

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR, NO. 4

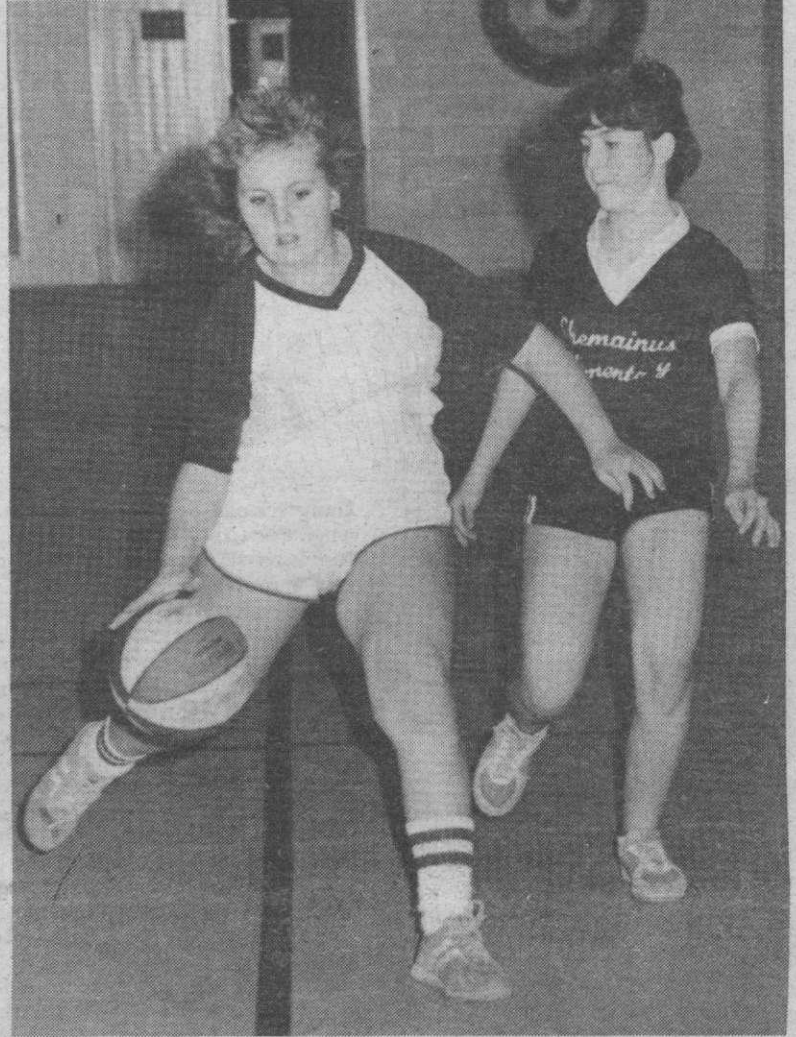
GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1984

35¢ per copy



Driftwood photo by Bill Webster



Driftwood photos by Alice Richards

## Maximum enrolment at Fernwood changed by 'clerical error'

The planned expansion of Fernwood School on Salt Spring hangs in the balance because of a "clerical error".

Mike Marshall, superintendent of schools, reported to the Gulf Islands School Board last week that a recent letter from the ministry of education noted the accepted capacity of the school was 150 full-time equivalent (fte) pupils.

The school board had been preparing for a two-room expansion at Fernwood on the basis of a previous ministry-set maximum enrolment of 130 fte pupils.

Marshall said the difference could be attributed to a "clerical error". He had phoned the ministry of education to find out what happened.

The enrolment at Fernwood currently stands at 152 fte pupils. The youngsters are crowded into five regular classrooms and a kindergarten room. The classrooms had been designed for a maximum of 25 pupils, said Marshall.

The kindergarten contains 30 young people who attend class in

morning and the remainder attending school in the afternoon.

and a grades 1-2 split class contains

24, with six in Grade 1 and 18 in Grade 2.

The Grades 3-4 split class has 27 pupils, 17 in Grade 3 and 10 in Grade 4.

A split class of Grades 4 and 5 contains 29 pupils with 17 in Grade 4 and 12 in Grade 5.

The Grades 5-6 split class contains 31 pupils and that class breaks down to nine in Grade 5 and 22 in Grade 6.

The school board had received permission from the ministry to

Turn to Page 28

## Tenders sought for new line

The pipe carrying water to Mouat Park in Ganges showed its age last year and will be replaced.

The ministry of lands, parks and housing has called for tenders to replace the 20-year-old line which last summer sprung a few leaks.

The task calls for a new line from the community water system to the faucets in the park. One faucet is

the other is in the service area.

The stand pipes and drains for the

The water is for the benefit of

## Girls' team hosts tourney

Girls' basketball team at Salt Spring Elementary School hosted a tournament last week and coach Tom Watson, top left, offers encouragement to the team. From left they are Joanne Hargreaves, Odette McCarthy, Marnie Shaw, Jessica Speed, Penny Spencer and

Jodie Harrison. At top right Heather Jones moves around a Chemainus player to help her team win the game. At right, Marnie Shaw takes a shot. The local team won two of their four games while the team from Ladysmith won the tournament.

## Contract agreement is close, says Marshall

Agreement on a contract for support workers of the Gulf Islands School District is close, says superintendent Mike Marshall.

He reported to the trustees of the Gulf Islands School Board last week on the efforts to draw up a contract for the approximately 40 members

of Local 78 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees

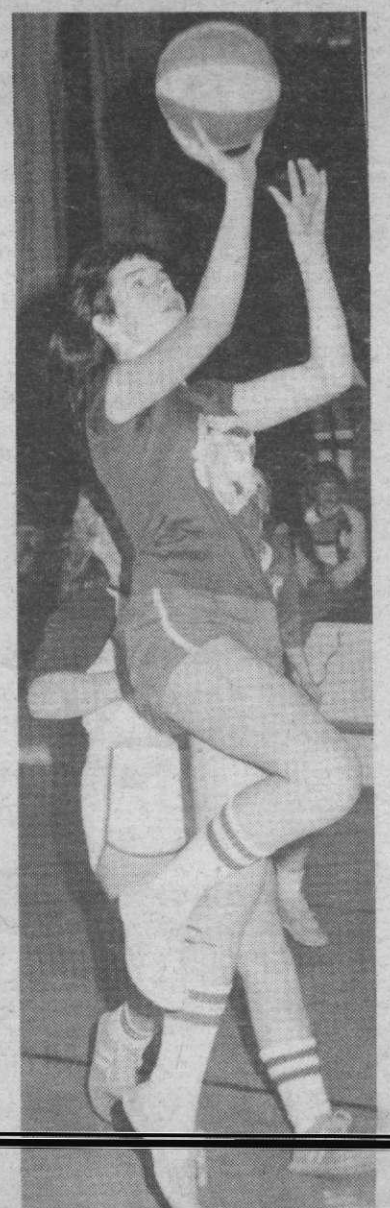
The union members have been working since January, 1983, without a contract. The two sides have spent that time talking about ways to implement an earlier agreement to bring salaries and working conditions for the Gulf Islands up to par with CUPE workers in the Saanich School District.

Marshall said the two sides are in agreement on all but a few items.

Among other things, the two sides are looking at the wording of ways to divide the duties of regular employees from temporary employees to avoid misunderstanding of the duties and pay structure for both.

Meetings to talk about the contract have been set for February 15, March 5 and 9.

Marshall said that the agreement could cover not only 1983 and 1984 but also 1985.



morning and the remainder attending school in the afternoon.

and a grades 1-2 split class contains

the other is in the service area.

The stand pipes and drains for the

The water is for the benefit of

put to tender for private contractors.

The tenders will be opened February 6.

**Bird count results tallied**

**16 new species are sighted**

The annual winter bird count held at Salt Spring Island last month recorded 24,823 individual birds and 112 species.

The count, held December 18, was undertaken by 145 residents, up 34 from last year.

The number of birds sighted was also up. It was almost twice as many as last year when 13,161 birds were counted. Species were up too, from 90 in 1982.

Co-ordinator Marguerite Pearce told a Trail and Nature Club meeting January 17 that a good portion of the island was covered in the count, as well as Prevost and Russell Islands. However, there were no reports this year from Musgrave Landing and Bold Bluff in Sansum Narrows.

Sixteen species never seen in a winter count here were recorded: a yellow-billed loon, eight snow geese, one osprey, one snipe, one sandpiper, one ruddy turnstone, 12 least auklet, five rhinoceros auklet, nine ancient murrelet, two pygmy owls, two yellow-shafted flickers, two red-breasted sapsuckers, one Anna's hummingbird, two Swainson's thrush, 11 white-winged cross-bills and 22

Savannah sparrows.

