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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR NO. 41

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

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Croftonbrook

Housing project ready in January?

Croftonbrook, the new senior citizen's housing development on Salt Spring, will get a development permit to allow construction to begin.

Peter Vida, chairman of the seniors' housing committee on the island, addressed the Advisory Planning Commission about the project last week.

He said that tenders for construction of the units had been let but various delays in the project had resulted in penalty payments for a late start. The project should have been under way in May.

Various approvals from the department of highways and the health department and zoning changes had been received, he said.

If construction can be under way by this week, he told the APC members, the units could be finished by January.

The Advisory Design Panel had reviewed the plans and had offered its approval subject to certain conditions. The panel wants to see the landscaping plans and has asked that two buildings be moved to allow for a road which will be needed if the project is expanded in future. The panel also asked for the paving of about 300 feet of Corbett Road which leads into the site.

There will be 20 units in seven buildings. Of the units, 12 will be double occupancy with a size of 570 square feet. There will also be two units designed for handicapped seniors with the same floor space. In addition, six of the units will be single occupancy with a floor space of 460 square feet.

The project will also include a recreation centre for the use of residents of both Croftonbrook and Pioneer Village.

The two seniors' housing developments will be joined by a foot path. The society is currently negotiating an easement over private property which separates the two facilities.

As well, a 19-vehicle parking lot will form part of the project. Wiring for telephones, television cable and electricity will be underground.

Various work crews have been at the site recently. The land has been cleared and leveled in preparation

for building.

The APC recommended approval of the development permit and Islands Trust representative Nick Gilbert indicated that it would be forthcoming.

Curtis hears from few at tax hearing Friday

Finance Minister Hugh Curtis came to Salt Spring Island last Friday to listen to people talk about taxes.

But only seven people showed up and only four submitted their opinions on the subject. Curtis was accompanied by Hugh Gordon, a chartered accountant, Jack Waldy, a director of B. C. Hydro and Philip Halkett, the director of taxation and intergovernmental relations with the finance ministry.

"It's a listening tour," Curtis said. "We're not here to speak at you but to listen to you."

Gail Secor of Salt Spring asked Curtis to review various pieces of legislation as they affect water conservation devices. Tax policies could be used, she said, to encourage the use of such devices as toilets which use a small amount of water.

Curtis expressed interest in the idea and said he would look into the matter.

Bev Unger, Islands Trust representative for Salt Spring, told the panel that the government's restraint program was "penny-wise but pound-foolish."

The Islands Trust office had lost a secretary in the staff cutbacks, she said, and planners who earned up to \$50,000 per year were taking on secretarial and reception duties. The added work meant they couldn't

perform their other tasks efficiently, she said.

Nick Gilbert, also a Salt Spring Island Trust representative, urged Curtis to consider the property tax structure as it affects people who want to log private property.

The taxes were forcing some people to subdivide their larger parcels of land which in turn leads to the need for more services, he said. The finance department should encourage people to use such property for logging, he said.

Turn to Page 11

Traffic crossings changed

Slight change has been made in the traffic pattern through Ganges. The pedestrian crossings between Ganges Pharmasave and Centennial Park have been relocated.

From the drugstore to the traffic island and thence to the park is the one crossing route. A second crossing has been painted between the two traffic islands to give access to Mouat's Mall and the firehall.

Original crossing has been blacked out.



Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Collecting for Food Bank

Islanders celebrated Thanksgiving last weekend and to make it a little better for those who needed it, the Community Centre was collecting foodstuffs for the Food Bank. Contributions came from many places, one of which was

Fernwood school. Trevor Hardie carries one of a number of boxes of vegetables and canned goods collected at the school to be transported to the Community Centre last Friday.

Notices received ahead of time

Assessments go down as two-year plan unfolds

The assessments have changed. Island property owners have received their assessment notices this year, three months earlier than in the past. In addition, the majority of assessments are way down from last year, with reductions amounting up to 30%.

For example:

- Residential property on the waterfront on Salt Spring Island that was assessed in last year's rolls at something better than \$200,000 is now listed at \$150,000.

- Residential, inland property, assessed last year at \$90,000 is listed in the new assessment rolls at \$70,000.

- Commercial property, assessed last year at \$73,000 is now assessed at \$52,200.

These are three random

properties checked by *Driftwood* and they convey the message received by most islanders.

The new drop brings valuations close to their level of four years ago, when the spiralling prices of property reached their peak.

Assessments are based on the market value of the property. When the market values rise, the assessment will follow. With a steady fall in market values over the past few years, the assessments have fallen.

NEW ROUTINE

The new schedule for assessment notices marks the beginning of a new routine. In the past, the notices have been distributed the first week of January each year. They were based on valuation as at December 31.

This year's assessments are based on a valuation date of July 1, and they apply for two years. There will be no assessment notices next year.

Property owners who wish to appeal their tax notices have approximately one month in which to make that appeal to the court of revision. Deadline for appeals is October 31, each year. The property owner who challenges his assessment but fails to make that challenge by the Oct. 31 deadline may appeal it by October 31, 1985 but any amendment approved by the court of revision will apply solely to the 1986 tax year.

Although there will be no regular assessment notices in 1986, property owners will receive a revised assessment notice should any of the statistical records of the property

change in the meantime. If there is a disparity between the actual value and the amount shown in the assessment roll due to a mistake or to changes in use or if there is a change of ownership or eligibility for exemption, then a change could be made.

TAXES MAY VARY

British Columbia Assessment Commission notes that although the same assessment will apply to two years, there is no reason to expect that the taxes will be the same. The taxes applied depend on the taxation authority and the amount of revenue needed to meet its expenses. If this amount changes, then the tax levy changes to meet the new figure.

Court of revision will sit at Ganges and at Pender as well as in

Sidney to hear appeals from the assessments.

It is not expected that the changes will bring the clamour that followed the 1980 notices. In that case the notices did not reflect the sudden, sharp decline in the property market and the response of indignant property owners was so great that special courts of revision were set up throughout the province to meet the demand.

Although there have been no complaints heard in the *Driftwood* office so far of property taxes rising, some real estate offices have heard from property buyers. Some buyers have been startled to find that the assessments have fallen below what they paid.

Community Health Service prepares annual report

'Real progress' made at Ganges, Ten Mile Point

Regional health services embrace a wide range of activities and concerns in the Capital Regional District.

The annual report of the service runs from the familiar medical services to health education, nursing and health services. Communicable diseases and water quality link up with sewer projects and subdivisions.

The annual report, issued over the signature of Dr. A. S. Arneil, medical officer of health for the district, expresses regret at the loss of Dr. David Parfitt, whose position of director of the health sciences program was phased out to meet the requirements of restraint. Dr. Parfitt took early retirement. Don Wakelyn, director of the environment program, also stepped out of the regional picture, retiring after 35 years in the profession.

Initially, the report offers a summary of the year's work.

A review of the administrative structure of the health service presented its objectives, starting off with the definition of purpose:

"To maintain an organizational structure which enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the Community Health Service."

The report looks back on the increasing involvement of the legal profession in health service activities.

REAL PROGRESS REPORTED

Persistent sewage problems are of concern. Last year, however, real progress was made at Ganges and Ten Mile Point, directors were informed. Tightening up of regulations regarding septic tank installations results in complaints that health inspectors are inflexible, says the health report.

"Our inspectors allow alternatives based on information not only from other parts of B.C. but also from the United States."

But, the reader is warned, before an alternative is permitted, it must be proved to work, not only at the start, but over the many years the house will be occupied.

The health services operate out of the headquarters on Cook St. in Victoria and it is outgrowing those facilities. It needs increased space with improved facilities, directors were warned. A search has been pursued for alternative premises but without success.

As far as the sub-offices are concerned, the service is contemplating their elimination and a cost benefit analysis is being pursued.

LOOKING BACK

What did the service do last year? Here are some of the activities

reported in the submission.

Over 1,600 patients were checked for hearing defects and 83% of this total were under the age of 10. Speech pathologists have worked with 142 children during the year to help them to speak clearly.

Adult care facilities were monitored in the region and the report lists 62 such facilities with accommodation for 2,283 patients. A total of 191 facilities to accommodate 3,505 children ranged from group day care centres to specialized residential care.

Dental care program sounds like a television advertisement, with 3,823 examinations and 805 with no cavities.

Health education department prepares and prints a directory of services in the region. Sales fell in 1983 from the previous year's 400 to 360.

Public health nursing suffered from restraint, with the loss of staff and reduced mobility due to lack of transportation, says the report.

PRENATAL CLASSES

Prenatal classes in Victoria catered to 933 mothers. Of this total, 85% were first-time mothers; four percent were under 20; 93% were 20 to 35; and three percent were over 35.

School health program has benefited from the formation of a school health committee.

During 1983 there was a head lice outbreak in a large elementary school. One half-hour was set aside at the beginning and end of each working day to check hair for nits and lice.

Immunization program saw 83.1% to 89% immunized against listed diseases at the end of Grade 1.

At the other end of the scale, the

service paid close attention to senior citizens in the delivery of flu vaccine and other health services.

Travel immunization for adults brought 4,480 to the clinic. Same clinic attended to 1,544 victims of sexually-transmissible diseases.

The statistics list 25 different infectious diseases, among which the most widespread was gonorrhoea and the least common was tetanus. The first claimed 415 victims, the lowest in 10 years. Ten-year average is 728. The second was marked by two cases.

Tetanus shows a 10-year average of half a victim a year and in the decade since 1974 there were two cases in 1979 and three in 1980. Typhoid ranked with tetanus, with one outbreak in 1976 and one in 1978 to climax in three cases in 1980. Second most common of these diseases was infectious hepatitis, with an annual average of 82, peaking in 1974 with 185 instances.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL
The environment program covers a wide range of activities including land use control, which embraces subdivision assessments, water and sewage disposal; sewage disposal permits; food control, which includes checking out restaurants, bakeries, groceries and licensed premises; water quality surveillance on public and private recreational beaches; community care facilities.

