

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR, NO. 46

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1983

35¢ per copy

Saturday election day at Salt Spring, Saturna

School board—two years



Jack Albhouse



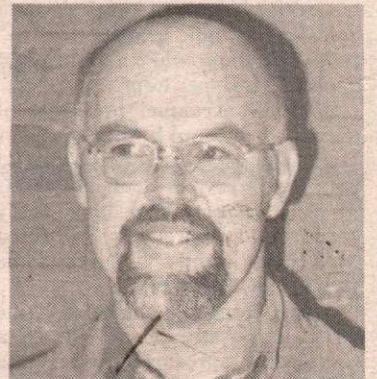
Charles Hingston



Ron McQuiggan



Judy Ripley



David Williams

School board—one year



David Eyles



Murray Shoolbraid

School board—Saturna



Lorraine Campbell



John Money

Regional director



Hugh Borsman



Yvette Valcourt

11 candidates seek four seats

Saturday is voting day on two of the Gulf Islands.

Electors on Saturna Island will name a school trustee to the Gulf Islands School District for a term of two years. The sitting member of the board, Elizabeth Bray, is not seeking a further term.

On Salt Spring Island voters will go to the polls to name a regional director for two years and four school trustees. Voters of the Salt Spring Island Highland Water System will vote on a referendum to spend \$97,000 on the construction of a 20,000 gallon water reservoir and appurtenances. Only voters in the specified area will be entitled to vote.

Seeking the two-year school board term on Saturna are Jean Lorraine Campbell and John Arthur Money.

The former is a veteran of public affairs, having served on both the board of management of Lady Minto Hospital and the management board of Greenwoods.

Money is already engaged in public affairs. He is currently serving as local trustee on the Islands Trust.

Seeking the two-year term on the Capital Regional Board from Salt Spring Island are Charles Hubert Borsman and Yvette Marie Valcourt.

The latter is the incumbent and has served as director for the past four years. Borsman is an island surgeon.

Seeking a two-year term on the Gulf Islands School Board are Jack C. Albhouse, Charles J.P. Hingston, Ronald B. McQuiggan, Judy Ripley and David A.S. Williams.

First three are the incumbents. Albhouse is a businessman, Hingston is employed by B.C. Ferry Corporation and McQuiggan is a Ganges notary public.

Ripley is a clerk with B.C. Hydro and Williams is a librarian.

In the running for a one-year term on the school board are David N. Eyles and George M.H. Shoolbraid.

Eyles is a Fulford farmer and Shoolbraid, a teacher. They are seeking the seat left vacant by the

resignation of Charles Baltzer.

The polls will open at 8 am on Saturday and close at 8 pm. On Saturna Island the polling station will be in Saturna Island

Community Hall. On Salt Spring Island voters will go to St. Mary's Church Hall at Fulford, Ganges United Church Hall on Hereford Ave. or Central Hall.

School officials are glad strike is over

The strike by government workers and education personnel is over, for now.

The highways crews are back on the job, liquor stores are open, and teachers and support staff are back at schools.

Bob Brownsword, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association (GITA), said this week, "We're glad it's over."

But he added, "At this point, we're not exactly sure what we got out of the strike."

School board chairman Charles Hingston told *Driftwood*, "I'm obviously happy to see children, teachers and staff back in school where they should be."

"The school board will do everything it can, in conjunction with the teachers, non-teaching staff and the ministry of education, to see that they remain there."

Mike Marshall, superintendent of schools for the Gulf Islands, echoed those sentiments.

"I'm pleased it's over, and it'll be nice to get back to business as usual."

The teachers were not all in favour of the strike action, however. On Salt Spring one teacher went to work while in the Outer Islands two went to classes despite the picket lines.

Brownsword said that three out of 86 members of GITA was a good average. The teachers who did cross the picket lines do not have to worry, he said.

"I don't think we're in the business of recriminations," he said.

At the picket lines around the schools names of those who crossed

the line were noted as well as the licence number of the vehicles which drove across the lines.

