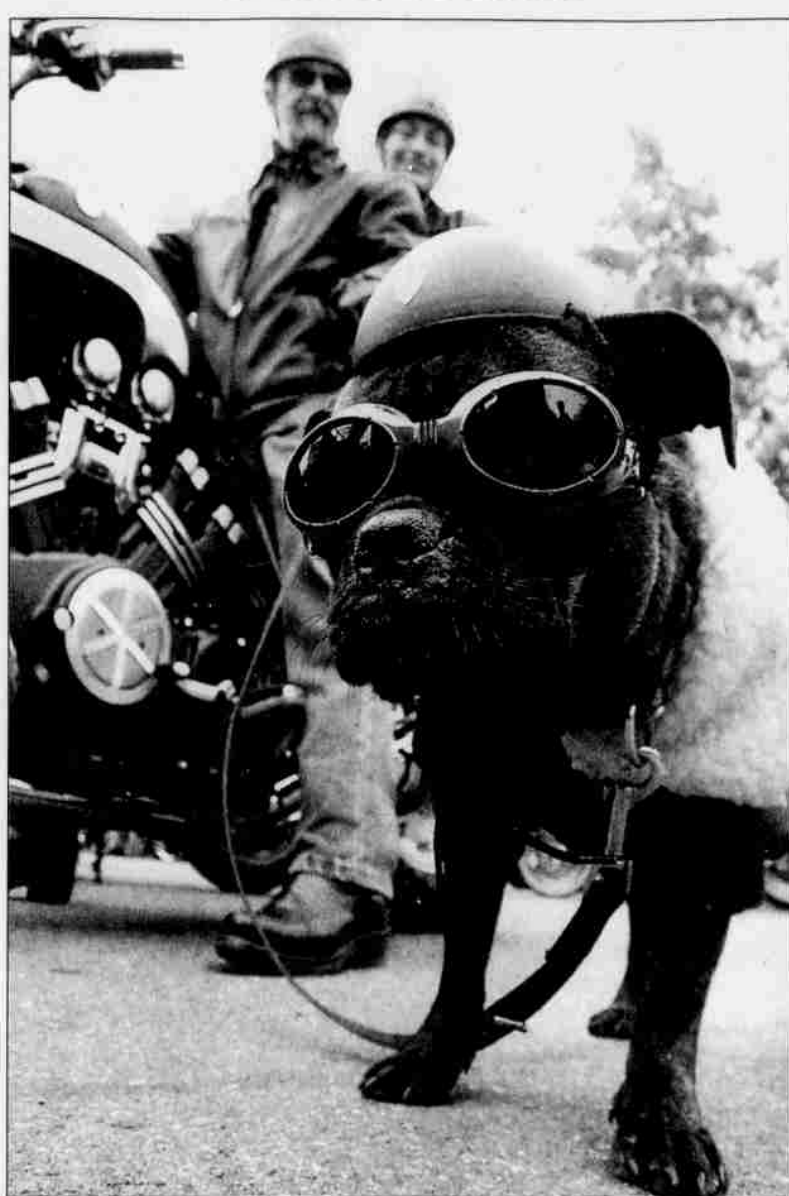


READY TO RIDE



Decked out in fine riding gear, Bryn, a two-year-old pug/Boston terrier mix, is ready to hop on Jack Panter's bike with her owner Haisha Espert for the 23rd annual Vancouver Island Toy Run Sunday. The event collected toys and money for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Fund. *Deddeda Stemler/Times Colonist*

Cuba: Urban farms earn needed income

• From Page D1

The program is funded through the Canadian International Development Agency in partnership with Victoria-based Lifecycles and the Cuban Association of Agriculture and Forestry Technicians.

Urban agriculture is increasingly popular in Havana as Cuba looks for alternative sources of food after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a main supplier.

"Some estimates say that 60 per cent of the produce consumed in Havana is grown within the city limits. It's just a more effective and secure way of producing your own food because if it's right there for you. You're not relying on external sources," Goodman said.

In most urban agriculture scenarios, community members own a small plot of land to grow their food. In Havana, the association is trying to teach farmers about urban organic farming methods to also help them earn money.

"They have gardens all over the city. Some people have patio gardens and are able to use their own space to grow some food that they use themselves, or they sell a little bit of it," Huizinga said.

Goodman and Huizinga — both from Ontario — have degrees and some experience in farming. They have taken language and cultural courses to prepare for their trip. They spent a month doing research for the work in Cuba at Victoria's Lifecycles, a non-profit group dedicated to issues around food, health and urban sustainability.

In the past seven years, Lifecycles has



Linden Huizinga and David Goodman spent a month at Victoria's Lifecycles preparing for a trip to Cuba where they will teach urban agriculture.

John McKay/Times Colonist

been involved with 14 internship placements with groups all over Latin America. The urban agriculture internships in Cuba — paid for by CIDA's Youth Employment Strategy — cost about \$15,000 each. This includes travel expenses, administration expenses, and a stipend for living and food costs.

Goodman and Huizinga look forward to the challenges of their internships.

"I'm really interested in getting into the agricultural sector and it seems like a good chance of learning the different ways of farming," said Goodman, who has visited Havana before. "I'm just excited about being on a Cuban farm and everything that brings with it."

Police await medical reports on baby's sudden death

A Saanich home remains roped off today as police await medical reports into an infant death that occurred on the weekend. Saanich Police took "exhibits of interest" from a Dupplin Road home Saturday.