The quality of land being presented for subdivision is lower than in past years, states the report, in terms of sewage disposal. During 1983, new subdivision requirements were imposed by the Capital Regional Board. Depth of soil requirements and other considerations were revised, resulting in a greater percentage of rejections of

subdivision applications. In 1983 the number of lots assessed rose by eight percent from 1982; or from 902 lots to 981. Despite the increase in applications, the number of approvals fell from 848 to 802. Only 82% of applications in 1983 were approved. Lot size and soil quality were the prime consideration in rejecting applications. In 1982, 54 lots were turned down by the health service. In 1983 there were 179 rejections.

The health, engineering and planning departments of the region have been investigating the feasibility of neighbourhood sewage systems. Under this scheme marginal land areas, or those properties lacking in top soil and receptive characteristics, might be developed with a small collection and processing system "in a prime location on or off the property".

NOT LIABLE

The report also refers to the recent practice of joining the health inspector in civil suits due to malfunctioning sewage disposal systems. This practice has caused apprehension among the staff, but no action has held the inspector

liable for damages.

Throughout the electoral areas of the regional district there were 1,817 permits processed in 1983, compared with the 1982 figure of 1,567.

The health service carries out a regular surveillance program of water. This program covers drinking water and swimming water. Samples are taken from private wells, public water systems and beaches.

The water surveillance program has been revised, says the report, to reflect ministerial policy with regard to the number of samples taken from public water systems with less than 100 users.

"The water quality of these small systems in the Gulf Islands remains a problem. The large public water systems continue to provide a dependable, safe supply for the majority of the population in this area."

The service took 5,782 samples of water from private wells, public water systems and beaches during the year 1983. This shows a decline from 1982, when 6,336 samples were taken.

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Please refer to the guide which was mailed along with your Autoplan renewal application.

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To Be

Frank



by richards

You get no change out of that one!

There's a change machine at Swartz Bay. You put in your dollar bills and out comes silver in disguise. At least, that's what the instructions say. I dutifully put in a dollar bill and slid the drawer as the instructions directed. Out came the dollar bill. Mind you, it could have been another bill. I didn't check numbers. And I hadn't any change to check whether the moneychanger had slipped into reverse and was giving out dollar bills in exchange for coins.

What is modern poverty?

I don't know what poverty is. I only know what it used to be. I grew up in an impoverished age and I remember the signs of poverty in those years. Poverty spells, to me, the sight of small children playing on the streets while clad in a shift and nothing else: no shoes, no socks: one cotton garment alone. Poverty spells the children growing up on a diet of bread and jam with the jam missing when things got tough. I grew up in a great city and I knew those signs.

Now I have discovered the real meaning of poverty. A radio program informed me that the poverty line is \$19,000 a year for a family of four. I feel confident that the family of four living on \$18,000 a year will clothe their two children: they will wear shoes and will, I trust, be shiftless. I have little concern that this impoverished modern family will exist on bread and jam or even peanut butter. These economic evaluations lose their sense of reality.

Poverty is losing your job and facing a mortgage. I would plead. Poverty is trying to feed kids from an empty larder. Poverty is the desperation of uncertainty. Poverty is a stinking word. Like freedom, poverty is something you likely don't recognize until it catches up with you. The economists who set catch phrases on despair might do well to try living under tough conditions before coming out with silly comparisons. The economist who has been laid off, lost his house, exhausted his savings, is denied unemployment insurance, and watches his family starving will be qualified to define the turning point. And when he has experienced his own tragedy he will probably never want to set arbitrary standards again.

He needs your old beads

I have a friend who makes mobiles and carvings for the amusement of small children. He is very reticent about taking credit and won't tolerate any mention of his name in that connection so he can't ask for these things himself. So I'm asking. If you have any old, discarded beads of any kind, he can use them for his work. And if you have, the *Driftwood* office will hold them for him.

That's all square, now!

A sailor's suit was not round as I suggested last week. Like his ship, the tar was square-rigged.

Turkey on the floor

It was Thanksgiving again and once again we had turkey on the floor. You'd think we would be used to the oven after 12 years of its spewing out every turkey we put in it. But we always hope that this time things will be different. They weren't. I retrieved the hot turkey and pan off the oven floor and, half-way through cooking it, I found four bricks on which to rest the oven shelf. Is ours the only stove that does that? Why me?

We call Winnipeg

The geography of the east always intrigues. Even CBC's opinion show falls into the trap. Various telephone numbers are offered. If you live in western Canada, runs the instruction spiel, call Winnipeg. And nobody in the east gives a thought to the fact that Winnipeg is 1,500 miles east of here.

Gun barrel lives on

Death was a regular member of the crew when training planes flew in and out of Patricia Bay Airport during the second war. On October 4, 1944, Death was flying with the Liberator, EW 127, when it flew from No. 5 Operational Training Unit at Abbotsford. The Royal Air Force crew sought to land at Patricia Bay, but Death was there first.

The plane came over Fulford Valley, trailing smoke from a blazing engine. It cleared the water and crashed on the beach on Sansum Narrows, killing all aboard. Skipper was Flying Officer L. J. Jordan, RAF.

But that Liberator left its mark on Vancouver Island. The force of its crash tore the Browning machine gun from its nose turret. The barrel of the gun was wrested from the weapon and it hurtled through the air for some 250 feet before burying itself in a cedar tree. Two weeks ago the tree was removed and the section with the gun barrel embedded in it has been preserved.

George Maude, of North Saanich, formerly of Salt Spring Island, and his son David brought the relic out of the woods. They gained permission from the owner in Colorado. The fatal crash was closely related to another death in the area. It was exactly two years, to the day, after the crash of Pilot Officer Norris Thomas's RAF Hampden on Mount Tuam. Thomas was flying into Patricia Bay during night flying exercises with No. 32 Operational Training Unit. He died on October 4, 1942. Salt Spring Islander who was well acquainted with the tragedies that came with wartime flying is Gordon Cudmore, who lived with his parents at the Fulford general store in the early days of the war. He remembers a number of crashes. He is, nevertheless, a fervent advocate of aviation.

'What are enforcement plans?'

The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce wants to hear what the Capital Regional District plans to do about enforcing the terms of the lease for Centennial Park.

The ministry of lands, parks and housing has agreed to lease the park to the Capital Region on the condition that it be used for recreational purposes. The lease also permits the operation of a market Saturday mornings but

makes no reference to vending during the week.

In a letter to regional board chairman Shirley Wilde, chamber president Dale Codd said that if the terms of the lease were not adhered to and enforced by the CRD, then the chamber would have to reconsider its position as far as arranging to sub-lease the park. Codd said the chamber planned

to negotiate "with a self-interest group" for the operation of the Saturday morning market and would expect to receive revenue from the market. Money would be used for maintenance.

He also said it was the chamber's understanding that a portion of the recreation commission's budget for parks maintenance would be available to the chamber for maintaining Centennial Park.

Chamber directors last Wednesday agreed to send the letter, over the objection of Arvid Chalmers, who said that Codd and vice-chairman Jonathan Oldroyd were to have met with the CRD to discuss the lease but had not done so. Chalmers also opposed the letter on the grounds that Oldroyd had not been advised of it and the chamber had not sought public input on the matter.

Nuclear winter is topic of talk on Saturday

Nuclear Winter: Implications for Humanity will be the topic of a talk at the Ganges United Church Saturday at 7.30 pm.

The speaker will be Dean Michael Pentz of the faculty of science at Britain's Open University. He is the brother of Peter Pentz of Salt Spring Island.

Pentz was a guest at the conference in Washington, D. C., last year where Dr. R. P. Turco, Carl Sagan and other prominent scientists presented their findings regarding the effects of nuclear explosions on the world's environment. Research, including the use of computer modelling, was conducted independently in areas involving flora, fauna, air and wind and near space.

Conclusions were the same: the accidental or intentional detonation of a small fraction of the world's nuclear arsenal would lead to a global nuclear winter, which would terminate most life on earth.

Pentz will be in Canada as one of a group of international authorities attending the Canadian Conference on Nuclear War: The Search for Solutions. It will take place at the University of B. C. October 19-21.

His appearance at Ganges is sponsored by Continuing Education, Women for Peace and the Salt Spring Nuclear Disarmament Group.

Drivers must stop

When the school bus stops and its lights flash, traffic from both directions must come to a stop.

Ganges detachment RCMP are receiving complaints that drivers heading for the Fulford ferry are speeding past the school bus when it is picking up children in the morning.

"But that's no excuse," said an official of the Gulf Islands School Board, "you do not pass a stopped school bus."

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Mrs. Yoko Guthrie has been appointed to initiate and develop a Japanese Language Programme for boys and girls enrolled in Grades 1, 2 and 3 at St. Michaels University School.


The programme, made possible through the generosity of Mr. Richard Bonnycastle of Calgary, will be in addition to SMU's current French, German and Spanish courses. Pupils enrolled in the Bonnycastle Programme will stay with it at least five years.

Parents wishing to place youngsters on the waiting list for entry to St. Michaels University School between now and 2000 A.D. may contact:

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Toll highways

It's odd that potential users would express so great a distaste for the provincial idea of a toll highway between Hope and Kamloops.

If they lived on an island they would be paying a toll to ferry corporation every time they went to the city. Nobody outside shares islanders' concern for the toll exerted here. Yet as soon as a toll is proposed for another form of access there is an immediate protest.

Of course, if the protest is loud enough and strong enough to have the premier change his mind, then, perhaps, would the islands enjoy the same relief?

Recreation

There will be six vacancies on the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission when the annual general meeting is called.

The record of the commission is long and impressive. There are few sports or recreational activities that do not owe a debt of gratitude to the commission. The provision of playing fields in various parts of the island and their scrupulous maintenance is the work of the commission.

The hopes and ambitions of many sports and recreation fans on the island are closely linked to the commission.

The availability of six seats would suggest that the islanders so closely identified with sport and particularly with juvenile sport will be anxious to be represented.

