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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR, NO. 49

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1984

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Trust here to stay, Ritchie tells council

But islands don't merit special consideration

• **The death of community planning, editorial—Page 4.**

Islands Trust is here to stay. Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Ritchie made that positive statement when he addressed the Trust on Friday afternoon.

He also told the islands planning body that the islands merit no special consideration in terms of community planning and that they are no more significant to the province of British Columbia than is the community of Terrace.

The minister also explained that no planning decision will be acceptable in the islands if it reduces the value of any property.

Planning, he explained, centres simply on whether a parcel of land shall be used for residential or commercial purposes.

"I have not given any thought to doing away with the Islands Trust," he told the council on Friday afternoon last week.

He also noted that he will continue to look for better ways to do things and less costly ways to do those things.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Ritchie maintains an open-door policy, he assured the council. He encourages trustees and boards to communicate with him.

After a fairly short term in office, he recalled, he has already visited 60 councils and most of the regional districts.

"It is good for the councils and for the people they represent," he explained.

He added a warning that he and the various elected officials are not going to agree on all things and if they did it would indicate that one

or the other was redundant.

After a very brief introduction, he fielded questions.

Nick Gilbert of Salt Spring Island asked what message he might take back to his own island. The Trust committee had listened to the concern of island water trustees regarding the protection of watersheds. The island committee had worked with the Advisory Planning Commission developing clear community plans addressing the situation.

"I have to explain that you are not going to sign them. Do you have a message I can take back to them?"

"I resist any rezoning which might depreciate property," explained the minister.

Many levels of government find it easy, he continued, to go ahead and devalue property by zoning.

There are families who have toiled long and hard to acquire a property.

It is not fair that any authority can come along and, through rezoning, say they are going to reduce the value, he asserted.

"My concern is for the taxpayers

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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Neighbours decorate tree

When Southey Point neighbours gathered to decorate tree at the north end of Salt Spring Island Sunday afternoon, one of the youngest helpers was Sarah Olson, who will be two years old in January. Sarah thought the decorated boxes at the foot of the tree might be for her. Shannon Lee,

right, took Sarah for a walk to divert her attention. Real present for Sarah was baby sister born to parents John and Elaine on November 29th. Salt Spring Islander John Olson is owner of Strathcona Hotel in Victoria. Photo of the decorated tree is on Page 7.

Santa here next week

Santa Claus comes to the Gulf Islands December 15 and 16.

Once again the Bellingham, Washington, Jaycees will escort the jolly elf through the Gulf Islands.

This year marks the 34th time the Jaycees have brought the Christmas ship to Canada.

The ship leaves Bellingham early Saturday morning and arrives at Ganges on Salt Spring by 5:30 pm. Santa is escorted by the volunteers of the fire department to the activity centre where he hands out treats to the children.

An added attraction this year will be Blumbo the Clown who will help entertain islanders of all ages at each stop along the route.

Sunday morning, the ship heads for the Outer Islands with an arrival at Montague Harbour on Galiano Island at 8:15 am.

The next stop, at 9:45 am, is Miners Bay on Mayne Island. Santa visits the Agricultural Hall just up Fernhill Road from the wharf.

Port Washington on North

Pender Island is another stop with Santa and his helpers arriving there at 11:30 am.

The last stop will be Lyall Harbour at Saturna Island with an expected arrival time of 1:05 pm.

Santa's visits to each of the Outer Islands last approximately one hour.

The Christmas Ship bears a crew of Jaycees as well as Sea Scouts from Bellingham. During the rest of the year the vessel is known as *SES Discovery* and is used to help train the Sea Scouts.

A change in cruises occurs this year. In past years, the Santa Ship from the Victoria Jaycees has held a rendezvous with the Bellingham ship at Bedwell Harbour on South Pender.

The Victoria crew sailed on exchange visits to the American San Juan Islands. But this year, the Victoria Jaycees are making their tour this coming weekend. The Bellingham Jaycees will arrange a rendezvous in the San Juans.

Fulford meeting rejects plan

BY BILL WEBSTER

The meeting was called to hear comments and opinions on the proposed Fulford Harbour community plan and the message came through loud and clear: no community plan was wanted for Fulford.

The meeting was held November 28 and at least 125 people showed up.

Gerry Bourdin of the Fulford Inn led the attack on the proposed plan. He told the meeting that people were already "over-regulated." Fulford residents didn't want the plan, he said, and called for a vote by those at the meeting to determine if the plan should go any farther.

David Williams, chairman of the Advisory Planning Commission, initially ruled a vote out of order but later, after hearing many people speak against the plan and for the vote, he relented and allowed a show of hands.

By the time the vote was held many people had left the meeting in frustration. The vote was 70 against and only 20 in favour of it.

Before the vote, Williams called for a show of hands of those who did not live in the area which would have been covered by the plan. Only four or five hands were raised.

He explained that the vote would be a straw vote and would have no validity except as an expression of opinion of those in attendance.

Between the time the vote was first called for until it was actually held, the exchanges from the floor occasionally became angry but Williams kept tight control over the meeting.

Bev Unger, who is coming to the end of her term on the Islands Trust, told the gathering that there was a

Salt Spring plan and a Ganges plan but Fulford was not covered by one.

Someone in the audience interjected: "I thought Fulford was part of Salt Spring."

Bourdin agreed with the interjection. The Salt Spring community plan covers everything Fulford needs, he said.

He urged Williams to allow the vote. "People here have shown they don't want this plan, so why pursue it."

"This is a democracy, or should be," he said to loud applause.

When Williams continued to refuse to allow a vote, John

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More to come

Adult, juvenile face total of 36 charges

A total of 36 charges of breaking and entry and theft from businesses on Salt Spring have been brought against two young island people.

Michael Walker, 20, faces 25 charges and a juvenile, 15, faces 11 others. The criminal proceedings result from a series of illegal entries which occurred from May until early November.

Further charges are being processed against another juvenile and three adult offenders as the RCMP investigation of the incidents continues.

A female had been reported as a juvenile member of the group but police said she is classified as an adult. Charges are being processed against a total of eight people.

The six-month binge of illegal activity covers break-ins, thefts and incidents of wilful damage. For instance, RCMP officers arrived at work on several occasions to find broken windows in the Ganges Hill office.

The front window of the

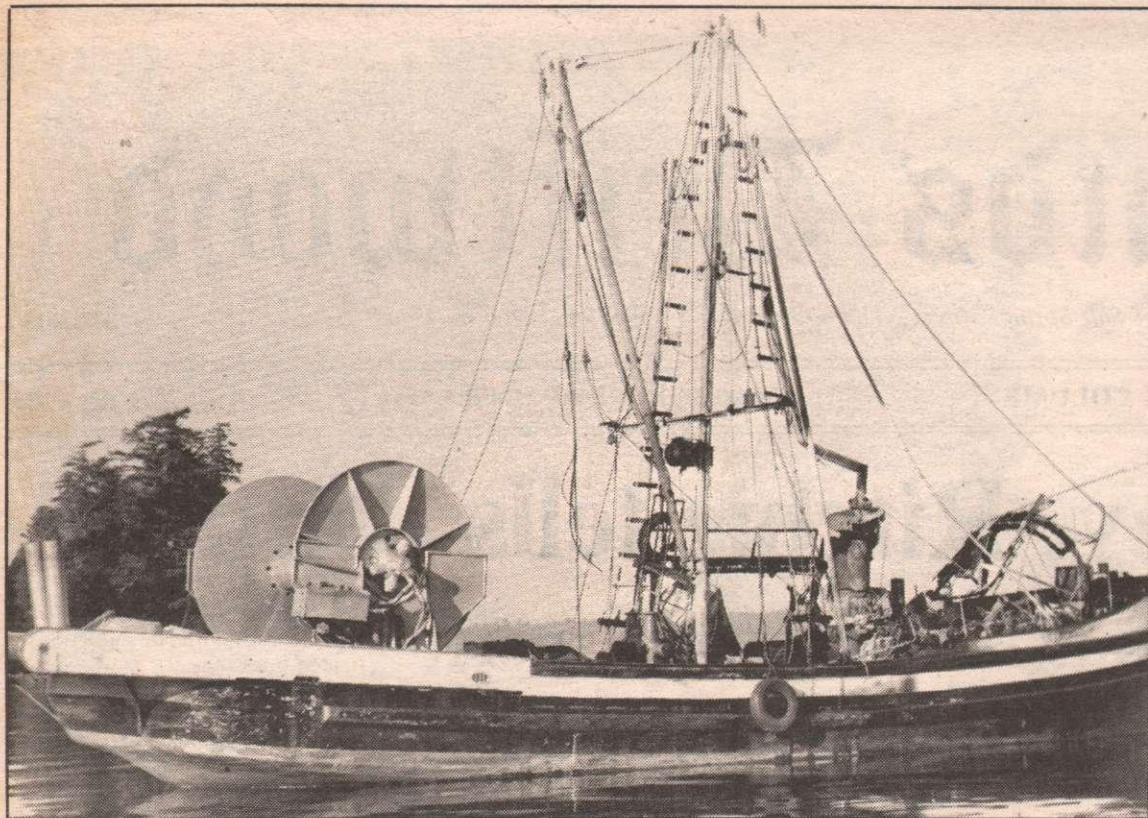
government liquor store had been smashed on occasion and the building entered a couple of times. RCMP had been investigating more than 40 incidents of illegal activity during that time.

