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TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR, NO. 6

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1983

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## Weekly meetings being held to draw up community plan

A group of Fulford residents are meeting each week to hammer out a community plan for the south end village on Salt Spring Island.

Bill Barazzuol, chairman of the South Salt Spring Residents Association, told a meeting of Fulford citizens recently that a community plan for the village is essential if the area is to develop along lines which residents approve.

He requested interested people to attend the committee meetings each Wednesday evening to voice approval or criticism instead of waiting until the plan has been prepared.

At least four planning committees have worked on various plans during the past eight years, he said.

The groups have come up with two plans, neither of which was acceptable to Fulford residents. The village does not have a community plan and growth is currently governed by the Salt Spring Island community plan.

Concerns which the proposed community plan will address include water supply and subsequent population growth. The Salt Spring plan would allow a population of 4,000 people but the figure is too large based on current water supply, many residents fear.

The Fulford residents also want to know the plans of the B.C. Ferry Corporation concerning the Fulford terminal. Rumours centre on a possible move to the Isabella

Point area.

"There are too many rumours about too many things," said Barazzuol. "That's why we need some professional studies done."

The seaside character of the village should be preserved, said several residents attending the recent meeting. They were also concerned about the quality of the harbour.

The residents will be asked to endorse a plan at the next meeting of the residents' association, said Barazzuol. The approval would not mean the plan is final, he noted. It would merely be an indication that residents want some say in the future development of Fulford.

### New motel planned

## Day care may have to move

BY BILL WEBSTER

The Salt Spring Day Care Centre may have to move when the motel site on Ganges Hill is fully developed.

The centre is located in a building at Bittancourt and Fulford-Ganges Roads. The site is being developed for a 30-unit motel and Valerie Engels, owner of the day care centre, can't find out what will happen when construction is completed.

She has attempted to talk to the motel owners who operate out of Langley but has not been successful. The plan for the motel site as presented to the Islands Trust shows the building will remain.

The staff of the Islands Trust said an earlier plan for the site called for the building to be used as living quarters for the motel staff. When the developers were told such an arrangement didn't conform to the community plan, they decided the building would be used as a restaurant.

Meanwhile, Engels and day care

supervisor Robin Andison have been told only that the building will remain and that the day care can stay.

"The day care has been here for so long," said Engels, "that it's become almost an institution."

The developers had told her that

the building which currently houses the day care centre will be renovated as a convention centre. At the same time she was assured that the day care centre could stay.

Andison had heard rumours of various things happening to the

Turn to Page 8

## Increase approved

The arbitrated pay raise for Gulf Islands teachers has been approved by compensation stabilization commissioner Ed Peck.

The teachers had been awarded a three percent increase in salary by the arbitration board and the matter had gone to Peck as part of the provincial government restraint program.

"We had no arguments with the way the calculations for the increase were done," said a spokesman for the compensation stabilization

program. There had been no arguments about ability to pay, he added, "so we approved it."

The Gulf Islands School Board had not paid the increase to the teachers for January. The trustees were waiting for a decision from Peck on the matter.

Mike Hayes, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association, had put the board on notice that the teachers would be demanding back payment of the increase once it had been approved.

He later clarified the statement he made to the board by saying that the teachers would be seeking interest

Turn to Page 2

## Traveller forced to walk following foot operation

"It won't happen again," is what B.C. Ferry Corporation chairman Stuart Hodgson said last week of a recent incident at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal.

A Salt Spring Island man was returning home after undergoing an operation on his foot at a Victoria hospital. The man, a war veteran, was driven to Swartz Bay by a veterans' affairs department car.

The ticket agent was asked if the car could be driven into the

compound to save its passenger from making the long walk to the ferry. The request was refused and the island man was required to make his way quickly to the ferry to get on before it sailed.

As a result, the wound in his foot opened up.

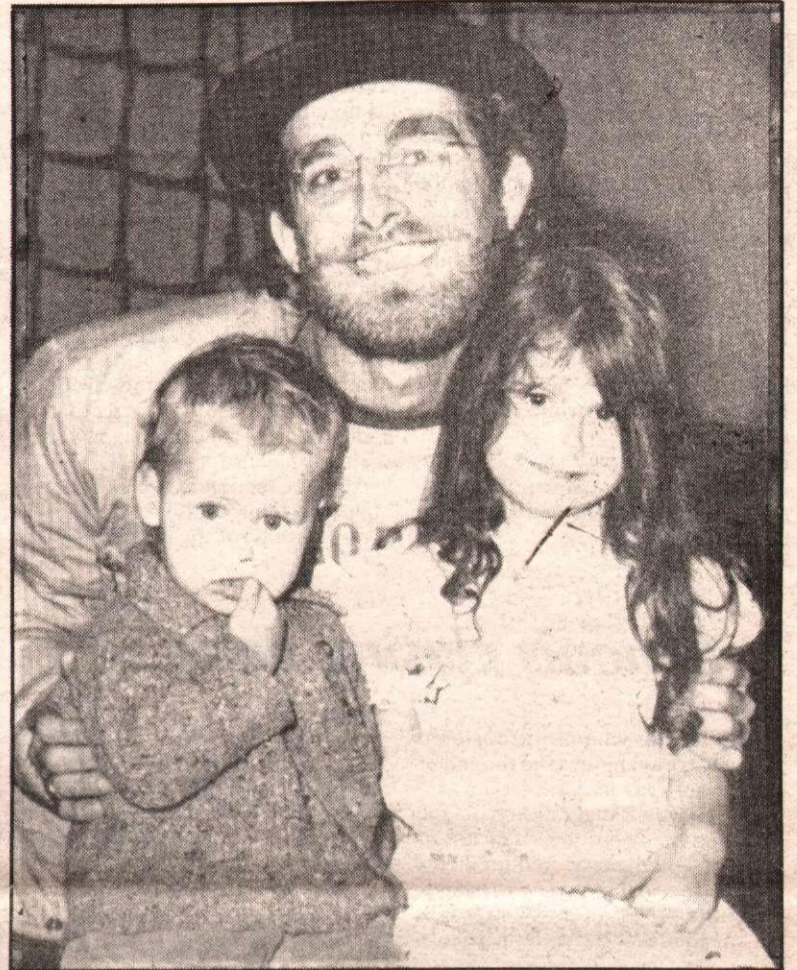
When told of the incident last week, Hodgson expressed his dismay at the "insensitivity" shown to the ferry traveller and promised to look into the matter.

## Cut-off date March 1

Driftwood subscribers who have not yet renewed their subscriptions have less than three weeks to do so before being cut off.

All subscriptions fall due in January and those who have not paid by the end of February will notice the paper by its absence from their mailbox the following week.

Winners of the subscription renewal contest will be announced next week.

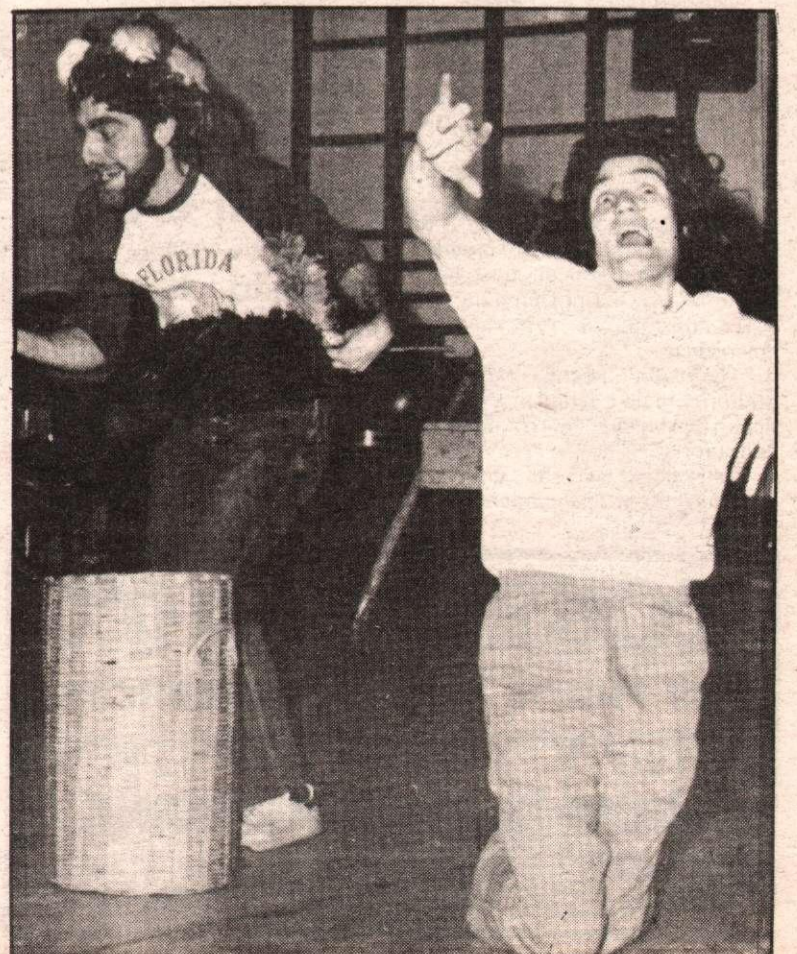


Driftwood photos by Alice Richards

## Show draws upon local talent

Theatre Sports at Ganges activity centre Saturday drew upon local talent from the audience for one of its matches. Driftwood photographer Alice Richards played part of a trio sitting on a bench in Stanley Park. With Vancouver actor Chris Rosati are four-year-old Dorothy Sues and her 18-month-old brother

Piet. Dorothy's real name is Maya but she decided to change it after seeing *The Wizard of Oz* recently. Rosati was named best all-round player at the conclusion of the evening's performance. Below are Rosati and Alan Marriote, also of Vancouver, in one of the Theatre Sports matches.



# Island resident is fed up with 'archaic laws'; seeks hunting ban

The Mt. Belcher Heights-Wilkie Way area of Salt Spring Island may be closed to hunting and shooting if the campaign of a local woman is successful.

Mrs. Doris O'Connor, who says she's fed up with "archaic hunting laws," is circulating a petition among residents to have the area closed to hunting.

An incident that took place near her Wilkie Way home during hunting season last year prompted O'Connor to take action against hunting.

At about 1 pm November 6, she heard three shots fired on her property and about three minutes later she found two hunters cleaning a doe at the roadside. Within 20 feet of where the hunters stood, O'Connor says, were two signs reading, "Private Drive" and "No Hunting or Trespassing".

Asked if they'd seen the signs, one hunter replied that he'd seen the Private Drive sign while the other told her, "Ganges is open." O'Connor says when she told them she was going to call the police they threw the deer into their jeep and drove off.

## FOUND DYING FAWN

Two hours later, she reports, her husband found a young fawn on their property 100 feet from the road. It had been shot and was almost dead.

Proponent of the hunting ban says that subsequent investigations by the RCMP and the district conservation officer determined that "the circumstances did not warrant charges."

O'Connor later wrote to the conservation officer in Nanaimo asking about several sections of the Wildlife Act and why they didn't apply in this particular case.