The recreation commission suffers from the pressures of the present and the future. The constant demands on members for augmented facilities in some areas and for new facilities in others is an assurance that they will never be idle.

An award

No matter in what field we labour, the acclaim of our fellows will always add that sense of accomplishment which is the spice and the flavour of every endeavour.

Each of us enjoys the gratitude of our fellows for whom we have striven. And each of us places a special value on the praise of his peers. The customer or the patron of the skilled artisan expresses joy or delight with the product of his hands and his creative mind and the praise is an added payment for the accomplishment. But when his own fellow craftsmen add their applause, then he has convinced the ultimate critic.

The patron sees a fine piece of work. The craftsman sees those small shortcomings that are evident only to the initiate, and still adds his praise. The teacher welcomes the grateful praise of his student, but he delights in the commendation of his fellows, those who know from experience, every device he has used and every skill he has called into being.

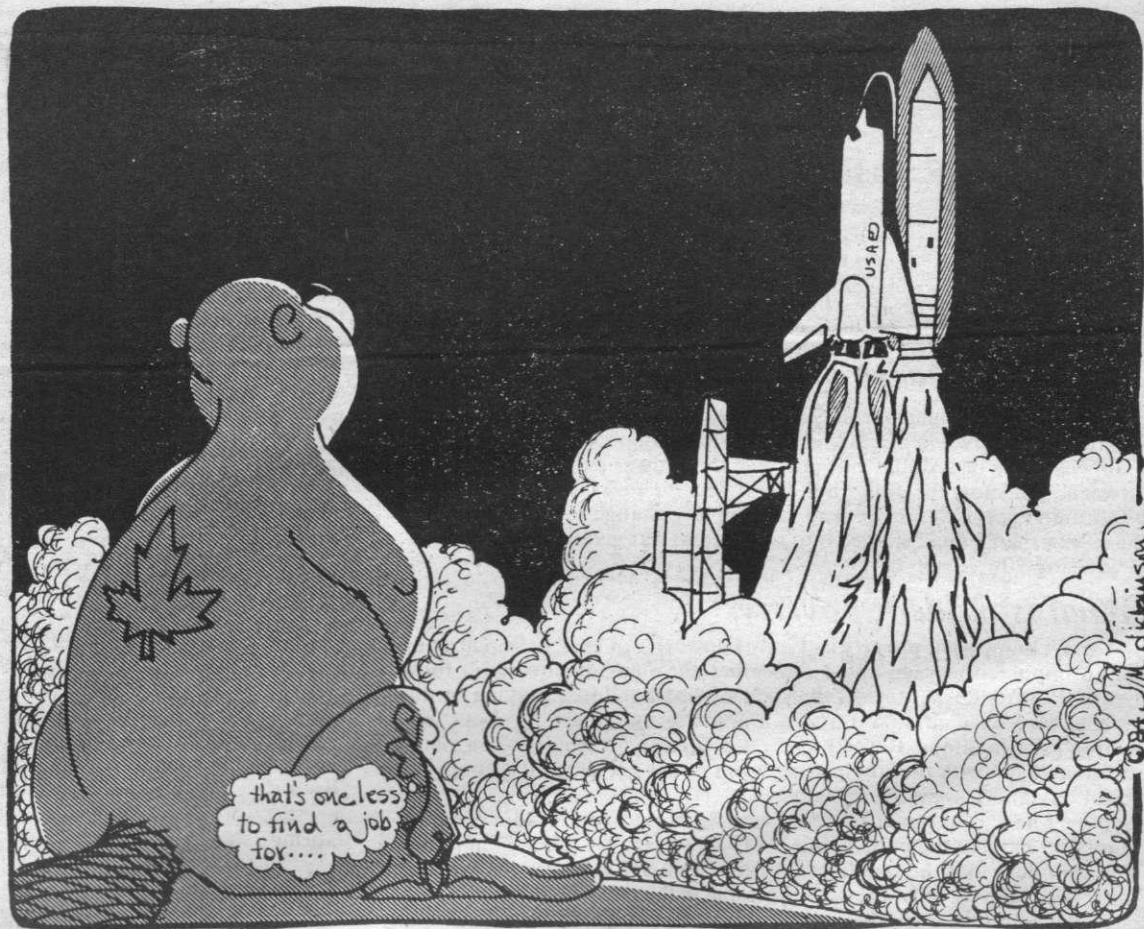
The same parallel extends into every area of human endeavour. We welcome the just gratitude of our fellows and we value the esteem of our peers.

The publishers and staff of *Driftwood* are at the present time enjoying that acclaim of their fellows.

On three occasions in less than two years this newspaper has been acclaimed by its contemporaries. Within two years it has been adjudged one of the top community newspapers in this province and across the country. In that period it has been awarded six trophies for excellence.

The small staff at *Driftwood* has striven to produce the best publication within their reach. They have long rejoiced in the commendation of island readers. And in three separate adjudications they have been commended by the industry across the land.

And we are very proud to say so.



Letters to the Editor

Chuckled long and loud

Sir,
Organic gardener, in these many years,

I chuckled long and loud
To see Green Valley Fertilizer Co.
Had done me proud.

Alas, the leeks I entered at the Fair
Were raised on seaweed, compost
and Tender Loving Care!

BIS WHITBY,

Ganges.

September 1984.

Gouging

Sir,

I notice on my BC Hydro bill, just arrived that we are being charged 6.6% "approved by the B. C. Utilities Commission", an interim increase, without any explanation, sneaked in, as it were, while the consumer protectors were asleep. Obviously the Utilities Commission is an arm of BC Hydro or vice versa. No public input before this gouge was perpetrated apparently was allowed, else the daily papers would have reported it. If so, I missed it.

BC Hydro's annual report came a few days ago. It seems fiscal 1984 was a good year because net income was \$51 million compared with a net loss of \$19 million in 1983, so why does the corporation need an interim increase? And how long will this interim last?

The annual report tells us that finance charges swallowed about 37% of operating charges, and BC Hydro had 100,874 employees compared with Ontario Hydro with twice as much revenue which had only 31,233 employees. Obviously, the company is terribly overstaffed and that's one of the main reasons we are suffering from terribly high rates.

Public power was sold to the people here and in the U.S. as a way of getting rid of the gouging by the private utilities. In both countries consumers of public power are now being socked with rates the controlled private utilities never

dared impose. O for the good old days of private power!

ANTHONY NETBOY,

Box 1249,

Ganges.

October 6, 1984.

More money down rathole

Sir,

Once again the public trough is being asked to pour money into a communal sewer. The CRD is now asking that our local School Board and Hospital Board request additional tax money from their respective ministries to build a sewer servicing not only these institutions but a lot of commercial property as well. Within two weeks the Boards have to decide whether or not to ask that their budgets donate \$250,000 from education and over half a million from health to this project.

This tax money is over and above what the CRD has spent and is only the beginning. The school will then have to spend at a bare minimum \$14,000 per year in sewer user fees and the hospital \$31,000 per year minimum.

A half a million dollars from the education budget over the next 20 years to dispose of only 7,000 gallons of sewerage? Can those of us who pay taxes that are growing every year really accept this latest suggestion to pour even more money down the rathole?

MAUREEN BENDICK,

R. R. 3, Ganges.

October 1, 1984.

Cost-effective option

Sir,

In these difficult economic times, with governmental budgetary cutbacks and local economic recession, we all look towards maximizing our public and private dollars. Hopefully, our local School and Hospital Boards will refrain

from pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars unnecessarily into the CRD Harbour proposal.

The Coal Filtration sewer system with land disposal remains one of the most cost-effective options available to our community.

JONATHAN OLDROYD,

for Ad Hoc COALition,

Ganges.

October 4, 1984.

Proposal a scam

Sir,

The Capital Regional District, in an attempt to conceal the real cost of debt service for the Ganges sewer, has proposed that the Health and Education Ministries should grant, from public funds, \$549,000 and \$245,000 respectively for this purpose.

The interest earned by these sums would be employed to replace some or all of the Parcel Tax (which would otherwise be collected from all property owners in the sewered area.)

This proposal is little short of a scam. The taxpayers at large, in the whole Province, are being made to pay \$794,000 so that a small number of Ganges property owners can be provided with a sewer at reduced cost.

Clearly both the School Board and Lady Minto Hospital could do more for the benefit of pupils and patients, respectively, if these sums were devoted to the proper purposes of education and health care.

The people who are being "sewered" should be made to pay their way—just as property owners elsewhere in this Province, indeed in the whole Dominion, are compelled to do.

Even if the two Ministries involved are unable to see this simple fact, we are entitled to expect our MLA, the Minister of Finance, is astute enough to straighten them out!

COLIN NICHOLSON,

Ganges.

October 4, 1984.

Island one of few places without noise bylaw

BY JEZRAH HEARNE

Is Salt Spring, this island idyll, this sparkling gem in the blue Pacific, this home of the Salt Spring Island lamb, bothered by noise?

Are there islanders who find their tranquility disturbed by the roar of machinery while others find these indelicate sounds to be sweet music to their ears? Do some islanders awaken gently to a trilling bird-song, while others are brought to their feet by an explosive reveille?

Are there some islanders for whom mechanical noise means a livelihood while for others "peace and quiet" means a livelihood?

Evidently Salt Springers, never short on controversy, now have another contention on their hands. Or is it, in their ears?

Certainly our regional director has been receiving his share of noise complaints. Certainly some of the major noisemakers have been

identified. Certainly a small debate has ensued over the relative merits of quiet and noise.

Likewise, as my research into the sounds of Ganges reveals, Ganges is well on its way toward noise pollution. Such pollution is created by high-intensity, cacophonous noise emissions from speeding vehicles, vehicles with faulty engines and mufflers, muffler-less motorcycles, the ubiquitous truck and, how could I forget it, the souped-up, mufflerless, double-headers of our youth.