A break in the investigation came when one of the suspects got careless. A citizen reported to police that an individual had been seen wheeling a safe down Rainbow Road in Ganges.

Another break came when another citizen reported names of those involved. They had been discussing their activities and the citizen reported the conversation to police.

A previous rash of criminal activity on Salt Spring occurred in late 1980. In early 1981, RCMP brought charges against 23 island youths including 18 juveniles as a result of that three-month crime spree.

Sergeant Mitch Hanks said investigations of related incidents in the recent series will continue.



Burned out seiner following Sunday's fire

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Fire destroys seiner Sunday

Fire destroyed the 55-foot seiner *Westview No. 3* off Southey Point at Salt Spring Island Sunday.

Rescue units heard the distress call at 4:30 pm and were on the scene in short order. The vessel was inshore of a series of rocks near the northern tip of the island.

The fisheries vessel *Atlin Post* towed the *Westview* further out to allow firefighters access to the vessel. Four members of the Salt Spring fire brigade were transferred to the *Atlin Post* to aid the operation.

Owner of the seiner, Don Ferguson of Ladner, and deckhand Terry McMullen of West Vancouver escaped the blaze in a skiff and were taken aboard the *Atlin Post*.

Gulf Islands Water Taxi's *Ganges Hawk* brought members of the ambulance crew to the scene to check the two men who were later taken to Vancouver by the fisheries boat.

Ganges Coast Guard reported that the fire was burning briskly below deck and firefighters had to don breathing apparatus to enter

the lower portion of the boat to fight the fire.

The Coast Guard vessel tied up alongside the *Atlin Post* and two members of the *Ganges* crew used pumps to empty the *Westview* of water used to douse the flames.

Cause of the fire is under

investigation and damage estimates run as high as \$200,000.

Several other vessels arrived at the scene and aided in the operation. The boat used to be owned by Milan Aleksich of Salt Spring Island. He sold it in 1975 after owning it for 22 years.

Bird count Saturday

The annual winter bird count takes place on Salt Spring Island Saturday.

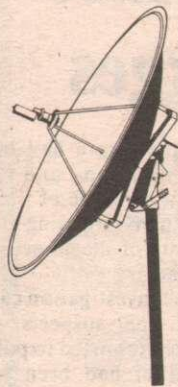
The island has been divided into 11 areas for the count and each area will be directed by an individual under the supervision of Marguerite Pearce, co-ordinator for the project. At the count last year, 24,823 birds were seen with 112 species noted.

The data from the unofficial count goes to the Federation of B.C. Naturalists for inclusion in their newsletter. The B.C. Provincial Museum also gets the information. The various areas of the island

and the directors of the count in those areas are: Beaver Point, Ken Campbell; Fulford-Burgoynes, Jean King; Cusheon Lake, Toni Luton; Hundred Hills, Joan Lott; Beddis Road, Chris Pattinson; Long Harbour-Churchill, Olive Clayton; Ganges up to Central, Elizabeth Kirwin; Booth Canal, Nancy Braithwaite; Vesuvius, June Perry; North End-St. Mary Lake, Margaret Pragnell; Southey Point, Dorothy Robertson.

Anyone interested in participating in the event can contact Pearce at 537-2355.

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To be Frank

...by Richards

Any old bacon rinds?

Hands dirty? Maybe you've been rubbing your clothes. And if your clothes are dirty, forget the television soaps and ads and make your own. Here's how. The recipe for soap was in her mother's old scrapbook kept by Mrs. Millie Paton of Mayne Island.

Dissolve the contents of one can of lye in three quarts of water. Add to this about six pounds of bacon rinds or scraps of fat. Let stand for two weeks, stirring daily. Add one pint of water and boil slowly for two hours. More water may be added if necessary.

The pause that reverses

You don't see the punctuation marks on radio. So that this simple statement of fact could be read to offer two entirely opposite meanings: "...He stated that he will not appeal the verdict that he is guilty." A simple resume of a grave incident in a man's life. Yet, if the statement is written with one comma, or a more urgent pause, it places a completely different meaning on these words: "...He stated that he will not appeal the verdict, that he is guilty..." It's our language, but it can mean so many things even when we don't want it to.

If only my name were Tate!

I envy the man whose name is Tate. I could welcome the arrival of a large family as child after child would fit so readily into a wide range of Christian names. I know that's an old-fangled way of describing them, but I'm not very new. I could have children, Hezzy and Codgy, who would be cautious and thoughtful: Eric might well suffer from flatulence and Lack would grow up a good mother, one assumes. Gravy might fall heavily and Levy could take up flying. Immy would shine on any stage and Irry would annoy him. The only other two children my Tate would boast would be No, never forgetting a detail and N. Tess who would probably leave a mess on her deathbed. After all, what can you do with a name like Richards?

Who saw the eyesore?

Did you see what they've done to the island? Oh, yes, eyesore that yesterday!

It hasn't changed in 25 years

What's new? Darned little is new. I was re-reading something I wrote 25 years ago about Central Saanich Council. That's south of Sidney on the highway into Victoria. "Prohibition of interference in subdivision plans by the attorney-general's office is sought by Central Saanich council. Last week the council recalled an instance two years ago when a subdivision plan approved by the council included provision for an access road to the beach. The attorney-general ruled that such access was not necessary. There ensued a 12-month fight to have the access road included. "Such a situation could arise at any time, decided councillors. They brought to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities a resolution to prohibit such interference in the future. There is nothing about this province, a quarter-century later, to suggest that the resolution bore fruit.

In sight!

His name was Smith, which was a not uncommon

name in the British forces, and his only claim to distinction that stays with me is his sad tale of falling into a cesspit when he was a boy. He was a watchmaker from Cornwall and he used to constantly repeat his only stock of poetry, but only under the influence of liquor. I can remember the verse:

*Imagine, if you can,
A winkle:
Dashing madly through the night,
With half a shirt upon his back
And not a pub in sight.*

What do we think?

Quote of the week:
Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Ritchie, speaking to the Islands Trust council last week: "Are we getting the greatest benefit from the land or are we just doing what we think is best?"

Moses and a study

Joke by Peter Campbell, of North Pender:
Moses was given a divine message and he heard it out. The message concluded with the information that the Lord had two further messages, one good and one bad. Which would he hear first? The good news, said Moses. The Egyptians would be wiped, he was told. They would be plagued by floods and locusts and death. The Israelites would flee and the waters of the Dead Sea would open to them and close to the pursuing forces. That was good. And the bad? Moses must first prepare an environmental impact study on the entire area!

They were black

I have a clipping from the London *Times* left for me by Colin Nicholson. Philip Howard takes to task a decision by the British Association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen whereby the term "nignog" was considered to be racist and derived from the opprobrious term, "nigger". Those who did not agree with the decision expressed dismay that a word long used to mean a foolish fellow should be connected with a racist term. Howard cited an Indian army major who habitually used the word to charge someone with being foolish, a nitwit. Oddly, I would have to take issue with both Howard, who wrote it, and Nicholson, who supports it. I have a half-memory of one of the cheaper varieties of comics circulating in England in the early to middle 20's. I am sure that one of the "strips" described some character and his cheery "Nignogs", who were all black. I can almost see the sketches today. But alas! Not quite.