Don Gilman, president of Local 788 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, described the taking of names as curiosity on the part of picketers.

He added, "I don't think we're going to do anything about them."

Brownsword told *Driftwood* that the taking of names and licence numbers had been part of the program of strike action.

He said nothing had been done with the names and "nothing will be done."

Vesuvius ferry back Monday

The ferry will be plying the route between Vesuvius on Salt Spring and Crofton on Vancouver Island early next week.

Bill Bouchard, spokesman for B.C. Ferries, told *Driftwood* that repairs to the Vesuvius wharf should be completed this week and the boat back in action by Monday.

The wharf has been out of service since August 8 when the *Vesuvius Queen* ran into it at three-quarters speed. The signal to reverse engines

Ferry workers vote 66% in favour of three-year pact

B.C. ferry workers ratified a three-year contract with the B.C. Ferry Corporation over the weekend.

The workers voted 66.4% in favour of the pact, which gives them an eight percent wage increase over the life of the contract. The contract is valid until October 31, 1986 and the workers get no increase in salary for the first year.

In the second year they will receive a four percent raise and will get the same increase in the third year.

Under terms of the expired contract, an able seaman received \$12.94 per hour while a mate could expect \$16.51 per hour.

Andy McKechnie, president of the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union, said the union is satisfied with the three-year deal. The terms of the deal take the ferry corporation past Expo '86, noted McKechnie, and "it gives some stability in that area."

Stuart Hodgson, chairman of the ferry corporation, said it is a responsible agreement and is the first to be negotiated under the Public Sector Restraint Act.

He said the agreement had unanimous support of the company's board of directors, and "will be well-received by the people of B.C."

The contract includes provisions for the union and management to negotiate any layoff of personnel which could be necessary under the restraint act.

That provision had been approved by compensation stabilization commissioner Ed Peck. He had decreed that the agreement on layoff negotiations exempted the ferry corporation from the act.

Other items in the contract include substantial improvements in human rights wording, said McKechnie, in such areas as sexual harassment.

Workers will put in the same number of total hours per year but each shift has been increased from 7½ hours to eight hours.

They will have more time off and the eight-hour shift eliminates many of the requirements for overtime.

For the first time, ferry workers

will be able to nominate a member of the board of directors. When an opening comes up, the union will be in a position to name four people.

The names will go to the provincial cabinet which has the ultimate authority in selecting members of the board. The cabinet will select one person from those nominated. A stipulation in the agreement on naming a board member is that the individual cannot be involved with the union.

The ratification vote by the ferry workers was conducted Friday and the ballots counted Saturday. The joint announcement from the union and the corporation came Sunday.

Board agreed to seek injunction Wednesday

The Gulf Islands School Board was prepared to go to court last week to get the education staff back to school.

At a regular meeting of the board last Wednesday, trustees approved a motion by a unanimous vote to seek an injunction which would have ended the walkout of teachers and support staff in the school district.

The trustees had also ordered the principals and head teachers back to the schools to provide supervision for any children who showed up.

The teachers had said the principals, or a designate, would be in the schools for the first day of the strike. They were there that day but the next day they joined the picket lines.

The trustees also agreed to support parents who expressed a desire to have their children attend school. A number of parents had indicated they were prepared to supervise classes while teachers were on the picket line.

By Monday of this week, the exercise by the trustees had become academic when the strike ended. The Solidarity Coalition had negotiated an agreement with B.C. Premier Bill Bennett to talk about

Contract negotiations by the Gulf Islands School District were halted by last week's strike.

Negotiators for the school district, led by Saturna trustee Elizabeth Bray, were informed that the teams for the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association (GITA) and Local 788 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) would not sit down to talk until the strike was settled.

At the meeting of the school board last Wednesday, Bray said she would welcome the representatives from GITA and CUPE back to the bargaining table whenever they showed up.

Bob Brownsword, president of GITA, told *Driftwood* this week that the negotiating team for the teachers would go back to the table. An item on which they will be seeking a solution involves the possible layoff of up to 17 teachers from the school district in light of the provincial government's

restraint program.