In one six-hour span alone, there were 165 instances of faulty mufflers in downtown Ganges. Noise emissions from all of the above frequently raise the core's sound intensity to the official noise nuisance level (82dBA) and always raise the sound level above 70dBA (about 45% of the time), the level at which the ear experiences acoustic

stress.

Indeed, the sound of Ganges hardly lives up to our standards of island "peace and quiet", no matter how hard islanders might wish to believe otherwise.

While some of the noise impact in Ganges could be relieved by diligent enforcement of traffic regulations, it appears that such enforcement needs to be motivated by a noise bylaw. Accordingly, I advocated just this in my proposal for acoustic rehabilitation of Ganges.

Such an intervention is necessary, I believe, if the town is not to become a Coney Island of the ear.

Islanders need only consider the heavy vehicular demand placed on the constricted capacity of the town, to understand the problem. An upswing in development of the island and especially the town makes a noise impact imminent.

Simultaneous to my research, Dr. Borsman had been receiving complaints about noise in other locations on the island. He too concluded that a noise bylaw might be necessary.

There are approximately 32,000

noise bylaws in Canada. Salt Spring is one of the few communities of its size without one. Noise bylaws can be designed to the character of the community, but they have to provide some control over noisy emissions.

Presently Dr. Borsman is drafting an island noise bylaw. I am not involved in the process. It is true that in drawing up this bylaw, Dr. Borsman is consulting with some of the major noisemakers. These individuals are arguing the case for island livelihood whose side effects are noisy emissions. Their claim is that they have to make noise on their properties as this is in the nature of the job.

While this may be so, islanders who require peace and quiet for their livelihood should know the following: Typical jobs do not continue from dawn to dark. Humans are entitled, for reasons of health arising from REM sleep in the dawn hours, to quiet at this time. This point could be argued convincingly in a court of law, for there exists a great deal of scientific evidence to the need for REM sleep,

usually experienced at dawn.

Likewise, a case could be made for health regarding any constant, continuous noise exceeding 70dBA should this infiltrate your acoustic horizon. There are then ethical considerations bearing on intrusive noise in the after-dinner rest period.

The question is, what to do about noise conflicts? Noisemakers should adhere to the standard eight-hour day from 9 to 5, leaving the rest of the day for repose. This way, both sides are given something reasonable. This is not only a sensible solution, it is a civilized solution.

Therefore, I recommend islanders take this noise bylaw seriously, attending to a careful inscription of the law. This is especially so if they value tranquility.

Remember that Salt Spring could undergo heavy development and future noise levels would be based on what's permissible. There is no reason why noise can't be regulated to the human scale. What I'd like to say, then, is let the machines howl by day, but by golly, the early and the late hours are for peace of mind.



Bill Webster

In 40 years they took 137,000 towels in B.C.

In case anyone wonders, the tourists have been traded for rain again for another year.

Gulf Islanders can now put on their gumboots and get down to the serious version of rock sitting.

And a point to ponder while the liquid sunshine greens the grass is a set of statistics supplied by your friendly motel and resort owners of B.C.

The group banded together 40 years ago and the set of figures was compiled to show how busy they have been during that time.

Visitors to the various rest havens of the province have left behind more than \$2 billion in payments for their nights of rest. When they left, the visitors took with them 137,000 towels.

That's fair exchange, eh?

And the resort people want you to know that the mattresses, if piled one on top of the other, would form a column 33.1 miles high. And it took the staff 23 million hours to make those beds.

Other fascinating information includes the fact that 171 million telephone calls were made. To put that figure in perspective, it would take a teenager 3,906 years to equal the time spent on the telephones of the tourist traps of the province.

They used 277 million feet of toilet paper

And to bring up a subject close to the hearts of all Salt Springers, the visitors used close to 7 billion gallons of water along with 277 million feet of toilet paper.

Just imagine what all that would do to Ganges Harbour. All this information comes

directly to you from Earl Hansen who is the managing director of the B.C. Motels, Resorts and Trailer Parks Association.

Boredom would seem to be part of the life of a tourist. The ones who stopped at various establishments in B.C. read 34 million books in those 40 years, although lately they have been watching television instead.

When not making beds, the staff had been vacuuming the carpets. The total area cleared would be the equivalent of a carpet which is 1.3 times the size of the province.

By far the most interesting figure supplied by Hansen is 12,497. That is the number of babies conceived in the motels since the group got together.

"If anything," Hansen noted in a press release on the subject, "the number may be a little on the conservative side as we assume couples in motels were no more active than couples would be in their own homes."

In case you are wondering how the motel folks know such things, Hansen explained.

"I can assure you our project team developed these numbers from secondary sources only. We believe a statistician, even from our association, has no place in the motel rooms of British Columbia," he said.

Doesn't that make you feel more comfortable to know that no one was watching?

Actually, the figure isn't that impressive. Consider that 40 years equals more than 14,000 days and that there are 700 members in the association. One could conclude that reading was the most strenuous activity in motel rooms.

Little impact?

Sir,

I just read the Director's Report (*Driftwood*, October 3) where Dr. Borsman refers to a film showing that "where large amounts of raw sewage are discharged, there is very little impact on the marine environment".

Come on!

Didn't I just read on the front page of the previous week's *Driftwood* that, "Shellfish harvesting on the Stuart Channel shore of Salt Spring Island has been prohibited by the federal fisheries department. The closure results from excess amounts of sewage waste in the waters". This closure is for an indefinite length of time.

Do you call closing Duck Bay, Vesuvius Bay, Booth Bay and the Cranberry Outlet to the taking of all shellfish, "very little impact on the marine environment"?

KAREN REISS,
R. R. 1, Vesuvius Bay Rd.,
Ganges.
October 3, 1984.

Representatives wanted

Sir,

The Ganges Sewer Implementation Task Force is looking for two property owners in the area to be sewer to serve as representatives of the area on the Task Force.

In general terms this area ranges from the Hospital-Greenwoods-Valcourt Centre to Harbour House Hotel and south to the business centre in the Ganges core. It includes some properties along Desmond Crescent, Park Drive, Rainbow Road and McPhillips, but excludes Swanson Road, about half of Kanaka Road and other properties in the western portion of that residential area.

Those interested should write to me at Box 126, Ganges, giving their street address so that I may

determine if they are qualified as property owners in the defined area.

Applicants should recognize and accept that the role of the Task Force is to assist the Capital Regional District in the implementation of its policies and decisions concerning a Ganges sewer collection and disposal system.

At a Task Force meeting held last June a motion was unanimously passed that called for members to be dedicated to the principle of a Ganges Harbour outfall and a treatment plant.

This spirit of dedication still prevails since all members are sincerely interested in resolving as quickly as possible the dangerous health threat that exists in Ganges without a sewer.

We are also interested in seeing our community be viable rather than stagnate, in restoring community harmony, and in bringing to an end the excessive waste of taxpayers' money resulting from disharmony and delays.

The Task Force needs help. I hope we can find it.

JOHN CROFTON,
Secretary, Ganges Sewer
Implementation Task Force,
October 5, 1984.

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41-4

Here's an educational aid that shows whole web of life

BY NANCY WIGEN

I would like to draw to people's attention a wonderful educational aid.

It has the ability to provide the foundation for the understanding of physics, biology and all the natural sciences, and probably a good grounding in psychology and theology too.

Not only this, it is not expensive and children love it.

What am I talking about? A bit of natural ground where water accumulates during most of the year, a place where mud pies, dams, rivers, channels, pools and boat

basins can be constructed, dismantled, changed, destroyed and rebuilt at random. A place where some part is set aside for other creatures to carry out their natural life cycles, and where they can be observed and enjoyed and studied in their various life activities and interactions and in the larger ecosystem of plants, earth, weather and all the various things that enhance or threaten their lives. How these creatures adapt and make use of whatever environment is available, with almost no wasted energy, demonstrates the creative life force of the earth as nothing written or

said ever could.

Children have always played in earth and mud and water. We take it for granted and too often try to stamp it out, considering it wasted time, or bemoaning the muddy footprints and soiled clothes; or being revolted by finding a frog or a handful of earthworms in our child's pocket or on the kitchen counter.

But better understood and minimally channelled, such play has greater value than almost anything we can provide for our children and is an indispensable adjunct to understanding most things—a nature lab, you might call it.

What equipment is needed for using this lab-playground? Gumboots and old clothes, trowels, sticks, jars, a magnifying glass and some unstructured time. Also helpful is a bit of space on a bright but not too sunny windowsill for a child's jar of pond pets. What happens to these minor ecosystems teaches indelibly the relationships between predator and prey, the needs for available food, oxygen, light, temperature, stability, etc.

It shows how some creatures foul the water and others clean it, how temperature affects whether or not the creatures survive, how insects and frogs go through their metamorphoses. It shows the whole web of life.

Inawareness of the importance of wet land in the past has caused the careless and often deliberate destruction of such areas, but now we know that these swamps, ponds, streams, etc. are the richest concentrations of life and the nursery for many creatures which later enrich the wider environment.

The new Fulford school property adjoins such an area. I sincerely

hope it will be used as a natural lab as well as a natural playground and not be ditched out of existence.

But the reason for writing this in the paper is that Fulford is not the only school, and also most, or at least many, parents have been unaware of the importance of mud, dirt, water and of the creatures that live in it, and of its importance in the understanding of so many other subjects—in fact its importance in understanding life itself.

It is important also to remember that in nature most learning, particularly for the very young, is accomplished through play. The more disciplined learning which comes later is built on that foundation of knowledge acquired in play situations, and it is tested by trial and error in a protected environment.

This is a very effective system and worth more consideration in our own efforts to educate our young. This foundation of natural understanding is a large part of what we call common sense, and an increasing number of people are growing to adulthood without it.

OTTAWA REPORT

The new names in Ottawa

BY JIM MANLY, MP

During the election campaign Eva remarked to me that as a school child she had always disliked the chore of learning a whole batch of new names after each election.

Most of us have already learned the name of our new prime minister, Brian Mulroney (spelled with one "o" but pronounced with two as in "roony"), and we are more or less familiar with former prime minister Joe Clark in external affairs, Michael Wilson in finance, Flora MacDonald in employment and Erik Nielsen as deputy prime minister.