Some of the unusual species observed included eight brant, one Brewer's blackbird, six American goldfinch, two orange-crowned warblers, one kestrel and four shovelers.

Not seen for several years were blue-winged teal, pied-billed grebe, and red-throated loons. A Hutton's vireo was seen this year in the Beaver Point area while last year one was seen in the Beddis Road area.

Species down in number were robins, to 1,500 from 3,200 last year. There were fewer Barrow's goldeneyes and coots and only half the number of pigeons. Fewer owls were heard, fewer gulls noted and no surf birds were seen.

Most species, however, were well up over last year. Bald eagles were up by two at 78, although 99 were

seen in the 1981 count, and great blue herons doubled in number to 41.

Western grebe were up by more than 4,000 with 4,683 sighted. A large number were gathered in Booth Bay on the day of the count. The number of pine siskins was up by 2,000, total number of starlings, juncos and chickadees increased by 1,000, American widgeon by 500 and winter wrens were up to 325.

Mallards, red-breasted mergansers and California quail each showed an increase of 200, and hooded mergansers of 150. Ravens were up by 100 for a total of 270.

Although the bird count is unofficial, the results are published in the newsletter of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists and sent to the Provincial Museum.

The annual event is staged by the Trail and Nature Club.

**Trees to come down**

The seven fir trees lining Lower Ganges Road at Hereford Avenue will have to go when construction begins on the new credit union office on the property.

Tom Toynbee brought his development plans for the site to the advisory design panel recently and the members of the panel unanimously approved the removal of the trees but the replacement trees must meet their approval.

The plans for the property call for deciduous trees to be put in place of the fir trees when landscaping of the site begins.

Jonathan Yardley, chairman of the design panel, said, "The panel is and always has been concerned about trees and we are in this case."

He noted that the fir trees would probably die if left in place and the development went on around them. Deciduous trees would be hardier, he said, but the panel wants to know what variety would be put in place.

The property is being developed as a location for the credit union offices. The building would be constructed near the entrance to the Trading Co. parking lot with parking at the rear.

A septic field to service the building would be put in place near Hereford Avenue.

The layout with the building near the street and parking at the rear meets the standards set by the community plan, said Toynbee.

Dan Scoones, subdivision inspector for Salt Spring for the ministry of highways, said that in the public interest, the department considers it reasonable to have the trees taken out.

Only one of the fir trees is on the property. Two are on the highway

right-of-way and three are on the property line.

Toynbee said part of the plan calls for lowering the sidewalk along the property to street level and constructing a ramp to the building.

The building would be surrounded by a covered walkway, he said.

The traffic pattern for the area would have automobiles entering the parking area from Hereford Avenue. Exit would be through the food store parking lot.

The building is designed to specifications set by the credit union.

**School district budget increased by \$163,000**

An admission by the ministry of education that water separates the Gulf Islands has resulted in the addition of \$163,000 to the 1984 school district budget.

Superintendent of schools for the district, Mike Marshall, told school trustees last week that his efforts to convince ministry officials that water was different from land had paid off.

When the government announced its restraint program in July, provincial school districts were allotted certain sums to run the schools. Part of the new budget covered geographic adjustments which meant varying amounts of money depending on how far schools were from school board offices.

The Gulf Islands School District had originally been granted \$137,236 for that remoteness and dispersion factor. The amount was later reduced to zero because none of the island schools lies more than 30 kilometres from the school board

office on Salt Spring.

The adjustment as a restraint item "verged on devastation" for schools of the Outer Islands, said Marshall.

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**Closure is still sought**

The closing of Kanaka Road at the school complex in Ganges has not yet become a closed issue for the Gulf Islands School Board.

Ron McQuiggan, school trustee for Salt Spring, told the meeting of the board last week that he is continuing talks with the department of highways on the subject.

McQuiggan said the school board would like to see at least that portion of the road which separates the playing fields closed. He is not pushing to have the entire street, which runs from Church Road to Rainbow Road, shut down.

If the highways department agrees to the closure, the school bus depot would be moved up the road toward Church Road from its current location. The playing fields would be joined and the children would face less of a hazard to get from one field to the other.

The department of highways intends to close Kanaka Road sometime in the future when a bypass road is put through. The bypass would begin on Ganges Hill, close to the RCMP office, and cut through the edge of the village to cross Rainbow Road at the Hydro office. The road would continue along the edge of the playing field.

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### Drama class at work

Rehearsals are under way for a production by the senior drama class of Gulf Islands Secondary School. Presentation of *The*

*Cagebirds* will be offered at the high school February 2, with performances at 1:30 and 7:30 pm. Playing the lead is Janet Gosnell,

above at left, trying to attract the attention of Cathy Coe who has supporting role in the play.

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

## Society gets tax-exempt status

In a drive to recruit new members and to have current members renew their memberships, the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society is asking for continued support of its various programs to fight for the preservation of potable water sources on the island.

In a letter being sent to a number of residents, treasurer John Crofton points out that the society has recently been granted a tax-exempt status as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. Consequently, donations to the society may be claimed as an income tax deduction by the donor. Crofton points out that this applies only to donations and not to membership fees.

The membership fee is \$5 and is good for the calendar year of 1984. Any amount over that of the fee will be considered a donation and an official receipt bearing the tax-exempt registration number will be

issued to the donor.

In his letter Crofton states that there is a great need for strong support by island residents for the society because of the many issues confronting the preservation of potable water sources.

He said that in 1983 the society had 80 active members who were very supportive and "we hope to have an even larger number behind us this year."

Some of the issues which are receiving the society's attention are: protection of the Maxwell Lake watershed by urging the government to enact a land exchange with Texada Logging, which owns 50 acres of land in the watershed area; protecting St. Mary Lake from further development in its watershed and from further pollution; and the need to limit new development lot sizes in watershed areas to 20 acres. (An attempt to

have the lot size limited to 30 acres was turned down by the provincial government in spite of the strong support received from the Islands Trust and the public at large.)

There is also a need to be vigilant in monitoring possible threats to Cusheon and Weston lakes as potable water sources, the society feels.

Membership fees and donations may be sent to John Crofton, treasurer, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, Box 126, Ganges.

## Charged

Charges have been brought against John Dunn of Ganges as a result of a two-vehicle accident on Rainbow Road January 13.

The accident occurred when Beverly Williams stopped her 1973 Dodge to let traffic pass before making a left turn into a driveway.

Dunn was driving a 1981 Mercury which collided with Williams' vehicle. After RCMP investigated the incident, Dunn was charged with driving while his ability was impaired as well as driving with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in his blood.

The accident caused a total of \$1,000 damage but no one was injured.

**PEACE NEWS**

Feb. 2-5, Winnipeg: Peace Petition Caravan National Committee meeting to settle details on advertising, canvassing, etc. Louise Beijk will represent the Salt Spring group.

Feb. 5 (Sun.) noon: Community Centre, potluck brunch, open to all. Discussion: Central America—a private political quarrel or the proper concern of disarmament groups everywhere?

FACT: The cruise missile carries a warhead 15 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb, can be hidden in a garage, transported in a truck, set up quickly by a very small crew.

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Tenders are requested from electrical contractors licensed to do the work described below in our vocational wing, G.I.S.S.:

The supply & installation of all material required to provide emergency lighting throughout the facility. Installation has to meet all applicable codes and bylaws. Contractor must provide all permits & certificates of approval from the electrical branch.

Your tender must include the costs to hook up our present exit signs to the emergency system & to divorce those exit signs from our present lighting circuits, i.e. put all exit signs on separate circuit(s).

Tenders should be received by the secretary-treasurer, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands), Box 128, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0 by noon on Feb. 3, 1984. Tenders will be opened at 2 pm on that date in the board room.

The lowest or any tender may not be accepted.

4-1

## Trafficking charges laid

Various charges of possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking have been brought against three Salt Spring men.

Murray Cyprus, Patrick Dickson and Robert Homewood were charged with the offences along with six other men.

RCMP officers of the Vancouver and Richmond drug sections joined other officers of the Richmond detachment RCMP in several raids on mainland locations in early December.

The raids resulted in the seizures of close to 229 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$650,000.

Dickson and Cyprus appeared in Richmond court in early December and were remanded to March 16 for another court appearance. Homewood appeared in court Friday and also was remanded to March 16.

None of the accused entered a plea.

The other individuals involved were Richard Brooks and Sidney Tarfey of Toronto, Philip Foster and Anthony Reid of Vancouver and Ken Warder of Delta. Sean Jackson was also charged but RCMP did not say where he was from.

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# Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TONY RICHARDS, EDITOR

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1984

## Another step

The re-introduction of scholastic examinations in provincial high schools has opened up a long-debated issue in education. The ultimate value of examinations has been challenged in the past and the old familiar departmental examinations were terminated.