He said that the teachers would be seeking a clause in the new contract, similar to a clause in other recent labour pacts, which would exempt the district from Bill 3, the Public Sector Restraint Act.

Board chairman Charles Hingston agreed that such a layoff agreement could be part of the agreement. "We'll look at all options."

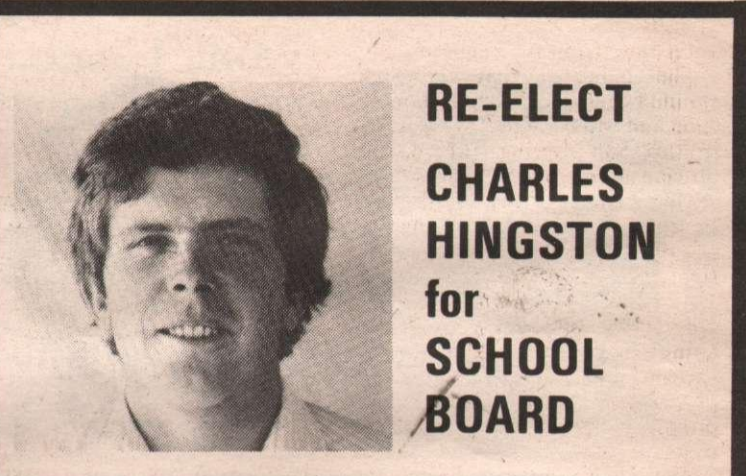
The school district negotiators will see what has happened elsewhere and try to apply variations of those solutions on the Gulf Islands situation.

CUPE workers in the school district have been without a contract since January of this year. The contract for GITA members runs

until December 31. The negotiations for a teachers' contract, however, go to binding arbitration because an agreement had not been reached by the ministry of education deadline of November 15.

The teachers and the school board negotiators will continue to talk. Any agreement reached before the matter goes to the arbitration hearing will be brought to that hearing.

**Let's get someone who will work WITH, not AGAINST the CRD
Vote Hugh Borsman!**



RE-ELECT CHARLES HINGSTON for SCHOOL BOARD

OBJECTIVES:

● **To spend available tax dollars as efficiently as possible**

Development in educational financing since early 1981 have emphasized the need for careful planning. Long term planning and the development of responsible fiscal policy are two areas presently being emphasized by the School Board.

● **Ongoing assessment and upgrading of all district employees and programs**

In the last two years there has been a complete turnover in the top administrators in this School District. The School Board, along with our chief executive officer Mike Marshall, has stressed the importance of assessing the Board, the administrators, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and pupils. The recently completed Board evaluation, Superintendent's assessment, and external accreditation of the High School are examples of my determination to use assessment to improve District standards. Review of programs is a current priority of the Board and will lead to further emphasis on the basics in every child's education as well as stressing the District's commitment to excellence.

● **Clear and accurate communications**

I believe that the children of the Gulf Islands all benefit as a result of honest and open communications at all levels of the educational system. Communications with the Ministry of Education and our local MLA have over the last year stressed the needs of children in the Gulf Islands. Parent groups flourish in all our schools and provide useful and interesting input to the Board. With a voice at the Board table pupils, non-teaching staff and teachers all have input to District decisions. Taxpayers and parents are encouraged to make their feelings known to the Board and in the Gulf Islands they certainly do so.

● **To provide strong but open leadership**

School Boards have rarely been in a position that allows them such an opportunity to provide firm and fair management. Within a total budget figure set by the provincial government, boards have the responsibility to do what is necessary to put the best system possible in place. I believe that my experience on the Board, along with hard work, management experience, educational concerns and last but not least, common sense, will help the Board and School District in the next two years.

BACKGROUND and SCHOOL BOARD EXPERIENCE:

- Married with three children school age and younger
- Two years business management experience with large Canadian company
- B.A. major degree—Governor General's award as outstanding university graduate
- Community service, youth & child care work
- Two years School Board experience, currently serving as Chairman of the Board.