But how about Gerry Merrithew, the new minister of state for forestry? If the Mulroney government follows through on its commitment to give major priority to forestry, then the name of Merrithew should become very familiar to British Columbians. We should note, however, that Merrithew, a former provincial cabinet minister from New Brunswick, is only a minister of state; this means he must report to another minister, John Wise, minister of agriculture. Perhaps forestry will be upgraded to a full-scale department in some future reorganization.

In addition to Mulroney himself, there are 10 members of the cabinet from Quebec. All are new to the House of Commons except Roch La Salle, who has been placed in charge of public works, traditionally a dispenser of patronage. Quebec names we will probably need to learn include Andre Dissonnette, who made his fortune selling chickens and is now minister of small business.

Michel Cote, the minister of

consumer and corporate affairs, was a senior partner in a large accounting firm; as such he is probably more familiar with the corporate than with the consumer affairs. Andree Champagne, minister of state for youth, is best known for her 14-year acting stint in Quebec soap operas set in the 1890's where she played the wife of a miser. Whether she will do as well in the long running soap opera known as question period remains to be seen.

With three cabinet ministers, all from the Lower Mainland, B.C. must feel slightly under-represented in the 40-member cabinet, especially considering that Manitoba has four cabinet ministers. Pat Carney has been given the high-profile and tricky energy portfolio, where she must balance the needs of the oil and gas-producing provinces in the West with the needs of central Canada for cheap fuel. She will also have to make decisions about a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island.

John Fraser has inherited a "fine kettle of fish" with his new responsibilities for fisheries and oceans. Desperate economic and resource situations in both Pacific and Atlantic fisheries require immediate and sustained attention, from Fraser, who I think will show himself to be both dedicated and competent.

Tom Siddon was the only B.C. member of parliament who supported Brian Mulroney for the leadership. As minister for science and technology he has a portfolio that should grow in importance.

I am generally pleased with the appointment of David Crombie as minister of Indian affairs and northern development. Crombie is a

"people person" and should be able to do a good job if he can get the support of cabinet colleagues. In the same way, Walter McLean should do a good job as secretary of state and it is good to know that someone in the cabinet takes a positive position on peace issues. However, I fear that McLean will often be nothing more than a dovish voice crying in a very hawkish wilderness.

Finally, Mulroney should be given full marks for appointing six women to the cabinet, since three was the maximum number before. On the other hand, there is no status of women portfolio, which somewhat cancels out the impression of progress. We still have a long way to go before women have political equality in Canada. But at least our new prime minister has recognized some proven and some potential talent.

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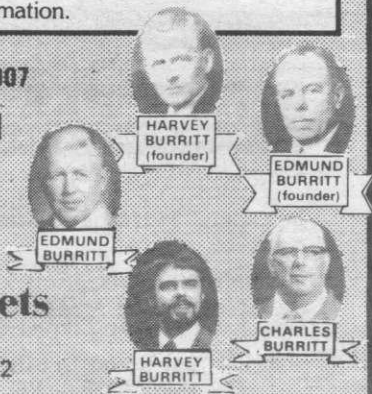
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Centre offers many programs for community

BY VALERIE RICHARDS

On Saturday Salt Spring Islanders will celebrate the restoration of the Community Centre and the building's 70 years of service to the community.

Built in 1914, the building served as a hospital for 44 years before being turned over to the school board to be used as a dormitory for Gulf Island students.

In 1972 the old hospital opened its doors to the community to offer an alternate school. Three years later, the ministry of human resources employed Sue Ramsey to act as supervisor and communications officer at the new Community Centre.

This year the complete restoration of the building has been finished. The grounds have been landscaped and the facilities have been remodelled in accordance with the building's original design.

Staffed by about 20, the centre is run by director Barbara Jordan-Knox and a board of directors including Linnet Ramsey, Jim Sinclair, Rose Donnelly, Jack Albhouse, Chuck Nelkin, Liz Dafoe, Carol Fowles, Betty Ball, Liz Armour, Karen Reiss, Tao Kimball, Jean Brindamour, Sid Filkow, Tom Tøynbee, Shirley Vida and Helga Williams.

She wants to see islanders using services

Jordan-Knox was hired by the centre last spring. She comes from Victoria where she was director of social work at the Victoria General

Hospital. Enthusiastic about the centre's programs and facilities, Jordan-Knox explains that paramount to the centre's short-term goals this winter is its need to go public. She stresses the importance of an "outreach component" at the centre that might encourage islanders to use its services to a greater degree.

At present, 12 programs are offered at the centre and a variety of workshops have been scheduled for winter.

The Achievement Centre, supervised by Louise Doucet, provides programs for handicapped adults. In conjunction with the Achievement Centre, the LIFE program works towards encouraging individuals to learn life skills and market them. Many members in the LIFE program sold crafts at a stall at the Ganges Farmers' Market this summer.

Counsellor Martin Bach supervises the Special Services to Children program, working with children and parents. There are often up to nine "special services" cases at any one time, or nine families working with Bach in this program.

GIPSY (Gulf Islands Program Serving Youth) consists of a small school of 12 students run by teacher Len Sokol and child-care worker Trish Nobile. Employed by the school board, Sokol provides the students with a high school education while Nobile looks after job placements and work evaluation. Those attending the school enjoy mutual support and encouragement from their colleagues, often contrasting with past experiences in traditional high school settings.



Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital in 1958

The controversial Women's Place at the Community Centre is supported by a federal grant and is open to women of all ages and lifestyles. Notes Jordan-Knox, the Women's Centre will be providing a wider range of activities this winter in efforts to diversify.

Traditional feminist issues are highlighted at the Women's Centre but additional programs appealing to a broad spectrum of island women will be offered this winter. Lessons on how to cut children's hair and sewing instruction will be available to accommodate the domestic lifestyle while programs such as self-defense have also been slated. A women's library is featured and a weekly drop-in is held. Men, adds Jordan-Knox, are welcome.

With a grant from the Recreation Commission, the Teen Program attempts to offer teenagers recreational activities that encourage self-development. The program provides knowledge in peer-counselling and recognizing the needs of others.

Donna Martin oversees the Recycle Project, maintaining the depot and organizing the pesticide pick-ups at the Farmers' Market. Increased public awareness of recycling and the recently issued "recycle brochure" have resulted in a 33% volume increase of recycled material on the island.

Recently established at the centre is a Community Counselling Service available to anyone desiring counselling of any kind. Professional counsellors offer individual, family or marital help. The roster includes Jordan-Knox, Martin Bach, Alice Friedman, Gail Ritalic and Anne Richardson. Fee for counselling is approximately \$20 an hour. Confidentiality is a priority.

Nursery school rents space at centre

The Nursery School at the centre has been running for several years. The space is rented to the co-operative society by the centre. About 30 three and four-year-old children attend the bright and spacious nursery school, funded by the parents.

There is a five and dime at the centre, offering nominally priced second-hand clothing. Headquarters of the Food Bank are also located at the centre.

Overseeing the activities and programs are the community support workers, Jordan-Knox,

Phyllis Tatum and Ragnhild Hildred. The support workers act as a referral service, supplying information on financial aid and services available at the centre and elsewhere.

But the Community Centre is not a crisis centre. Care is available for those in crises but the main thrust of the centre is to serve the needs of the entire community.

Since renovations were completed, the centre has been offering meeting rooms on a rental basis to service organizations in the community (the rooms are almost free from traffic noise).

The centre is buzzing this week with last-minute finishing touches to landscaping and carpentry. The open house on Saturday will include films on the different programs at the centre and guests will be invited to view the grounds and take tours of the facilities.

A special feature at the open house will be the identification of the use of each room, past and present. Guests will discover where the operating room was, where

babies were born and where, today, children play.

And to keep strictly to tradition, the volunteers have turned up once again, tilling the soil and planting the grass seed, wielding the hammer and applying the paint.

Explains board member Jack Albhouse, "We couldn't have done it without the people who gave so much of their time to the centre."

Albhouse noted that students from the GIPSY program, Katimavik members and residents were part of the restoration program.

The open house will run all day Saturday and will feature visits by early pioneers who worked at the first Lady Minto Hospital and those who were born at the hospital before it was closed in 1958.



Director at the Community Centre, Barbara Jordan-Knox, comes to the island with several years of experience in social work. Director of social work at the

Victoria General Hospital, Jordan-Knox was director of social services at Rocky View Hospital in Calgary before embarking to the west coast.

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SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

BY CHARLES HINGSTON
Chairman, Gulf Islands School Board

It has been a hectic start to the school year. One cause has been the provincial government's decision to delay giving final budget figures to school boards. This leads to uncertainty and planning problems.

Add to this teacher negotiations at a time when the BCTF (British Columbia Teachers' Federation) has stated its intent to go for salary increases while the government has given no indication that there will be more dollars put into education. In fact, the most recent "restraint" figures put forward by the government indicate annual decreases in funds in 1984 through 1986.

The ministry of education is at present looking at putting together a "School Act Committee". This would appear to be an attempt at looking at changes to the School Act, rather than an effort towards a comprehensive review of the education system in B. C. that a majority of school trustees and other involved groups are calling for. But only time will tell and no doubt there will be discussion and some action on this matter at the next school board meeting.

Career counselling services offered at Gulf Islands Secondary School, the use of computers in the district and priorities in special education are all important ongoing

areas on which the board is focusing. A focus on excellence in the Gulf Islands and our teachers' commitment to this concept must be continually stressed. It is too easy in restraint emphasized times to lose sight of the basic educational goals in our schools.

By the time this is published Fulford School should be under way in its own home. While we are, and, no doubt will continue to have the problems associated with opening a new school, principal Bob Brownsword and his staff are to be commended for their willingness to do what is necessary to handle the new situation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who, through both good and bad times, have worked to make the school both a pleasant physical facility and a fine learning environment. When all are settled in we will have an official opening that I know will reflect "south-end" hospitality. Parents group, beware!