Section 32 states that a person who discharges a firearm "on or across the travelled portions of an arterial or secondary highway commits an offence."

Regional conservation officer D.V. Turner replied that a recent legal interpretation decided that such highways are only those within a municipality. He said the section is under review and there may be changes made to it.

Another section says that it is an offence to hunt "without reasonable consideration for the lives, safety or

property of other persons." Turner said a charge under that section would not be acceptable as it could not be proved that the shots were dangerous.

Because one of the hunters said he wasn't aware of the fawn, Turner wrote, he could not be charged under Section 36, which requires a hunter to "make every reasonable effort to retrieve wildlife" that he has shot.

**ADMITTED SHOOTING AT IT**  
However, O'Connor says the hunter admitted shooting at the fawn, but made no attempt to check on its condition.

As far as trespassing is concerned, Turner wrote that "it pertains to cultivated and grazing land only." The Trespass Act states that "No Trespassing" signs are required, he said.

"Your signs state 'No Hunting,'" But O'Connor says her sign reads, "No Hunting or Trespassing."

She points out that B.C. Hunting Regulations say it is unlawful to hunt on private property without permission. She did not, O'Connor says, give the hunters permission.

She also refutes Turner's final statement, in which he said it was unfortunate that there are few thoughtless hunters.

"Fortunately," he wrote, "they are a very small minority."

The island resident feels that the laws have been written to protect only the hunter.

"What protection do I have from this armed invasion every year?...As for all those signs posted along Wilkie Way — they too are useless."

O'Connor wonders why the wildlife branch looks upon the Gulf Islands "as one great hunting preserve solely for the use of a small group of men who are overcome every fall with the lust to kill."

"If they wish to carry on this practice, let them do it on their own property or elsewhere, but not on mine."

# Teachers get increase

From Page 1

on the amount held back by the board.

The school board had sought a legal opinion on the issue and were told that the increase did not have to be paid until it had been approved by Peck.

The previous contract between GITA and the school board expired on December 31, 1982. The school board, said secretary-treasurer Amy McLeod, was aware that the raise would have to be paid retroactively to January 1, 1983 when it had been finally approved.

The teachers had asked for 9.3% more in pay from the arbitration board but were awarded a three percent increase.

They must take six days off without pay between now and the end of the current school year. The amount to be deducted from their paycheques comes to approximately three percent of their salary. In effect, they will not be getting an increase in pay this year. Average pay for the teachers is close to \$34,000 per year.

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## Schools closing dates set

Gulf Islands schools will be closed six days between now and the end of the school year in June.

In line with a suggestion from the ministry of education as a means of reducing budgetary requirements for the year, the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association selected days off for the teachers without pay.

GITA selected March 4, May 20, June 27, 28, 29 and 30. The closing of schools for the dates in June means that the school year ends June 24. The ministry of education had earlier approved early school closings as a money-saver.

The Gulf Islands School Board agreed to the days off and the members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees will also be affected. The staff employees also will not be paid for the days when the schools are closed.

Graduates at Gulf Islands Secondary School may run into problems in scheduling their graduation ceremonies but Mike Hayes, president of GITA, assured the board something could be worked out.

No dollar figure has been given for the days off but when the arbitration board ruling on pay increases for the teachers was announced, Hayes pointed out that the three percent allowed would be offset by any time off which the teachers would have to take.

## No move yet to stop permits

Chairman of the Capital Regional Board, Howard Sturrock, has postponed any immediate action to suspend permits in Ganges.

At last Wednesday's meeting the proposal was made by Peter Pollen that permits be stopped. When he assumed the chairmanship of the sewage and solid wastes committee in January of last year he proposed that permits be withheld, he recalled.

If the Ganges sewer debate is to remain open for another 10 months, the health department must have guidance, urged Jim Cumming.

He discounted reference to emergencies.

"The health officer has overriding authority to take action in respect of health problems," he reminded his colleagues.

Restrictions will be discussed after meeting with the minister.

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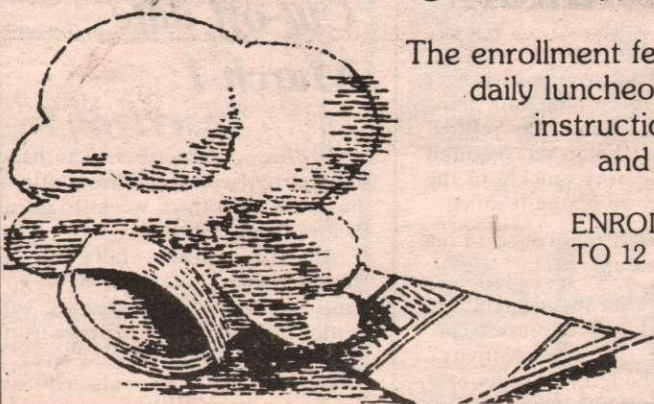
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**Digging a hole way back**

George Heinekey was recalling old-time faces and places the other day and he described one of the first excavating machines on Salt Spring Island. It was a bulldozer and the owner and operator was Jack Brookes, said George. Seeing an islander laboriously digging his basement with a pick and shovel, the operator suggested he be engaged to do the work. How much, asked the owner of the budding hole in the ground. Fifty bucks, suggested the excavating contractor. The deal was good and the hole was dug. It took 45 minutes to finish the job. The owner was indignant at the price. No way was he going to pay \$50 for less than an hour's work. And he didn't. The cat-skinner climbed back on his machine and scrupulously filled in the excavation before moving off.

**Don't buss them!**

They object to bussing children in Langford announced a television program. And they spelled it out to ensure that the watcher was not deceived into believing they were talking about buses.

**Direct link and a sop**

The best bitter quotation I've seen in connection with the newspaper trade was in the *Publisher* recently. It is from Oscar Wilde and I offer it here as a warm and pleasant sop to those who might be in danger of apoplexy after reading something I wrote:

*There is much to be said in favour of modern journalism. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community.*

**A touching response**

Some time in the past Women's Lib sent a donation to the Operation Eyesight Universal of Canada when the international charitable operation was asking for funds. This week she had a card mailed from Calgary informing her that Bhana Ram, of Hissar has been released from hospital, his sight restored as a result of her donation. The card is signed by Dr. M. K. Sanghi of the Jindal Eye Hospital. The need for help is unchallengeable and the card brings close to home the affliction of a man many thousands of miles away.

**Me? I'm all for Joe!**

The Tories were riding high. The Gallup pollsters had them there for the top prize in the next election and Joe was confident that he would be the next man at 24. Likewise his supporters.

And then they blew it.

In front of the entire nation the Progressive Conservative party tore off the trappings and disclosed their soiled linen for all the world to see. And while the powers that behind the party were proudly explaining their high-minded motives and the next stage in this policy of fine government, they looked to a new leader and a new future and forgot that they had turned their backs on the nation.

Alright, you say. It's their party, they can do what they like with it. And that isn't so very far wrong. But why would they want to?

The Conservatives had watched their barometer rising steadily. Sussex Drive was in sight. But, better dead than red, they decided that it was time to have a purge.

The Liberals are shivering in their shoes, announced a jubilant Tory member. This move will spell the end of the Liberal saga, he forecast in delight. He was looking at the political scene through a kaleidoscope. His vision was a pretty glass pattern. The jostling for power at the top of the true blues had brought new hope to the Liberal pathfinders and a new sense of frustration to the uncommitted voter.

The Canadian scene has never looked better. Unless you happen to be a voter. And a died-in-the-wool Tory.

It's different at the top, they'll tell you, eagerly, happily. They're going to field the only leader who could defeat the Trudeau Liberals. The only Tory capable of bringing his party to power. He is the tops; the leader above all leaders. And as soon as they've found him they're going to tell the world who he is.

The other day a hot-liner told his radio listeners that the Conservatives adopted the designation "Progressive" to indicate the pattern they were about to follow. That liner must be the sponsor of the new fiasco dreamed up by the party planners. They know where they're going even if they've forgotten where they came from.

I'm all for Joe, myself. Joe Clark of the Progressive Conservatives. The progressive who?

**Residents aid sea lion**

When a sea lion lay sick on the beach at Walker Hook last month, members of the Salt Spring SPCA took care of it.

The sea lion was seen January 15 lying on the beach and apparently unable to move. The incident was not reported to the SPCA until after

darkness had fallen that day.

The next morning Christine Wooldridge, an inspector with the animal care group, and Dr. Claus Andress, Salt Spring veterinarian, went to the beach to check on the report.

Although the animal was obviously sick, it showed no visible signs of injury. The two people visited the sea lion several times that day but were hindered in offering aid by curious onlookers. Eventually, they were able to treat the sick sea lion with antibiotics and vitamins.

By Monday, the sea lion was perkier and would not allow the pair to come close enough to treat it. It threatened them each time they approached.

"We had no way of restraining a 500-lb. sea lion," Wooldridge said.

Angus Matthews, formerly of Sealand in Victoria, came to help with the sea lion on Tuesday. But the creature had taken to the water and had swum away.

"We've had no reports of him since," said Wooldridge. "We can only assume that we helped him on his way."

She checked with a veterinarian in Victoria who has treated such large animals and he confirmed that the treatment given was the treatment required.


The animal was a California sea lion and is protected by law. Any harassment or attempt to injure a sea lion could result in a \$5,000 fine upon conviction.

**Beaches to get privies**

Privies will be part of the scene at various beaches on Salt Spring this summer.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has approved the placing of privies at Stowell, Blackburn and St. Mary Lakes. The commissioners will discuss the topic with residents near Vesuvius Beach.

The people of that area, in the past, have objected to a portable toilet being placed near the beach. If no objections are forthcoming, the privy will be part of the scene at that beach this year.

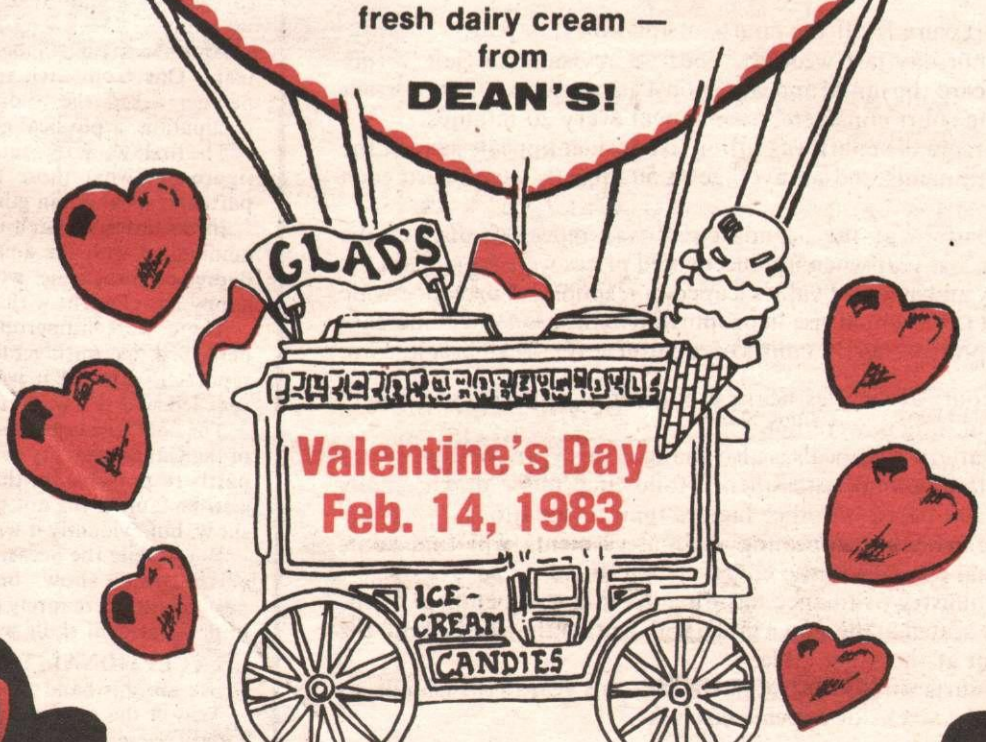


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# Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TONY RICHARDS, EDITOR

MEMBER: Canadian Community Newspapers' Association  
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1983

## Bent on destruction

The islands people have rallied eagerly to the cause of nuclear disarmament. There is something alien to the quiet byways of the islands about the abomination of desolation that many see in nuclear weaponry.