But examinations have been a part of the education picture for so long that they have always had their supporters. In the past it has been easy to assume that those who would eliminate the examinations were the young and educationally radical, while supporters were seen as aging and conservative.

The present government is characterized by neither the aged nor the conservative thinker who looks constantly to the past. The examination system has been brought back in an attempt to improve the standing of education in the province.

It is easy to take sides, but the die is cast and the tests are being run. It will be up to the ministry of education to show the parents of British Columbia's schoolchildren that the examinations are of value to students. Or they will have to endorse the earlier procedure and abandon them again.

## Ten days

Salt Spring Island has been out in the front when a concern for the less fortunate nations of the world has been under debate.

The annual Ten Days for World Development has been an active cause on Salt Spring Island, with a substantial church support forming the nucleus from which the campaign gains its impetus.

For many years the churches of the island have collected funds and staged an annual tea to assist the peoples of the Third World. This has served to remind island people that not all the world enjoys the privileges of a peaceful land under a temperamental yet temperate administration, and all this in a setting that could scarcely be challenged in any land.

The tie-in with Continuing Education this year and the series of lectures on world development and peace will enable a wider island audience to learn of the objectives of its sponsors and the perceived needs of a large segment of the earth's population.

## Bingo!

Not the efforts of the prime minister of Canada towards nuclear peace, not the concern of Canadians of all shades of opinion for a resolution of the spiralling unemployment rolls and not the political battles shaping up in every part of the country could hold the attention of the nation last week.

All eyes were on the trophy of the nation's record lottery bonanza, the \$13 million 6/49 prize.

There are many in the country who feel that such gambling is less than moral. There are those who have never missed a ticket yet. But there was scarcely a Canadian in the land who did not follow the constant reports of the lottery. There were, indeed, few Canadians who didn't pause at some time in the week to dream themselves into the place of the lucky winner and spend, in fantasy, the astronomical prize.

For many years the sale of Irish Sweepstake tickets in Canada was strictly illegal and steadily undertaken. There were not many Canadians two decades ago who were uninformed on where to seek a ticket. The attraction of such sweepstakes lies in the lure of chance tied to a prize often beyond the imagination of the contestants.

There is a major difference between the Canadian lotteries and the Irish Sweep. The latter raised funds for hospitals in Ireland. It is possible that the sale of tickets on this continent contributed to the



## Letters to the Editor

### Fulford Hall allocations unchanged

Sir,  
There has been a recent misunderstanding, and while I think it has been corrected, it would perhaps be useful to explain.

Just prior to the CRD election, certain sums of money were distributed to the electoral area regional directors for distribution in their areas. Mrs. Valcourt had over \$13,000 to distribute. (I should note that this practice has been permanently discontinued).

Amongst other awards, Mrs. Valcourt arranged to give the

Fulford Hall Committee \$1,000 towards repair of the roof. She also earmarked \$9,000 for recreational facilities for the people of Fulford. This at first was given to the Recreation Commission to be held in trust, but Mrs. Valcourt then changed the trustee to the Fulford Hall Committee.

After I became Regional Director, the Regional Board discovered that directors could not make these grants without approval from the Board on recommendation from the director, so the allocation decided upon by Mrs. Valcourt was in effect nullified. I was asked if I wished to change these allocations.

I told the Board that Mrs. Valcourt had made excellent choices, and I agreed with her decisions. I did make one change, and that was to return the trust to

the Recreation Commission because there are some obligations in holding a trust that I thought could be more easily handled by the Recreation Commission through the CRD.

From all this, someone got the impression that the \$1,000 for the Fulford Hall roof had been taken away, and the money given to the Recreation Commission. This is obviously not so. The allocations made by Mrs. Valcourt remain unchanged. But this might be a good time to ask the people of Fulford to consider how, and when, they wish to use the \$9,000.

If there are any questions concerning this whole matter, I would be pleased to hear of them.

**HUGH BORSMAN, M.D.,**  
Regional Director,  
Salt Spring Island.  
January 23, 1984.

### Auction to be repeated

Sir,  
Salt Spring Elementary is doing it again! Last year the parents group put on a Valentine's Day Goods and Services Auction as a fund-raiser for the art program. The event was hugely successful, and netted over \$2,200.

The Second Annual Valentine's Auction will be held at the Activity Centre, Saturday, Feb. 18, from 7:30 pm on. Refreshments of all kinds will be available, a dance will follow, and the auctioneer will be offering an intriguing variety of items. Remember the belly dance last year? The world's biggest heart-shaped Nanaimo bar? The day's luxurious sailing for six?

Come and enjoy a terrific night's entertainment! Tickets are \$2 each, available at the school.

Donations of any description are more than welcome. For

(537-5150), or the (537-5571).  
**MAGGIE HAYES,**  
Ganges.  
January 1984.

### Heartfelt thanks

Sir,  
Through your columns may I express my heartfelt thanks for kindnesses and care to so many friends, ambulances and hospital staffs following a recent accident.

Ambulances with volunteer or regular crews, on Galiano, Salt Spring and Vancouver Islands and of our inter-island sea ambulance, that night, could not have worked more efficiently and swiftly than they did. I shall never forget their care and concern. At each point on land or sea, where it was necessary to change ambulances, the next one was waiting ready to take over.

restoring a patient to health through skills and tender loving care. How fortunate we are to have such care in our land.

And very special thanks to so many dear friends and neighbours on Galiano Island for all, in various ways, they have done.  
**TONY KINGSCOTE,**  
Galiano.  
January 18, 1984.

This week's exchange rate:

220

survive, it is unfortunate that governments at both levels could not see fit to abandon vote-catching grants from lottery funds and direct them to the desperate hospitals of the province.

In such case the money would not be utterly wasted.

Hospital and Royal Jubilee Hospital it is hard to find adequate words to give thanks individually and collectively for their roles in

says the S.S.I. Chamber of Commerce

**OTTAWA REPORT**

**Key Lake disaster points out need for permanent moratorium**

BY JIM MANLY, MP

The massive radioactive spills at the world's largest uranium mine at Key Lake, Saskatchewan, have raised some very disturbing questions about the entire nuclear industry in Canada. These questions must be asked by everyone concerned about the health and safety of Canadians and about the preservation of the environment.

Above all, the spills at Key Lake should teach us that these issues are tied together. We cannot poison and pollute the environment without poisoning and endangering our own lives.

We now find that the spill of 100 million litres of water contaminated with radium 226 was not an isolated incident. Since the mine start-up last summer, there have been at least nine other spills involving radioactive material. Because they were classified as "minor", these spills never saw the light of publicity.

In one of these "minor" incidents, the spill turned to slush in freezing weather and was then picked up by a worker on a front-end loader. Because of the evidence about radiation-induced cancer, we must be very concerned about the health of these front-line workers, who have to clean up even "minor" spills with very unsophisticated equipment.

**UNNECESSARY RED TAPE**

Why was there no comprehensive follow-up of these earlier spills?

Partly because Saskatchewan's Conservative government had cut back by 40% the number of people monitoring uranium mines. The government didn't insist that a monitoring committee meet triannually at the mine site as called for in the lease agreement. The government also didn't require the mine to file a "spill contingency plan", as called for in the agreement. The government saw regulations as unnecessary red tape which would interfere with its own revenues and with company profits.

The provincial NDP in Saskatchewan cannot escape part of the blame since it had pursued a policy of uranium mining. Up until last fall, New Democrats in B.C. had led the fight for a policy in the federal NDP which would call for "a permanent halt on all nuclear reactor construction and uranium mining or processing developments."

If nothing else, the defeat of Allan Blakeney's NDP government two years ago gave the Saskatchewan NDP a chance to re-examine its policy on uranium mining. Last November it passed a resolution stating "when we resume office, we will undertake an accelerated phase-out of existing contracts, and any financial gains from these contracts will be directed towards restoration of the environment and the development of alternate job opportunities."

Above all, the federal government

must accept responsibility. First of all, it is part owner of the mine. Second, the federally appointed Atomic Energy Control Board has failed to be a good watch-dog over the nuclear industry. The ACEB was formed to protect the environment and health of Canadians in all aspects of nuclear energy.

Unfortunately, the board instead is more like an advocate for the industry itself. The members of the board come from the ranks of the nuclear industry itself, and share its pollyanna attitude.

Over the past few months, New Democrats have urged that the government appoint a royal commission to investigate all aspects of the nuclear cycle. Not only are there misgivings about the actual procedures needed to safely mine uranium and deal with the inevitable problems of waste, but there are serious concerns that the exported uranium may be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

In the meantime, as the result of concerted public pressure five years ago, a moratorium prevents uranium mining in B.C., but this moratorium was imposed by an order-in-council and only remains effective for seven years.