Four were Catholic

I was talking to John Turner the other day and afterwards I reflected that the last four prime ministers have been adherents of the Roman Catholic church, and only one was francophone. They were, of course, Brian Mulroney, John Turner, Pierre Trudeau and Joe Clark. If you split statistical hairs, it might be argued that the last five were in this category, but Trudeau's regime was split. It means absolutely nothing, but it's a pleasant change to produce trivia instead of playing it.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1984

The death of community planning

A sick and ailing community planning process collapsed and died last week when its ministerial mentor, Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Ritchie, was in the process of dismembering it.

The minister came to the meeting of the Islands Trust council on Friday and announced the close of community planning in the province.

The announcement was a shock to the trustees of the Islands Trust who had been under the misapprehension that planning was their pigeon.

The minister did not only kill off planning as the province has known it in the past. He buried it.

As far as the communities are concerned, planning will be the decision as to whether a property shall be zoned for residential use or for commercial purposes. All other decisions will be made in the minister's office.

The British Columbia government has been pecking at planning for several years. When the Spetifore lands were the number one news story in the province, the beginning of the end of planning was in sight. The government wanted one zoning and the community wanted another. The dismantling of planning processes went into high gear.

There have been a number of moves on the part of the government towards the elimination of local input into planning. The most notable was the Land Use Act brought in by then municipal affairs minister Bill Vander Zalm. The decision making was neatly wrapped up in readiness for its transfer to the minister's office. Unfortunately for the government's plan, the elimination of the Islands Trust was wrapped up in the same package and the outcry against that move focussed too much attention on the new bill. Out went two bills: the land use bill and Bill Vander Zalm. The land use bill never came back and Vander Zalm went to a quiet portfolio, education.

Planning could be prodded out of existence by two methods. It could be legislated out of the community or it could be regulated into the government offices. Legislation had failed. Regulation has won.

While local communities will be empowered to make the decisions on the commercial zoning of land, the minister will exercise the right to make decisions on other aspects of planning. The dollar is in the driver's seat. No zoning will be acceptable if it threatens the dollar value of land. Planning will, in future, be the vehicle on which land values will be carried triumphantly through the community.

Where the public interest demands that special zoning be imposed on property the community must reimburse the owner of the property for any losses suffered.

Some of the new planning patterns drawn on Friday by Ritchie are already covered by the Municipal Act. Other aspects, including reimbursement, are not.

Public hearings have little value. The minister will only listen to the preference of the hearing if it is in accord with the preference of the property owner.

Most sweeping of all the minister's statements referred to the concept of protecting and preserving the islands. The islands are not special to the minister and his government. They are only of significance to the people who live there. He drew a pattern between the islands and Terrace and explained that they will be considered in the same dimensions.

There has been no debate, no discussion, no community input into the New Order. It is planning by unilateral, ministerial decision. The community will be required only to place its neck on the community planning block and the minister will swing the axe.

There may well be room for many changes in planning procedures, but unilateral decisions are not the answer.

The government has been pressing for a return to the pre-planning days of a few decades ago. The minister has set us back to pre-Roman times, when the only planning known was by the sword.



Letters to the Editor

Ganges too prosperous

Sir,

The anonymous advertiser who is beating the drums in your paper for the sewer is wasting his time. He cries, "Don't stall it! Install it! Ganges could prosper! Watch our village become a beautiful, vital business community with the installation of the Ganges sewer."

Doesn't he realize that his message is counterproductive? Our village is a disorganized, sorry mess. It is already too prosperous, too full of cars and shops. It is often hard to get into and just as hard to get out. Traffic on access roads is dangerous to navigate through and if you park your car it is liable to be dented. If you walk on the mall on a dark, rainy night you might slip off the curb—the yellow line is faded—and wind up in the hospital, as my wife did.

The mall has too much traffic for its size. There are no lights at night.

What do you mean, make Ganges into a beautiful village? How can you turn an ugly duckling into a swan? Many people on the island don't want it to grow. It would only be uglier and spill over into nice residential areas. By the way, I never noticed that Ganges stinks, and I've lived here for years. Maybe you have a superfine nostril beyond that of most of us.

Instead of a community sewer I offer a simple plan: Let the business group that owns nearly the entire core area put in a sewer for its clients at its own expense. The hospital can get funds from the Ministry of Health to build its own sewer and the schools can be provided with a sewer by the Ministry of Education, a proper use of its money.

This would take care of the major users of the proposed sewer and the rest could take care of themselves as they are now doing.

Mr. Anonymous, who ever you are, I would advise you to keep calm, hold your horses, and waste no more money on silly ads. They only create more opponents of the community sewer. Matters will take their course. Every day it becomes

more improbable that your sewer will ever be built, and the odds against it are rising, or so my bookmakers tell me.

ANTHONY NETBOY,
Ganges.

November 26, 1984.

Comments applauded

Sir,

I applaud, most vigorously, the comments by Y. L. Toynbee (*Driftwood*, November 28). A few weeks ago, while in a local store, I was shocked and dismayed to hear one of the more vocal proponents of the Salt Spring Peace Group state emphatically, "I think everyone should be forced to sign the Peace Petition." Peace is not just the antithesis of war—to quote from a study prepared for the Commission for International Justice and Peace (U.K.)

"Peace is the consequence of the reign of justice within, and between, nations. It is that state of harmony which exists when the citizens of a nation, living under a just rule of law and being under no threat of external aggression, have the just interests of all other people at heart."

SHEILA BLAND,
R. R. 2, Ganges.
December 2, 1984.

Sounds of Christmas

Sir,

Well, it's almost time for the Salt Spring Singers' Christmas concert. It will be this Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 and 7:30. Ganges United Church will ring with the sounds of Christmas as the ladies of this well known and well liked group perform their Christmas magic.

To be part of the audience is to be swept away by sleigh bells on a snowy evening; or, perhaps to dream of sugar plums with the children of Clement Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. You may find yourself carried back in

time to Bethlehem as the ladies sing *The Jesus Gift*.

You will discover, if you haven't already, the musical genius of Handel as they sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* joined by the rich voices of some very talented Salt Spring men.

The season is upon us; the Singers are ready, all they need is you—please come and join in. Enjoy the Christmas Spirit.

To help with the cost of music, a paper donation will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Merry Christmas to one and all from the members of the Salt Spring Singers.

ANNE ANSELL,
Ganges.
December 1984.

Supportive publicity

Sir,

The members of the various guilds and the organizers who participated in the recent pre-Christmas craft sale held in Mahon Hall November 16, 17 and 18 wish to thank you and your staff for the supportive publicity you gave to the sale prior to its opening—it contributed in great measure to the success of the sale.

Again, thank you very much for your support.

ANN LEIGH-SPENCER,
Publicity Chairman.
December 3, 1984.

Pity to lose good members

Sir,

Salt Spring Island has the only Parks and Rec Commission in the district where there are more candidates than positions. Some commissions even have to phone around to find enough members to fulfil the legal requirements.

Thus far, we have chosen from among our many candidates by public vote. Now this public vote has been temporarily eliminated.

In order to be practical and effective, we must work as well as we

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Bill Webster

The sun beams on the Gulf Islands although the rime stays where the sun doesn't shine.

Twice this winter we have suffered the slings of outrageous snow but the liquid sunshine has not deluged us as is usually the case. Black ice on the highways and white frost on the golf course have become standard sights to go along with such other scenic beauty as Mount Maxwell and the plume from the Crofton mill.

At such times as these, when the chill mist rises from the water each early morn, we can contemplate the fortune bestowed on the Gulf Isles.

Christmas and its season bring out in the open the many ways residents hereabouts offer care and comfort for each other.

During most of the year, such acts all too often go unnoticed.

We of the islands often engage in fierce and protracted discussions of various aspects of life on the rocks. But at the same time, the antagonists become partners when the needs of others become known.

A recent visitor to the isles commented upon the notoriety with which we of the rocks are known elsewhere. Said the visitor, in a sarcastic tone, "you people can't even dispose of sewage properly."

That one point of contention, which the outside world sees as a problem not only on Salt Spring but in Stuart Channel, Magic Lakes on Pender, Miners Bay on Mayne and other places on the rocks, tends to keep people from moving here although many would, the visitor claimed.

Such arguments, of course, serve a useful purpose here.

Other places may have such institutions as the Canucks, or the Blue Jays or heavy snowfalls to keep residents amused.

As is the case in most aspects of life, rock-sitters tend to do things slightly differently.

Check around. Count the number of service clubs,

community associations and other such groups which grace the Gulf Isles.

Then count again. Add up the numbers of people who get involved in such groups.

The auxiliary of Lady Minto and Greenwoods is a case in point. The good ladies go about their business of gathering money to help the seniors and the hospital with a minimum of fuss and bother.