The present worldwide debate on the proliferation of nuclear power, the preference shown by many United States hawks for national bankruptcy rather than an easing up of the weapons of destruction and the slow swing of international policies towards casual acceptance of a nuclear war has brought a recognized evil into sharp and immediate focus.

It is this last aspect of present-day thinking that gives substance to the campaign for toning down the drive for nuclear armaments.

In the past it has been tacitly accepted by many of us in the west that nuclear weapons were dangerous because alien forces in other lands might be tempted to resort to their use. We have always been confident that those who we saw as being in the right—ourselves and our allies—would never resort to the use of unprovoked nuclear warfare.

Today the United States and Britain are cheerfully planning another wave of weapons in order to promote such warfare in the event of a third world war.

We can't afford to slow down in the construction of nuclear weapons, assert the hawks among us. And we all know that we can't afford a nuclear war.

Protest appears to be the only hope left to the rational thinking people of the world and successful protest the only protection for the future.

## Pressure is off

The pressure is off the courts of revision this year.

On Thursday last week the court of revision for Salt Spring Island heard the initial appeals against assessments for the current year. The court considered one appeal every 20 minutes.

A year ago the court was sitting to consider appeals against the new assessments and an average of 50 appeals were heard each day.

The pattern at the islands court was repeated all over the province last year when unprecedented prices were being paid for property and assessed values leaped in response. A province-wide fear that taxes would rise in proportion to the assessment increase led to a pressure on the courts of revision never previously known.

The court at Ganges heard a number of appeals. Some were successful, others were not.

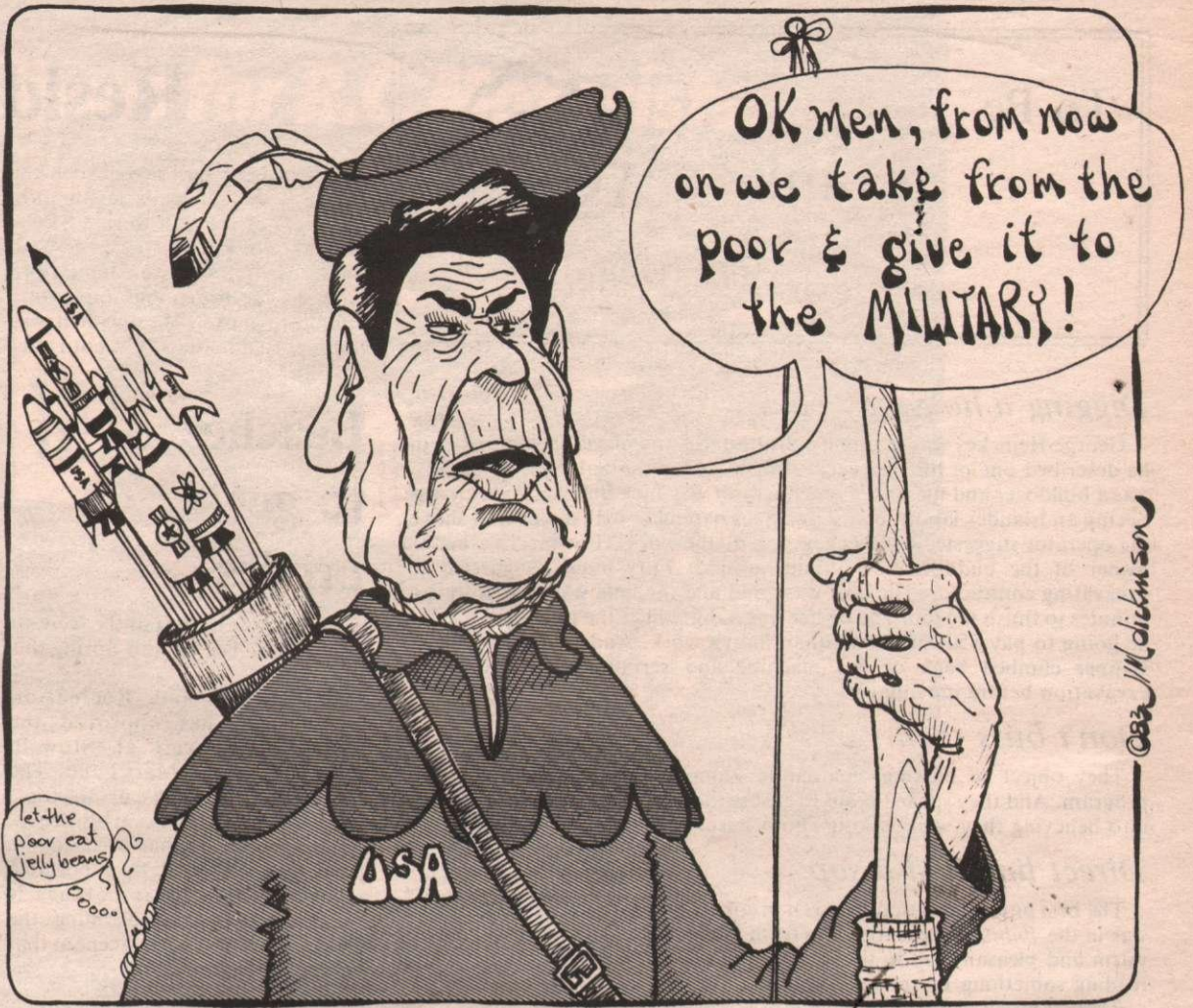
The pattern of appeals is also changed this year. With property values falling and assessments following them down, many appeals are based on other factors than revaluations.

Those who are appealing their assessments will find some functional changes in the courts.

The ministry of finance has directed that the members of the court be seated at their own table, with neither the assessor nor the appellant at the same table.

The courts will sit for five or six days this year in the islands, as against the weeks of appeals last year.

There is one small reassurance for all the appellants who made their case in courts of revision last year. When they were assured that the assessment would follow any downward trend in property values, many property owners expressed disbelief. This year has shown that a fluctuating market does, indeed, reflect a fluctuating valuation.



### Tony Richards

**THE TWO TEAMS** of three a side fought it out for two hours Saturday in front of a fairly enthusiastic audience.

A tag-team bout in a rather long wrestling match, perhaps?

A local version of *Reach For the Top*?

No, it was a Theatre Sports match, with six actors and a referee from Vancouver demonstrating to Salt Spring Islanders the art of improvisation.

And what a demonstration.

The first of the matches saw one of the six begin talking about a subject until the referee pointed to another of the actors. He would carry on, speaking on the same subject, until a minute later the referee directed someone else to talk.

The actors were whittled down in number by elimination. Whenever one of them blew it by not carrying on about the topic in a sensible fashion, he was out.

Another match involved two members of each team. One from each team left the hall while his partner asked the audience for three things: an occupation, a physical attribute and an emotion.

The first two actors returned to the hall and had to figure out what those three things were as their partners, speaking in gibberish, acted out the parts.

In Saturday's match they had very little trouble coming up with the answers. One was a bald and depressed prostitute while the other was a very happy travel agent with a boil on her nose.

There were numerous moments that could be described as outrageously funny, but from the reports I've heard it wasn't as humorous as last year's Beaver Point performance.

The cold (the heat was off) and bleak atmosphere of the Ganges activity centre could probably be held partly responsible for that. I think the referee could also be faulted for not putting enough life into the show, but evidently it was her first time in that role.

But despite the occasional lack of humour, it was a first-rate show because the quick-witted participants were rarely at a loss for words and their improvisational skills were exceptional.

**EXCEPTIONAL, TOO**, was the music by Dwaine Prosk and his band at the post-match party.

Two of the musicians, Dwaine and pianist Gary Lundy, were on stage again at the Harbour House Hotel's pre-opening party Monday evening, where they entertained a crowd of a few hundred islanders.

It was an impressive gathering.

While Salt Spring Cablevision's Brian Logan and a local bank manager (whose name tag read, "The Banker") were devouring platefuls of chicken wings,

Gil Humphreys was telling all who would listen about his plans to have most of the buildings in Ganges designated as heritage structures.

Very much in evidence were local resort owners, restaurateurs and pub owners, a sign that the hotel's owners realize they're not so much competing with as complementing one another.

And wherever you looked, there was Stan Lam, bubbling over with enthusiasm, making sure each of his guests was being looked after.

Most common topic of the evening was the future of the hotel and how its re-opening was one of the best things that could happen to Ganges. While closed down, the imposing structure cast a shadow of gloom over the "derelict little town".

The shadow was nowhere to be seen Monday evening.

Among other items I picked up while making the rounds was the news that 28 island residents have just returned from a skiing holiday at Apex. I learned from Barbara Toynbee that several returned home with injuries. (Gil "Heritage" Humphreys wasn't on crutches so I assumed he didn't go).

And while skiing was on the minds of many (myself included), a journey to warmer parts had travel agent Michele Layard and Vesuvius Inn manager John Teagle engrossed in a long discussion.

Michele was expounding on a book she has about Fiji and as I'm planning a holiday of my own in April, I wondered if she had any literature I could find useful.

Unfortunately, she had absolutely nothing to offer about Smithers.

**WALKERS BEWARE!!** I know it's a little early to be talking about the Salt Spring Lions Club Walkathon, but I thought perhaps participants would be interested to hear of a warning from the Fulford Valley.

Eighty-five-year-old veteran walker Walter Bridgen will take part again this year — and he's bringing reinforcements.

Members of the Bridgen family will be converging on the island — some from as far away as Alberta — to accompany Walter on the long walk.

**SALT SPRING ELEMENTARY** principal Tom Watson does a lousy imitation of a school bell.

At three minutes to nine Tuesday morning, Tom's voice could be heard within a half-mile radius of the school.

"Ding, ding, ding, it's time to get to work," came the rather unusual announcement.

