

SAANICH NEWS

FASHIONABLE AT 50

The enduring appeal of Barbie goes beyond a simple plaything for kids. It's a passion for some, A3



COUGARS AND BEARS OH MY!

Reports of Island's biggest predators can put a scare in people. Now a new course helps demystify the wild things among us, A4

Gaslight
Heat Services Ltd.

Warm Homes,
Warm Hearts!



**ENERGY
EFFICIENT
HEATING**

2531 Government St.
250-380-0407



Wednesday, February 25, 2009

III EDITORIAL Page 8

ARTS Page 11

SPORTS Page 19

BC CLASSIFIEDS Page 21

Watch for breaking news at www.saanichnews.com

Solar evangelist

Saanich's solar champion became one of the first in the municipality to install a solar-powered, hot-water system last week, and he invited the community to come by and watch it happen.

"I've offered to open up my home as a model for anyone interested in finding out more about a system," Patrick Chénier said. "It's a way to get people who have been thinking about it but want to know more about a system to come and see one right in front of them."

On Friday at 1 p.m., Pacific Solar Smart Homes installed the system, which cost Chénier \$5,000 after provincial rebates.

Through Solar B.C., homeowners can qualify for a grant up to \$2,000.

Solar hot water systems use the sun's energy to heat the hot water tank, thereby saving electricity or gas.

To find out more, visit www.solarbc.ca or phone 1-866-650-8126.

rholmen@saanichnews.com



Don Denton/News staff
Nathan Dockstader, Pacific Solar Smart Homes, watches as a crane lifts a solar panel for domestic hot water heating on to the roof of Patrick Chénier's house.

Jump on the bandwagon

- Patrick Chénier of the North Quadra Land Use Protection Association is trying to organize group rates for solar hot water systems.
- The idea is to find enough homeowners interested in purchasing the system to negotiate a bulk-rate discount. So far 50 people have expressed interest.
- To find out more, contact him at patrick.chenier@telus.net.