They volunteer as sales staff in the Thrift Shop in Mouat's Mall and their main complaint comes from the insistence of a typewriter who would like to profile the activities of the group. To no avail.

Which seems to be the case with so many groups on the islands. They carry out the tasks of raising money to help others but don't want the fact known too very far and wide.

A conspiracy of silence surrounds the efforts of so many groups.

But at this time of year, that silent wall tends to show cracks. Unwilling cracks, to be sure.

The list of groups goes on and on. Membership of the groups is composed of those who on certain political issues do not talk with each other. But the membership of those groups bears a common trait.

The trait, when the conspiracy of silence is removed, shows a common concern for the rocks and the sitters.

At this time of year the theme of life on the rocks is one of people helping people. Which in any language defines community rather well.

The help extends to lonely senior citizens. It goes out to those who can't afford a Christmas dinner. It goes out to those who merely need someone to take an interest in a personal problem.

We of the rocks possess a great gift.

And that's the bottom line of life here.

Salt Spring food bank helps 15-20 people a week — co-ordinator

The food bank at the Salt Spring Community Society fills a need in the community and has been well used this year, says co-ordinator Jo Logan.

She said the food bank offers emergency supplies to about 15 or 20 people per week.

"There are some people on this island who are destitute," she added.

And, she said, the food bank needs help to help others. "We haven't been able to keep it stocked," she said.

In addition to food, the service requires another freezer to help keep up with the demand.

What the people at the food bank need are items such as canned goods, macaroni, powdered milk and juices of various kinds, particularly those with a long shelf life. Toilet paper, soap and money would also be accepted.

But, Logan said, they can't accept home canning and preserving.

The food bank began about two years ago, she said. At that time she became concerned about publicity given to food banks in other communities and decided to check around Salt Spring to see if one was needed here.

She found that people were going off-island to food banks elsewhere and so she and Rev. Al Skinner of the Ganges United Church began to put together a food bank for the island.

Those in need have only to contact the Community Society. There is no stringent check on circumstances.

"Obviously we go by instinct," Logan said. "We don't judge but we don't allow people to abuse the service."

The emergency supply of food handed out is "just enough to get by on," said Logan. And the applicants can take advantage of an offer of advice on nutrition as well as budgeting.

At this time of year, the organizers of the food bank begin to think about Christmas hampers.

Compiling lists of needy families and delivering the Christmas hampers is where the food bank began, said Logan. That was three years ago. Out of that effort, sufficient food remained to get the

food bank going.

"It wasn't enough just to feed people for Christmas," she said. "They are just as hungry in February as they are in December."

There are many volunteers involved in the Christmas hamper campaign. Betty Ball, for instance, offers advice on what to include in each hamper to make a well balanced meal.

Last year, the General Store in Ganges arranged for the purchase of gifts for children and wrapped each gift, offering the Community Society a substantial discount.

A member of the society made and donated Christmas puddings to the effort.

Names of recipients come in from various channels. The ministry of human resources submits names. Some people ask for help while neighbours and friends on occasion ask for those who are hesitant.

In those cases, Logan said, she checks discreetly because some people don't want charity.

People in need of a Christmas hamper should contact the Community Society or Skinner at the United Church as soon as

possible, she said.

Last year, the group began to put together 50 hampers but found out that they needed many more. So this year they plan to begin filling 60 hampers.

Logan keeps the list of recipients to herself. She needs to know how many people make up each family as well as the ages and sex of each child. The gifts for the children are purchased on that basis.

The volunteers load the hampers, but no one other than Logan knows who the hampers are for. She also delivers them herself.

Any of the food left over goes into the food bank for use when need still exists after the Christmas season ends.

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More Letters to the Editor

From Page 4

can within the system which now exists. It would be a pity if the commission were to lose good potential members due to this suspension of the democratic process.

Candidates should be able to declare their interest in serving on the commission, without feeling that by so doing they are condoning the present technically illegal one-man appointment procedure.

D. W. EVANISHEN,
Ganges.
November 23, 1984.

Unified success

Sir,
On behalf of the Gulf Islands' Teacher-Librarians' Association I would like to thank you for helping us promote Canadian Children's Book Week. I would also like to thank Mouat's Trading Company and Volume II Book Store for

providing us with books and window space for our display.

The enthusiasm of our students and support of our community helped make the week a unified success in all of our Salt Spring schools.

WILLIAM S. UNDERWOOD,
Teacher-Librarian,
Gulf Islands' Secondary School,
December 1984.

Naive belief

Sir,
In response to Peter Pentz' letter in the November 14 issue, perhaps I can shed some light on the reluctance of many of us to enthusiastically join the Peace movement.

Mr. Pentz' letter states that the immediate objective of the Peace movement is the removal of all nuclear arms and that removal of conventional defensive and offensive weaponry is not necessarily an immediate objective. This is the first time I have read anything in support of the Peace

movement that suggests its proponents could be satisfied with just the removal of the nuclear arsenals. Most of us, appreciating true human nature, do not relish the idea of defenselessly trusting that we would not be quickly overrun by our neighbours. The feeling of many of us is that yes, we would like to see the arms race stopped. But being realistic, we feel that as long as the other guy has a weapon (any weapon!) we better have one too.

The main reason, however, is the naive belief of most Peace groups that the Western nations are the bad guys and that the East block are merely following suit. (Mr. Pentz did state that Russia was only "foolishly imitating the U.S., France and Britain".) They seem to think that if we would only get rid of our nuclear arsenal, the Eastern block would do the same. Perhaps the people of Afghanistan, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc., etc., etc., could shed some light on that?

CAROL SIMPSON,
Box 962,
Ganges.
November 25, 1984.

Public's co-operation important in crime investigation

Successful investigation of crime involves many factors of police activity, not the least of which is information from the public, says Sergeant Mitch Hanks of Ganges RCMP.

The six-man detachment at Salt Spring used such information and other techniques to solve the recent series of breaking and entry of businesses on the island.

The officers compiled a list of the incidents noting time, day of the week and the dates as well as method of entry. The examined the list in an effort to spot patterns.

"People are creatures of habit," said Hanks.

He explained that the culprits often try to avoid repeating the same method but "something always shows up," he said.

In addition to public co-operation, the police have access to the crime detection laboratory in Vancouver. At the scene of a crime, they gather such things as fingerprints, hair, samples of fibres, and other items for analysis. When the culprit wears gloves, the exercise can prove futile, as the cloth pattern of the gloves can be matched to imprints at the scene by the technicians at the crime lab.

Hanks gave two examples of citizen co-operation.

When *Driftwood* was entered one evening recently, the culprit took the safe from the office and was wheeling it down the road. A citizen noticed the event and called police immediately.

Within minutes an officer arrived and the culprit abandoned the safe and hid in the brush.

Hanks said that although the thief was not arrested, the action of the citizen accomplished two things. The police were able to piece together a description of the individual as well as recover the safe.

Hanks gave another example of citizen efforts although it was less successful than the first.

Part of the routine activity of the detachment members, Hanks said, involves what he termed "non-visible patrols".

An officer, dressed in civilian clothes, will walk about the village or other areas of the island. The idea is to be inconspicuous in an effort to watch for criminal activity.

On this occasion, the officer had been standing near an office building in Ganges when a resident noticed him. The resident ordered his dog to attack but the dog was less than enthusiastic about the task and the officer was able to slip around

the corner of the building.

From that vantage point, the officer watched as the resident drove up and down the street several times. The citizen notified police about the incident but he did it the following day.

If the officer had been a criminal

and if the citizen had notified police immediately, there could have been an arrest, said Hanks.

Anyone who sees or hears anything suspicious should get in touch with police as soon as possible, Hanks stressed.

"Sometimes a piece of

information might seem very insignificant, but it could prove vital to the police."

Anyone reporting anything suspicious need not worry about legal entanglements, he said. Such information can be reported anonymously.

Bus gets to Vancouver at 11 am

There are several ways for Gulf Islands foot passengers to get to Vancouver from the Tsawwassen ferry terminal, an official of B. C. Ferries points out.

Peg Buchanan of the communications department sent some bus schedules to *Driftwood* to illustrate the point.

The ferry *Queen of Tsawwassen* arrives from the Gulf Islands at the mainland terminal at approximately 9:10 each morning. A bus, 640 Valley-to-Sea, leaves Tsawwassen at 9:57 am and travels to the Ladner exchange.