NOVEMBER 19 VOTE

HINGSTON, Charles J.P.

X

the differences between the labour movement and the government over the restraint legislation.

The school district had employed a lawyer who was in the process of beginning court action when the strike ended.

Janet Gosnell, a Grade 12 student at the high school, represented the student council at the board meeting. She said that students who came to school on the first day of the strike had achieved more work in a few hours on their own than they normally do in an entire day.

"If students had the opportunity to go to school," she told the meeting, "even if it's under parent supervision, they'd welcome it."

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DRIFTWOOD IS RECYCLABLE

BC FERRIES

SERVICE RESUMPTION

Effective Monday, November 21, 1983

SALTSPRING IS. - COWICHAN VLY.

VESUVIUS-CROFTON

Repairs to the Vesuvius dock are to be completed Monday, November 21, 1983. Vehicle and passenger ferry service will resume on the regular winter schedule.

CLIP AND SAVE

4239

Correction

When *Driftwood* ran profiles of the candidates for school board last week, several facts got mixed.

Murray Shoolbraid was credited with writing a book with the title *The Cat and the Fiddle*. It wasn't a book but a children's book store which Shoolbraid ran in Vancouver.

In reference to Jack Althouse, a verb got confused. The sentence should have read that his three children had been in various grades of the school system.

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Region halts work as lease not yet signed

A stop-work order from the Capital Regional District has stalled site preparations for the Fulford tennis court.

Shirley Wilde, chairman of the CRD, told the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission that it had jumped the gun on the tennis court construction because the lease for the property has not yet been signed.

The lease had been approved by the regional board but the lawyers for the board had said that several sections were not in the best interest of the board.

Wilde did not elaborate on the sections in question but she did say "I think it's a matter of having a good lease from the beginning."

She indicated that the lease should be returned from the lawyers soon and will be signed by the board if the Salt Spring fire district officials agree to the changes.

One member of the board of the fire district said that the changes, if not drastic, would not hold up the signing of the document.

The CRD chairman said she had ordered the work stopped because something unforeseen might happen and wondered how the property could be restored to its original condition if the lease is not in force.

The tennis court site, behind the Fulford fire hall, has had some work done on it. Dan Akerman has been busy stripping 1,200 cubic yards of top soil from the area of the court.

The top soil will be replaced with 1,200 cubic yards of gravel as a base for the access road and the court.

Bob Wanless of the Parks and Recreation Commission said the work had been started when the island group learned about the CRD approving the lease.

The commissioners were concerned about losing the money allotted for the project if work wasn't started.

The project carries a price tag of slightly more than \$13,000 and tenders for the gravel had been sought from three island firms.

Akerman's bid was the lowest and he was awarded the contract.

Wanless said the commission was pleased with the results of the bidding "since Dan (Akerman) has done excellent work in the past for the community and his efforts are appreciated."

The wet weather had slowed the work but at least six months would be needed to allow everything to settle into place, said Wanless, before the second part of the court construction could take place.

At that time, crushed shale will be added with the court rolled and topped.

The land where the court is located is in the Agricultural Land Reserve and the commission will apply for an exemption in zoning for use of the land as a sports field.

The commission is also looking at the possibility of adding basketball nets at the ends of the court to allow the facility to be used as an outdoor basketball court as well. They are also looking at ways of allowing roller skating at the site.

The commission, said Wanless, is looking at a completion date for the project of May, 1984.

Teacher cleared of allegations

A Salt Spring Island teacher made no partisan political comments in the classroom, as far as the principal of the school is concerned.

Salt Spring Elementary principal Tom Watson told *Driftwood* last week that he was unable to find any evidence that allegations concerning teacher Jim Prendergast were true.

The allegations were made in a letter to the editor last week by parent Suzanne Maddison. She charged that Prendergast had discussed in class the position of the B.C. Government Employees' Union in the negotiations that were under way last week. She said the subject came up during a Grade 6/7 class in which her 11-year-old daughter was a student.

