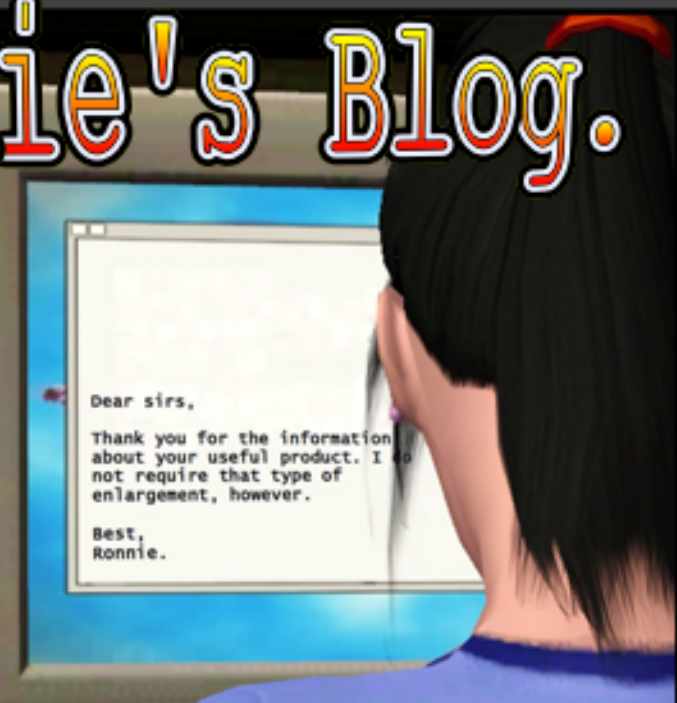


# Ronnie's Blog.

Issue #11

I WAS PROUD OF MYSELF WHEN I FIGURED OUT HOW TO GET AN EMAIL ACCOUNT. FOR THE OUTER WORLD, EMAIL IS OLD STUFF. BUT TO ME, IT MEANT A FORM OF PERSONAL CONTACT THAT I COULDN'T GET BY LOOKING AT WEB SITES. YOUTUBE WAS, AFTER ALL, BASICALLY TELEVISION, AND WHILE I LIKED THE THINGS I SAW AND HEARD, I HARBORED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT HOW REAL THEY WERE.

PRETTY SOON I RECEIVED A FEW EMAILS FROM OUTSIDERS. TO THESE I REPLIED POLITELY---



Dear sirs,  
Thank you for the information about your useful product. I do not require that type of enlargement, however.  
Best,  
Ronnie.

...BUT THE CONNECTIONS I MADE THROUGH THAT MEDIUM WERE, AS YET, UNSATISFYING.

CERTAINLY NOTHING I'D SEEN IN EMAIL COULD COMPARE WITH THEIR MUSIC THAT I'D HEARD. SO I WENT BACK TO THE WEB. STARTING FROM GOOD MUSIC I'D HEARD BEFORE, I FOLLOWED LINKS TO LEARN ABOUT MORE PERFORMERS AND STYLES. AFTER A WHILE, I FOUND TREASURE.

OH MY GOODNESS. WHO IS THAT REMARKABLE FIDDLE PLAYER?



I LEARNED THAT SHE IS APRIL VERCH, THAT SHE TOURS WITH HER BAND, AND THAT SHE HAS PLAYED FIDDLE ALL HER LIFE. BUT THERE IS MORE.

OH MY GOODN...

JAAAA-NET! COME AND SEE!