Last but not least, we have just received a letter from Mrs. Wilde, the chairman of the CRD, concerning the possibility of the school district requesting a capital grant from the ministry of education in the amount of \$245,322 towards the Ganges sewer. This matter will also be discussed at the next board meeting to be held at the board office in Ganges on October 11 at 2 p.m.

Vancouver dairy fights sales tax

Consumers buying milk in glass bottles on Galiano Island are paying an added tax but nothing can be done about the situation.

Lee Crowley of Avalon Dairies in Vancouver has a running battle with the provincial ministry of finance about the sales tax he must pay for buying new bottles for milk.

Avalon Dairies distributes milk on Galiano through Burrill Brothers Store. The dairy is one of the oldest in British Columbia and one of the few dairies in Canada which continues to use glass bottles.

Crowley told *Driftwood* last week that the dairy buys up to 1,000 bottles per week for replacement of broken or strayed bottles. Each bottle costs the dairy 50¢ and each bottle bears a seven percent sales tax.

The sales tax costs the dairy, and ultimately the consumer, \$1,820 per year.

Hugh Curtis, minister of finance, said Friday that nothing can be done about the situation until budget time.

Crowley said that the dairy prefers the glass bottles because they can be reused. The dairy accepts broken bottles for recycle, he said.

He wonders why other packages for milk, such as the plastic bag or the now-familiar waxed cardboard box, are not subject to sales tax.

"We're actually saving tax dollars by not adding to the garbage stream," he said.

Avalon Dairies has the support of the Dairy Council of Canada and

the ministry of the environment for using glass bottles.

Curtis said the situation is being reviewed by his ministry but any exemption for the dairy must wait until the budget is brought down. Crowley's battle over the taxed bottles has been going on since the spring of 1983.

ISLAND CINEMA

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Students observe World Food Day

Photo by David Reid

World Food Day was observed two weeks early by students of Salt Spring Elementary School, in order that visiting Somalians could participate. Above, Somali

members of Canada World Youth exchange program sing the song of the Somali Revolutionary Youth Union. Students also saw a film on the African country. Donations

were made to the Community Centre's Food Bank to help needy families celebrate Thanksgiving. The Somalians left the island Saturday to return home.

Community plan review to continue

The review of the Salt Spring Island community plan will continue despite indications from the minister of municipal affairs that it is not wanted.

The minister, Tony Brummet, recently rejected the revised community plan for Lasqueti Island. He sent the plan back with a directive to eliminate references to issues which required action from ministries other than municipal affairs.

Issues which could be taken care of by the ministry of environment or forests, for example, should not be mentioned in the community plan, he said.

Under the Municipal Act, community plans should be reviewed every five years.

Nick Gilbert, Islands Trust representative for Salt Spring Island, said last week that the minister in his definition of the Municipal Act was "out to lunch".

Russ Lazaruk of the Salt Spring Advisory Planning Commission urged that the review of the community plan, which has occupied the APC for some month, be continued.

Dave Williams, the Salt Spring school trustee representing the school district on the APC, noted that the community plan was the guideline for planning. The zoning bylaws give it strength, he said.

The Islands Trust had rejected the Musgrave Landing subdivision on Salt Spring claiming that the bare land strata title subdivision was contrary to the community plan.

The rules governing strata title subdivisions were subsequently changed to exempt such

developments from provisions of the community plans.

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Antique saw missing

An antique drag-saw is missing from an Isabella Point Road property on Salt Spring Island.

Ruby Alton reported the machine, valued at \$700, had been taken on Saturday. The saw, which had been modified with a motor, was a heavy apparatus and would have required two or three people to lift it.

RCMP are investigating the incident.

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Professor may someday be considered a saviour

You have probably never heard of Ludwig von Bertalanffy. Neither had I until some time ago. Now it is very unlikely that someone only very few people have ever heard about may someday be considered our saviour. But that's the way it is, and I suppose that is the way it usually goes with saviours.

He would be 85 years old by now, and retired, after a lifelong devotion to biology. I cannot remember where he last taught as professor of biology, but I know that it was at a Canadian University, somewhere in the East. He is one of those rare individuals who make a profoundly and fundamentally decisive contribution to the welfare of all mankind. It may well stand alone as a pivotal point in the further

evolution of mankind, yet it may remain unrecognized for all its decisively profound influence on our future.

His contribution consisted of proof that all biological systems are dynamic. You may say, "So what, what is the big fuss about."

But wait a minute. Until very recently, the considered opinion of the erstwhile scientific establishment was that all biological systems were homeo-static. This is to say that biological systems, such as plant and animal populations, regulated or interacted with one another, to result in a static situation.

DIRECT RESULT

The Malthusian "law", still very much a foundation of all our economic theories, which holds that any given population must sooner or later run up against the limits of the resources of its environment, and that the least fit, the poor, the sick and the weak are the first ones to succumb to the strictures of the limits of that environment, is the direct result of that type of thinking. Malthus is in the unenviable position of having all his many theories consigned to the waste basket as utter bunk, even in his time, with the exception of this one.

It came shortly after Darwin's new theory of evolution, and the survival of the fittest, familiar enough to us even now, has been the mainline of our economic and social concepts ever since then. And curiously enough, it seems that we go the way we think. Bertalanffy's work has changed all that. We can see already that economics, agriculture and our social conditions will be affected, just from these brief considerations, but like a pebble tossed into calm waters, its ripples will not subside for centuries to come.

You see, it has already changed our conception of the universe, which was held to be chaotic until Bertalanffy came along, as it is patently impossible for a solitary dynamic system to exist in an otherwise chaotic environment. The sublime order that Einstein has seen, an order Benoit Mandelbrot of fractal fame termed awesome, has now and finally found its freedom to exist.

MAY BE ORDER

Since we are obviously residents

Farming and Gardening

BY PETER WEIS

of this universe too, it is now suspected that we are not an accidental occurrence after all, but that there may be order in this madness after all; hence Bertalanffy's impact on the perception of our evolution. Everything will have to be rethought, and as it is, there has been a flood of papers on the dynamic nature of everything, and our sciences are at the moment in a state of animated suspension, to see where the next bombshell (sorry) will go off.

And in the excitement of the recognition that the universe is dynamic, that our planetary environment is dynamic, that our social systems are dynamic, that our economics are dynamic (hence my ranting), Bertalanffy's pioneering work may be simply overwhelmed, as the recognition of the vast and abiding order of the universe, and all that is in it, will sweep all our conventional notions before it like so much jetsam.

One of the most directly affected areas will be our agricultural systems, of course, as we recognize its dynamic nature and begin to work with it, instead of against it. Given these dynamics, and our intelligent co-operation, we can feed, clothe and shelter 100 times our present planetary population in abundance, and in health. So we do stand, at this time, at a decisive turning point in our evolution.

A garden planet, rich and abundant, is our rightful heritage, but we have to do it, as any gardener knows. Thus no gardener in his or her right mind would cut down an apple tree to harvest its fruit, and as soon as we stop doing that and work

with the dynamics of life, we shall have the heritage of our birthright, life beyond measure, in every aspect.

As a measure of the dynamics of life, let me set you the example of the lacto bacillus, the little bacterium that turns milk into yogurt, something a lot of us are familiar with. Since one teaspoon of yogurt contains around five billion bacteria, and it usually takes two tablespoons of yogurt to make a quart of yogurt, we have about 30 billion little critters to start with.

Four hours later we have a quart of yogurt and 960 billion lacto

bacteria. And we also know that their relatives live in our soils and that some of those relatives absorb nitrogen from the air and make it available to our crops, and that a lot of lacto bacillus relatives also live in our stomachs and digest things for us that we cannot.

And by the way, bacteria have mitochondria as well. Thus we are as deeply rooted in the fabric of life as we are in the dynamics of life, and thus Ludwig von Bertalanffy's contribution to our recognition of that fact may just make all the difference in the world.

Open house at firehall Saturday

It's Fire Prevention Week.

The firehall in Ganges will be open to the public on Saturday from 9 am until 4 pm.

Fire Chief Bob Leask invites residents to stop by to see what the firefighters do and to chat with those volunteers on duty that day.

Brush fire

The brush fire was a case of delayed reaction.

The Salt Spring volunteer firefighters were called to an Isabella Point Road property October 3 to deal with a brush fire.

A shed on the property had burned the previous day and the fire had smoldered in the brush overnight before flaming up. The shed and contents were destroyed as well as about one quarter of an acre of bush.

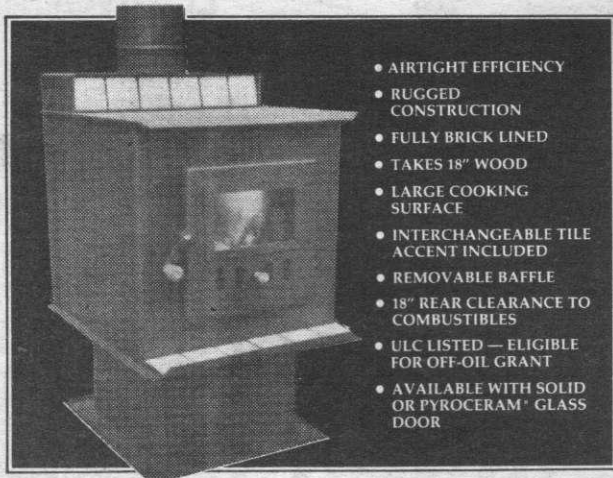
Damage was estimated at approximately \$5,000.