At that point, the traveller can change buses to the 601 South Delta, which makes the run into Vancouver to Pender Avenue. The bus arrives in Vancouver at approximately 10:57 am.

To return to the Gulf Islands, the traveller must catch a city bus which

leaves the Melville Connector at 5:35 pm. The bus goes to the Ladner exchange where a transfer to the Tsawwassen-bound bus occurs. That bus gets to the ferry terminal at 6:40 pm. The traveller has a 40-minute wait for the ferry which leaves at 7:20 pm.

Information about bus connections from Tsawwassen can be obtained by phoning the Vancouver Regional Transit System at 324-3211.

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Oh, Christmas tree

Decorating the Southey Point Christmas tree has become an annual event for neighbours at the north end of Salt Spring Island. The tree stands at the corner of Southey Point Road and Sunset Drive and is aglow with a collection of

handmade ornaments. Dozens of people gathered on Sunday afternoon to take part in the fun and then enjoyed the hospitality at the home of Marguerite and Pat Lee for some homemade eggnog.

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Catch limit

The federal department of fisheries and oceans has placed a catch limit on chinook in Gulf Island waters.

The daily catch limit has been reduced to two chinook and the possession limit is reduced to four. The restriction took effect December 1 and runs until March 13, 1985.

The area covers the Strait of Georgia south from Campbell River to Victoria.

The chinook limit had been four per day with a possession limit of eight.

Also announced by the fisheries officials is a closed season on commercial and sport harvesting of

lingcod in the same area.

The closure is in effect until April 15, 1985. The restriction began November 14.

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Who cleans off the beaches?

Long standing question in the islands has reached the Capital Regional Board. Who removes animal carcasses from the beach?

Islanders have asked the question for decades. Now the medical officer of health is asking the same question. But Dr. Brian Allen is going one step further. He proposes

that the responsibility rest with the regional district.

Directors have approved a recommendation from the community health committee that a letter be sent to the provincial government asking for a firm statement as to the responsibility.

Directors were told that the question arose from reports of sea

lions suffering from leptospirosis. It is a disease which may be transmitted to humans and it has already been found in Oregon and California, reported the health officer.

Nobody wants to cart away the carcasses. Both senior governments have insisted the responsibility lies with local government.

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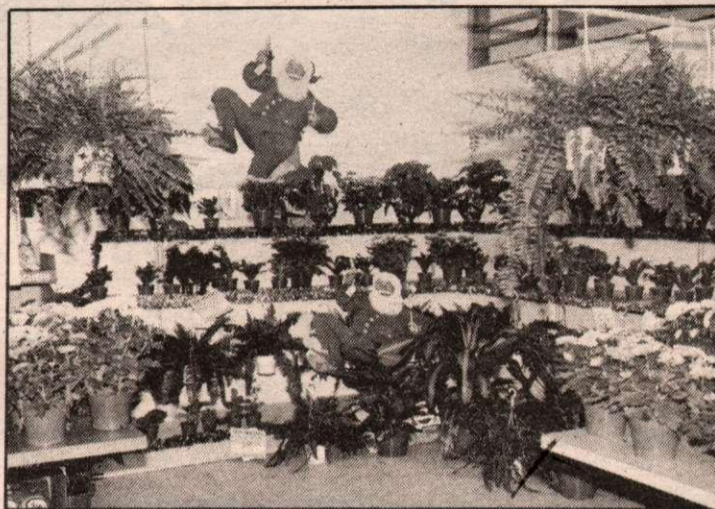
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	63¢/100 g

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ROWNTREE BULK	2⁹⁹ lb.
Smarties	66¢ 100 g

HOSTESS	200 g box
Potato Chips	1²⁹ ea.

BULK MINI	1⁴⁹ lb.
Pretzels	33¢ 100 g

GANGES BIN AND BARREL

UPPER GANGES MALL

Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm

Prices in effect to Dec. 31/84

Driftwood photo by Bill Webster



"We're all sacked," cries John Lomas, centre. The Salt Spring Players will put on an evening of fun and frolic December 13 to 15 and

again December 20 to 22. Also part of the evening of comedy are Ron Dunbar, left, and Sid Filkow, right. By the end of each performance, theatre-goers will see nine members of the Players involved in a series of comedy skits and blackouts.

Players in rehearsal

An entertaining evening of laughter, giggles and guffaws is promised by Alan Wyatt, director of the Salt Spring Players' Christmas production, now in rehearsal.

Entitled *Stuff and Nonsense*, the revue has been devised by Wyatt and is a collection of skits, sketches and monologues taken from various shows and includes material by the comedy duo of Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, the Two Ronnies, other well known writers and comedians

and some local talent.

The cast, who are having trouble keeping straight faces during rehearsals, are Wyatt, Sidney Filkow, Brien Foerster, Susan Wyatt, Ron Dunbar, Sharada Filkow, Bill Webster, John Lomas and Stacey Tatum.

Stuff and Nonsense will run Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 13-15 and Dec. 20-22, at 8 pm nightly in Mahon Hall. Tickets are available at *et cetera*.

Theme is impaired driving

This week is Safe Driving Week across Canada.

Theme of the week, which runs from December 1 to December 7, is *Impaired Driving: The Social Dilemma*. The theme reflects current reality, said a police spokesman, and will hopefully convince society to discontinue tolerance of the drinking driver.

At the end of the week, the annual Christmas-New Year's Counter-Attack program gets under way. This program is the third of the year

and will continue from December 8 until January 3.

The program will again focus on the drinking driver and seatbelt enforcement.

A police spokesman reminds motorists that RCMP will be maintaining a high profile for the remainder of the month at selected hours and locations.

The BATmobile checked drivers on Salt Spring last weekend. The visit's success has prompted Ganges RCMP to request its return.

Vehicle recovered

The 1974 Austin wasn't where it should have been.

The vehicle was in the parking lot at Gulf Islands Secondary School at 7 pm on November 29, Steve Wawryk told RCMP. But when he returned at 9 pm, the car was gone.

RCMP recovered the vehicle on Beaver Point Road. There was no damage to the auto, RCMP spokesman said.

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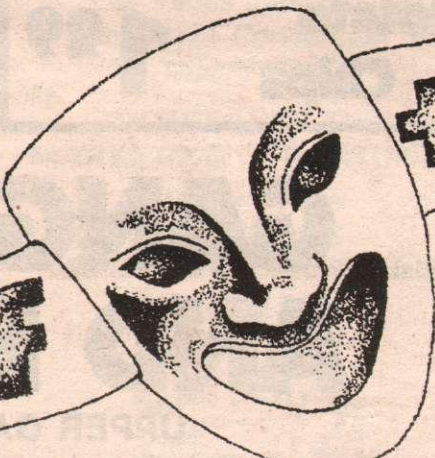
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 Adults \$5.00
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Salt Spring writer does rewrite of *Pied Piper*

The *Pied Piper* is luring children of all ages to the Carousel Theatre on Granville Island in Vancouver compliments of Salt Spring resident Bruce Ruddell.

He has written the book, the music and the lyrics for the production which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the theatre. Artistic director Elizabeth Ball commissioned the work last January and Ruddell has been toiling at the creation since.

The *Pied Piper* runs each day, Monday through Saturday, until December 29.

The play had been the first

production of the theatre group and Ball was interested in recreating it for the anniversary. But when she and Ruddell looked at the script of the original production, they found it to be dated.

And so he began a new play from scratch.

Ruddell has written music for other productions but this was his first effort at an entire play.

He is a native of London, Ontario, but has spent many years in Vancouver. He and his wife Barbara moved to Mayne Island several years ago but found it difficult because he was forced to

commute back and forth to Vancouver.

They returned to the mainland city and finally managed the move the Salt Spring a year and a half ago.

"It's a compromise," he said of the home on the island and the work in the city.

They have two daughters, Juno, 4, and Nichola, 7.

When Ruddell had finished the first draft of the play, it went to the New Play Centre for a workshop. He came away from that workshop armed with criticisms, notes and ideas. He began to incorporate them into a finished product.

By the fourth draft, the play was ready for rehearsal.

Ruddell has changed the story. At the end of the first act, the *Pied Piper* leads the children away. But they return for the second act and the play has a happy ending, he said.

Ruddell looks on the *Pied Piper* as not being a benevolent character. The Piper stole the "innocence" of the town, he explained.

"He's a heavy, heavy guy."

He has worked with theatre companies which have produced original work, he said, so he felt comfortable with his efforts.