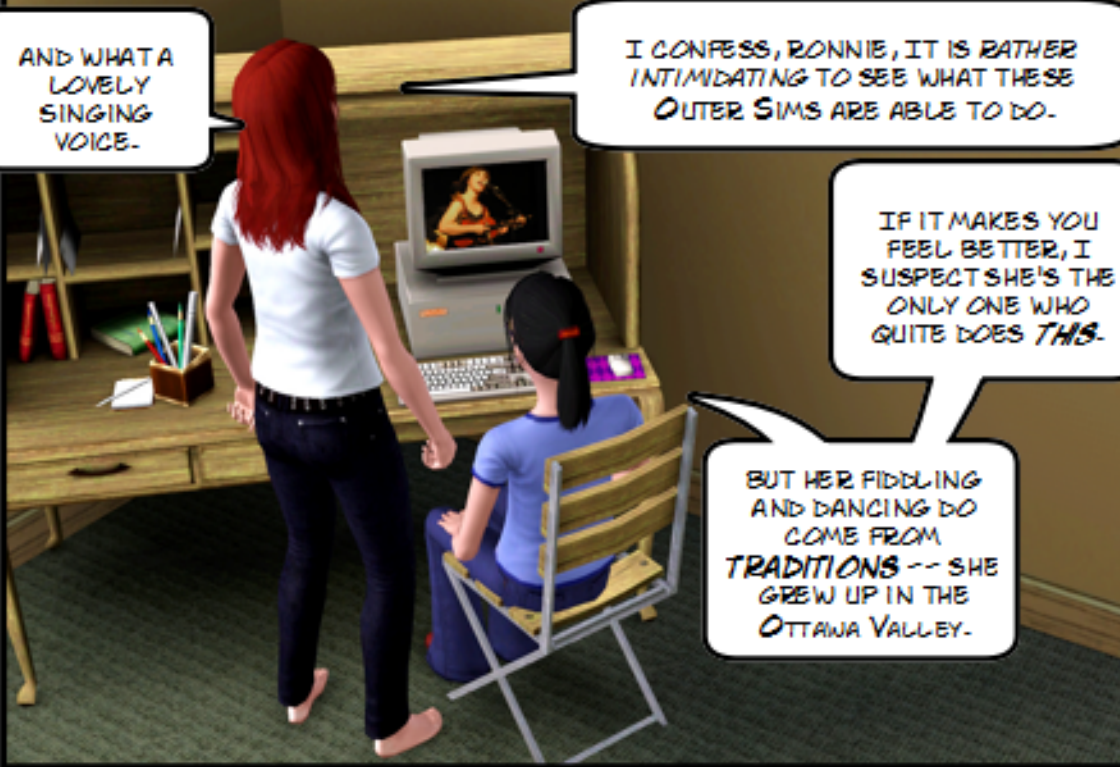
GOOD GOLLY. HOW MANY FEET HAS SHE?

JUST THE TWO. BUT SHE MAKES THEM TO GO FASTER THAN THE CAMERA, SO YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR EARS TO UNDERSTAND IT.



Whoppety Tappety Tapp Tappo Cickety Thoma






AND WHAT A  
LOVELY  
SINGING  
VOICE-


I CONFESS, RONNIE, IT IS RATHER  
INTIMIDATING TO SEE WHAT THESE  
OUTER SIMS ARE ABLE TO DO.

IF IT MAKES YOU  
FEEL BETTER, I  
SUSPECT SHE'S THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
QUITE DOES *THIS*.


BUT HER FIDDLING  
AND DANCING DO  
COME FROM  
TRADITIONS -- SHE  
GREW UP IN THE  
OTTAWA VALLEY.



**OTTAWA?** YOU MEAN SHE'S  
HERE IN **CANADA**? WHAT  
LUCK! RONNIE, WE **HAVE** TO  
SEE A LIVE PERFORMANCE!




**EVEN BETTER.**  
LOOK AT THIS  
ANNOUNCEMENT.




"A SEVEN-DAY *CRUISE OF THE  
INSIDE PASSAGE* WITH THE APRIL  
VERCH BAND, LEGENDARY FIDDLER  
ALASDAIR FRASER AND..."

...OH MY  
GOODNESS...


CEILIDHS AND  
SEISIÚNS JUST  
EVERY DAY  
AND... JANET!  
WORKSHOPS!  
SHE'LL SHOW  
YOU WHAT IT'S  
ABOUT!



THE SHIP SAILS  
FROM  
**VANCOUVER.**



WE ARE  
**TOTALLY**  
GOING TO BE  
ON THAT BOAT.



I'LL SET  
IT UP.



...OH MY  
GOODNESS...

I'LL OMIT THE PAINFUL TECHNICAL DETAILS OF HOW I SET UP SKYPE. SUFFICE TO SAY IT WAS FRUSTRATING. MY COMPUTER ISN'T A VERY COMMON KIND, APPARENTLY, AND EVERYTHING I TRIED NEEDED YET ANOTHER LITTLE APP OR DRIVER OR PLUG-IN, OR ASSUMED I HAD HARDWARE THAT'S UNAVAILABLE HERE. EVENTUALLY I DID GET MY PHONE RE-FLASHED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A VOIP CALL THROUGH MY COMPUTER'S NETWORK INTERFACE.

