

## BOOK REVIEW

# Gulf Islands life chronicled in orphaned goat story

Bill Richardson's 'poster goat' immortalized in book form

*Milli Goat, A Kid on Saturna Island* by Nancy Angermeyer, 2016

BY **CHERIE THIESSEN**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

They say that New Zealand has more sheep than people, and it's probably true to also say that with over 250 feral goats on Saturna Island, it has almost as many goats as islanders.

Now professional photographer Nancy Angermeyer has chronicled the life of one of them in this, her first book, proving that good things can come in small covers. I know Milli Goat would agree. This thin book at first glance seems to be for all children, but in fact it's for the children in us all.

I asked her what inspired her to write it.

"Life happens, sometimes out of our control and seriously, like when my partner Richard's daughter was killed in a car accident at the age of 18. My mother also died shortly after that and the dawn of a new year was sadly upon us," she said. "Then there are events that bring joy, like the arrival of a goat that New Year's Eve, when our Airedale terrier brought home a nearly dead newborn goat. We knew, along with

the dog and cat, that it could not die and we named her Milli. She was a gift, and after a few months I knew I had to write the story, even though it took me years to do it."

So this is a true story of the orphaned kid who stole Bill Richardson's heart with that first kiss. (Yes, I mean "that" Bill Richardson of CBC fame.) Shortly thereafter she became the poster goat of his popular radio program called The Roundup, where people called in to share stories of their everyday lives. Richardson felt he needed a spokesgoat for The Roundup, so Angermeyer responded, and soon Milli's was the face that launched a thousand subsequent programs.

**"Milli just gave me entry to the up close and personal world of goats."**

NANCY ANGERMEYER  
*Milli Goat author*

The author explains how it all came about. "Bill Richardson at the time was the host and was launching a national search for a CBC 'spokesgoat.' At three months old, Milli entered the contest and won it. I decided

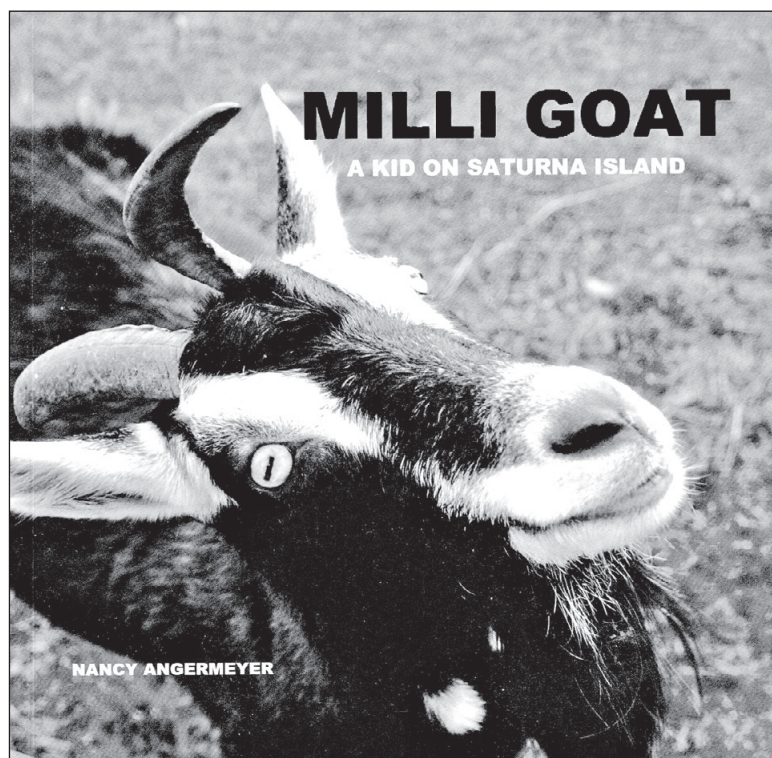
on telling the story through the voice of the cat and illustrated it with my photography. Milli's adventures along with the dog and cat gave us so much enjoyment I wanted to share it with others. And Milli indirectly raised \$5,000 by donation to the Saturna Elementary School through sales of Bill Richardson's book Dear Sad Goat, with Milli's face on it."