"It was fun. I've never written a whole play before."

The play won't be taken on the road. The structure is complicated, he explained. At one point there are

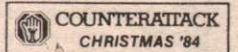
400 rats scurrying around the stage. With such technical difficulties, the group has decided to stay with the play in Vancouver.

Another aspect which Ruddell enjoys is that there are few other theatrical events which would attract both children and adults. "I'd like to do another one."



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Richards heads chamber

New president of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce is *Driftwood* publisher Tony Richards, who was named to the position by acclamation at the annual meeting last Wednesday.

Other officers elected were Ganges lawyer Jonathan Oldroyd, vice-president, and Maurice Gerwing, treasurer. The meeting elected four new directors, Tish Loisel of the Last Resort, Beth McDonald of Ewart Gallery, Geoff Swift of Windsor Plywood and Dave Fewings of Eunola Ice Cream.

Directors with a year remaining in their terms are Arvid Chalmers of Pemberton Holmes, John Lomas of

Gulfstream Supply, Cedric Barker of Barker Photographic and Lee McColl of McColl's Shell Service.

Following the elections the new president told the meeting he wanted to see about four active committees working in various areas. They would include advertising and promotion; membership, fund-raising and finance; tourist information centre and member services; and beautification.

Committees will be named at the first directors' meeting today (Wednesday) at the Harbour House Hotel.

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SALT SPRING LIONS CHRISTMAS

HAM & TURKEY BINGO FRIDAY

Friday, Dec. 7 — 8 pm — Activity Centre

Tickets at the door.
\$3 admission includes 2 cards; extra cards 25¢ ea.

● BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! ● DOOR PRIZE! ● FUN FOR ALL!

Chairman Shirley Wilde steps down from regional board

She will be back. Last report from the chairman of the Capital Regional Board on Wednesday last week concluded with that assurance. The region has not heard the last of Shirley Wilde, regional director from the electoral area of Metchosin, who lost her seat with the incorporation of Metchosin as a district municipality.

Allan Peterson, director from the municipality of Saanich and a lawyer with experience of Salt Spring Island, expressed the appreciation of the board for Shirley Wilde's contribution.

It was a turbulent year, said Peterson, but it was a successful year. Shirley Wilde gave it "her all". He expressed the belief that the board will miss the devotion which the retiring chairman has given the job.

His comments were greeted with applause.

Wilde ran for the office of mayor of the new municipality and lost the two-way contest.

CALCULATED RISK

"I took a calculated risk in running for the mayoralty seat on the count of the new district of Metchosin and I lost," said the chairman.

She thanked her fellow directors for having elected her to office a year ago. She named two directors whose contribution has been

significant during her term of office.

The chairman thanked Peterson for his extra time and work to make the new executive committee a good one. Peterson is the chairman of that committee. She paid special tribute to Peterson and to Howard Sturrock, from whom she took the chair. Sturrock contributed substantially to some special tasks, said Wilde.

During her year in office the board has lost the services of its long-time executive director, Dennis Young. The office is now held by Bill Jordan.

"He is an excellent executive director," said the chairman, "and I hope that all the politicians and staff will continue to support him in the positive manner that I have seen so

far."

WILL RISE AGAIN

The chairman concluded with the assurance that her star will rise again.

"I haven't reached the end of my career. And I am certainly not the kind of person who fades away. All good fighters lose a fight or two along the way and I will be heard from again."

Elected from Metchosin three years ago, Wilde was serving as vice-chairman 18 months ago when the chairman, Howard Sturrock, was incapacitated by sickness. He has since recovered. He stepped down and Wilde assumed the chair. A year ago she was confirmed in that office and has served as chairman during the current year.

Some irate calls over region's smoking bylaw

Nearly 6,000 no smoking signs have been picked up by businesses and government offices in the Capital Regional District in conjunction with the smoking control bylaw which went into effect a month ago.

The intent of the bylaw is to control the public places where people may smoke. It prohibits smoking in retail stores, service counters in banks and government offices, elevators and inside stairways in all buildings, and most areas of hospitals and health clinics. Large reception areas may be sectioned to include a smoking area.

Restaurants are given a choice of providing "smoking", "non-smoking", or a combination of smoking and non-smoking seating. A sign must be posted near the entrance to the restaurant indicating the type of seating available.

Officials of the Community Health Services are happy with the response to the bylaw but say it has not been without some irate callers from both sides. Complaints from

non-smokers suggest the bylaw doesn't go far enough and that prosecution under the bylaw is a difficult and cumbersome process. Smokers have been less vocal, but as one health official indicated, "It is probably because smokers are now a minority group and many of them realize the dangers inherent in smoking and are aware of the irritation it can cause others."

At the present time businesses are able to obtain up to 10 free signs from the health offices in the regional district. Department officials warn that in the new year there will be a nominal charge for the signs in order to cover the printing costs.

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Nursing service extended

The home nursing care service already based on Salt Spring Island is to be extended to Pender Island.

Directors of the Capital Regional District have approved the extension on the grounds that there are many residents over the age of 80 on the Penders and the service is justified.

Home nursing services, directors were told by the health committee, would not prevent admission of the

elderly people into health facilities in the region, but the services would enable such residents to remain in their own homes for extended periods.

The service on the Penders will be by contract and it will be on a trial basis for six months. There will be such a service for five hours a week, or 20 hours each month.

A staff report will be heard by the board within five months.

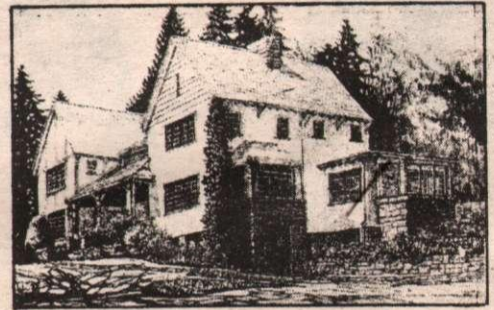
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TRIVIAL PURSUIT
Tuesday night

Grants near \$4,000 get green light

Grants-in-aid amounting to \$3,630 have been approved for the Outer Islands. The grants were made by Outer Islands regional director Vern Roddick and approved by the Capital Regional Board last week.

Included are the following allocations:

Saturna Community Club, \$238; Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove Water Committee, \$100; North Galiano Community Association, \$425; South Galiano Volunteer Fire Department, \$425; Galiano Rod and Gun Club, \$215; Mayne Island Improvement District, \$800; South Pender Island Property Owners Association, \$125; Trincomali Improvement District, \$200; and Magic Lakes Sewer and Water Commission, \$1,102.

One grant to community undertaking on Salt Spring Island was approved last week when director Hugh Borsman allocated \$231 to the Salt Spring Island Community Society in respect of an exercise program.

The grants are made by the regional director in the electoral area. They must be confirmed by the board before they are distributed.

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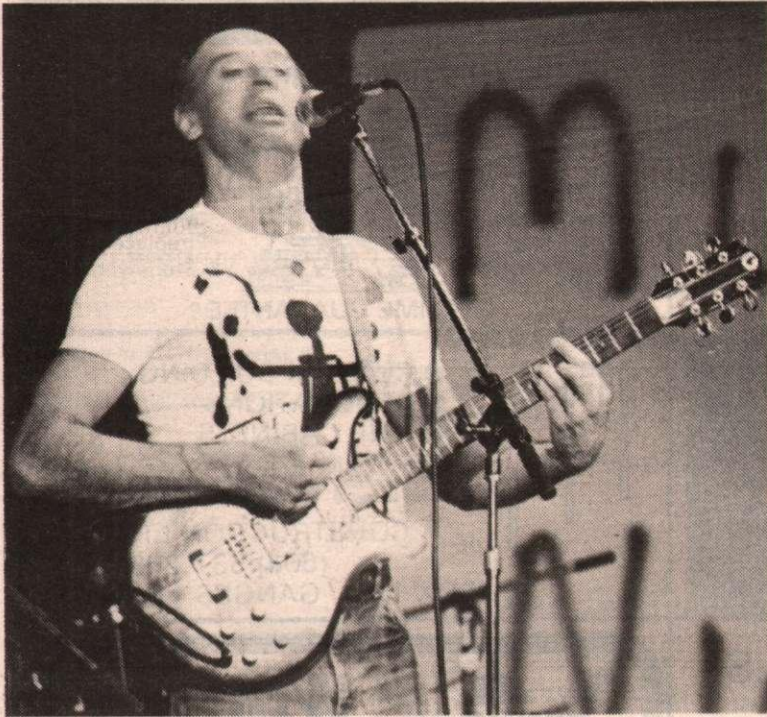
Friday, Dec. 7 — 6-10 pm

Saturday, Dec. 8 — 9 am-4 pm

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Nicaragua benefit 'a great evening'



The program at Friday night's Benefit for Nicaragua at Ganges brought together a rare mix of many of Salt Spring's top musicians for what organizer David Reid described as "a great evening."