The bell, I assume, is on the fritz.

# Letters to the Editor

## New thinking, many changes needed

Sir,  
It was refreshing to see some Catholic Bishops make a statement on our economy, but not endorsed by all and ridiculed by our Prime Minister.

It's very sad that church leaders are generally failing their flocks. They are a part of the system and must not alienate their larger contributors. Did you ever hear a church leader denounce high interest rates? In my book anyone who charges more than five percent interest is a sinner. Did you ever hear a church leader discuss the iniquity of our 1917 income tax act? So beautiful in theory and so terrible in practice and making more dishonest people than any other piece of legislation and keeping non-productive accountants and non-productive lawyers in business.

How many know that under debt adjustment, many years past in Saskatchewan, mortgages were cut in half and interest was reduced from 10% to four percent and farmers were able to lift their millstones.

And writing about lawyers is a bad experience. Look at our terrible system of justice which is a lawyer's paradise where a simple drunk-driving charge can be remanded for months. Much will be written in future about the abundance of lawyers and their total influence on all of us.

Do you know there is one state in the United States where lawyers are not allowed to run for public office? That is one smart state. And while on this subject much has been written and said about our laws on prostitution. Another bonanza for lawyers.

We will always have prostitutes so why not give them protected areas and let them contribute to our economy while the police turn their activities to more serious crimes. No

one wants to be honest about such matters and hope they will go away.

And isn't it time we got rid of the Broadbents, Clarks and Trudeaus and came up with new fresh thinkers before this beautiful country goes down the drain?

1½ million unemployed with so much abundance around us. Let's not ship one ton of coal to Japan and let's not import one car, one pair of shoes, one shirt, one bottle of wine, etc. etc., until every last Canadian is employed and unemployment insurance is wiped out.

If we have to get out of the international monetary system to do this then let it happen. We have

## Not Honduras

Sir,  
I would like to make two corrections to Bill Webster's article on the 10 Days for World Development program, reported in your paper last week.

It is the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala (not Honduras) that must be condemned for some of the worst violations of human rights the world has known.

Canada should protest any military aid given to these governments by the United States as well as protesting the covert military operations out of Honduras (alone), where American-trained and financed troops are making border raids into Nicaragua which have already left 400 dead.

(This American involvement in backing ex-Somoza guards in Honduras was made known to the American public in a *Newsweek* expose this fall).

**DAVID REID,**  
Box 689,  
Ganges,  
February 5, 1983.

much gold in our bins on the prairies which can be traded for the bananas and other items not available in this abundant country.

And if we have to print dollars than let's turn them out but give them a short life to prevent their accumulation and wipe out the gambling stock exchanges which really do not produce anything.

As a young man I witnessed a riot in one of our cities. This is indelible on my mind. Riots do not solve problems but if successful can transfer power from one group to another without solving the problem of the distribution of our great abundance. With the current state of our economy we will have social disorder and so we need new Broadbents, Clarks and Trudeaus with new thinking and many changes.

Too many people are putting their energies into disarmament. Most everyone desires it but these people should direct their energies into the real problems surrounding us or they will have more than disarmament to worry about.

People want work and in this land of milk and honey they are entitled to have it.

**CHAS. J. GARDNER,**  
R.R. 1 Galiano,  
January 27, 1983.

P.S. I am a sinner!

## Variety of water uses conflict

Sir,  
One of the key requirements for the economic, healthful, and aesthetic well being of a community is a reliable supply of good quality, reasonably priced water.

Despite the fact that this may seem a reasonable and even essential goal, increasingly communities and whole countries are finding to their regret that their water resources are being depleted and seriously polluted.

Why is this so? Our water resources are subjected, under our current multiple-use philosophy, to a wide variety of uses, some of which may conflict with each other, and

many of which adversely affect water quality. Water is used in enormous quantities as a means of transporting and disposing of most of our wastes - domestic sewage, and effluent from industry and commerce, for example.

The same body of water that is used for waste disposal may also be used for domestic water, irrigation, fisheries, recreation, and transportation. Water bodies are also affected by land use and solid waste disposal in their watersheds, and even by aerial waste disposal from near and far away.

Most levels of government recognize this problem, and have attempted various forms of pollution control legislation. But all too often conflicting priorities, economic and political pressures, intergovernmental rivalries, and lack of knowledge render government regulations ineffectual.

Salt Spring Island is not immune to these problems, and indeed, several factors suggest that our problems could become quite severe as pressures for more development build.

For this reason a group of local residents have formed a society under the Societies Act called for Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society.

It is our sincere hope that this society will be able to serve our community by assisting in the understanding and preservation of our water resources, not only for ourselves but for future generations.

**MIKE LARMOUR,**  
Ganges,  
January, 1983.

## Now they're men

Sir,  
It seems that the male animal, both human and other, must at all times demonstrate the quality of "maleness" or "macho".

The other day on a side road on Galiano Island such a demonstration took place. So-called hunters had shot four adult beaver and left the bodies littered on the shore of a beaver pond which the creatures had, over the years, created behind a beaver dam.

Should these hunters read this, I'm sure they will be proud that they have convincingly shown themselves to have attained manhood status.

For sheer nerve and bravery against these most dangerous wild animals, surely no other act can compare! You are now men.

**K. E. ALLEN,**  
Galiano Island,  
January 28, 1983.



Bill Webster

## Easy targets for tomatoes

Recent events brought home the disparity of occupation for a newsgatherer who also carries a camera.

The beginning, as with many occurrences, began with words typed into this space. Last spring I offered comments on an anonymous critic of the *Driftwood* critic. The unsigned critique appeared in the newsletter of the Salt Spring Players.

My critique of their critique of our critique was, of course, written in the humorous vein.

Later, in the North Salt Spring ferry turnaround waiting room watching the ferries turn around, Dawny Scarfe and I fell into conversation about the exchange of words. She admitted to having written the newsletter article and I admitted to having written the column.

One thing led to another and by the end of the conversation we had agreed that a way of seeing the difficulties of putting on a performance for the public was to become involved.

"If you have a walk-on part in your next play," said I, "let me know and then I could discover backstage at curtain time."

She did.  
She cast me in the role of a reporter for the production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. And the experience has been challenging and fun. We hit the

boards next week and the butterflies are starting already.

The production will be theatre in the round. No elevated stage. The audience sits about the playing area. The better to aim their tomatoes, I guess.

The play is an interesting study of the downfall of a teacher who prefers the fantasy of life to the real thing. It is set in a private girls' school in Edinburgh.

The reporter, that's me, interviews a nun, Lou Rumsey, who has written a best-selling book. The action of the play is flashbacks as the nun remembers what happened at the school.

Jean Brodie, known to islanders as Dawn Luker, cuts a swath through students while keeping two of the teachers, played by Al Wyatt and Sid Filkow, happy and agitated in turn.

The youthful parts are played by a gaggle of young charmers and each chews up what scenery there is as if they are troopers of great experience.

I ran into difficulties with my part almost immediately. There are words to remember and say.

"Louder, don't mumble," said Dawny on many, many occasions. Seems I have this habit of talking into my moustache and the sound doesn't reach the back rows. Actually, I figured if I mumbled, no one would notice the words weren't

the ones written for the part. But it didn't work.

Another problem presented by my thespian debut is that I have to wear a suit and a tie. The moths became angry when I took their meal from the hanger in the closet. Dawny said I should play myself for the part, but blue jeans and my Humber College jacket are out.

Rehearsals resemble rush-hour back in the big city. People scurry here and there. Conversations rise in volume. Crews clean, paint and wire lights. And in the centre of it all, the actors attempt to act.

The casual observer sees chaos. And as one rehearsal follows another, an amazing occurrence occurs. The play begins to make sense. It develops a distinctive life and the electricity of some scenes draws attention from those in the hall.

The missed cues, forgotten lines and bungled scene changes dwindle down to a few. The excitement mounts.

This play is the first attempted by the Players in the round. It is, as with recent offerings of the group, a demanding play.

Dawny has one handicap remaining but it is too late to cast another person to play the reporter. I'm it.

Next week comes the moment of truth.

As a hero of my youth would say, "What? Me worry?"

## Waters muddied again

Sir,  
Once again the urban politicians have muddied the waters of the Ganges sewer issue. The residents' democratic right to vote on this project has been circumvented, this time by the meddling of Mr. Couvelier, his neighbouring mayors, and Mr. Chris Woodward, Inspector of Municipalities.

Once again the ratepayers of the sewered area are asking: where do we stand and where do we go from here? Cancelling the referendum has raised more questions than it has answered and the ratepayers of the area must have certain issues clarified.

1. Will all spending on the sewer project stop until the referendum is held?

2. Will the provincial government and the CRD help the local residents research and cost alternate methods of waste disposal, or will they only look at alternate ways of using the pipe which they have laid in the harbour?

3. What will the referendum ask when it is finally presented?

4. If alternatives can be shown to be as effective and cheaper than the large sewer project, who will pay the \$2.8 million already spent?

5. Will there be a judicial review to once and for all establish the status of the original 1977 petition?

6. Will the school and the hospital be told to have detailed engineering cost studies done to evaluate the

viability of on-site land disposal?

7. Will there be further attempts to install the sewer without seeking the assent of the electors, through letters patent or cabinet orders or restrictive legislation?

As ratepayers and residents of the area to be sewered, we have the right to know what government is planning for us. But more importantly, we have a right to be involved in the process of planning and the right to be heard by vote when such plans are finally set.

**MICHAEL HAYES,**  
Ganges,  
February 1, 1983.

## Market suggestion

Sir,  
With regard to the Farmers' Market, I would like to suggest that notices be put up the length of the railings along the park, reserved for farm produce, home cooking, flowers, and across the lane kept for stalls from off the Island.

Last year many of these were very attractive to the tourists and boat people who enjoyed the colour and fun in our village for a few hours once a week.

**DORIS MITCHELL,** Ganges,  
February, 1983.

## 'Senseless rubbish'

Sir,

I write to lodge a formal protest against the continuous onslaught of meaningless dribble that we are subjected to, particularly in the column entitled *To Be Frank*.

I have read this column in the past with disbelief at the outpouring of inane, senseless rubbish which is an insult to readers' intelligence, and have continued to glance at it in the vain hope that it might improve - alas, to no avail.

Merely as one example of what I complain about is the item in the January 26 edition under the heading, "Salt Spring Day," in which "Frank" tells us that one day in Victoria he saw Fred and Irene Hartley "pass" and then Don Small "roll up."

Am I out of step, or am I the only reader who has not the slightest interest in the mundane ways in which "Frank" passes his time, or what friends, acquaintances and cronies he happens to bump into along the way?

Is it too much to expect a reasonable standard of journalism from your newspaper and its contributors?

**M. PINTEAU,**  
R. R. 1, Sunset Drive,  
Ganges.  
January 31, 1983.

## More Letters to the Editor

### Ganges to Merritt takes three weeks

*This letter to the Ganges Post Office was submitted for publication.*

Sir,

I never expected to write a letter of protest to the Post Office, however I have finally reached the boiling point.