Maddison also wrote that

Prendergast said a prolonged strike could mean that children would fail their grades and have to repeat the year.

Prendergast has denied making any such comments in the classroom. Watson said he spoke with the students, who confirmed what their teacher had told him.

There had been no reference to political parties or to failing the grade, Watson said.

None of the students indicated that anything was true in Maddison's letter, he said.

WE NEED A GENTLEMAN FOR A CHANGE VOTE HUGH



DAVID EYLES STANDS FOR SOUND EDUCATION WITH ECONOMIC RESTRAINT

RESTRAINT is an economic reality.

-Cutbacks are necessary in many areas which effect us all. -Though we might not like it "belt tightening" is necessary in education as well.

SOUND EDUCATION must still be provided.

-We must ensure that our children are equipped with the skills they need to go on to the world of work and further education.

CONCLUSION

In these tough economic times it is all the more important that our educational system be administered economically and efficiently while maintaining a quality educational experience for all children.

To make the decisions necessary to accomplish this some administrative experience and educational background is a help.

EYLES has the background

- Administrative experience as Director of University Student Services
- Educational Advisor at college and university
- Bachelor and Master's degrees
- Experience as community service board member and chairperson of personnel committees
- Voluntary experience working with parent group, residents association and recreation commission

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1983

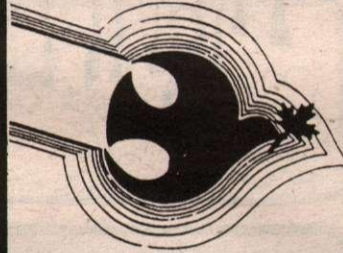
PLEASE VOTE:

EYLES, David X

(1 year term)

DRIFTWOOD IS RECYCLABLE

PEACE NEWS



NOW: Support the Prime Minister's international peace mission. Send a Christmas card, postage-free, to Pierre Trudeau, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A2.

NOV. 17: "Anatomy of the Nuclear Arms Race" discussion. Community Centre, 7:30.

NOV. 19: CBC Radio, noon: special on nuclear war.

NOV. 20: TV—check local listings for "The Day After"—special on war.

SHOPPING NOTE: Instead of giving war games & toys to children at Christmas think about the many non-violent alternatives. A child who knows peace lives peace.

Sri Lanka boys town open

The Boys' Town of Matale in Sri Lanka is open and the participants in the project want to thank the residents of Salt Spring.

The Salt Spring World Development Project has received a message from the Rotary Club of Matale. It read:

"Today, the 10th day of the 10th month of 1983, saw the admittance of 10 jubilant boys at 10 am into the Lan-Can Boys Town project, preceded by propitious religious ceremonies.

"Each boy was provided with all the necessities. Clothing, bedding and toilet needs befitting our culture and norms. Further intake of boys will also be after completion of repairs and the construction of the new block."

The money for the project had been raised through the efforts of the four churches on Salt Spring, the local Rotary and other Rotary Clubs in the area and backed by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Anglican, United, Catholic and Community Churches of Salt Spring held a World Development Tea in May of 1982. The money raised at the tea went towards funding the project.

Despite delays caused by a drought and race riots in Sri Lanka, the construction of the Boys Town began in the spring.

The people of that island city say the project will grow. The need to train boys who are orphaned or from poor families is great. The boys admitted to the school will learn basics in education, carpentry, cooking, gardening as well as the care of chickens.

Ferry back

From Page 1

from the bridge to the engine room was not answered because the oiler had been injured.

Estimates of damage had been set as high as \$500,000.

Don Small of Salt Spring set up a shuttle service for passengers between the two points until the ferry corporation put the run up for tender. The Vancouver firm of Western Pacific Marine Ltd. won the job with a bid of \$85 per trip.

Since the passenger service went into effect in the middle of September, the ferry corporation has paid out more than \$32,000.