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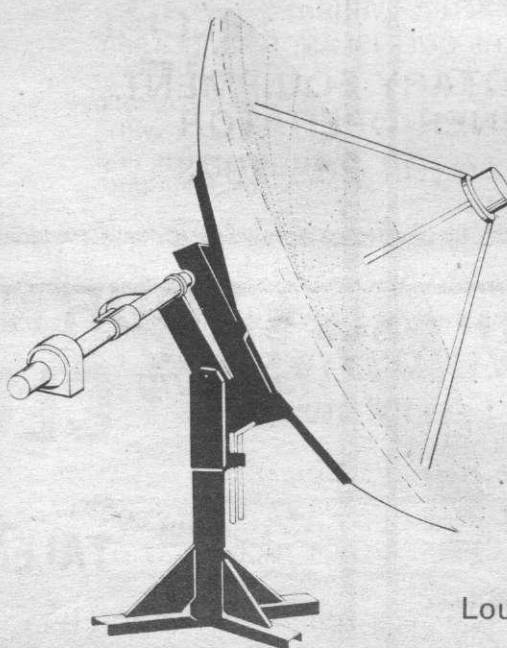
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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Renovations under way

Fernwood School is undergoing renovations in the form of a two-classroom addition. In photo, older part of the school is seen on the left

with the addition nearing completion on the right. Building is scheduled for completion at the end of this month. Meanwhile, classes

are being held in the library and the gymnasium until new rooms are finished.

Grant aids North Pender heliport

The medical evacuation heliport at Pender Island will soon be a reality.

The Lions Club of that island recently received a provincial grant of \$12,500 towards the project from

the air transportation assistance program of the ministry of transportation and highways.

Gordon Wallace, chairman of the Lions Club committee which is guiding the project said the heliport will be constructed at the airstrip on Bedwell Harbour Road on North Pender Island.

Tenders for the construction of a concrete landing pad will be called before the end of this month, he said.

The cost of the project will be covered by the grant and any extra expenses will be picked up by the Lions Club, Wallace said.

The facility will have underground lighting to allow use at night and a bridge will be put in place over the ditch at the roadside for an ambulance entrance. Lights will be installed around the heliport as well.

The heliport will be managed by the Pender Island Health Care Society once it has been completed.

The cheque for the money had been sent to Wallace by local MLA Hugh Curtis.

The area for the heliport covers about two acres and the property owner has agreed to a 20-year lease.

Tax hearing

From Page 1

He told Curtis that a written brief on the subject will be sent to him at a later date.

Charles Sutcliffe of Salt Spring told the panel that the tax forms should be simplified and a flat rate of taxes imposed. He gave as an example the tax forms for Hong Kong.

Investment income in Hong Kong is taxed at the source, he said, on a flat rate.

He also noted that he received a federal tax credit on retirement income from Great Britain and Hong Kong but received no such benefit from the province.

Gordon explained that the province places its tax on the portion of income which is taxed federally and therefore the tax credit had been considered.

Curtis expressed disappointment that organizations on Salt Spring such as the chamber of commerce had not submitted a brief. He noted that written briefs could be forwarded to the finance ministry anytime before November 5.

After that date, the panel will discuss the findings of the tour to determine what changes are needed in provincial tax structure to encourage economic development.

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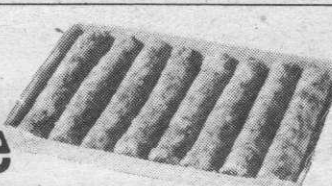
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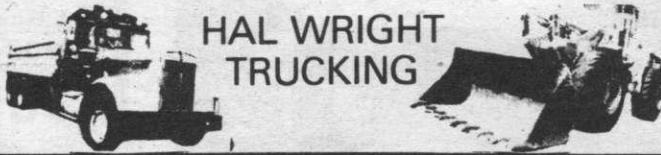
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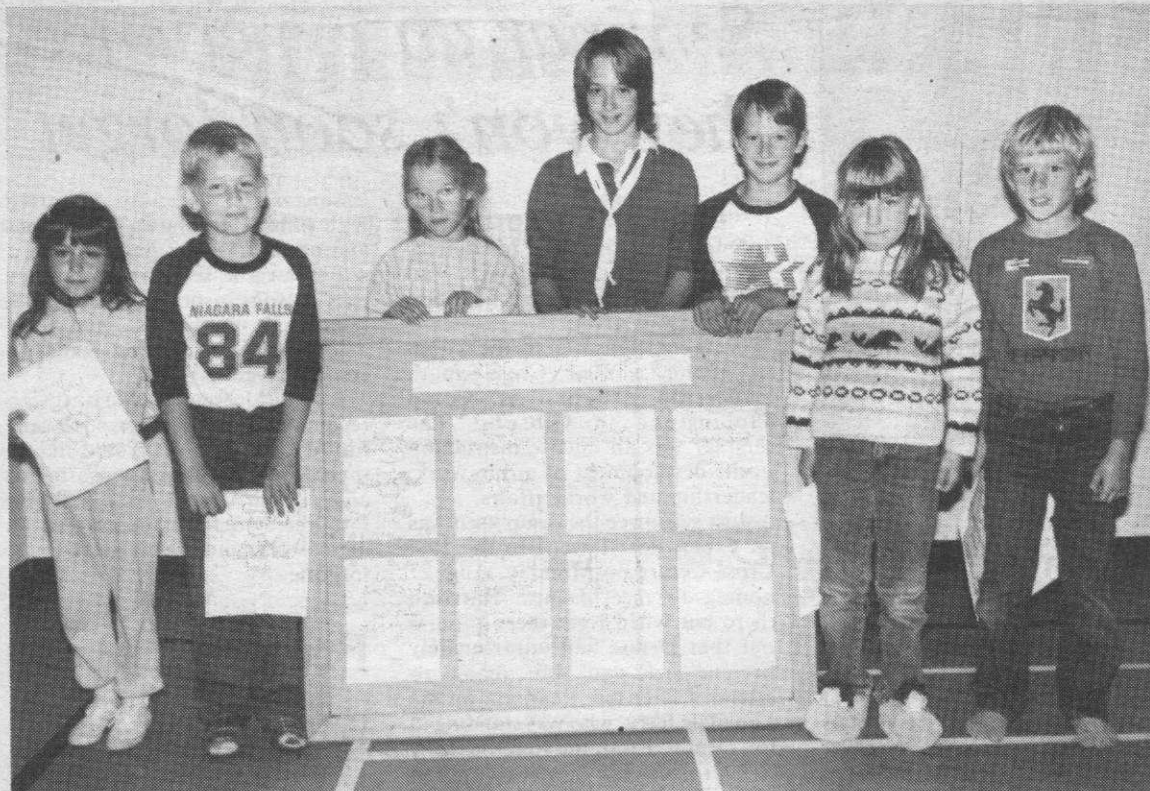
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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Award winners at Fernwood

General assembly at Fernwood School last Friday afternoon saw principal Glenn Woodley introduce a new program to the students. A Student of the Month award will be presented to a deserving young person in each grade. The

distinction is intended to honour individual effort and students who win the award will have their names listed on a board in the main hall of the school for the month. Seen standing with the notice board are the recipients of this month's

awards. From left are Tanya Kopp, Grade 1; Eric Taylor, Grade 2; Brandi Mackinnon, Grade 5; Heather Thomson, Grade 7; Lance Davis, Grade 6; Melissa Hazenboom, Grade 2; and Neil Kerrigan, Grade 3.

Potters elect Pickstone

Salt Spring Potters Guild members met recently at the home of Ruth and Hugh Borsman for their annual potluck dinner and general meeting. Harry Pickstone was elected president, replacing Christine Drake. Maggie Schubart is the new vice-president and Muriel Hale remains secretary-treasurer.

the problem of access to their library. The guild possesses a large number of books dealing with every aspect of ceramics. This extensive collection will be donated to the Salt Spring library so that books will be available not only to potters, but to all those interested in the craft of clay.

On the agenda was a discussion of activities for the coming season such as workshops, demonstrations and studio tours. Harry Pickstone welcomed all suggestions and asked for help in planning these instructive sessions, as well as a pre-Christmas social evening.

Members reached a decision on

The meeting concluded after a discussion of the annual pre-Christmas sale to be held in conjunction with the Weavers and Jewellers' guilds. Potters were reminded that membership dues must be paid 30 days before sale date to qualify for entry in the sale. Sale dates are November 16, 17 and 18.

APC names six for panel

The Advisory Planning Commission recommended six people for the Advisory Design Panel at the recent meeting.

The people named are Jon Yardley, Geoff Gaye, Patricia Morgan, Walter Davis, Rice Elkington and Peter Vida. The Advisory Design Panel offers judgment on development plans with suggestions for standards to

guide the Islands Trust Committee on applications for development permits.

Yardley, Gaye and Morgan have served time on the panel and the other three recently volunteered for the positions.

The recommended panel will be considered by the Islands Trust Committee at its next meeting on October 31.