I understood last summer when the local Post Office forwarded some bills to a person with the same name who had moved away even though her mail went to general delivery and mine was correctly addressed to my postal box. But I fail to understand why it takes three weeks for a correctly addressed letter to go to Merritt, B.C., yet only four days to come from Merritt to Ganges.

Another example of the speed which our Postal Service works is a 14" x 17" envelope which took 21 days to travel from Victoria to Ganges. I realize this was not "letter size" but really I could walk faster.

By using a postal code the service

was better, but if it takes three weeks with a code number from Victoria, B.C. to Ganges, B.C., how long does it take without one?

Maybe the postal workers should have their paychecks mailed in plain

unmarked envelopes to show them just how efficient they really are.

**MRS. CAROL VAN WINCKEL,**  
Box 334, Ganges.  
January 26, 1983.

### Benevolent dictatorship has members mesmerized

Sir,

The shortest meeting on record took place, this date, at the Galiano Hall. The most strange and shortest election of officers, for the Galiano Fire Hall, ever witnessed at any meeting.

It was benevolent dictatorship at its very best. Thirty-two members were obviously very happy or mesmerized.

I still think our ambulance should

attend fire calls. So far, our volunteer firefighters have been very fortunate. If it's a matter of cost then we'd better go back to the old volunteer ambulance.

In any case it was cheap entertainment for a half-hour.

**CHAS. J. GARDNER,**  
R.R. 1, Galiano.  
January 29, 1983.

## Hundreds attend re-opening ceremonies

Hundreds of visitors took advantage of the offer of Harbour House Hotel during the weekend to take a preview of the long-established hostelry prior to its re-opening.

The hotel lifted the veil on Sunday and Monday to show islanders what had been accomplished, and re-opened on Tuesday evening.

On Sunday afternoon the car park and adjacent properties were packed when hundreds took advantage of the open house. The buffet dinner on Sunday night attracted capacity crowds when proceeds were donated to two service clubs, the Salt Spring Island Rotary and Lions Clubs.

For two hours on Monday evening the hotel swarmed with visitors again to enjoy the final open house before Tuesday's formal opening.

Host for the weekend's events was Stan Lam, who will direct the course of the oldest-established hotel and restaurant in Ganges.

## Open sewer memorial to single-minded minority?

*This is the first part of a summary of the Ganges sewer saga prepared by a Salt Spring Island doctor. The conclusions of the summary will appear in next week's Driftwood.*

**BY CHARLES H. BORSMAN M.D.**

A few days after this was first written, the referendum planned for February 5 was cancelled and deferred to November of this year. Whatever eventuates, there will be continuing uncertainty and confusion. It may well be that the past 15 years of debate regarding the Ganges sewer may only be part one of a continuing saga.

Who is and who has been responsible for this absolute fiasco? At the top of the list, of course, are the directors of the Capital Regional District (CRD).

They have exhibited, by their hesitation, procrastination and vacillation, the most incredible ineptitude. Their problems, of course, have been compounded by having a director from Salt Spring who, since 1977, has been dedicated to destroying the Ganges sewer.

There seems little question that the vast majority of residents of Salt Spring recognize the need for a Ganges sewer, but their voices have rarely been heard. They, by their reticence in speaking up, must also share responsibility.

However, their reluctance to stand up and be counted has not been copied by those opposing the sewer. This group has been allowed to carry the ball with little or no interference. How or why did the sewer alternatives committee (SAC) develop such a deep commitment to destroy the sewer? Furthermore, who are they?

In the first instance, opposition to the concept of ocean discharge of treated effluent came mainly from those whose homes abutted on Ganges Harbour. Their motives were not entirely altruistic, but their concern was understandable.

They received support from others, not necessarily harbour residents, who were concerned about environmental damage. Their collective fears, of course, were greatly overstated. Even before the last revision of the sewer proposal, secondary treatment was planned, so that the rather hysterical descriptions of identifiable human excreta and toilet paper on their waterfront properties was never realistic.

However, the objections led to a

hearing by the Pollution Control Board (PCB) at Central Hall in 1979. This prolonged and expensive hearing served no essential purpose. It did not demonstrate that the sewer proposal would be a threat to the marine environment. But the fears of the sewer opponenets were foolishly heeded by the PCB and their compromise proposal called for additional safeguards and an extended outfall.

This recommendation appeared to be a victory for the sewer opponenets since the plan had suddenly become a great deal more expensive and some of the opponenets predicted that it would be abandoned as a result.

However, because of the new proposal, environmental damage became a non-issue. Experienced persons in the field have frequently expressed the opinion that the present Ganges plan is over-sophisticated, over-cautious, and as a result, over-expensive for the projected number of users. Even the department of fisheries and environment, invariably hard to please, have written to assert that they are satisfied with the proposal.

It might be assumed that with the marine environment no longer at risk, the SAC would, or could, rest on its laurels. In fact, many of the members did so, and have not taken an active part in recent discussions. But the activists among them had tasted blood, and were not about to relent.

It became almost entirely a question of who would "win". One thing has been certain for several years - Salt Spring and the taxpayers can't win!

### Means of arresting development

One concern of the sewer opponenets that will strike a responsive chord with a number of residents is their wish to minimize growth on the island. Even though the community plan allows for limited development in Ganges, it presupposes that a sewer will be installed and in operation prior to further growth. Destroying the sewer then becomes a way, they apparently believe, of arresting development.

There are many cogent reasons why development in the Ganges core would, if anything, be much preferable to increasing scattered development in the rural areas.

It would appear that the Ganges

plan is designed to benefit, not newcomers, but the present residents of Salt Spring, and does not involve a significant population increase.

The type of development is such as to provide facilities which would enrich island life, such as community recreational facilities and multiple-family dwellings. The latter are almost non-existent at present, and their provision is most important to the many retired and aging residents who have properties which they find difficult to maintain.

At present such persons having to move must look off-island, no matter how long they may have lived here. Such multiple-family dwellings are not possible until the Ganges sewer problem is solved.

Ganges is a drab little village. This is a product of 10 years of indecision and a virtual freeze on even minor changes. Property owners have just not known where they stand. It seems so inappropriate for Ganges to be in such a state, situated as it is on such a beautiful island.

### There have been many charges

There have been many charges that allowing development will result in excessive profiteering by rich landowners in the area to be sewered. First of all there is insufficient available land for any large-scale development, particularly if the Islands Trust is vigilant (which it will be), and provided the community plan is observed.

Secondly there are only a few who have sufficient property to be candidates for becoming developers on even a small scale. Thirdly, what is wrong with making money?

Some of the charges made by the SAC against persons in the Ganges core have been calumnious and malicious. These statements have no established substance in fact, and have been used to obscure the issue, and in some cases to deliberately promote discontent, antagonism and dissension.

A great hue and cry has continued about the inadequacy of the 1977 petition circulated in the area to be sewered. In hindsight, of course, it should have been done differently, but why would the SAC be so upset? How many of them live in the designated

area?

Isn't the cause of democracy that is being championed by the sewer opponenets, but an opportunity to further their own cause. If the Ganges property owners were unhappy with the petition they would have been the ones to complain. Until recently, for obvious reasons of increased costs, they have been remarkably silent.

### Raw sewage is not a health hazard

For a while, as a small diversion, the SAC dwelt on the medical or health aspects of the present situation. The conclusion, since it seemed to suit their purpose, was that the raw sewage in the harbour and on the streets is not a health hazard.

After all, no one has died yet, as far as they know. The regional health officer, the local physicians and those in the Ganges Harbour area certainly don't share their unconcern.

It seemed strange that a group that was supposedly concerned about treated effluent being deposited well out in the harbour, could be so apparently unconcerned about the raw sewage being deposited at the head of the harbour over many years.

As already noted, the community plan, prepared with a great deal of public input, including some of the persons supposedly associated with the SAC, required a sewer to be in place before further development would be allowed. The SAC decided that the sewer could be attacked if the community plan could be discredited and discarded.

They, therefore, attempted to use the Community Planning Association to ask for an examination of the plan. Their tactics failed and the move was abandoned for the time being. There is nothing wrong with taking another look at the community plan since even the passage of a few years could alter requirements appreciably. But the plan, when revised, should be revised by all the people, for the good of all the people, and not for any small group with a selfish interest in the revision.

Imagine the howls if a small group of downtown business people had wanted to revise the plan for their own selfish purposes.

The regional director, for reasons best known to herself, has consistently opposed the Ganges sewer. This well

known fact assured that she, and the SAC, would become fellow travellers at the time of an election. Their support may even have tipped the balance in her favour.

But to Mrs. Valcourt's credit, she was elected, not to pursue her obsession with the sewer, but because a majority of voters thought she would be aggressive in representing Salt Spring. Her almost total preoccupation with the sewer issue since her election has in fact disenfranchised the majority of the voters.

Her election said nothing to indicate a mandate to destroy the sewer plan, nor did it reveal the numerical support of the sewer opponenets.

After the passage of Bill 31, which no one was particularly happy about, but recognized as being necessary the SAC tried on a new hat, that of champions of human rights.

This was raised as an issue only because Bill 31 did not work in their favour. Had it done so would we have heard any more about it?

The name of the persistent minority was, of course, derived from all the wonderful alternative plans they have from time to time presented. Without elaborating, or even suggesting their proposals were impracticable, the SAC was asking us to destroy a plan which would have provided a safe, and at one time reasonably economical way of taking care of this serious problem.

We were to destroy the Ganges sewer plan and then spend any number of years checking the feasibility of alternatives without any assurance that there would, in fact, be a satisfactory solution. If one were found, would it be any better, or safer, or any less expensive, than the present proposal?

### Attempt to obfuscate

This offer, to buy a "pig in a poke", was merely an attempt to obfuscate the issue, not to solve it. The SAC operated from an advantageous position. They could basically suggest anything at all without consequences to themselves. If the Ganges sewer were destroyed, and their alternative suggestion when investigated was found to be impracticable, they would merely turn around and say, "Well, that is not our problem". There is no way we can insist that they put their money where their mouths are.



Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

### Mother, daughter demonstrate

Dance and trim instructor Kathy Weisner goes by the professional name of "Leila" when she performs belly dancing or middle eastern folk dancing. Every Monday night in St. George's Hall at Ganges she

instructs islanders in the art of belly dancing. In photo she demonstrates middle eastern folk dancing with her daughter Lianne, right, who also attends classes.

### Venturers head to Alberta

The Venturers are headed to Alberta but they need help to get there.

The Salt Spring youth group recently held a battery and bottle drive which netted them \$100. The trip to Alberta is to attend the 15th World Jamboree of Venturers.

The three Salt Spring Islanders will be part of a 35-member Victoria area group attending the event. The last World Jamboree held in Canada was 25 years ago.

The Venturers are a group of island youths between the ages of 14 and 18. The group is an extension of the Scout program. They are in the

process of setting up a spring program and one of the plans to raise money is a spring clean-up of Ganges.

Any help, financial or otherwise, offered to the boys would be gratefully accepted, says troop leader Terry Owen.

