

Park: Residents urge preservation

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"I don't like it, I think it should be free." Sitting at a table at the Sh-gu-ala Inn, part of the marina, Parr said he does not expect the park will boost visitor numbers to the area.

"They are going to come anyway because it is a beautiful place. It is like one big park anyway."

Josh Landry, cook at the inn, also welcomes the park, saying, "This place is growing rapidly and it would be nice to see that something is going to stay the way it has been."

Jennifer Landry, who lives with husband Josh on the sailboat Neptune, moored at the marina, said, "I definitely think it is important to protect this beautiful environment... Everyone who comes here has a great time and everyone seems to enjoy the natural environment here."

At Lyall Harbour on Saturna Island, Gloria Silverberg has mixed feelings about the park. She loves the area and wants it to remain pristine but fears park designation could eventually lead to changes.

"They should leave it the way it is."

Denise Dickey remembers hiking through the Saturna portion of the park as a child. She too hopes it will remain in its natural state.

She is worried that once people begin visiting the park, that may increase pressure for camping sites, something that is not offered on Saturna where there are limited services.

This park has been years in the making, starting in 1995 when the federal and provincial gov-



Gloria Silverberg, Saturna Island: "Leave it the way it is." *Darren Stone/Times Colonist*

ernments each pledged to spend \$30 million. Land is being transferred to Canada from provincial parks, ecological reserves, Crown lands and

a park within the Capital Regional District. Private property was also purchased.

The federal government will set up and operate the National Park Reserve and its facilities, which includes a Parks Canada discovery centre.

This is the first of 10 new national parks and five marine conservation areas planned for the next five years.

Copps said this is about saying to future generations, "When we had the chance to protect and preserve the diversity of our spaces and voices, we said, 'yes.'"

Anderson said this new park is also about recognizing Canada's biodiversity of the lands outside the protected areas as an important component of a wide strategy.

The park includes parcels on North and South Pender, Saturna Island, Sidney and Prevost islands, along with all of Portland and Tumbo islands. A national marine conservation area is planned for the waters around these islands in the future.

The Canadian Nature Federation applauded the new park.

"We are thrilled that this spectacular and vulnerable area will finally be protected," said Christie Spence, the federation's spokeswoman.

"Opportunities to protect wilderness in Canada are fast disappearing and this park reserve sets aside some of the last remaining areas on the southern B.C. coast."



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WATERMAIN FLUSHING CITY OF VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT

As part of an ongoing program of providing quality water to its customers, the City of Victoria Waterworks Section will continue its annual program of watermain flushing until the end of June 2003.

Remaining areas that will be included in this year's program will be:

- * The southern part of the City of Victoria (south of Fairfield Road)
- * The southern part of the Municipality of Esquimalt (south of Esquimalt Road)
- * Rockland Neighbourhood

During this program, some water discoloration can be expected and short periods of low water pressure may be experienced. If you experience water discoloration, run the tap for several minutes or until clear. Commercial establishments, such as laundromats and beauty salons, are invited to contact the Supervisor of Waterworks at 361-0422 for further details and advance warning of flushing dates in their vicinity.

The City of Victoria will take all precautions to maintain water quality during watermain flushing, however, we do not accept any responsibility for damages arising from the use of discoloured water.

Commissionaires get pay hike

Commissionaires will receive 10-cent-an-hour pay increases now and on April 1, 2004, under a contract with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires ratified this week.

The wage hikes are part of a three-year collective agreement signed last year. The initial deal included a wage-only negotiation window this year.

The commissionaires were in a legal strike position. Affected by the wage dispute were almost 200 commissionaires at Department of National Defence work sites and other federal government sites, the Royal B.C. Museum, jails, hospitals and in municipal bylaw enforcement in Victoria.