The tender for repairs on the wharf, to bring it back to the pre-collision state, was won by the Sidney company, Dolphin Piledriving, for a cost of \$136,827. The repairs started October 11 and had been scheduled for completion by the end of November.

With some material supplied by B.C. Ferries, the total price of repairs would approach \$250,000, said a ferry spokesman at the time.

Repairs to the wharf included rebuilding the ramp and replacing the pilings for the counter-weights.

"It's About Time"

For

New and Positive Leadership

I will work for:

- the maintenance of health care facilities, planning for future needs, and the modification of CRD policy concerning home care nursing and homemaker services to fit Island requirements.
- speedy implementation of the recommendations of the engineering consultants and the Ganges Citizens' Sewer Committee.
- the retention of the Farmers' Market at Centennial Park. With a minimum three months extension, and the promise of help from Lands, Parks and Housing, it is now certain that something can be arranged that will allow the market to continue.
- support of the Parks and Recreation Commission in providing programmes such as fitness, swimming, summer youth, and many others.
- and give support to those hard working people who assist with baseball and soccer for all ages, in upgrading all our playing fields.
- providing social and recreational facilities for young people and the elderly (as previously outlined).

VOTE

BORSMAN, Hugh X

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TONY RICHARDS, EDITOR

MEMBER: Canadian Community Newspapers' Association
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SECOND CLASS MAIL REGISTRATION NO. 0803

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1983

Election day

On Saturday there will be an election on two islands. Voters on Saturna Island will elect a school trustee and Salt Spring Island electors will name a regional director and four trustees to the Gulf Islands School District. In addition, there will be a referendum for voters in the St. Mary Highlands water district.

The Outer Islands, apart from Saturna, have named all their representatives without an election.

There are four separate votes coming up on Salt Spring Island. Voters within the north-end water district will be eligible to vote on the referendum for a \$100,000 water tank project. Only those in the designated area may vote on the referendum.

There will be two school board elections. Two candidates are seeking the one-year seat vacated by Charles Baltzer and five candidates are looking at the three seats falling vacant this year for two-year terms.

The regional election rarely lags on Salt Spring Island and when the ballots are counted on Saturday evening the identity of the next representative on the Capital Regional Board will be known. Two candidates are seeking the directorship.

In a group of islands where the attendance at the polls has always been high, few voters will need a nudge on Saturday. Nevertheless, every voter should bear in mind the importance of the municipal elections and take pains to be there when the balloting is taken up.

Remember the future

As the islands gathered to mark the day set aside in honour of the millions who died in the wars of this century, the awareness of the threat of war was in the minds of many.

Remembrance Day is the day when we mourn the loss of our own serving men and women during Canada's wars. It is the day when we pay tribute, each in his own way, to the men and women and the children who have died, or have been maimed, in the Great War, the Second World War and the Korean War and other conflicts.

For many who took part in the ceremonies on Friday, and for many who were not present, the Second War stands out as the significant conflict. And the significance is, inevitably, the bomb that ended the war. Here, in the western islands, nearly 40 years after the explosion of the world's first atomic bomb, there is a growing concern for the danger of a nuclear war. While the community stands in silence to mourn the victims of past wars, a growing number are remembering the next war and they find horror and fear lying over their mental horizon far beyond what they remember from the past.