## Ferry ticket scheme halted

The commuter tickets were supposed to assure a space on the ferry but the concept only assured a headache for ferry officials and the experiment has been halted.

The commuter tickets, sold by the book and with no expiry date, were good on the mainland-Vancouver Island runs. Gulf Islanders have been after the ferry corporation for several years to institute such a scheme for the island routes.

The five-month experiment will be subjected to a two-week review of its effectiveness.

"The concept has been the subject of as many criticisms as compliments," said corporation chairman Stuart Hodgson last week, "and questions have been raised including just yesterday (February 1) by the provincial ombudsman, concerning the statutory authority under which the

corporation may offer this service."

Commuters who hold unused tickets will continue to receive assured loading privileges, he said. The tickets will no longer be sold until the results of the review are known and made public. The results should be ready by the middle of the month.

"In view of the difficulties we've encountered to date," Hodgson said, "our people at the terminals are concerned about the impact once the busy season comes. As a result, the corporation has started an immediate review to consider all aspects of the program, both positive and negative."

### Meeting room almost ready

The meeting room in the building at Portlock Park is nearing completion and groups wanting to use it will have to arrange a schedule.

The renovations to the room have cost \$1,800 to date and a further \$200 has been approved by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission for a stairway to storage space above the room.

The regular users of Portlock Park, the tennis, soccer and softball groups, will be requested to arrange for use of the room with the commission to avoid several groups wanting to use the space at the same time.

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### New service offered here

Dap-A-Lert Video Inventory Services is a new service being offered on Salt Spring Island by Dale Codd and Patricia Landry from the General Store.

Until recently the only way of identifying your personal possessions to insure recovery after a fire or theft has been to make a written list. Ask anyone who has ever had a loss and they will tell you that reconstructing a list of their missing possessions is a very difficult if not impossible task.

A person is usually faced with the strong emotional shock of the fire or theft and finds it very difficult to deal with the problems of trying to make a list of their possessions.

How many people have a detailed up-to-date list of their belongings locked away in their safety deposit box? Possibly one in 100!

#### TECHNOLOGY

Technology has now reached a point that one of the newest, most thorough methods of doing a detailed inventory is with a video camera, which makes a permanent, easily identifiable record of

the total contents of your home.

We have found through experience that the video recording gives you a clear picture of everything in your home, from your furniture to the contents of your closets and drawers.

#### NO DUPLICATES

The recording is made by a bonded and insured professional and left with you as soon as it has been completed, so you are the only one who has this record, eliminating the chance of anyone making duplicates for other purposes.

You don't need to own any equipment — the video recording produced can be viewed on any compatible playback unit.

A written record might specify that you have six suits, eight sweaters and 14 pairs of shoes, which might be hard to describe, whereas a video inventory gives you an exact picture of everything.

A video recording along with your insurance policy can be a very valuable addition to your peace of mind.

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Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Hole in the ground at Bittancourt and Fulford-Ganges Roads is site of a 30-unit motel. The Salt Spring Day Care Centre, located in a building on the property, may have to move when the construction is completed. Plans for the tourist facility have been approved by the Islands Trust.

## New motel at Ganges

### From Page 1

building and had phoned the developer to ask how much time the day care would be given to move. She was told the day care centre would stay.

The rumours continued and no firm statements came from the developers.

Driftwood could not reach them for comment.

"We were told just last week that the playground would be torn up," said Andison. She pointed to the play area. The fence around the playground had been removed.

The property contains seven other buildings classified as seasonal cottages. The Salt Spring zoning bylaws state: "No seasonal cottage shall be permitted or located in a motel or auto court."

The people living in the cottages will probably have to move.

Engels said she will be arranging a meeting of parents of children attending the day care to come up with ideas for another location. She would like to keep the day care centre in Ganges, if possible.

The children, said Andison, don't play outside often any more. The heavy equipment, the mud and the lack of a fence around the play area have created dangers for the youngsters.

### James T. Fogarty

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### Seat belts

## 10 more charged

The campaign to have people wear seat belts is paying off, says Sgt. Mitch Hanks of Ganges RCMP.

Island police last week added 10 more seat belt charges to the growing list of those who drive and don't buckle up. But, said Hanks, the number of people wearing the

safety devices is growing.

"Obviously," he said, "people are becoming conscious of the need to wear the belts for safety."

The RCMP are not interested in running up a large total of charges, he told *Driftwood*, but in educating people in the use of seat belts for their own safety.

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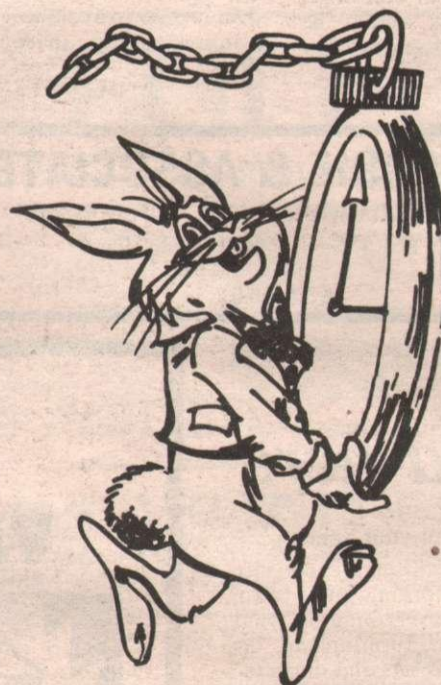
- ...a heart-shaped box of chocolate-coated espresso beans
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4-4

**Pender Farmers' Institute meets**

**Group reviews year's activities**

**BY ELEANOR HARRISON**  
Pender Islands Farmers' Institute held its annual general meeting recently.

Directors elected for 1983 were Jim Dunn, Joyce Jones, Irving Thompson, Ashton Ross-Smith, Sandra Johnstone, Gerry Sewell, Graham Thorne and Bette Gardner. The officers will be chosen from this group at the first executive meeting.

One item brought up at the meeting concerned the existing hunting regulations. President Joyce Jones advised that the Farmers' Institute proposed to make a study with local input, which the directors would present to the membership for their approval. Recommendations would then be forwarded to the provincial government.

Jones reported that last spring and summer saw 11 programs and two special events, at which the attendance varied from 35 to 250.

A day-long workshop was held in March and a study prepared and presented to the Islands Trust on community planning on North Pender. During May the institute was instrumental in bringing the Pacific Maritime Command Naden Band for a Sunday afternoon concert, held on the school grounds and attended by 250.

During 1982, the institute established a scholarship fund, to be given yearly to a student continuing post-high school education in an agricultural field. The first winner was David Marsh from Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Much work and effort went into operating the Farmers' Market each Saturday morning, under the chairmanship of Frank Jones.

Jean Lines and Winnie Steves co-

ordinated visits of the veterinary doctors from the Juan de Fuca Veterinary Clinic.

The Fall Fair, co-sponsored by the Farmers' and Women's Institutes in late August, under the chairmanship of Peter Campbell, was a tremendous success with a large attendance and excellent exhibits.

As usual the institute sponsored the children's picnic in August at the Library Centre with a very large attendance. Martha Nance was co-ordinator. Approximately 150

children attended.

A new group was started to learn more about the growing of flowers and shrubs. It is under the chairmanship of Audrey Dunn.

Finally, the Christmas party held in early December and arranged by Helen and Bob Allison was a jolly year-end event.

The institute has been active during the year in writing letters to various government offices and agencies to insure the protection of the islands and to maintain the rural environment.

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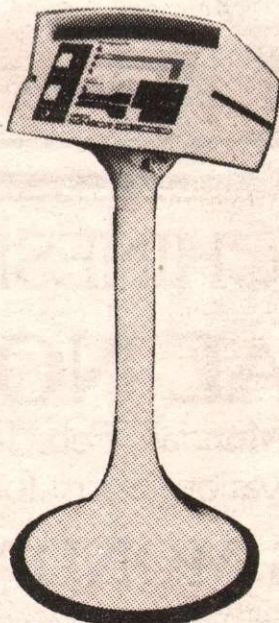
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**Scorpions in second place**

The boys of the Gulf Islands Secondary School basketball team, the Scorpions, sit in second place in their league as a result of recent wins over teams from Chemainus and Shawnigan high schools.

The Scorpions lost to first-place Brentwood 77-57 last week, and will play a rematch February 15. On Thursday of this week, they take on Chemainus in the GISS gym. The two games complete the schedule which has included 30 exhibition games.

The Scorpions will be participating in the Central Island championship tournament February 17 and 18. The two top teams from that playdown will represent the league in the Island Tournament on February 26 and 27 in Ladysmith.

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# Stack sisters, S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. to perform at coffee house Sunday

Kathy and Jane Stack and the S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. Jazz Singers will provide an evening of entertainment Sunday at a coffee house sponsored by the Salt Spring Folk Society.

The Stack sisters will do some original tunes along with some country and rhythm and blues. They will be accompanied by Doug Rhodes on bass and saxophone and Rob Lehman on pedal steel.

The year-old S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. Jazz Singers, put together by Dwaine Prosk, have a repertoire that includes jazz, pop, gospel, blues and rock. Members of the group are April Curtis, Janis Suess, Robin Cherney, Amy Newman, Mary Williamson, Rick Levis and Ralph Miller. Director is Dwaine Prosk.

Playing with them will be Doug Rhodes on bass and Gary Lundy on piano.

The coffee house begins at 8 pm and those planning to attend are advised to be there early as the Folk Society's last event had standing room only.



Kathy Stack

## New service offered

A new service is being offered to members of the Salt Spring Island library.

Mae George and a group of friends have collected several dozen pieces of sheet music and donated them to the library.

Included is music by Beethoven, Chopin, Chaminade, Verdi and other, simpler compositions. Piano instruction manuals are also available, along with a number of selections for organ and voice, including a collection of Scottish

and Canadian university songs.

There is also a book for folk guitar. Library spokesman Olive Clayton says more selections will be available as soon as they have been assembled in binders.

The library has also acquired a lot of new art books, with everything from Tiffany glass to Canadian bottles. Instruction books on painting techniques and illustrated volumes on the painting of India as well as world architecture are also available.

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## Auction Saturday at Ganges

The auctioneer is oiling his throat and the goods are awaiting bids.

The Salt Spring Elementary parents' group will be holding an auction Saturday at 7 pm to raise money for cultural and educational activities of the pupils of the school. The event takes place in the activity centre.

The items up for bids range from a festive pinata, a video machine with three movies to a fishing trip through Active Pass.

Auctioneer Mike Hayes will keep the evening rolling and by 9 pm, the event becomes a dance with tapes by Wilf Davies and snappy patter from Scott Bergstrom.

Organizers Bonnie Kreye and Maggie Hayes need help to sell food, to decorate the activity centre or "to join the ever-popular morning-after clean-up."

Other items which may attract bids, such as the world's largest heart-shaped Nanaimo Bar, are also being sought to ensure the success of the event.

DRIFTWOOD IS RECYCLABLE

## Bridge winners

Gulf Islands bridge club winners January 31 were:

North-south: first, Dawny Scarfe and Bob Dugas; second, Gordon Hutton and Fred Struve; third, Irene Hawksworth and Dorothy Sneddon; fourth, Mona Coulter and Vera Sarginson.