As a result of the Key Lake disaster, many British Columbians are asking, "Why can't the moratorium be made permanent and established by law?"



**Burns Day celebrated**

The Cowichan Valley Pipes and Drums came to Salt Spring Saturday to help celebrate Robbie Burns Day. John Allan offered the address to the Haggis. The band was

under the direction of Pipe Major Ruairidh McLennan and they entertained patrons at the Inn at Vesuvius for the evening.

Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

**More Letters to the Editor**

**Valid questions unanswered**

Following letter to Alex Fraser, minister of transportation and highways, was submitted for publication.

Your decision to overrule the Islands Trust, by approving the Musgrave Subdivision, and the suggestion in your December 6, 1983 letter, that the Planning Association should not interfere with that decision, generated a heated and lengthy discussion at our

last meeting. I have been asked to write again to advise you of our interest.

I think the underlying uneasiness we have comes from the way in which you have almost totally ignored the Islands Trust. The Trust is popular on Salt Spring, particularly considering it must often make unpopular decisions for future benefit. The Planning Association felt the questions raised by the Trust were valid, and were unanswered.

To elaborate a bit on our concerns, I would note that once a subdivision such as is proposed at Musgrave becomes occupied, the pressure for improvements increases. The inadequacy of the road will obviously be the first complaint. The dock will also be inadequate, and although improvements may be charged to the immediate residents, it is only a matter of time before public funds will be requested.

As to schooling, one only has to look at Saturna Island to see that people who move to an obviously remote location soon call for expensive subsidies from the local school district board. Fire service, power lines and ambulance service are problems that sooner or later will probably cost the general taxpayer.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Community Plan, imperfect as it is, represents our only hope for orderly and controlled growth, and I am sure you will understand our apprehension at seeing it broken—

with no reasons given.  
**RAY HILL,**  
Chairman, Salt Spring Island  
Planning Association.  
January 16, 1984.

**Passing of a friend**

Sir,  
It was sad this weekend to learn of the passing of a friend recently involved in an auto mishap.

Gordie Linnell started visiting Salt Spring last summer and I didn't really know him that well, but we met quite a few times and even though he had a small farm in Duncan, he really wanted to be a part of Salt Spring. It seemed to suit the quiet, easy outlook he shared with the earth. He acquired an old school bus last summer and visited Salt Spring frequently.

Ironically we met for the last time at the Vesuvius ferry where we had met the first time he experienced Salt Spring. Gordie had a real run of unfortunate happenings this last year and even though this was the final one, that's only here on earth and even though we all miss him it's good to know that he is enjoying the peacefulness of Salt Spring Island—and much much more.

**LLOYD WILSON,**  
Ganges  
January 1984.



**Bill Webster**

**Who in government listens?**

Ma Nature supplies plentiful liquid sunshine but the Gulp Isles refuse to be intimidated by the attempts to wash them away.

'Tis the season to be soaked and in front of the office, Driftwood Lakes make their annual appearance. At last count, 39 bodies of water graced the area which otherwise allows vehicles to park, and the count grows daily.

We, Louis Bolivar-Finchley and I, attempted to gain public support to have the powers that be pass some sort of law, bylaw, regulation or suggestion to help protect the watershed of Driftwood Lakes, without success.

We realized, Louis and me, that our efforts were doomed to failure when the Reverend Garner declared his interest lies with liquids other than water.

Unfortunately, I got sidetracked by a search for a legendary Scot who was said to haunt the waiting room at the North Salt Spring Ferry Turnaround and Louis was left to his own devices on the problem.

Needless to say, the search for the legend, as with all searches for all legends, ended in futility. But we, the other searchers and I, had fun.

Louis attempted to talk to the insular folk in various ministries at the Stone Pile by the Harbour in Victoria but came up empty. He went to the ministry of fresh

water, the ministry of stale water and the ministry of lands, parks, housing, used cars and other sundry items.

The story he got from each was well rehearsed.

"That matter lies outside the parameters of our official capacity for action but if you send us more detail, in triplicate, we may be able to direct you to some department which might know where to send you so that you, etc., etc."

Louis hired a surveyor to map the exact limits of Driftwood Lakes' watershed.

He hired an aerial photographer to photograph from the air the exact limits of the water.

He hired a geologist to test the water to ensure its freshness and possible potability.

He hired an unemployed college student to walk his dog.

But no one in Victoria would listen.

Another story he got went something like this: "We certainly share your concern about the protection of lakes in the Gulp Isles. Sources of water should most certainly be protected and we share your concern that your dog gets exercise."

"But that matter lies outside the parameters...."

Which is what we, rock sitters in the Gulp Isles, hear with boring regularity.

Protect your rural lifestyle as

best you can because we aren't going to help. Witness the efforts to protect watersheds by other organizations. The government seems quite willing to talk about protection but action is another matter.

When they drew the lines on the maps, the lines followed the edges of properties and bore little relationship to the contours of the land. One of the results was that if you have a property, one corner of which sits in a watershed and the other many acres are on the other side of the hill, you are confined in what you can and cannot do on the land. It's watershed.

The cost to prove the maps wrong runs into a couple of thousand dollars and guess who has to pay?

The members of the Islands Trust have suggested that the government pay to have the lines redrawn so that the exact edges of the watersheds are known. But then again who in government listens to the Islands Trust?

Indeed, who listens to rock sitters of the Gulp Isles?

And so we see efforts to save a source of almost fresh water, Driftwood Lakes, being ignored by the good folk who govern our lives. Not only are the lakes a source of water but they also represent a historic feature and a major tourist attraction for these isles.

Who in government cares?

# Pro-life representative speaks at CWL meeting

The Catholic Women's League began its January meeting with Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church. This was followed by the meeting in the church hall, and opened by a prayer from Father Bergin.

Arla Rendle of Victoria presented a talk on the work of the pro-life organization. She told of her own advancement into pro-life work which began when her pregnancy made her give up her teaching job at a time when as a young working wife there were financial considerations.

She had not particularly thought about abortion until then, when she found well meaning friends suggesting it. However, she knew that was not what she wanted, and later, looking at her own new baby, she was overwhelmed that people would destroy these young people.

She had received a letter from a women's action group inviting her to be a speaker for them. Reading over their aims and objectives she found many of them to be admirable. At the bottom of the list was the freedom of women to control their own bodies, meaning freedom to get abortions. She believed in freedom for them to control their bodies, but not to destroy another human whose temporary home happened to be within the mother.

After a letter to a newspaper expressing this, she was amazed to find the newspaper had given her article prominence in a Sunday paper. She prepared herself for ugly and threatening repercussions. To her surprise she found women phoning, some who had had abortions, wanting to know more about how far the fetus was

developed at different ages. She began to seek more information about this, and to know more of the gradual development that the baby undergoes.

She joined a small anti-abortion group, and along with its growth both in membership and in distribution of information, the pro-life organization came into being. A movie was shown with many ultrasound photos of a developing baby beginning when it was about the size of a thumbnail.

In addition to the very early development of physical characteristics, the little human reacts to the mother's emotions, to sounds, it sometimes sucks its fingers, is affected by drugs and alcohol in the mother's system, is definitely an individual but is living in the liquid environment of the womb, until its birth, when it moves

to an atmospheric environment.

The pro-life group offers information to anyone interested. It also offers alternatives to abortion through Birth Right, and through other means, such as homes for women who do not wish to keep

their babies.

At a short business meeting, it was suggested that all the conveners within the CWL turn in their annual reports at the March meeting.

The February meeting will be on Wednesday the 8th at 1 pm.

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## Trustees to hit the road

The Gulf Islands School Board will be on the road for two evening meetings in February and March.

The trustees will hold a regular meeting in Salt Spring Elementary School on February 22 and will meet again March 21 in Fernwood School. Both meetings begin at 7 pm.

In addition, the board will hold regular afternoon meetings in the board office in Ganges on February 8 and March 7. Those meetings begin at 3 pm.

For the afternoon meetings, the trustees gather at 8:30 am for committee meetings, which last until noon. After lunch the trustees go behind closed doors for a one-hour in-camera session before allowing the public in for the regular business sessions.

The evening gatherings are preceded by committee meetings at 12:30 pm until 4 pm. The secret sessions last from 4 pm until 6 pm.

The trustees also will gather for a two-day seminar of school district affairs on February 18 and 19. The seminars will be held at the Mayne Inn on Mayne Island.

Discussions at the two-day talks will cover various aspects of running the school district as well as planning for the future.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the regular meetings of the school board.



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# Gulf Islands Driftwood



Bob Nicholson accepts award from Lynda Farmer

### Campaign chairman contracts arthritis

Chairing the Lions Club campaign for the Arthritis Society this year took on a new meaning for Bob Nicholson of Salt Spring Island.