The story goes like this. Milli's mother was probably devoured by the wolf that for a time rampaged on Saturna, and the family dog called Terra brought home the newborn kid and dropped it at her owners' feet. She was soon adopted by Terra, Angermeyer and her partner Richard Blagborne. The 10-year-old tabby Rudolph, who narrates the story, soon adopts her as well.

Milli is one lucky kid. Now she has a home with two humans and two four-legged friends watching out for her. Her story grows from bereavement to nurturing, from obscurity to fame and from despair to love, ever outwards and expanding.

Angermeyer is a talented artist and professional photographer, so it shouldn't be surprising to discover that the book's myriad images, both colour and black and white, are delightful.

"Many were taken out my front window. Milli just gave me entry to the up close and personal world of goats. When she was



Cover of Milli Goat, a Kid on Saturna Island.

forced to move outside, Richard built her house, with her help, of course. Milli used her house as a form of birth control as all she had to do was stand inside her little house and fend off her suitors trying to make entry through the one door. It worked sometimes. Milli's first kid was born right in front of the house with the dog and myself as midwives.

At the next birth she came and got us and took us to where her new kid was."

You can read the book in under an hour, take another hour to savour the photos and then another hour to order several copies to give to friends. It really is the perfect gift; chronicling Gulf Islands life and its many rainbows like this one.

## ART

## Deadline nears for second annual residency program

Artists invited to grow on Salt Spring

The application deadline for the 2017 Salt Spring Artists in Residence program is April 15.

For the second year in

a row, the Salt Spring Arts Council and Artist in Residence steering committee are offering a residency program for visiting artists. Visits must run between October 2017 and April 2018.

The SSAC invites artists to "Come, share the experience

and engage with the creative cultural community of Salt Spring Island."

The Artist in Residence program is open to all professionals working in the arts, in any genre or medium, at any stage of their careers, providing an opportunity for artists

to work in the vibrant arts environment of Salt Spring Island.

"The AiR program encourages applications from artists of diverse cultural and regional backgrounds," states press material. "The intent is to provide the time and space

for creativity and productivity and to introduce visiting artists to Salt Spring Island and its arts community."

Residencies will be awarded based on available facilities, potential links to the Salt Spring community, collaborative opportunities and

artistic merit.

Three artists were chosen during the inaugural year: Mia Daniels, Manuela de Madeiros and Fraser McCallum.

Application information is available on the Salt Spring Arts Council website.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

## All Saints welcomes acclaimed organist

Pre-Easter reflection and music

## SUBMITTED BY ALL SAINTS

On Wednesday evening, March 29 at 7 p.m., a Prayerful Lenten Concert will be presented at All Saints By-the-Sea.

Works of J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, as well as 20th-century composers Samuel Barber and Maurice Duruflé, will be performed by Tristan Rhodes on the recently rebuilt organ at All Saints.

The concert pieces are arranged within the framework of the customary 12 stations of the devotion on the Way of the Cross, Jesus' final



Organist Tristan Rhodes.

journey of his earthly ministry.

Rhodes served as organist and choirmaster at the Angli-

can Church of St. John the Divine in Victoria for a number of years, also establishing a concert series and chamber orchestra there.

Later, he played at the Old Naval and Garrison Church in Esquimalt (now known as the Anglican Church of Saints Peter and Paul). During his years in Victoria, he also directed a men's chorus called Hector's Friends, which made several appearances at All Saints' Music and Munch series.

When he retired in 2013, he and husband Daniel moved to Florida where a new director of music position awaited him in a large Roman Catholic parish, as well as con-

cert performances and work with the American Guild of Organists. Finally the call of their old home in Victoria became too strong and they moved back from Florida in September 2016.

Rhodes has had a distinguished career as an organist, composer, pianist and conductor both in Canada and the United States rounded out with a sojourn abroad. We are pleased to welcome this fine performer to the exceptional organ and acoustics at All Saints.

Admission is by donation and everyone is welcome to an evening of pre-Easter meditation, reflection and music.

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