East-west: first, Cobi Raymer and Kay Sinclair; second, Marguerite Hall and Bee Thompson; third, Dorie and Gordon Best; fourth, Joe and Madeline Frantz.

Tuesday evening: first, Bob Dugas and Bruce Hardy; second, Ralph Cossey and Fred Melhuish; third Vera Sarginson and Isabelle Richardson.

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**REPORT FROM THE COMMONS**

**Unemployed worker 'insulted'**

**BY JIM MANLY, MP**

Allan's letter showed a high level of frustration at the kind of treatment he had received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission:

"I have been unemployed for some months now. I have been cut off UI because the umpire, board of appeals, etc., felt I am some sort of leech. This is not true. I am pursuing diligently, even desperately, the difficult task of finding work. I am only running into dead ends everywhere. I will take any job anywhere, anytime, anyplace.

"Eventually I want to be a mechanic. The board of review seems to have seized on this to suggest I am picky about the jobs I will take. They say I want more than minimum wage. Ask you, who doesn't? I have worked at less than minimum wage on most of the tasks I have found since I lost my job.

"It is the only work I can find. I took the attitude that maybe these small jobs might lead to something better, but unfortunately they did not. They did not last.

**RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF**

"I want a job that is permanent and full-time. This is my idea of a job. The board of review seems to

think because of this I will not take other jobs. This is untrue, my record speaks for itself. A review of my report cards will show I take any job I can get.

"I am going to school to try to improve my chances of getting a job. What is wrong with that? I asked manpower to sponsor me but they refused. They said they would add my name to the wait list. There is a four-year wait. The course is being cut permanently in about five months. So I took the course anyway on my own initiative. It is a lot of money but I am desperate for a job and in today's job market it seems my chances are getting worse and worse.

"I am an insulted person. If manpower phoned me up and said they had a job for me I would not hesitate to take it."

The UIC Appeal Board was smooth and urbane as it turned down Allan's appeal. The board members commended him for his direct and forthright manner. They admired his tenacity and ambition. They said that even though he faced immediate financial difficulties, such as \$900 worth of car repairs, they were certain that he would persevere and succeed.

Allan is typical of thousands of unemployed young people who want to use the time when they are unemployed to improve their job qualifications by going to school. Unfortunately, unless they are recommended for a sponsored training program, they will be cut off unemployment insurance when they enroll in school. And there are long waiting periods of months, even years, before people can get into these sponsored programs.

Last December, I raised this question with Lloyd Axworthy, the minister of employment and immigration. I asked him to bring in changes that would allow people like Allan to go back to school without losing their unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, the minister chose to downplay the serious extent of unemployment and merely pointed to the already overbooked training provisions in the act.

In January I pursued this question with Axworthy's parliamentary secretary in the adjournment debate. Again the answer was unsatisfactory.

Barry Broadfoot's *Ten Lost Years* aptly sums up the great depression of the 1930's. Young people today should not be subject to the same indignity and futility. The government should make provision in the Unemployment Insurance Act so that in times of exceptional unemployment, people can take training for jobs or trades where a shortage of skilled workers is likely to exist.

I would be glad to receive your opinions on this subject.

**Spontaneous composition in evidence at jazz concert**

**Review**

**BY DWAIN PROSK**

Jazz. The term denotes a style of music in which spontaneous composition is an essential ingredient. Since music is a human phenomenon happening in time and space, no spontaneous composition can ever be perfectly duplicated.

Therefore, people must be present to bear witness to the birth, and death, of these works of art for once past the music is forever gone (unless recorded).

There was a definite lack of people to bear witness last Sunday when the Salt Spring Concert Society presented the Vancouver-based Pacific Salt Jazz Sextet.

The concert featured a nice mixture of original and standard material in all the styles with an abundance of jazz solos.

*Sun Shower*, an original composition by pianist Ron Johnston, was a fine example of superior musicianship engaged in artistic pursuit. This well-structured piece allowed immense harmonic and rhythmic freedom leading to very imaginative solos on drums, guitar and sax.

Bassist Torben Oxbol and drummer George Ursan were featured frequently throughout the concert, but the drive they put into the jazz samba *Life is the Song We Sing* most clearly demonstrated their high-calibre musicianship, while inspiring wonderful solos on flute, guitar and flugel horn.

Several original compositions by guitarist Oliver Gannon were well-received by the audience. Most notable was *Give Thanks*, a gospel-rock number with some funky guitar licks and a great trumpet solo by Don Clark.

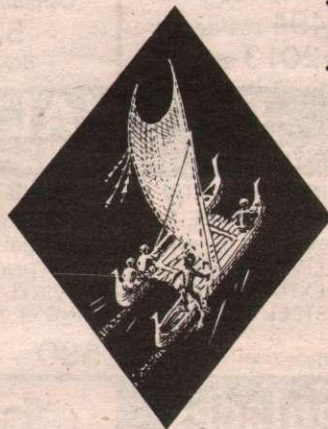
Clark's super flugel horn delighted the audience on many occasions during the concert. His crystal-clear tone on the beautiful ballad *Helsinki Borne* by bassist Torben Oxbol and his flugel solo in the laid-back funk tune *That's the Way of the World* were first-rate.

It was an excellent concert all-around. Those who attended witnessed the wonderful phenomenon of spontaneous composition.

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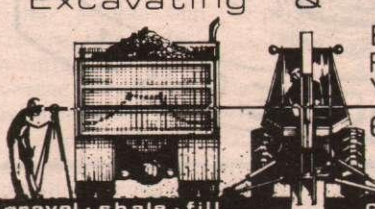
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# Chats with pioneers to be offered by Historical Society

At its regular monthly meeting scheduled for 2 pm next Tuesday at the home of Dick Toynbee, Churchill Road, the Salt Spring Island Historical Society will inaugurate the first of a new series of programs, *Chats with the Pioneers*.

Mrs. Mary Inglin, Beddis Road, will reminisce about the life of her father, Raffles Purdy, a pioneer educator of the island. At later meetings other long-time island residents will be asked to share their early memories of life on Salt Spring.

Raffles Purdy (1861-1935),

namesake of the famous Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore, was the son and brother of well-known stone carvers. He grew up in the west of England and taught briefly in London before pushing off at age 21 to join his sister, Emily Beddis, and family in Nebraska.

### SAILED TO SALT SPRING

They soon moved west and in a little sloop bought by Purdy in the San Juans, sailed to Salt Spring. The Beddis family established their orchard near Cusheon Cove on Ganges Harbour and Raffles Purdy

settled in at Mrs. Henry Stevens' Boarding House near Central.

For 12 years Purdy taught in the Vesuvius School at Central, retiring in 1898. Among his many pupils were the fathers of present island residents, Colin and Ivan Mouat, and members of other well-known families such as the Bittancourts, Nortons, and Wilsons.

While teaching at Central Purdy bought 123 acres east of Beddis Road up the harbour from the Beddis property. With the help of Henry Beddis and his sons, a weekend house was built near the

beach about 1890.

### PLANTED OVER 500 TREES

After his retirement from teaching in 1898 he cleared large tracts with the help of a Japanese labourer and planted over 500 fruit trees. About 1903 he built the first section of the present Inglin house on Beddis Road.

In 1910 Raffles Purdy returned to England, aged 49 and still a bachelor, to visit his sisters and an aunt. It was love at first sight when he met a friend of the sisters, Miss Mary Weymouth.

Purdy continued his courtship by

mail, sent her an engagement ring, and in 1911 brought her to Victoria for their wedding in Christ Church.

The Purdys had three daughters, including Margaret Cunningham, who moved as a bride in 1936 into the former Stevens Boarding House, and Mary Inglin, now resident of the old Purdy farmhouse on Beddis Road.

Tuesday's meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

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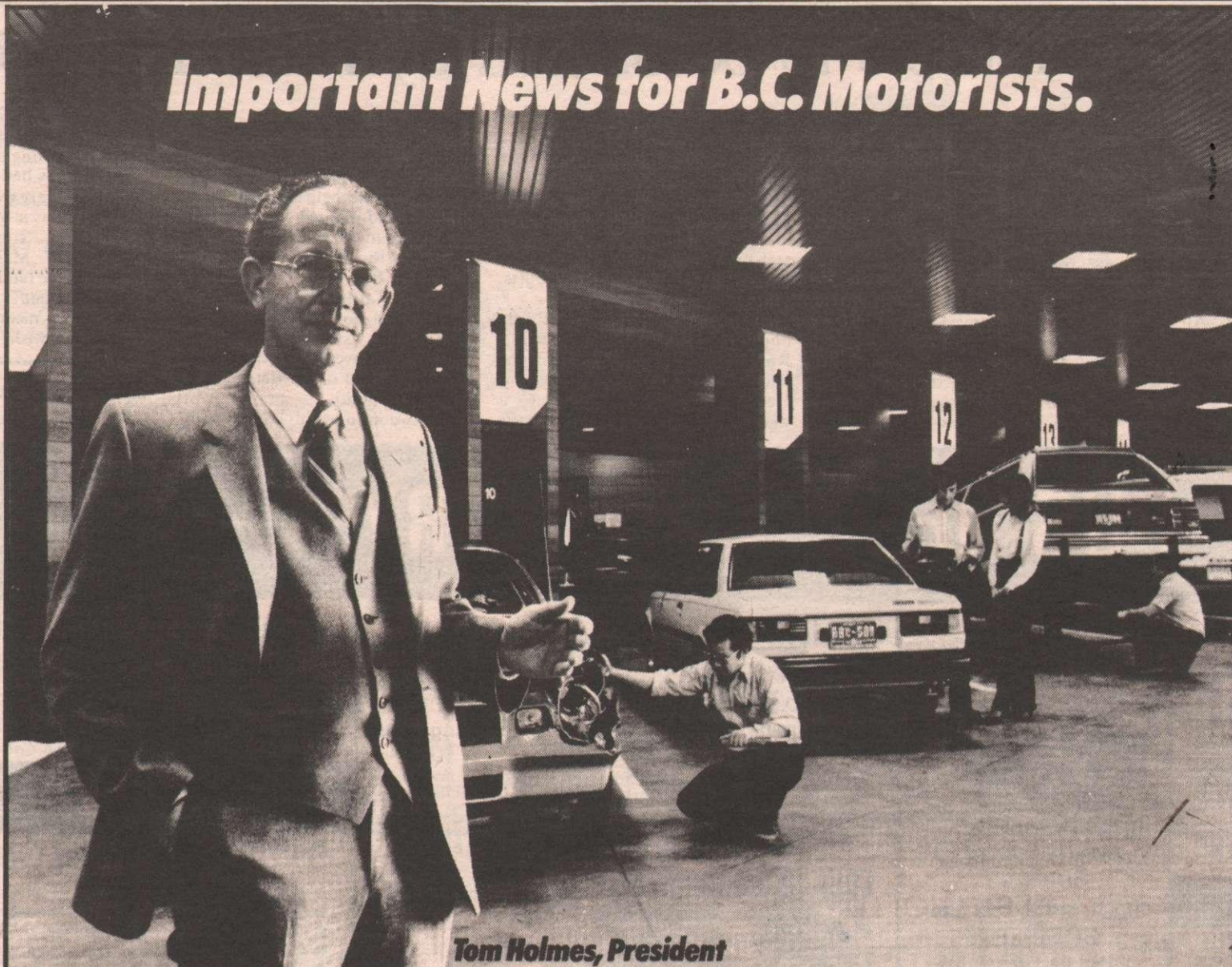
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## Important News for B.C. Motorists.