Feeling fatigue, pain and stiffness in his joints, all the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, he was referred to a rheumatologist in Victoria, who confirmed that he had

contracted the disease.

Nicholson was admitted to the Gorge Hospital and while there was visited by the regional administrator for the Arthritis Society. Lynda Farmer presented him with an Award of Appreciation for the work

undertaken by members of the Salt Spring Lions Club over the years.

Nicholson has returned home but is unable to be as physically active on Lions Club projects as before. He is, however, staying on as chairman of the Arthritis Society campaign.

### Permits not included

In November the Capital Regional Board was urged to provide access to information regarding the issue of sewage disposal permits.


The question was referred to executive director Bernard Doughton.

Two weeks ago the board approved his recommendation that, because such permits are issued under provincial statutes, they should not be included in the regional access to information bylaw.

Doughton also reported that the provincial health law unit saw some risk to disturbing the status quo. The unit noted that the release of information might be considered as an invasion of personal privacy.

Directors can obtain information at any time, he also noted.

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### Vehicle wasn't stolen

A vehicle that was reported stolen was later found in a ditch at Rock Crusher Corner on Salt Spring Island.

Michael Savard was in Ganges court January 11 to enter a guilty plea to misleading police as a result of the incident, which occurred in November.

He had borrowed a car for the evening and had promised to return the vehicle by 9 pm. It had not returned by 11 pm and the owner phoned police. RCMP officers checked with Savard and he claimed to have returned the car.

He told police that if the vehicle was not where it was supposed to be, someone must have stolen it.

RCMP investigated the claim and several days later the car was found

in the deep ditch at Rock Crusher Corner.

Judge G.S. Denroche imposed a \$200 fine when Savard entered a guilty plea to the charge.

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# Mondragon co-operatives to be examined at Island Futures

Do our economic problems in British Columbia seem impossible to solve?

That question is on the minds of organizers of a conference to be held at Salt Spring Island next month.

The Island Futures conference will feature a film showing how the Basques in Spain are providing a better life for themselves through

producer and consumer co-operatives.

Since 1956, when five people began the first co-operative at Mondragon, manufacturing oil stoves, a network of almost 100 co-ops has been established. In 1981 there were 18,500 worker-owners.

A contract of association, by which all member co-ops must abide, embodies the ideals of

Ghandian trusteeship, guaranteeing that the co-ops not only provide a living for their members but serve society as a whole.

The co-ops' excess profits return to society through a co-operative bank, an amount equal to 30% to 60% of the net profit of member co-ops. The co-operative bank then uses the money to create more jobs and extend the trusteeship movement.

The film on Mondragon was made before the recession began, but a recent story in *The Economist* reports that Mondragon is surviving the economic slump.

According to conference spokesman Ray Newman, the co-ops shuffled work and cut their profits, but avoided the high unemployment that by 1981 had risen by more than 40% in Spain.

"Mondragon's success," said Newman, "shows that it is possible to simultaneously create a larger economic pie, distribute it relatively equitably, and maintain a type of democracy in the workplace."

The conference begins Friday, Feb. 17 at 7 pm in Mahon Hall and continues on Saturday at the Community Centre from 9 am to 4 pm.

## School board considers extension of bus routes

A ride on the school buses may be available to all students in the Gulf Islands School District if a plan under consideration fits into the cost structure, says Jeannine Dodds, spokesman for the school board's conveyance committee.

Dodds, school trustee for Mayne Island, told a meeting of the school board last week that the committee is looking at supplying a bus ride for all children of the district.

Parents on South Pender and Galiano Islands had sent letters to the board urging extension of the bus service.

Some of the children of South Pender are currently dropped off near Bedwell Harbour because road conditions past the harbour were not suitable for the school bus.

Some of the children have to walk up to three miles if their parents did not drive them to and from the pick-up spot.

Since that time, however, the

road past Bedwell Harbour has been improved and the parents want the bus route extended.

Dodds said the conveyance committee is looking at the idea of extended bus routes even for children who live within the ministry of education walk limits.

The limits as set by the ministry mean no buses for children of Grades 1 to 3 who live closer than four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the school. For children in Grades 4 to 12, the limit is set at 4.8 km (three miles).

## Jill Johnson qualifies for honour roll

Academic results of the fall quarter at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, were announced recently and Jill Johnson of Ganges qualified for the honour roll.

Johnson was among 10 Canadians and 424 students who made the honour roll.

To qualify for the honour roll a student must have completed 14 graded credit hours and place in the top 10% of the class.

## Artists, craftsmen to be listed in new directory

A community arts directory is in the process of being created and the organizers are looking for Gulf Islands artists and craftsmen to be included.

The directory will list, free, art organizations or individuals in the literary, performing or visual arts in the Victoria and Gulf Islands area. Funding for the project comes from the Canada Works Program, the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria and the Koerner Foundation.

Any person who wishes to be included in the directory can pick up and fill out an application form. The forms are available through the Continuing Education Centre in Mouat's Mall in Ganges. They can also be picked up at the office of the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria at 1162 Fort Street.

Organizers will be looking to arrange contacts in the Outer Islands for artists and craftsmen there to apply.

Project workers Cheryl Denomee and Linda Bedard will arrange for the directory to be distributed to school boards, chambers of commerce, community centres, libraries as well as various bookstores in the region.

A major goal of the directory is to serve the community as a source of information on activities of local cultural organizations and individuals.

Other goals are to improve employment possibilities and promote services of local artists and art associations as well as to aid the preservation and flourishing of Canadian art.

Deadline for applying to be included is March 16.

## Rezoning application approved by APC

A recommendation to rezone two lots near Weston Lake will be made by the Salt Spring Advisory Planning Commission.

The zoning of the lots will be changed to Rural and Agricultural 1 from Watershed 1 and Agricultural 2. Neither lot is within the watershed of the lake.

A representative of the South Salt Spring Water District spoke to the APC in favour of the application.

The property owner plans to subdivide the lots if the rezoning is approved by the Islands Trust committee.

A result of the rezoning may prove to be an insistence by the department of highways for access to the shore of the lake. The water district officials will oppose any move in that direction.

Access to the lake, which is a source of water for residents of the south end of Salt Spring, is along the north shore, and the water district does not want any more access to the water.

A suggestion which came out of the application was to have the Salt Spring community plan address the question of access to lakes on the island.

The rezoning application will be dealt with by the five members of the Salt Spring Island Trust Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Although the properties are currently zoned within the watershed of Weston Lake, both lots are separated from the lake by a ridge of land. The lots are located on the side of the ridge which slopes away from the lake.

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**Piano recital Friday**

Works by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Scriabin and Rachmaninoff will be included in a piano recital Friday by Jane Coop. A professor of piano at the University of B.C., Coop studied with Kuerti in

Toronto and Fleisher in Baltimore. The recital, sponsored by the Salt Spring Concert Society, is at Mahon Hall and begins at 8 pm. Admission is by member's ticket or \$4 at the door (\$2 for students).

**Fined \$300, loses licence**

Even though Bruce Aleksich of Salt Spring was not in court two weeks ago, he was found guilty of failing to report an accident, fined \$300 and prohibited from driving for six months.

The charge resulted from an incident in the parking lot at Vesuvius Inn in December, 1982. The matter had been before the court several times before and Judge G.S. Denroche decided to proceed with the case.

A witness to the incident, Stephen Ball, told Judge Denroche that he was leaving the Inn when his attention was drawn to a four-wheel-drive vehicle attempting to climb the hill behind the building. The vehicle didn't make it and was driven out of the parking lot and followed by a white pickup.

The pickup truck struck a 1977 Volvo, pushed it out of the way and kept going.

Driver of the Volvo, Dennis

O'Hara, learned that Aleksich had been driving the pickup and contacted him the next day. Aleksich had agreed to pay for damages, O'Hara told the court.

The repairs eventually cost \$850. The judge considered the evidence and found Aleksich guilty as charged.

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**Spare school bus needs replacing**

The four school buses on Salt Spring and Galiano Islands are in good condition but the spare bus should be replaced, says supervisor of works for the school district, Frank Sutherland.

He gave a report on the conditions of the school buses to the school board meeting last week. Several items had required attention, he noted, but driver-mechanic Gordon Gibbs had looked after them.

One bus was missing a leaf from a rear spring. The needed leaf has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives. Gibbs has recommended that the 13-leaf springs be replaced with 15-leaf springs because of the condition of island roads.

The Gulf Islands School District runs three buses and a spare bus on Salt Spring in addition to another on Galiano.

The district is responsible for the condition of those buses which must meet standards set by the department of transport.

The district also has a bus on contract on Salt Spring and the buses for Mayne and Pender Islands are similarly under contract from private operators. Those buses must meet the D.O.T. standards but it is the responsibility of the operators to ensure that they do.



