

New to brew

Becky and Neil Cooke-Dallin are the new owners of Gulf Islands Brewery on Salt Spring Island. The Victoria couple also have Breakwater Media, a graphics, design, and marketing agency. They bought the 11-year-old brewery from Bob Ellison, who incidentally is Neil's uncle. Ellison co-founded the brewery with Murray Hunter, who is staying on as brewmaster. Near the brewery in the Fulford Valley, Hunter planted a test patch of hops — once



widely grown on the Saanich Peninsula — for GIB beer recipes which are made with spring water from the property. Barley for beer grown on the island is another possible ingredient.

Becky Cooke-Dallin says Gulf Islands is just a three-person brewery but it competes with the big guys on quality. In 2004, Hunter's recipe won best cream ale in Canada. "Creating more beers with locally sourced products, that's something we'd like to be known for," she says. See www.gulfislandsbrewery.com