Tom Holmes, President

# "HERE'S THE CHALLENGE. 22,000 FEWER CLAIMS IN 1983."

Your Autoplan rates will stay within the 6% restraint plan for 1983. BUT, driving down the number of claims is the only way to avoid greater increases in the future and at the same time, reduce the terrible tragedies that are of such great concern to our Government.

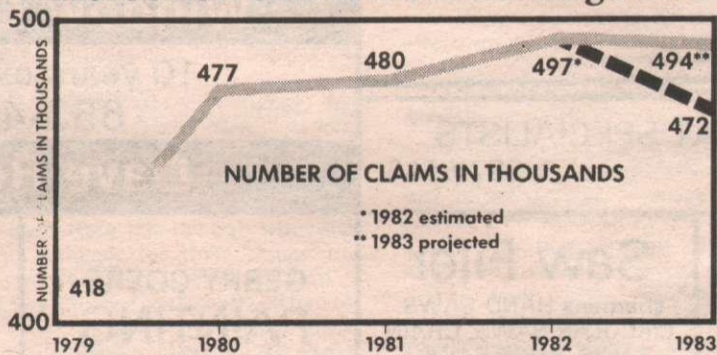
The Insurance Corporation operates under a mandate to break even each year, without profit or loss. We estimate that we will have to pay out almost 3/4 of a billion dollars in claims, or an average of about \$2 million a day in 1983. That's about 94¢ of every premium dollar we receive.

Therefore, to avoid a major premium increase in 1984, there has to be a reduction of 22,000 claims from our projections for 1983.

Together, we can drive the cost of car insurance down, by taking a little more care, and by driving a little more defensively. A good start will be noting the six most common factors that contribute to accidents:

1. Driving without due care.
2. Failing to yield right of way.
3. Alcohol.
4. Backing up unsafely.
5. Following too closely.
6. Exceeding the speed limit.

Here's how claims are increasing in B.C.



The reduction in claims needed in 1983.

	Injury	Deaths	Third Party Property Damage	Collision	Comprehensive	Total
Vancouver	1,040	14	3,930	3,510	2,780	11,274
Victoria	160	2	570	490	430	1,652
Upper Island	170	2	570	500	680	1,922
Fraser Valley	120	2	420	380	400	1,322
South Interior	260	4	950	950	1,370	3,534
North Interior	150	2	600	580	1,130	2,462
TOTALS	1,900	26	7,040	6,410	6,790	22,166



**Together, we can drive the cost of car insurance down.**

# Common way to make compost takes three months

Oft have I mentioned in these pages the importance of high-quality soil, such as is termed "black gold" by some. And often has it been pointed out that the difference between clay or sand, or what have you, and good loam is simply organic content in sufficient quantity, somewhere between five and 10%.

This organic content is usually referred to as "humus." This is what nature does slowly and naturally when once living material, leaves, twigs, animal droppings and remains of various insects, bacteria and animals are returned to the soil via the decay process.

And often have I mentioned compost as one of the ingredients to turn barren or poor soil into black gold.

However, I have not addressed myself to the making of compost, assuming that everyone knows and makes compost, an accelerated way of creating humus. However, we shall rectify this herewith.

### NATURAL PROCESS SLOW

The chief difference between the natural process and making compost is twofold. The natural process is often painfully slow for our purposes and the carbon-nitrogen ratio can be anywhere but where it is supposed to be.

These two aspects are related and in compost making we accelerate the natural process considerably by controlling the carbon-nitrogen ratio. Now all organic residue is composed of various carbon compounds and phosphorus and potash are usually present in adequate amounts in these materials but nitrogen is often insufficient.

Since the decay bacteria require these nutrients, a lack of nitrogen slows things down to a snail's pace, and so does sheer bulk. A branch decays much more slowly than a twig, and a twig will take longer than a little chip of a twig. The availability of air is another factor, aerobic decomposition with an adequate air supply being hot, fast and odourless, and anaerobic decay, without air, being cold, slow and smelly.

So to make good compost fast we need a carbon-nitrogen ration of 1 to 30, usually expressed just as 30, sufficiently reduced size of the components and an adequate air supply which is provided by frequent turnings.

Generally speaking, all stiff and brittle materials are very high in carbon and soft, green and mushy stuff is usually high in nitrogen. For instance, sawdust has a carbon-nitrogen ratio of 400, garbage 25 and manure 14. Since we are looking for an optimum ratio of 30, we need to combine our ingredients somewhat. For our purposes we just need to be aware of this and a rough ratio of three to one, carboniferous to nitrogenous, usually works out fine.

### TAKES THREE MONTHS

The most common method takes about three months from start to finish and goes like this. Make a pile about four feet square and four feet high, best enclosed with wire or boards with spaces to admit air. This size provides sufficient volume and insulation to reach the optimum decay temperatures of 150 to 160° F.

Start with a layer of leaves, straw, hay, woodchips, etc., all high-carbon ingredients, about six inches deep. Add a layer of high-nitrogen ingredients, manure, grass clippings (fresh), kitchen waste, etc., about two inches deep. Cover this with about one eighth of an inch of top soil.

Scatter a bit of dolomite lime, rock phosphate or wood ashes over the soil. Repeat this until the four-foot height has been reached, finishing with the soil layer. All materials may be shredded to accelerate things.

## Farming and Gardening

BY PETER WEIS

Foxglove Nursery Consultant

Add sufficient water to keep things nicely moist, not wet, as you go along. During our wet season cover the top with plastic, not the sides, to prevent leaching, waterlogging and temperature drop.

Turn the whole heap three weeks later and again six weeks later, taking care to place the exterior material into the interior of the new pile. After three months, longer in winter, you will have absolute black gold.

This may be accelerated to as little as two weeks, by finely shredding and mixing carboniferous and nitrogenous material completely when making the pile and turning every three days.

### SEAWEED HELPS

Seaweed in generous amounts helps the decay process beautifully.

This is the aerobic process. For the anaerobic process, proceed in the same manner but do not turn the pile. After a year or so it will be ready as well and nitrogen levels should be higher as the anaerobic bacteria do not use as much nitrogen.

This is it, in a nutshell, the absolute basics of the science of composting, and a good book will go much further into details and various methods. But this will give you black gold, the best stuff you could possibly add to your soil and it's a deeply satisfying way of turning "garbage" into life.

One note of caution. As compost is 100% organic material it must be mixed with the mineral portion of your soil for proper aeration, or else used as a surface-applied top dressing. Do not make the mistake of putting large amounts unmixed into the soil. It will turn into a wet, cold, soggy mass, and you will have what amounts to a miniature peat bog under your seeds or seedlings.

Only when mixed with the mineral aggregate of the soil, be it clay, sand or what have you, will it's life-giving potential and value be fully realized.

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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

### Good weather for club's activities

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club members have been enjoying fine walking and hiking weather for their February program. Tor Miles, left, and Linda Goddu conducted a

leader's choice hike this week. Club meets at 10 am in Centennial Park every Tuesday where it divides into walkers and hikers to accommodate large number of participants.

### Heavy fine avoided

A technical point in the Motor Vehicle Act saved a young man from a heavier fine in court last week when he faced a charge of driving without insurance.

Gordon George of Salt Spring had been driving his sister's car January 4, when he backed into another vehicle on Crofton Road. He told Judge F.S. Green that he had not stopped because the incident had not seemed serious.

The other vehicle suffered \$100 damage in the accident. When the RCMP tracked George down, they discovered that he had no driver's licence. He has never had one, he told Judge Green.

He was also charged with driving without a valid driver's licence and backing a vehicle when unsafe.

The judge was concerned about the mandatory fine, \$300, which must be imposed for driving without insurance. He checked the Motor Vehicle Act and came across a loophole.

The automobile, owned by

George's sister, was insured. When the young man drove it, the insurance was not valid. The judge ruled that the charge of driving without insurance rose from the charge of driving without a licence.

George was fined \$75 for driving without insurance and \$15 on each of the other two charges. He is unemployed and was granted time to pay the \$105 in fines.

"Take my warning," Judge Green told him, "don't let yourself be caught again without a driver's licence."

A repeat of the offence could mean a maximum \$2,000 fine as well as a sentence of one year in jail, the judge said.

### To two ferries

## Hull modifications under way

Two B.C. ferries won't be cutting such large waves through Active Pass when work on their hulls is finished, says B.C. Ferry Corporation.

The two vessels, the *Queen of Victoria* and *Queen of Vancouver*, are in Burrard-Yarrows shipyard in Esquimalt for modifications costing \$8.06 million. The boats are being fitted with gearboxes to run new variable-pitch propellers as well as having the sponsons lengthened.

Sponsons, which resemble air bubbles, were attached to the hulls below the waterline when the vessels were stretched and lifted to add capacity in 1981. The vessels subsequently raised large waves which raised the ire of residents of the Gulf Islands along the ferry routes.

Transport Canada recently ordered the ferry company to improve the stability of the ferries to meet regulations. The regulations govern certain standards which a vessel must meet in order to be stable when the hull is ruptured below the waterline. The vessel must also be stable when listing in rough seas.

The B.C. Ferry Corporation has been attempting for several years to have Transport Canada relax the standards for ferries serving the Strait of Georgia. The boats ply what the corporation considers to be "sheltered waters". The officials, however, recognize the need for such regulations on the vessels serving the northern runs.

The vessels had been cruising through Active Pass at 18 knots and the waves, up to four feet in height, had caused damage to docks and brought protests from residents on the shores of the waterway.

The ferry corporation last year moved to mollify the residents by having the boats slow to 12 knots. The result, officials claimed, was that running the ferries slower for the five nautical miles meant having to pay overtime to the crews.

The variable-pitch propellers will increase the speed of the vessels and provide greater manoeuvrability, says George Baldwin, ferry corporation general manager.

The added length to the sponsons also adds to fuel efficiency. The vessels become less resistant to water and wave action is reduced.

The added length also means greater buoyancy, which should meet the federal requirements, said Baldwin.

Two other stretched ferries, the *Queen of Esquimalt* and *Queen of Saanich*, were modified last April, which allowed them to meet the federal stability regulations. The work on the sponsons carries a price tag of \$2.5 million.

The Transport Canada regulations for damaged stability call for a vessel to be resistant to capsizing if ruptured in two of the nine hull compartments. The boat must also possess the ability to list up to 37 degrees in rough seas.

The ferry corporation expects the two ferries to be back in service by the start of the summer season.

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