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## GALIANO NEWS

# Sturdies Bay: a Ganges in the making?

BY BASIL BENDER

From the earliest beginnings of civilization authority has enforced its decrees by means of government inspectors. Rarely have they been loved and often are they hated. There have been many places and times when the system was corrupt and unjust.

There have also been times and countries when honest and honourable men did their best to administer necessary regulations with fairness and flexibility.

Apart from the dubious morality of political patronage, which Canadians accept too readily and complacently, this nation's reputation for the honesty and integrity of its public service is enviable. Nevertheless, an inspector can be competent and conscientious and still create havoc in a community by the way he interprets and enforces, or fails to enforce, bylaws.

Some inspectors are greeted as a friend, whose advice is valued and whose interpretation of regulations welcomed. The visits of others are dreaded, as their decisions are delivered in such a manner that they appear arbitrary, unjust, or even prejudiced.

What is really divisive in a community is the unfair application of regulations, so that one enterprise is permitted to operate when another in almost identical circumstances is not. The flexibility in interpretation allowed to inspectors is sometimes a blessing but at other times a curse, depending on the bias and character of the man.

People have suffered great financial hardship and been put to considerable expense by seemingly arbitrary decisions. There appears to be no regularly defined and used route of appeal to a higher authority. Obviously the intent of regulations and their application is to protect the public, but people can become skeptical if rules are changed without their knowledge and consent.

Certainly it is to be expected that the departments of health and of transport should be concerned about an environmentally sensitive area such as Sturdies Bay. In the village zone there is a high water table, inadequate percolation, narrow roads and insufficient parking space—a Pandora's box of problems and a Ganges in the making.

Perhaps it is time that somebody, perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, tried to arrange a public meeting for information and discussion that would have in attendance representatives from the community health service of the Capital Regional District and the highways department.

Topics for discussion could include: recent changes in the regulations regarding sewage disposal and how they affect building and development on Galiano, the future of the Sturdies Bay village area, progress of the Rockafella shopping centre and Harris neighbourhood pub, both of which projects received strong

endorsement from the residents of Galiano.

### Voyagers

Good travelogues give armchair travellers an opportunity to vicariously visit far-away places. Last Saturday at the North Community Hall Bob McLeod gave a slide show of his 5½-month voyage aboard the 70-year-old brigantine *Eye of the Wind*, with excellent shots of the unique bird and plant life of the Galapagos Islands.

In 1967 a group of four hardy canoeists set out from New Westminster to paddle across Canada to Ottawa on the occasion of Expo '67. The Centennial Voyage by way of the Fraser, Thompson, Columbia, North Saskatchewan, Rainy and Ottawa Rivers as well as Lakes Manitoba, Superior, Huron and Nipissing, was attended by many hardships, most especially frozen rivers in western Alberta.

The new "voyageurs" successfully triumphed over adversity to cross Canada, a distance of 4,200 miles, in a single summer.

Last Thursday one of the canoeists, Ralph Brine of Retreat Cove, showed a videotape made from film taken on the trip to the students of Galiano School and at the same time gave an illuminating commentary on the vital importance to the development of Western Canada of the old canoe routes taken by the fur traders from their bases in Montreal and on Hudson's Bay.

Ralph will present this fascinating show again at the North Community Hall later in the season.

### Thrift Shop

In the few years of its existence on Galiano St. Margaret's Thrift Shop has become an asset to the community. A great many islanders, most of them with no direct link to St. Margaret's Church, have come to regard it as an island institution.

Its goods clothe many an islander and visitors from around the world. Despite the very low price tags on the objects it sells its income has grown steadily until it now approaches \$4,000 a year.

The church has decided that the Thrift Shop must now be considered as a business and that two options are available to it. One is that the Thrift Shop becomes an integral part of the church's finances and its revenues automatically accrue to the church and can be disposed of by

the parish council and church officers with or without the approval of the Thrift Shop staff. The church treasurer considers that this move would regularize the tax position of the shop.

The second option is for the Thrift Shop to become independent of the church and register with Revenue Canada as a charity and make its own arrangements with the provincial ministry of finance with regard to social services tax. Since the Thrift Shop owns its own premises this separation should present no problem.

The shop could then continue to make donations to the church for general or specific purposes but would retain control over its own affairs and finances.

The Thrift Shop is a group of 21 ladies who volunteer their services, elect their own officers, run their affairs democratically and meet once a month to make their own decisions. Only a minority of them are even attenders at St. Margaret's Church and most regard their labours as a public service.

To donate money to the church with the approval of the members is one thing but to have no say in how the money is to be used is quite another. The many non-Anglicans in the group might not be too happy with the hierarchical, male-dominated structure of the church.

The ladies are now considering the two options proposed. It is an irony that has not escaped the notice of some with long memories that the Galiano Ladies Service Club was once a part of St. Margaret's Church and that in somewhat similar circumstances decided to go its own way.

### Annual general meetings

At the annual general meeting of St. Margaret's Church Saturday the following were re-appointed: Roy Harding as rector's warden, Mary Harding as secretary and Frank Reader as treasurer.

Ian Hooley is the new people's warden, Mary Harding the lay delegate to synod, Michael Sharp will represent Christian education on council and Ena Hooley the Altar Guild. Members at large on the parish council are Betty Trimmer, Margaret Edgar, Barbara Scoones and Clifton Coolidge.

Future parish council meetings will be held on the fourth Saturday of every second month. Council members are asked to send an alternative if they are unable to

attend.

In view of the fact that St. Margaret's is the only church on Galiano a delegation to the bishop has been informed that a "parishioner" may be defined as one who has been baptized in any Christian church and who is a regular attender at St. Margaret's.

The parishioners then turned down an offer from the Thrift Shop to pay for a stained glass window, at the cost of \$4,000, to be placed behind the altar.

### Rod and Gun Club

The Rod and Gun Club have had a busy weekend. As well as holding their AGM they hosted a most impressive archery meet which involved archers of Olympic and world class standard from at least five different mainland clubs.

The visiting archers, including two who shot from wheelchairs, paid their own expenses so that the proceeds of the meet might be used to help the archery section of the club replace equipment lost in the fire which recently destroyed the clubhouse.

The new executive is as follows: president, Frank Basarab; vice-president, Fred Robson; treasurer, Marg Basarab; directors, Frank Hillier, Charlie Head, Gordon Hodson, Rick Coulter, Bill Neville and John Georgeson.

### Coming events

The AGM of the South Galiano Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Saturday at 2 pm in the South Galiano Community Hall. Reports of the directors, fire chief and Women's Auxiliary will be presented, as well as a financial statement and the auditors report.

The board of directors for next year will be elected. The volunteers would like to have your support at this meeting.

Rev. Wm. Archer will lead an ecumenical service next Sunday at St. Margaret's at 10 am.

There will be a meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, Jan 30 in Galiano School for all interested taxpayers and particularly parents of school children to discuss with the superintendent and school trustee the alternatives and possible changes of school staffing next September.

A piano tuner will be on Galiano January 30 and islanders who require his services are asked to call Elizabeth Brinson 2080 (evenings), 2261 (days).

Many good things are in store for Galiano Islanders. The success of previous Burns Night Suppers has prompted the north-enders to move this year's event on Saturday week, February 4, to larger premises in Sassenach-land—namely the activity centre. Tickets should be secured without delay from Elspeth King at 5340 or Alistair Ross at 2294.

Also two dramatic productions are being prepared for spring viewing and listening. Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* will have a three-night run Friday, Feb. 17 to 19 while Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *Table Manners* will be presented towards the end of March.

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## Invitation To Tender

Sealed tenders for replacement of the water system at Mouat Provincial Park will be received by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Div., 2930 Trans Canada Hwy., Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X2, up to 3:00 p.m. local time on **Monday, February 6, 1984**, and opened in public at that time.

Plans, Specifications and Tender Documents may be obtained from the Zone Supervisor, Gulf Island Marine Parks, at Goldstream Provincial Park Headquarters, 2930 Trans Canada Hwy., Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X2, telephone 478-8341.

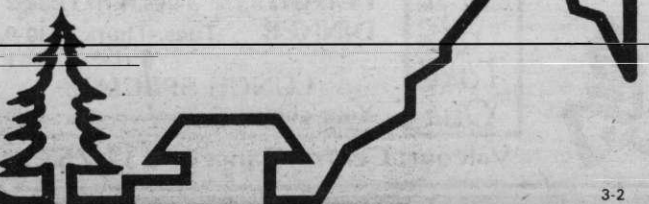
Tenders must be made subject to the Conditions of Tender and submitted in the envelopes supplied. No Tender shall be considered having any qualifying clause whatsoever, and the lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

Inspection of the site may be arranged by contacting the Zone Supervisor, Goldstream Provincial Park. Telephone 478-8341.