Times Colonist staff

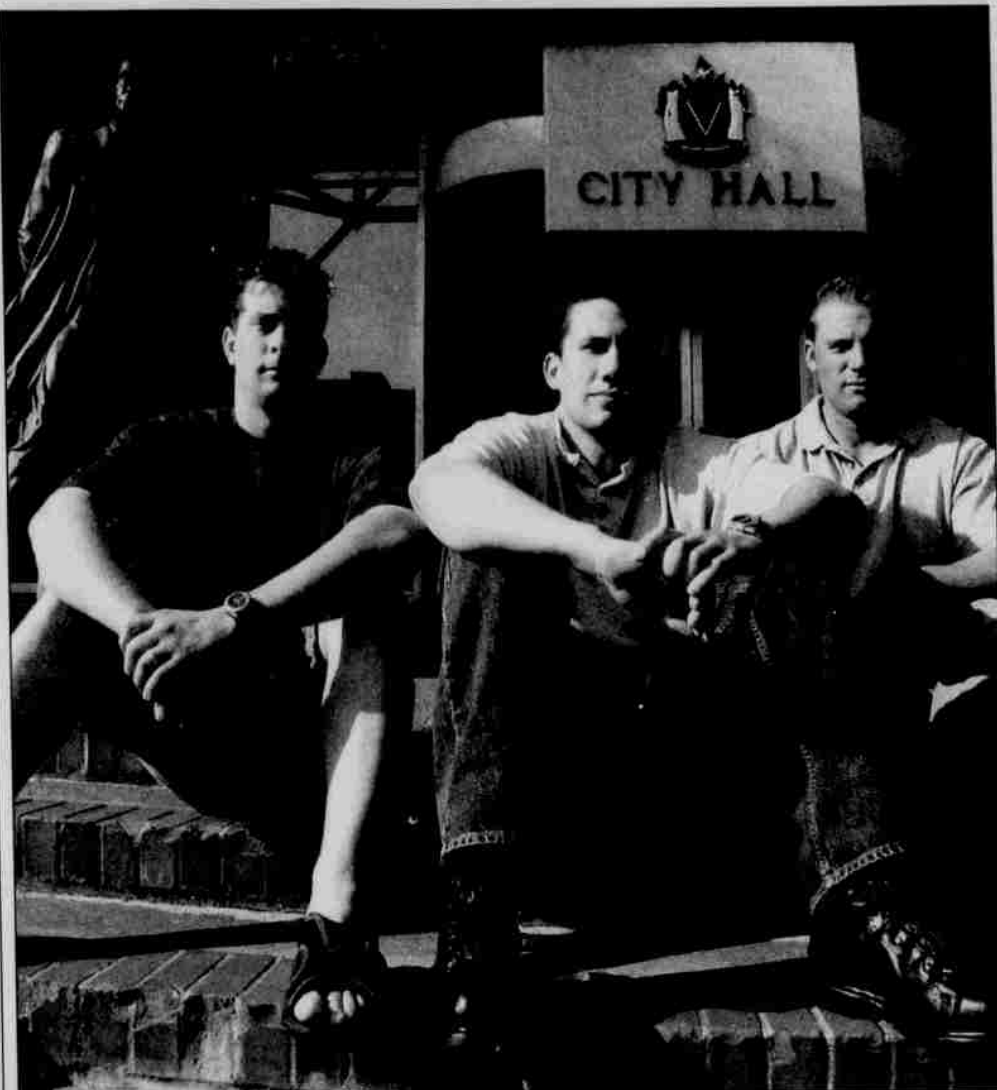
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Firefighters Sean Bellagente, left, Stephen Ellis, and Colin Ward sit in front of City Hall Friday after launching suit against the City of Victoria over the termination of the contracts they had signed for a joint Victoria-Esquimalt fire department which never materialized. *Deddeda Stemler/Times Colonist*

Firefighter would rather work than sue city over lost jobs

By SANDRA McCULLOCH
Times Colonist staff

Stephen Ellis and Kirk Corby would rather be fighting fires than battling the City of Victoria in court.

The two former firefighters filed writs in B.C. Supreme Court this week after their contracts with the Victoria Fire Department were terminated.

They are the second and third men to take Victoria to court over the cancellation of their contracts. Sean Bellagente of Qualicum filed suit two weeks ago.

Victoria hired 12 firefighters because of plans to take over firefighting responsibilities in Esquimalt. But the new Esquimalt council elected last November voted to establish a stand-alone fire department.

Seven of the 12 recruits have since found employment with Victoria, Esquimalt and Saanich fire departments, said lawyer Rolfe Horne.

In addition to the three who have filed court papers, Ryan Kelly and Colin Ward will be filing suit in the near future, Horne said.

Ellis and Corby were hired by Victoria Fire Department on Nov. 25, 2002 for a minimum of two years. Their starting wage was set at \$3,422 a month, with increases every six months to a maximum monthly rate of \$4,889.

The two men learned on Jan. 3, 2003 their contracts were terminated.

Ellis had quit his jobs in Courtenay with the B.C. Ambulance Service, Thrifty Foods and the volunteer fire department. He works now as a part-time service clerk and part-time on-call paramedic.

Corby is employed as a wild-land firefighter in Fort. St. John.

The two want compensation for embarrassment, loss of position, loss of enjoyment of life and loss of opportunity. They are also asking for compensation for travel and relocation to Victoria and loss of employer-sponsored training courses.

Injured man rescued after cliff fall

A man with a severely broken leg was rescued from the rocks at Cabin Point in East Sooke Park on Friday.

The rope-rescue team from Sooke Search and Rescue responded to a call from ambulance personnel who were unable to reach the man due to the difficult terrain.

Victoria Webber, a search manager with the search-and-rescue team, said the eight-member rope crew was able to bring the man to a place where the medical team could help him.

He was then taken to Victoria General Hospital. Webber said the man was hiking in a group of

four when he fell from the trail to the rocks below. One member of the group hiked out to call emergency personnel. She said she was not sure if the man suffered other injuries, but was certain that his leg was broken.

Cabin Point is midway between Aylard Farm and Iron Mine Bay, Webber said.

An ambulance spokesman said the call came in just before 5 p.m. Webber said the search and rescue team was contacted about an hour later.

She said the crew was supported by about a half-dozen members of the East Sooke Volunteer Fire Department.

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