue dangerous for the volunteers.

About 20 teenage hikers and two supervisors from Camp Miriam on Gabriola Island were on their second day on the 40-kilometre trail when a girl fell and hurt her ankle.

The initial call came from one of the hikers, who trekked back to the West Coast Road and hitchhiked to a telephone for help.

The trail isn't designed for emergency evacuation, said Sooke Volunteer Fire Department deputy Bill Meikle.

The Coast Guard auxiliary vessel couldn't get in because of the rocky shoreline, and the emergency health services helicopter couldn't land on the sand.

So it was good, old-fashioned people to the rescue, Sooke-style.

Some 30 members of the Sooke search-and-rescue and the volunteer fire department were out for up to 12 hours, battling weather conditions that left even two am-

bulance attendants going to hospital for mild hypothermia.

The rescue people slipped and slid in on a trail made treacherous by Mother Nature. The group was waiting for them about 17 kilometres west of China Beach.

The two-kilometre trip back out took the rescue crew three hours, sliding the stretcher when they could over the muddy, rocky terrain.

"It was tough because of the conditions and the potential for so many injuries," said Weber.

The other teens hiked out, but two were taken to hospital and treated for mild hypothermia. All are fine, as is the girl whose ankle was sprained.

The Sooke and Shirley volunteer fire departments took the teens back to the Shirley department hall. Family of the volunteers rustled up food, drink and blankets and met the group at the hall, where they were fed and warmed up until their camp bus came.

Meikle said the hikers didn't seem prepared, though they had camped out the night previous.

Most were wearing sneakers, he said. "It's a very difficult trail. I'd say it's designed for the experienced hiker, and it's in the same category as the West Coast Trail. I don't think people realize that," Meikle said.

The situation emphasizes the need for hikers to be well-prepared on the challenging trail, he said.

George Mate, a Vancouver man on the board of directors for the private camp which organized the hike, was surprised at the interest.

"They're doing fine. I don't know why this is such a big deal. They were well prepared. They had all the rain gear necessary."

Mate said the supervisors had done the hike before and knew the terrain.

Some of the hikers returned to the Gabriola camp, while others went home to Vancouver. None could be reached Tuesday.