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## SOUTH GALIANO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Annual General Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 28 — 2 pm — South Galiano Community Hall

#### AGENDA:

- Reports by Directors, Fire Chief, Women's Auxiliary
- Financial Statement & Auditor's Report
- Election of Officers

# New chain-link fence for safety, says board

An objection to the chain-link fence that cuts access to Lower Ganges Road from the school complex came up for discussion at last week's meeting of the Gulf Islands School Board.

The fence, about two metres (six feet) high, has been put in place to channel walkers away from the parking lot at Mahon Hall as a means of ensuring safety for students.

The Gulf Islands Community Arts Council (CAC) sent a letter to the school board to protest the fence which gives "a prison-like affect to this area of downtown Ganges."

The CAC objects not only to the sight of the fence but also to having the students directed down a sidewalk at the rear of Mahon Hall.

"To direct school children down the sidewalk at the back of Mahon Hall seems to invite more garbage than is already there and the very low windows could so easily be

broken," the letter noted.

The letter, signed by CAC president Gerry Layard, urged "that this project be reconsidered and a better solution found."

But Salt Spring school trustee Ron McQuiggan said the CAC and the school board had talked about the plan for traffic safety within the school complex.

McQuiggan pointed out that the plan had been many years in development. The fence had originally been planned for the rear of Mahon Hall with a gate as access to the parking lot.

The CAC had objected to that plan and after discussions the plan was adjusted to place the fence at the front of the property.

McQuiggan told the school board meeting last week that close to one mile of fence surrounds the complex and he couldn't understand why an extra 60 feet would upset people.

The chain-link fence was chosen

because it would be more difficult for children to climb than a wood fence, said McQuiggan.

The fence was needed as a precaution against accidents, he said. It would be only a matter of time before a child was struck by a car in the parking lot if the fence was not in place to block exit from the lot, he said.

Mike Hoebel, school trustee for Galiano Island, said, "I don't particularly love the look of that chain-link fence."

But student safety within the complex was the priority of the plans which included the fence, he said.

The walkway behind Mahon Hall was of concern to Bob Brownsword, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association. He told the school board that the area was dark at night and could be hazardous to users.

He requested that lights be

installed as a safety measure.

McQuiggan replied that improved lighting throughout the complex was part of the plan and that most of the area was dark at

night.

The school board will continue with the plans for the complex. The next step is to improve parking facilities.

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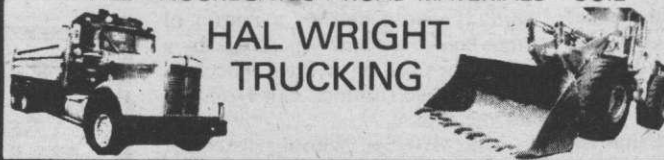
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**SATURNA SCENE**

**Marshall meets with islanders**

**BY PRISCILLA JANSZEN**

Gulf Islands School District superintendent Mike Marshall visited Saturna Island last week, and after dinner with trustee Lorraine Campbell and her family, he addressed a meeting at the community hall.

Most people were concerned about the possibility of the school becoming a one-teacher school, having a head teacher instead of a

principal or ceasing to exist.

Saturna parents wanted it known that they feel strongly about the community school and they want to make that clear to the trustees.

Marshall explained that he felt the school was a very valuable part of the community and that multigrade teaching deserves some special consideration in terms of ministerial directives on pupil-teacher ratios.

However, he pointed out that all of the schools are under a strain with the budget restrictions and it is hard to decide between one priority and another.

Unfortunately, his stay was brief. I'm sure there were more questions about transportation of high school students and other issues.

Mike gave an interesting overview of how budget restraints had affected the school district, how

long they expected it to last and what Saturna's chances are for making it through the coming cuts relatively unscathed.

I hope he comes back for more discussion—I appreciated his frankness about where the buck stops and where the power lies.

Further along the educational line, I think we will have a pre-school on Saturna Island very soon. It will be at the community hall Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm. If you are interested phone Suzanne Middleditch.

There will be two classes, probably pre-school and pre-pre-school. Taime Hindmarch will be working with the children.

I'm so glad Taime is back in the kid business, and the kids will be too! Suzanne is doing the groundwork and is eager to get the school started.



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# Gardening over septic field is not recommended

Before we get into further garden planning, a few long overdue answers to some questions of general interest.

According to the best information available to date, gardening on top of a septic field is not recommended. It seems that there are good chances of viable pathogens being absorbed by produce grown on what amounts to fresh sewage. Human wastes are quite safe after a year of composting, but a septic field does not give us that option.

My recommendation would be to grow a nice lawn over the septic field which would result in two benefits. Since a septic field has a great potential for rich growth a regularly mowed lawn would keep things under control. Grasses are shallow-rooted and will not interfere with the tiles, but will yield a splendid harvest of nitrogen-rich mulch for the garden or for the compost heap. In any case, this is what we are going to do with our new septic field.

## IVY BEST COVER

The best ground cover for the bank of a septic field in my opinion is ivy. I know that it is slow to get underway but in the long run it is by far the best. Evergreen and non-invasive, it will eventually shade out all weeds.

St. John's wort (hypericum) establishes faster but is extremely invasive with its underground runners. Bushes just do not shade out weeds as completely as ivy does and in the long run you will do more weeding.

So, have patience, keep after the weeds, and the gravel soil will in time be saturated with organic residue, and combined with the moisture from the field, it will make splendid growing conditions for a proud stand of ivy and then you will have the most carefree ground cover possible, which will require no more than an hour or two per year to relocate the odd errant weed to the compost pile.

Another reader asks how to get rid of gorse. Perhaps I should interject here, in my defence, that we have moved from the old house into our new one and I can't find all the pieces of paper I had saved so carefully.

However, gorse is definitely hard to eradicate and therefore I would recommend a two-pronged attack.

Since gorse, both kinds, prefer acid soil, I would suggest dosing it liberally with lime; first with hydrated garden lime for immediate effect, perhaps repeated at one-month intervals, and secondly with dolomite lime, which acts much slower but is effective for up to five years.

The second part of the elimination should consist of keeping it sheared, especially just prior to a nice, long, dry spell. This goes for almost any undesirable growth.

If cut down and deprived of their leaves, their food factories, just prior to a long dry spell, any growing thing, perhaps with the exception of horsetail, will have the toughest time to get going again.

Pests and diseases are the most recurring problems which are brought to my attention.

## Farming and Gardening

BY PETER WEIS  
Foxglove Nursery Consultant

Fortunately, there are as many success stories as disasters. I know of a whole bunch of gardeners, albeit of the "organic" devotion, who do not have any problems whatsoever.

For example, Eva Temmel called the other day to tell me of her success with cabbages in clubroot-infested soil. Now then, there is no known cure for clubroot disease, right?

Well, Eva had applied dolomite lime (calcium, magnesium) and rock phosphate the previous fall. This she followed with winter rye, which was tilled under in spring as green manure.

She planted her cabbage seedlings into the soil thus prepared and for good measure had dipped their roots into a rich soot solution from their chimney. Her cabbages averaged 15 pounds per head—not bad for clubroot-infested soil.

### OUR BEST BET

Good healthy soil, rich in organics and soil life, is still our best bet. Among the billions of soil organisms in healthy soil are also to be found all kinds of nematodes, good ones and bad ones.

Among the good ones are the "Steinernatid" nematodes. These are

parasitic nematodes which actively follow their prey, enter through natural openings and destroy it. These have been found to control cabbage root maggots, wireworms, onion maggots, sod webworms, white grubs, pillbug grubs, cutworms, corn rootworms and a bunch of other assorted bugs.

The best possible advice I can give is, as usual, concentrate your efforts on the health of your soil and nature will take care of her own. And

interplant. This alone will reduce your pest and disease problems by 50%.

In a single-crop bed of cabbages the cabbage worms will have a field day. Interplanting with lettuces and beets, or marigolds or clover, or both, will make life a lot tougher for them, and easier for you.

It is as simple as that. In a single-crop situation they cannot miss—in an interplanted bed they certainly will.

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# Realities brought to life by presentation on El Salvador

BY PETER PENTZ

Anyone who has taken the trouble to learn anything about the crisis in Central America, and about El Salvador in particular, has been aware in an intellectual fashion of the desperate efforts being made by the poverty-stricken peasantry of that republic to win some chance of life and social justice.

El Salvador is no longer a distant, abstract problem for those of us who listened last Thursday to Jim Harney, and saw his superb photographs of the Salvadoran people whose sufferings, strivings and indomitable spirit he has witnessed and to a degree shared in recent years.

He brought to life for us the human realities of this heroic and deeply moving struggle by simple peasants, teachers, priests and lay-preachers, students and children. Many of the children will have died in the few months since he took their photographs—of disease, starvation, or the bullets and bombs with which the government troops attempt to suppress popular revolt.