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE.

YES, I DID TRY ONLINE, BUT I HAD SOME TROUBLE. I'D LIKE TO BOOK ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL FOR TWO TO VANCOUVER.

YES, MA'AM. WELL, FROM **HERE**, I MEAN. FROM SUNSET VALLEY. ALL I COULD GET ON THE WEB SITE WAS SUNSHINE COAST, AIRPORT CODE MGY, BUT THAT'S CLEAR OVER IN AUSTRALIA.

OH. DON'T YOU? WELL, IT'S RIGHT NEAR... UM...

THAT IS, I THINK WE'RE OVERBY...  
UUMMM...

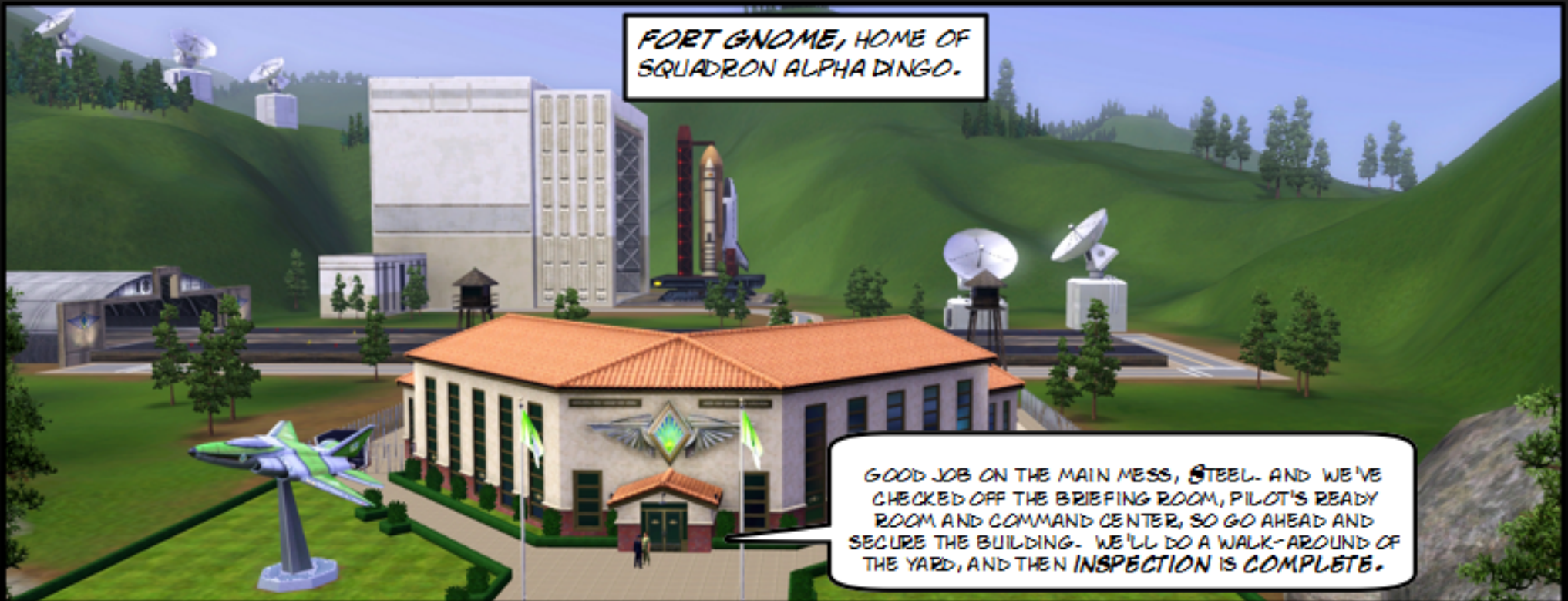
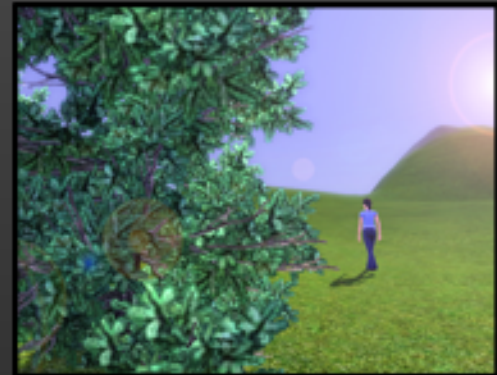
I SEE YOUR POINT, MA'AM, AND IT IS A VERY REASONABLE QUESTION, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU LATER WITH THE ANSWER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

"NEAREST MAJOR AIRPORT"...