Doug Manly, Keith MacHattie, Thomas Michaud, Oscar Riley and Susan Cogan provided acoustic sets with original material that Reid said was appropriate to the evening.

The audience heard an *a capella* set from April Curtis, Trish Nobile, Barb Slater, Janis Suess and Caroline Rhine and Frank (Straw) Prather got everyone up and dancing with his one-man band. David McVittie, Gary Quiring and Eric Booth finished the evening with rock'n'roll *a la* Police.

Video and audio tapes of the concert and dance will be available from Ganges Video Ranch.

Frank (Straw) Prather was one of a number of local musicians on hand to entertain at Friday's Benefit for Nicaragua. Photo by David Reid

The Bay Window

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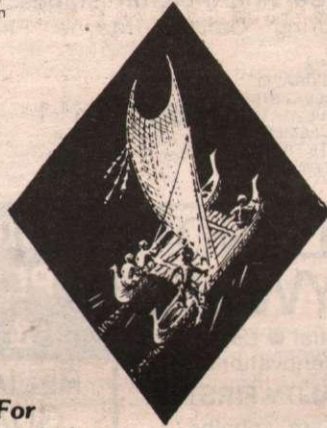
Hospital meetings will open to public

A change in policy by the board of management of Lady Minto Hospital will allow the public to attend board meetings beginning next month.

At a meeting of the board last week a motion to permit public attendance was passed unanimously. The meetings will be open to the public at a set time but those who wish to attend will have to inform the board at least six days in advance and advise what subject they wish to discuss.

The new policy is in effect now and will apply to the next board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 29.

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Relocation of oil tanks, new berths among plans

BY BILL WEBSTER

A goal of the new owners of the Gulf Oil bulk plant and Ganges Marina is to make the area more attractive for tourists.

Bard Brown and Art Beaumont took over the facilities last week and while they plan to be busy, previous owners Doug Foerster and Ian Fraser plan to take it easy for a while.

Eighth annual craft fair this week

The Salt Spring Community Society's eighth annual Christmas craft fair will be held at Mahon Hall Friday and Saturday.

Organizers expect about 35 stalls will be set up by craftspeople. Refreshments will be served both days.

A portion of the proceeds from the sales go to support the work of the community society.

Brown had been working in the parts department of a Langley diesel engine company and Beaumont was with a heavy equipment company in Victoria. The pair had met many years ago when their wives had been working as nurses at a Langley hospital.

Brown classifies himself as a "weekender" on Salt Spring. He owns a home at Walker Hook where he has spent time in weekend visits.

Beaumont has also spent time on the island. As children, he and some friends from Victoria would travel by bicycle to Stowe Lake to fish.

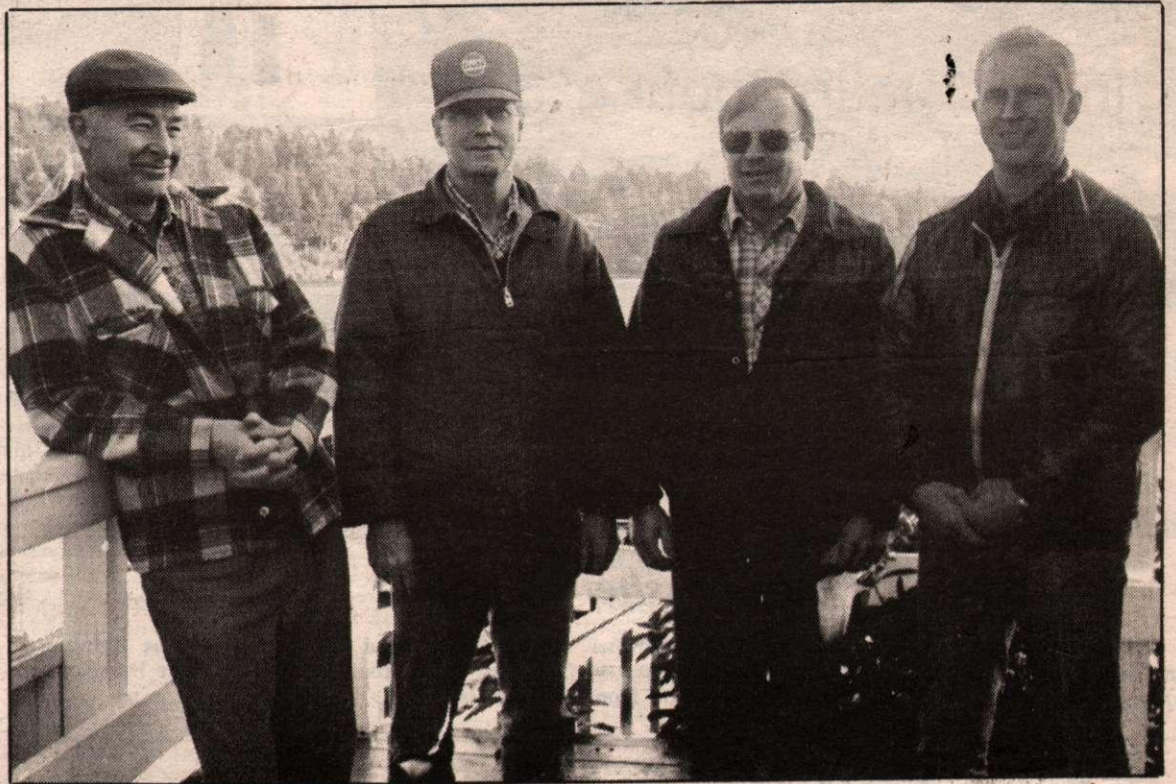
"We'd get home beat," he recalls, "but with a half dozen fish or so."

And now they bring "piles of enthusiasm" to their new tasks. They intend to put in hard work and long hours, each of the men agreed, to make both businesses work. But at the same time, they intend to enjoy themselves.

They had decided to become partners in some endeavour in the recreational field and when they heard about the bulk plant and the marina being on the market, they decided it was what they wanted.

Their plans for the marina include expanding the wharf space which at the moment covers about half the water lease area. They also want to install facilities for boaters to take showers and to do laundry.

They intend to supply year-round service, seven days each week, they said.



There are new owners of the Ganges Marina and Gulf Oil bulk plant. Previous owners Ian Fraser, left, and Doug Foerster, right, stand with new owners Art Beaumont, middle left, and Bard Brown.

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Loader destroyed by fire

Fire destroyed the log loader at the sawmill on Ganges Hill Saturday.

Volunteers of the Salt Spring Fire Department were called to the blaze shortly after 7 pm. The machine, owned by Hillbank Sawmill, was valued at approximately \$20,000.

Fire department officials are investigating the cause of the blaze.

"This has got such a great amount of potential," Beaumont said of the marina and the bulk plant.

The bulk plant will be open six days a week and the pair do not intend to charge a service fee for delivery of oil.

Beaumont admitted that their plans may be difficult to carry through, "but in the long run, it'll pay off," he said.

Brown and his wife Lynda have two children. Corey is 15 while Kelly

is 12. Beaumont and his wife Flo have two children also. Justin is the youngest at 8 while Jason is 10.

And Salt Spring was where the two families wanted to live and where the two men looked for something to do.

That attitude towards the island will be reflected in their approach to the two businesses.

A long-range goal is to make the bulk plant, with its large storage tanks visible from both the road and the harbour, "less of an eyesore,"

said Brown. They will relocate the plant away from the waterfront but the move will take time.

"This waterfront is a tourist attraction," Brown said. And tourism is the backbone of business for Ganges in the summer, he added.

The main thrust of their business, he said, will be trying to attract tourists.

"It's mind-boggling what Ganges can do if they'd just start working on it," he concluded.

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Driftwood photo by Tony Richards

Car crusher at work

Old automobiles were crushed and carted away from Salt Spring by the truck load recently. The mobile car crusher sat amid the wrecks and squeezed them flat. The crusher came from the mainland and did its task on the Rainbow Road property of Luke Harrison.