How can these people maintain their will to fight against such enormous odds? They are up against billions of dollars worth of modern U.S. weapons—guns, planes, helicopters, pesticide sprays, phosphorous bombs—and they keep fighting. Some with weapons, most with nothing but their bodies and their unquenchable spirit.

Harney gives a simple explanation. When asked, they reply, "Revolucion o Muerte!" When the alternatives are revolution or death the choice, they say, is not difficult.

Many of us who listened, looked and learned on Thursday must be asking ourselves: Can we sit idly watching from the sidelines? Are we not in the position of those who observe a brutal crime in the street but are unwilling to interfere?

The U.S. supports the murderous rule of the military and the tiny group of wealthy landowners with friends in some large American corporations and pull in Washington. Mr. Reagan claims the U.S. is "threatened" by these "subversive" peasants.

A certain King George, we recall, was similarly persuaded of the intolerable threat to England posed by those earlier subversives, the American colonists. Who and what

in the great United States, the most powerful nation on earth, is threatened by this tiny country, smaller than Vancouver Island?

Are social justice, land, food, education, health services, religious and political freedom, those things we in North America take for granted, to be denied to the little people of El Salvador?

**"Why should Reagan et al be so scared?"**

And if, like their neighbours in Nicaragua who have already succeeded in getting rid of their tyrannical rulers, the Salvadorans conclude that some sort of "socialism" is their way to a better life, why should Mr. Reagan and his friends be so scared? Does he really fear a responsive echo among the under-privileged in the U.S.?

Or does he fear (as he pretends) the establishment of an array of Soviet missiles in these little neighbouring states? Does it not seem odd that it should be proper for the U.S. to site its latest and most accurate weapons, the Pershing and cruise missiles, on the very borders of the U.S.S.R., but fiendishly improper for those Russians to reciprocate?

Apart from the logistical and other absurdities of trying to put Soviet missiles in a midget Central American state, all such notions have now become obsolete, irrelevant. Neither the U.S. nor the

Soviet Union dares use its nuclear weapons against the other—nor even in any number against unarmed opponents.

To do so, it is now known, would be to run the risk, at a level somewhere between the probable and the certain, of extinguishing the whole human species, permanently. In the White House and in the Pentagon, as in the Kremlin, this must henceforth be taken as the prime fact of life, Lesson No. 1 in the political and military text-book.

Whatever else can be used to exert political power, it is plain that nuclear weapons are out. They're as dead as the dodo, and the sooner their corpses are permanently interred, the better our chances of survival.

What then of all the attempts to hold the political and social clock back? In Central and South America, the Caribbean, in South Africa, the Philippines, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Poland, Czechoslovakia, in the Soviet Union itself, are the old despotic ways not becoming as outdated and intolerable as nuclear doomsday machines? Could we at least refrain from delaying their departure from the scene?

When we think of Jim Harney's friends in El Salvador we begin to hope that life, justice and freedom, given a little encouragement from us, may be dawning for them, too, in a wiser and more kindly world.

*Peter Pentz is an active participant in the nuclear disarmament movement and lives on Salt Spring Island.*

## S.S.I. Rod & Gun Club Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 8 pm  
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- Annual Reports
- Election of Officers

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### Women's division veterans

# Two reunited after 40 years

Well known Salt Spring Island artist was featured in a recent story in the *Merritt Herald*. The community newspaper in the interior city related the story of two Mrs. Robinsons who met again at a reunion of a Royal Canadian Air Force unit in eastern Canada.

Sally Robinson of Salt Spring Island and Edna Robinson of Merritt found each other after a 40-year interval. The last time they met was in 1945 at No. 6 Repair Depot in Trenton. The unit has had two reunions in the past three years.



Sally Robinson in a recent photograph.

The two girls, Edna Rawlings from Vancouver and Sally Wilkinson from New Brunswick, were writing history when they were posted to the Repair Depot. Their arrival at Trenton as motor transport drivers represented the first time the RCAF station had seen women in uniform. The Women's Division of the RCAF was a new venture.

### Accident costs \$3,000, three points

When Robert Coddington lost control of his 1983 Pontiac on a curve on Cranberry Road last Tuesday, the resulting accident cost \$3,000 in damage.

Coddington was negotiating a curve on Cranberry near Blackburn Road. He lost control of the car and it swerved off the road, across a driveway and into the ditch.

RCMP issued him a traffic violation notice for driving too fast for road conditions. No one was injured in the accident. The notice will cost Coddington three points against his driving record.

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### NEW EXPANSION

The sharp expansion of the air force into a nationwide training and fighting force was just as new. And the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, bringing a vast new flying school pattern to stretch across the land, was equally new. There was a war and this was the beginning of a new, active role for Canada.

The air training plan provided for the training of aircrew in Commonwealth countries far removed from the war, where facilities were available for learning to fly without prejudicing the efforts of the Royal Air Force in carrying on with its military responsibilities. There were training schemes operating in Africa and in other lands, but the Canadian scene was vast, reaching into almost every province and making use of Canada's wide open skies. Flying was already old hat to many Canadians, but the training plan was flying on a scale never previously seen here.

### A MAN'S WORLD

It was into this scheme of round-the-world training that the two girls found themselves as they fitted into what was until then a man's world. While they surmounted the banter and the practical jokes, they took on driving trucks they would never

normally have looked at and driving them under conditions they would have dodged happily under any other conditions.

They served together on a station that was established in 1940 to keep the Commonwealth Air Training plan in the air. The Repair Depot was engaged in repairs to the hundreds of planes in constant use.

Those are memories today to the veterans of the RCAFWD. But they are pleasant memories and they formed part of the lives both girls built up afterwards.

The strangest feature of their encounter was that both had taken the name of Robinson by marriage.

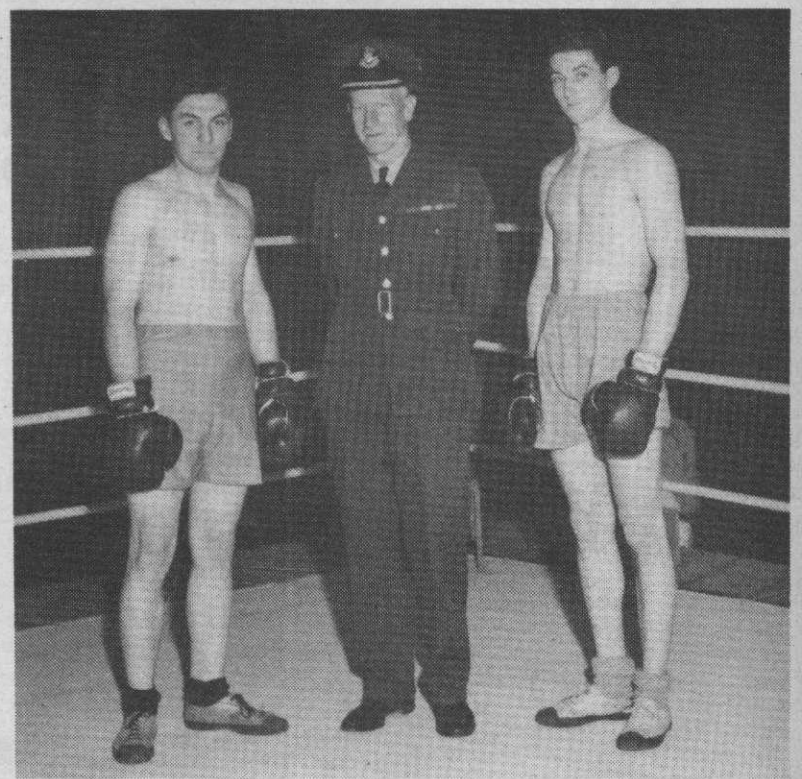
Sally Robinson came to Salt Spring island five years or so ago. She looked at the island with little thought of living here. But she looked, bought and moved in one motion.

Her only link with the island before coming here was during her wartime service. The commanding officer of No. 6 Repair Depot for part of the time she served there was the late Group Capt. A.R. Layard, a well-known islander.

Sally Robinson took up the brush and canvas after coming to Salt Spring. In the short span of years she has gained a wide acclaim and she has found a new enjoyment in creative art. She was previously a successful potter in Ontario.



Edna and Sally Robinson in uniform are seen standing by an air force truck 40 years ago.



When No. 6 Repair Depot set up a boxing ring at the Royal Canadian Air Force station at Trenton it was formally opened in 1944. Shown in this picture are the commanding officer, Group Capt. A.R. Layard,

with two young boxers, LAC King and LAC Schlacht. Layard was from Salt Spring Island, but there is no indication of where the two boxers came from.

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