"We have to plan for the worst-case

scenario. It's an awful position to be in but it's what we have to do," said Saanich Const. Chris Horsley. "If you're asking is there a smoking gun, there's not."

Shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday, Saanich police received a call from a family member at a residence in the 400-block of

Dupplin about a baby not breathing. The baby was taken to Victoria General Hospital where the child died. Police are not saying whether or not the infant showed visible signs of injury.

"At this time we are treating it as a sudden death," Horsley said. "The actual

condition of the body is being withheld. We don't want to speculate."

Saanich Police have made calls to the Dupplin Road home for 20 years, said Horsley. The rental house is divided into several suites. However, the baby's family "is not known to police," said Horsley.

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Rick Couveller, panel expert on such topics as "Wet Buildings" and real estate consultant at DFH Real Estate Ltd. is the speaker.
Seating is limited and fills quickly for this popular course. Call 477-0921 for details and reservations. Some restrictions apply.

CRD CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Notice of Counter Petition Opportunity
Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Service
Establishment Bylaw No. 3101

The Board of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") intends to adopt Bylaw No. 3101, "Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003".

The purpose of Bylaw No. 3101 is to enable the CRD to establish the operation of a search and rescue service in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. The intent of the bylaw is to provide volunteers with training, gear and equipment to facilitate search and rescue activities. The annual cost of the service, per average residential assessment, is estimated to be \$15.09. Further technical information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Ken Cossey, Electoral Area Services Planning Dept., 2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V0S 1N0 (Telephone 642-1620) during regular office hours Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays).

The Board may adopt this bylaw unless at least 5% of the electors in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District, to which the bylaw applies, petition against the bylaw by signing counter petition forms and submitting them to the Capital Regional District by the established deadline of 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21, 2003. At least 223 electors must sign the counter petition in order to defeat the bylaw.

The counter petitions must be in the form established by the CRD. The required forms of counter petition and a copy of the bylaw are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays from the following CRD offices:

* CRD Corporate Secretary, 524 Yates Street, P. O. Box 1000, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6; (Telephone 360-3128 or toll free 1-800-663-4425, local 3128);

* CRD Electoral Area Services Planning Dept., 2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V0S 1N0; (Telephone 642-1620)

Bylaw 3101 may also be viewed on the CRD website: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/bylaws/bylawsubjectto/> by selecting Bylaw 3101 from the list.

The only persons entitled to sign the counter petition forms are the electors of the area to which the counter petition opportunity for Bylaw No. 3101 applies. The area to which this counter petition applies is the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District, which includes Willis Point, Malahat, East Sooke, Kemp Lake, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew and Songhees/Esquimalt First Nations.

An elector is a person who is eligible to vote in a Capital Regional District election in this area according to Section 49 of the *Local Government Act*. Elector qualifications for Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors are as set out below:

Resident Elector: You are entitled to submit a counter petition as a **Resident Elector** if you are 18 years or older on the day of submission, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for six months and in the electoral area of the CRD for 30 days;

Non-Resident Property Elector: If you are 18 years or older on the day of submission, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for six months, have owned and held registered title to property in the electoral area of the CRD for 30 days, do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may submit a counter petition as a **Non-Resident Property Elector**. Note: Only one Non-Resident Property Elector may submit a counter petition per property, regardless of how many owners there may be.

Signed original counter petition forms must be received by the Capital Regional District, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, attention Corporate Secretary, at:

* Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, 3rd Floor, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6; or

* CRD Electoral Area Services Planning Dept., 2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

Dated this 10th day of September, 2003.

Carmen I. Thiel,
Corporate Secretary

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CAPITAL BRIEFING

Crew, divers rescued after charter boat capsizes

All 12 people on board made it safely back to port Sunday when a diving-charter vessel overturned off Snake Island, near Nanaimo. The Victoria Rescue Co-ordination Centre said the vessel Sea Kiss, operated by Vancouver Island Dive Vacations, encountered steering problems before turning over and being forced into rocks by strong winds. The boat was carrying nine divers from Portland, Ore. and three crew members when the mishap occurred. Several craft responded to the 10:45 a.m. distress call, including vessels from both the coast guard and coast guard auxiliary.

Pedestrians escape injury as elderly driver loses control of car

An elderly driver clipped one person and narrowly missed two others when his car lost control in a McDonald's parking lot. The man was at the McDonald's at Pandora Avenue and Vancouver Street on Saturday when his car shot forward and went over the curb onto the boulevard. Witnesses reported hearing the engine revving, while the driver said the vehicle seemed to be having mechanical problems. "There were three people on the boulevard," said Victoria police Sgt. Doug Bond. "One pushed another one out of the way, but the third person was grazed."

Helicopter helps in search for missing 13-year-old girl

Police flew a helicopter over Beacon Hill Park Sunday morning to look for a missing 13-year-old girl. The helicopter, an infrared-equipped RCMP aircraft brought in from Vancouver, began scanning the park about 6:45 a.m. Victoria police Sgt. Doug Bond said the early start was made because the infrared gear works best in reduced light. Bond said the girl being sought is "a runaway in need of urgent medical attention." He did not specify the nature of her condition, but said she had been in hospital for treatment before deciding to walk away from the facility. Late Sunday night, the girl had not yet been found. "We're still following up some leads," Bond said.

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