I GUESS THERE'S A RUNWAY UP AT FORT GNOME. BUT CAN THEY HANDLE AIRLINERS?

I'D BETTER GO CHECK.



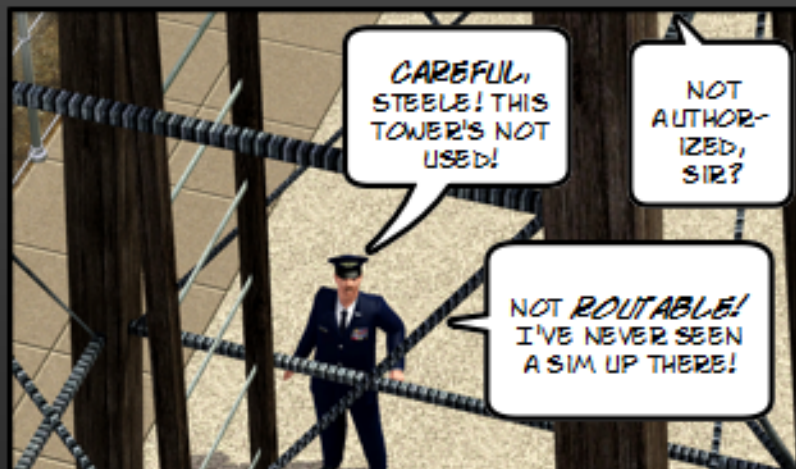


FORT GNOME, HOME OF SQUADRON ALPHA DINGO.

GOOD JOB ON THE MAIN MESS, STEEL. AND WE'VE CHECKED OFF THE BRIEFING ROOM, PILOT'S READY ROOM AND COMMAND CENTER, SO GO AHEAD AND SECURE THE BUILDING. WE'LL DO A WALK-AROUND OF THE YARD, AND THEN INSPECTION IS COMPLETE.



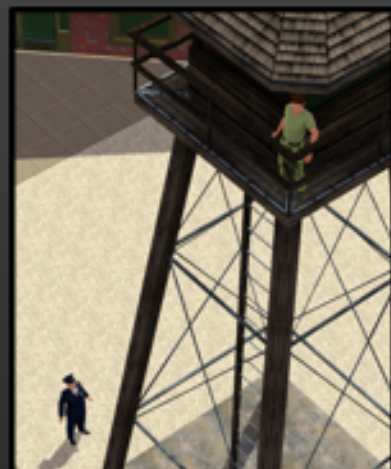




CAREFUL,  
STEELE! THIS  
TOWER'S NOT  
USED!

NOT AUTHORIZED,  
SIR?

NOT ROUTABLE!  
I'VE NEVER SEEN  
A SIM UP THERE!



NEGATIVE  
CONTACT ON THE  
INTRUDER, SIR.

ACKNOWLEDGED,  
STEELE. COME ON  
DOWN.



I'LL RESUME THE STORY IN ISSUE #12.

CREDITS TO SOME OUTER WORLD PEOPLE  
WHOSE WORK APPEARS IN THIS ISSUE:

PHOTOS OF APRIL  
VERCH (IN ORDER  
OF APPEARANCE):

TOWNDOCK-NET (ORIENTAL, NC, USA)  
ROGUE FOLK CLUB (VANCOUVER, BC)  
MOUNTAINHOME MUSIC.COM  
THOM C

GRANTHES, FROM MODTHESIMS-INFO, WROTE THE MOD BY WHICH  
LATRINE CLEANER PVT- CHRIS STEEL GOT UP ON THE TOWER.

THE APRIL VERCH BAND HAS A WEB SITE: [HTTP://WWW-APRILVERCH.COM](http://WWW-APRILVERCH.COM)

THE CELTIC CEILIDH CRUISE WAS ORGANIZED BY "DANCING PAT" MORAN.