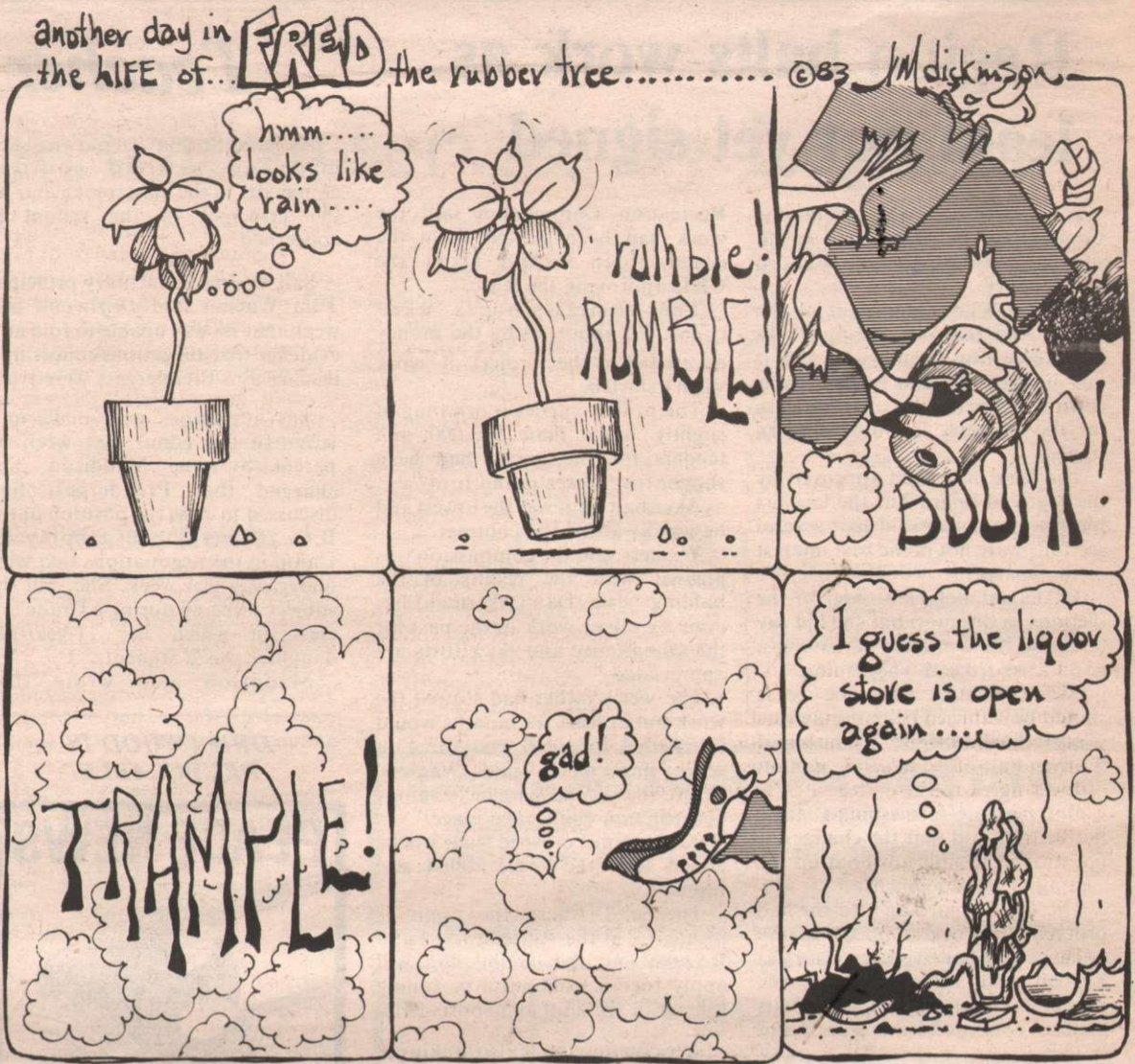
There is nothing less than fitting about this concern. Few veterans will glory over the bloodshed and the misery of war. The veteran of any of these wars looks back on the comradeship that arises when death loses its sting; when a force of men and women can ignore the personal danger and act beyond their capacity in more normal times. They remember the affection they had for those who were sharing their danger and they recall the days when their only hope of survival rested in the ability of each member of the force to do his damndest despite any threat he might see.

War was not only shell and bomb, gun and a hostile sea. It was comradeship; it was excitement; it was novelty and it was the opportunity for each man to be what he had never accomplished before.

The veteran of the Second War looks back on his war with the same memories of brave comrades, good friends, shared horrors and thankful survival that have lived with the old soldier of every conflict since biblical days.

Few veterans are saying today that they are glad it happened. But many are saying with fervour that they are glad they had the opportunity of being there.