Pensioners' branches meet

The two Old-Age Pensioners' branches at Salt Spring Island held their annual meetings last month.

Cameron Leask was named president of the Fulford Old-Age Pensioners branch.

Election of officers, overseen by life member Mabel Clark, also saw Evelyn Lee named first vice-president; Elsa Drummond, correspondence secretary; and Nell Bushby, treasurer.

Directors are Ken Adthead, Walter Bridgen, Bessie Kilgour, Bob Scott and Quentin Wilson.

The branch meets on the third Tuesday of every month and holds a social on the first Tuesday.

The election of officers to branch 32 was conducted by the steward of the south island branch, Mr. E. Edwards. New officers are: president, Lydia Purser; second

vice-president, Lucy Moore; treasurer, Anne Rees. Also elected were three directors, Mel Carrico, David MacRoberts and Edie Gear.

The first vice-president, secretary and two directors remain in office for one more year.

The branch's social meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month and the business meetings on the fourth Thursday.

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Municipalities share concern for strata title procedures

Bare land strata title should not be considered an avenue for the relaxation of local government bylaws.

In October the Capital Regional Board wrote to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) urging the convention to consider provincial decrees overriding regional regulations on land use whereby the subdivision approving officer may override local planning bylaws.

Last week the board received confirmation of the support of the UBCM in its objections to recent changes in the strata title regulations, and a copy of the UBCM letter to the minister of municipal affairs, Bill Ritchie.

"In our consideration of this matter," wrote Saanich Mayor Mel Couvelier, president of the UBCM, "we have uncovered a basic truth related to providing certainty and preserving local autonomy that has not been addressed previously."

The prime purpose of the regulations should be for the registration of plans, wrote Couvelier. The regulations should not deal with varying density.

He cited parallel legislation, the Land Title Act, which deals solely with the approval and registration procedures.

NO PARALLEL THERE

"It does not provide for similar relaxation of local bylaws, nor should it."

Under fire was the new regulation which provides for an approving officer to accept bare land strata title subdivision with minimum parcel sizes below those set out in the local land use bylaw.

Couvelier asked of the minister why the certainty of local bylaws can be eroded and the autonomy of local government undermined by the regulation.

Like the Capital Regional Board and other municipal authorities, the UBCM is concerned that the

provincial government is able to override the wishes of local residents and make new subdivision regulations when the plans are registered.

Letter to the minister was dated October 9. There was no reply attached.

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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Author visits Ganges

Author Betty Keller visited Volume II bookstore in Mouat's Mall Saturday to promote her book *Black Wolf*, the biography of Ernest Thompson Seton, a naturalist and

conservationist. She was accompanied by actor Gordon Wilson who portrayed Seton and related his stories to the audience gathered in the mall.

Trustees to meet at Salt Spring

Islands Trust council will meet on Salt Spring Island in March.

It is the recently established practice of the Trust to hold its quarterly council meetings on member islands. The practice enables trustees to gain an insight into the nature and the problems of other islands as well as offering residents of those islands to learn at close hand the problems faced by the Trust and the people who face them, it is felt.

The March meeting, on the first Friday and Saturday of that month, will represent the third such meeting to be held on the member islands. Already visited are Hornby and the Penders.

Increase in shoplifting

Ganges detachment RCMP report an increase in the number of shoplifting incidents at Salt Spring businesses recently.

Sergeant Mitch Hanks said that while investigations of the incidents are under way, he was hesitant to release details.

He added that business owners were willing to proceed with prosecution of the shoplifting suspects. He also urged business people to report such incidents as soon as possible.

Brochure 'significant achievement'

The tourist brochure published by the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce was one of the major accomplishments of the chamber this year, outgoing president Dale Codd told the annual meeting last Wednesday.

Codd described the brochure, of which 25,000 copies were printed, as "a significant achievement." Less than 400 brochures are left.

It was another successful year for the tourist information centre, Codd reported, under the guidance of co-ordinator Marjorie Cuttell.

He concluded his report by recalling how little interest there was in the chamber two years ago. He said former president Bert Elford spent six months trying to convince him to take on the job of president. After he agreed to take it on, he had

a difficult time finding enough people interested in being directors. Codd noted that interest in the chamber has since revived.

Other reports included that of treasurer Moe Gerwing, who reported that the chamber's income totalled \$11,008 during the past

year. Expenses amounted to \$11,702.

Jonathan Oldroyd gave the meeting notice of motion to adopt a revised constitution at the next general meeting. Date of that meeting is tentatively set for mid-January.

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This Week in Recreation

SOCCER

Div. 2B: S.S. Wranglers vs Bays United, Sun., Dec. 9, 10 am, Victoria.

Div. 4B: S.S. Selects vs Cowichan, Sat., Dec. 8, 1 pm, Portlock Park.

Girls: S.S. Cosmos vs Duncan, Sun., Dec. 9, 12:00, Duncan.

Div. 5C: S.S. Sounders vs Peninsula, Sat., Dec. 9, 11:30 am, Ganges school.

Div. 6C: S.S. Strikers BYE

Women's: S.S. Sockeyes vs Cordova Bay Cougars, Sun., Dec. 9, 11 am, Victoria.

INTRA-ISLAND: Senior, Sat. 10 am: Kicks vs Leopards, Portlock #1; Fury vs Sharks, Portlock #2; Lazars vs Stingers, Portlock #3. **Junior, Sat. 9 am:** Eagles vs Mites, Portlock #1; Demons vs Wildcats, Portlock #2; Panthers vs Devils, Portlock #3. **Adult Soccer:** every Sunday, 2 pm, Ganges school.

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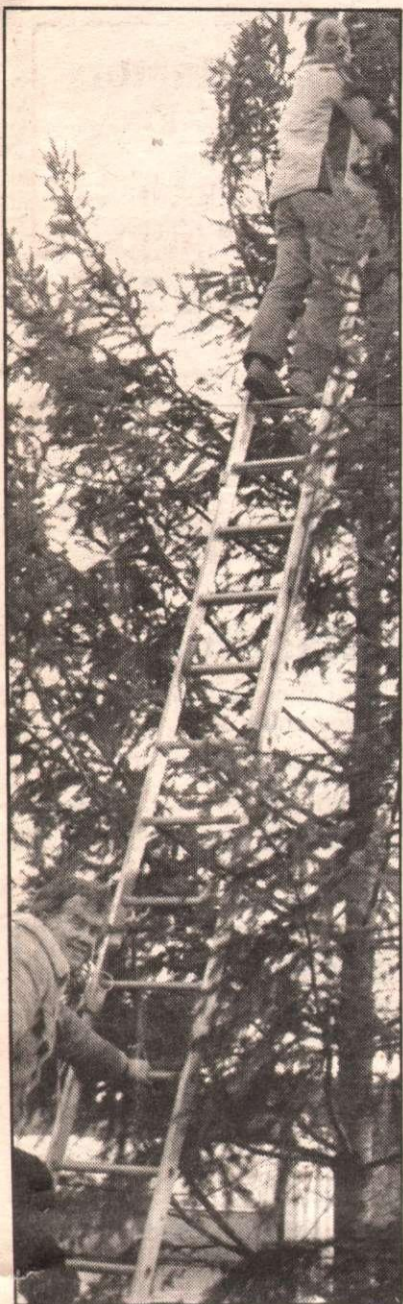
- VIOLETS
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Live Christmas Trees: Norway Spruce & Norfolk Pine. Come in and pick yours soon.

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Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Light-up Day in Ganges

There was lots to see and do in Ganges on Saturday as the Ganges merchants held their first annual Light-up Day. Above, Warren Garner holds ladder for Dave Mathews who strings lights on village Christmas tree. Top right, popular event was the hayride provided by Jack Hughes of Gulf Islands Water Taxi. With his team of Clydesdales and the help of Lin Beattie, dozens of people enjoyed a ride through Ganges. At far right, Santa visited Kanaka Place for breakfast and a visit with youngsters. Girls are Kathryn Fowles, right, and Kerry Fraser. Middle photo, young carol singers are, from left, Zoe Chalmers, Erica Rico and Stacey Parsons. Below, merchants named Bob Blundell "Mr. Ganges" for the occasion. He stands with Lois Codd of the General Store.



Driftwood photos by Alice Richards




Royal Canadian Legion Br. 92
GIANT GARAGE SALE
 Saturday, Dec. 15, 10-1
 at the Meaden property, across from Greenwoods.
 Tools, household goodies, etc. 49-2

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