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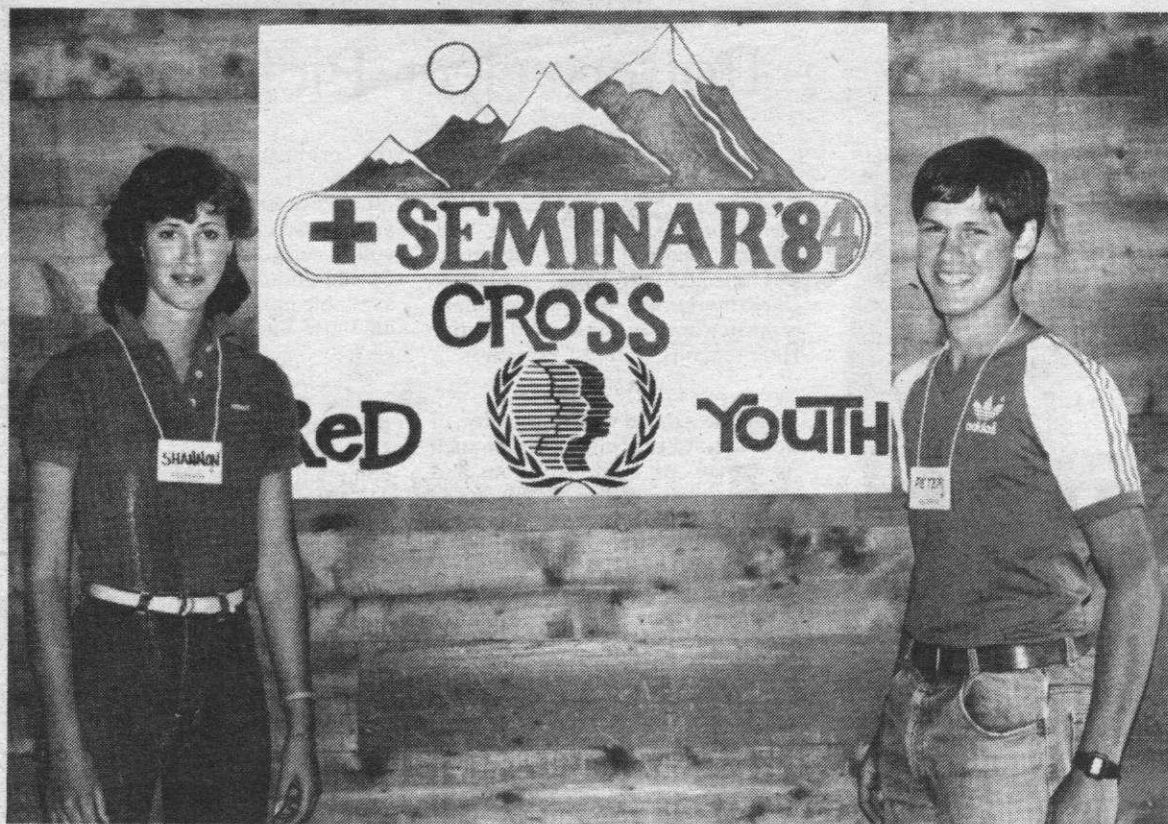
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Are your emergency numbers by the phone?
The Canadian Red Cross Society



Shannon Lee and Peter Schroder

Seminar an experience they won't soon forget

Contributed

BY PETER SCHRODER

During the last week of summer Shannon Lee and I had an experience which we will not soon forget. It was great!

We were sponsored by the school to attend a Red Cross youth leadership seminar at Camp Elphinstone in Gibsons. The seminar was an intense instruction in the development of group work, leadership and world affairs.

Just getting to the camp itself was an experience. I went to the Red Cross Centre on Monday, Aug. 27 hoping to meet Denise Harrison there but when I got there I found out that Denise had unfortunately become sick and was unable to attend. I later met Shannon on the Langdale ferry, who was standing in for Denise. From the time I left the Red Cross Centre to when we got to camp, Shannon and I had met 80 strangers who were to become some of our best friends by the end of the week.

I always related the Red Cross to giving blood, but we soon learned that the Red Cross is involved in many other things such as international and domestic assistance, public relations and first aid.

The seminar consisted of simulated activities which would be directly related to national and international problems which all countries face in some capacity. The

lessons we learned were reinforced with films, slide shows, discussions and other presentations.

For me the seminar opened my eyes to some aspects of our world, reinforced my values, taught me a lot about myself, and made me some very good friends.

I would never hesitate to recommend the seminar to any future delegates. We would like to thank the school for sponsoring us and David Pardo and all his resource leaders for making up an incredible seminar which will not be forgotten.

Bridge winners

The duplicate bridge season opened at Salt Spring Island last week with 10 tables playing.

North-south winners were: Fred Struve and Dorothy Sneddon, Dawney Scarfe and Liz Dafoe, Audrey Allan and Helen Shandro, Kay and Chuck Harrison. East-west: Lorna and Peter Pentz, Kay Javorski and Mildred Gurney, Mary K. Thomas and Norm McConnell, Margaret Ellison and May Whiten.

Tuesday evening winners were: Julie Godwin and Kay Javorski, Fred Struve and Dawny Scarfe, Anne and Norm McConnell.

Galiano Lions Club to spearhead drive

At the regular meeting of the Galiano Island Lions Club on October 4, it was decided that the Lions will spearhead a drive for funds to purchase an electrocardiogram and defibrillator for the clinic on Galiano.

President Jim Scoones said that a

hyfrecator costing \$600 has already been purchased by the Lions, and is in use at Dr. John Hales'.

On Thursday Dr. Hales will address a meeting arranged by the Lions of representatives from interested clubs to co-ordinate the drive for funds. It was also decided

that the Lions Club will give \$2,000 towards the machine. They have already received pledges from some people who believe that it is a necessary piece of equipment for the island.

The club needs to raise \$8,000 for its purchase.

TAX NOTICE

Taxpayers to pay entire capital cost of sewer system?

School & Hospital funds to be diverted to repay the provincial government sewer loan?

- Our school board is being asked for \$245,322.00
- Our hospital board is being asked for \$549,054.00

**This education & health tax money is not to build the sewer—
it is to be collected so that private property owners, both business and residential,
would pay nothing (\$0.00) towards its construction.**

The School Board meets on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2 pm, School Board Office.

School Trustees are: Bert Beitel, Charles Hingston (chairman), Lorraine Campbell, Jeannine Dodds, David Eyles, Ron McQuiggan, Joy Ridley & David Williams.

The Hospital Board meets Thursday, Oct. 30, 12:30 pm, Nurses' Residence.

Hospital board members are: Gordon Brown, Ethel Davidson, Wes Edwards, John Mouat, Ivan Mouat (chairman), Isabel Goodman & Jack Reed from Salt Spring; and Margaret Fry, Emile le Blanc, Monica Shand & Vic Zala from the Outer Islands.

CAN WE ASK FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THIS COMES TO THE VOTE?

This ad paid for by TAXPAYERS' FORUM. Donations appreciated—General Delivery, Ganges.

Open House

at the

Community Centre

Sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Community Society

Saturday, Oct. 13 11 am-4 pm

- Admire the landscaping. See the facilities.
- Tour the displays. See programs, films.
- Meet the staff and volunteers.
- Enjoy refreshments.
- Parking & child care available.

2-3 pm:
 Help celebrate the 70th ANNIVERSARY
 of our Heritage Building—the former
 Lady Minto Hospital from 1914-1956.

**Everyone is welcome...
 it's YOUR Community Centre!**

This advertisement has been sponsored by the following advertisers:

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<p>Ganges Bin & Barrel BULK FOODS Upper Ganges Village 537-4255 Open Monday through Saturday, 10 am-5:30 pm</p>	<p>CUBBON HOME ALL BUILDING CENTRE 537-5564 Rainbow Road 537-5565 Open 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Saturday.</p>	<p>Salt Spring Automotive Specializing in engine & chassis parts, Dupont paint & supplies. Open Monday through Saturday. McPhillips Ave., Ganges 537-5507</p>
<p>GULFSTREAM SUPPLY McPhillips Ave. 537-5733</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Sunshine Farm Foods The Gulf Islands' Natural Food Centre</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Gulf Island Trading Co.</p>
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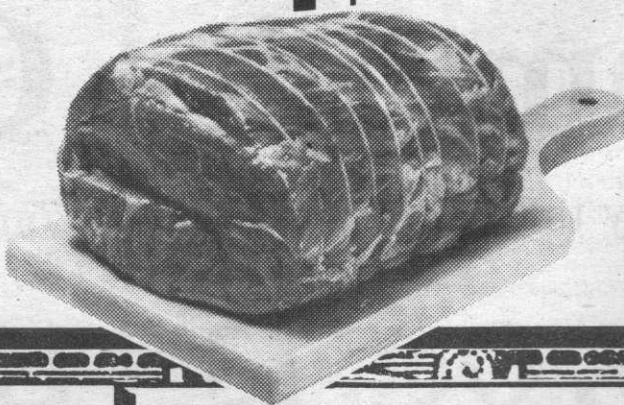
Ganges Village

GRADE A

Beef Blade Roast

Blade Bone Removed

3²⁶ kg **1 48** lb.



GRADE A

Beef Bone In

Cross Rib Roast

4¹⁵ kg **1 88** lb.

SHARP CHEDDAR

Cheese

7.89 kg **3 58** lb.

GERMAN BUTTER

Cheese

7.89 kg **3 58** lb.

CUT-UP FRESH

Frying Chicken

3.49 kg **1 58** lb.

FLETCHER'S PORK

Sausage

500 g pkg. **1 88** ea.

FLETCHER'S BREAKFAST

Sausage

500 g pkg. **1 88** ea.

Fresh Lamb Sale!

Shoulder Chops

5.69/kg. **2 58** lb.

Loin Chops

9.66/kg. **4 38** lb.

Rib Chops

8.11/kg. **3 68** lb.

Leg

SHANK HALF 7.01/kg. **3 18** lb.

Leg

WHOLE OR BUTT HALF 7.23/kg. **3 28** lb.

Stew

3.70/kg. **1 68** lb.

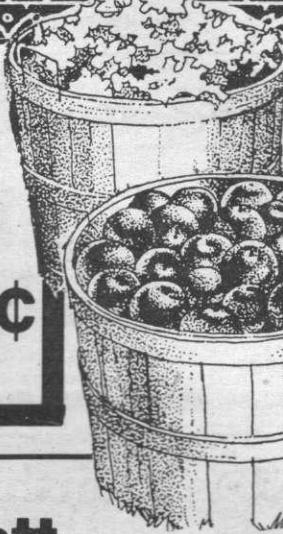


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44¢ kg **5 LBS. FOR 98¢**



IMPORTED

Granny Smith Apples

1⁵⁰ kg. **68¢** lb.

MIX'N'MATCH

B.C. GROWN

Green Cabbage Red Cabbage Rutabaga Turnips

65¢ kg. **3 LBS. FOR 88¢**

Bartlett Pears

1.28/kg. **58¢** lb.

FRESH

Ginger Root or Garlic

2.82/kg. **1 28** lb.

NEW ZEALAND

Kiwi Fruit

2 FOR 98¢

NO. 1

Bananas

2 LBS. FOR 88¢

Sweet Potatoes

1.06/kg. **48¢** lb.

B.C. GROWN FIELD

Cucumbers

2/68¢