To remember the future and to evince a conscientious concern for the nuclear war of the future is a fitting sentiment on Remembrance Day and it is one shared by many veterans who were happy to pay tribute to lost companions of a past conflict.



Letters to the Editor

Clarification offered

Sir,

To clarify for your readers:

1. The school board members up for re-election this year were not, as has been implied, on the Board at the time the original Fulford site was purchased in 1981. (Letters, November 9).

2. There is no record that I can find, or that anyone has shown me, of Board members being informed of the watershed complications prior to a stop-work order. Surely if as someone suggests it had repeatedly been brought up at public meetings then there would be public records available e.g. meeting minutes, Driftwood articles or letters to the editor to substantiate such claims. I for one know them to be false.

3. As a result of: (a) purchasing a new site that enabled the Board to keep the same architect and building design, with modifications to foundations, (b) maintaining an ongoing and extended contract with the general contractor at the same price, (c) having the original site available for sale or swap with improvements made e.g. well and septic.

The Board has not wasted "close to a quarter of a million dollars." We have, I feel, taken a very difficult situation, not of our own making, and turned it to the best possible advantage.

I would like to thank those who have taken the time to understand the confused situation regarding this matter, and hope that this has made matters a little clearer for some of your readers. I would hope that anyone who needs more information will contact me.

CHARLES HINGSTON,
R.R.1,
Beaver Point Road,
Fulford,
November 10, 1983.

Enough confrontation

Sir,

I would like to offer my wholehearted support to Hugh Borsman in his bid to represent islanders as our next regional director. During Yvette Valcourt's tenure as regional director contentious issues facing Salt Spring Islanders continue to become compounded rather than solved.

Enough of this endless confrontation with the CRD and the provincial government. We must return to a sense of reason and understanding and stop working against each other. When neighbours and friends become pitted against each other to the point of writing vitriolic letters to the press then it is indeed time for a change.

We are fortunate to have a man of the calibre of Hugh Borsman to undertake the unenviable task of restoring the harmony and co-operation which in the past has been

Pork barrel

Sir,

Your editorial, *Questionable Practice*, of October 26 raises a very interesting point. Mrs. Valcourt has been advertising, "My basic positions are: open government, open meetings, open files."

Any and everyone who has taken out a building/development permit (as required by CRD bylaw) has in effect provided funds to be used as a pork barrel by regional directors.

These persons and all other taxpayers are entitled to a clear explanation as to how this happened; and further what grants have been made out of this fund. Anything less than this means that Mrs. Valcourt's advertising is meaningless or worse.

P. LAYARD,
R.R.3, Ganges,
November 14, 1983.

so traditional throughout the Gulf Islands. The Valcourt band-wagon is extremely well orchestrated and it is up to those of us who desire a change to get out on the 19th of November and vote for Dr. Borsman.

REG ASHWELL,
R.R.2, Cusheon Lake Road,
Ganges,
November, 1983.

Seeks power

Sir,

I sympathize with Mr. Netboy's concern (Letters, November 2) over the campaign tactics of Dr. Borsman. As to why Borsman seems "desperately anxious to get the job", the answer, quite simply, is that he is seeking power, and presumes that he has a better chance of obtaining it here, rather than, say, in Victoria.

He would also, no doubt, welcome the opportunity to become the spokesman, in Victoria, of the pro-Ganges-development group, who are among his local backers in his no-holds-barred, no-expenses spared campaign.

I do hope that sanity will prevail, and that a resounding majority of the local electorate will prefer the honest, open, hard-working, fact-finding approach of Yvette Valcourt to the back-door approach that would seem to be the forte of her power-hungry opponent.

So Valcourt is, occasionally, willful and wrong-headed: we should all have so few faults! What she does is done sincerely, and with the best interests of the great majority of Islanders at heart. I believe, therefore, that she is clearly the better choice as our representative at the Capital Regional District. Don't you?

C.H. VANE-HUNT,
R.R.3, Ganges,
November 1983.