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TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR, NO. 16

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1985

40c

Trust Act changes may be shelved, says NDP member

Special to Driftwood
By HUBERT BEYER

Victoria NDP municipal affairs critic Robin Blencoe says Gulf Islands residents can breathe a sigh of relief.

Blencoe believes the government has shelved Bill 30, the Islands Trust Amendment Act, which was the subject of debate in the B.C. legislature for most of last week.

If the legislation is passed, the minister of municipal affairs would be able to assign his own people to carry out the duties of the Islands Trust. Employees already appointed to the Trust would become employees of the ministry of municipal affairs.

Blencoe's speculation that the government may scrap the legislation, or amend it, is based on the fact that the bill was not called up for debate last Friday. But skeptics say the bill wasn't debated because Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Ritchie was out of town.

Meanwhile, Blencoe has prepared an amendment to Bill 30 which he will present to the house during committee stage, if and when the legislation is called for debate again.

"The amendment would allow the minister to achieve his house-keeping purposes without emasculating the Islands Trust. Trust employees would be deemed to the employees of the ministry, but the Trust would still be in charge of the hiring," Blencoe said in an interview Monday.

"Any administrative problems which may exist could easily be solved without destroying the Trust's autonomy," Blencoe said.

Blencoe hopes the minister of municipal affairs is prepared to concede and completely withdraw the legislation.

During the debate in the house last week, NDP leader Bob Skelly and Blencoe brought up a number of points that would support reconsideration of the bill.

"This is dangerous legislation because it represents a power grab from a duly elected body," Skelly said.

"The government, through its failure to consult with local residents, has created a situation respecting the Gulf Islands Trust area which is contrary to the principals of co-operation, self-government and local autonomy," said Skelly.

John Reynolds, Social Credit MLA for West Vancouver-Howe Sound, rejected the comments by the NDP that it was a grab for power. He said that the Gulf Islands are over-governed because they have one elected representative for every 40 people.

The island's 11,252 residents, Reynolds said, are represented by 280 elected officials. There are 26 trustees, eight regional directors,

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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Sewer work begins

First hole in ground to lay pipes for Ganges sewer was made by backhoe on McPhillips Ave. on Monday morning. Work crews will

be digging up streets of Ganges for several weeks as they lay lines in sewer area.

Trustees object to \$21,000 sewer bill

No one else will listen so the Gulf Islands School Board will take its complaint about sewer costs to the Capital Regional District.

David Williams, a Salt Spring school trustee and school board representative on the Ganges Sewer Implementation Task Force, urged the trustees to send a letter to Howard Sturrock, chairman of the CRD, to outline the school board's position against the proposed funding formula for the sewer.

Williams reported to the school board that a proposed \$50 per year parcel tax for properties in the sewer area would collect about \$17,000 per year, leaving an estimated \$140,000 to be found by other means.

The formula proposed by the task force could mean a yearly sewer bill for the school board of close to \$21,000, he said.

He added that other members of the task force have not shown sympathy for the school board position. Williams had based a claim for lower fees for the school district on the reason for the province kicking in close to \$800,000 to help cover the costs of the sewer. He had reminded the task force that part of that amount represented the cost of the school district putting in its own sewage system.

But another Salt Spring school trustee, Ron McQuiggan, disagreed. He said the district has for many years had a "free ride by ignoring the problem" and pumping sewage into the harbour.

Other institutions had been saddled with costs of pumping out holding tanks, he said. He also objected to the school board going over the head of the task force to

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Police charge 19 since January

Ganges detachment RCMP have continued the CounterAttack program on Salt Spring with the result that 19 charges of impaired driving have been laid so far this year.

In January, police charged five individuals with impaired driving and added eight more charges in February. There were five charges brought in March but only one so far for April.

Talks continue in effort to resolve Saturna problems

By BILL WEBSTER

Uncertainty about the fate of the school at Saturna Island has created a division in that community and placed the Gulf Islands School Board in a no-win situation.

About a dozen parents from Saturna made the trip to Salt Spring last week to express their views on the matter to school trustees.

School board chairman Charles Hingston noted that discussion of the situation at the Saturna school came out of request from parents to be allowed to transfer their children to the school at Mayne Island.

The matter, he said, involves staffing at the school as well as the possibility that the school could be closed.

The school board faces several options on the fate of the school, he added.

It could be left as is with classes from kindergarten to Grade 7, it could be closed or the trustees could consider "a multitude of options in between."

Taimi Hindmarch spoke on behalf of the Saturna Community Club and outlined the choices facing the school board with regard to the

fate of the school. She noted that it could be left as is, changed to a primary school of kindergarten to Grade 3 or closed.

She told the trustees that the current set-up of kindergarten to Grade 7 is preferable and is essential for "community well-being."

She urged the school trustees to make any cuts "across the board" rather than in personnel.

"This is a very sensitive issue to the people of Saturna," she told the school trustees.

John Gaines spoke for the Saturna Parents' Advisory

Committee (PAC) and said that rumours abound on Saturna "about what or what won't happen to our school."

He asked the school board to clearly state what alternatives for the school were being considered.

He urged the trustees to leave the school as it is with two teachers and the pupils split into two classes.

To consider a kindergarten to Grade 3 set-up, he said, would result in an insufficient number of children which could mean that the ministry of education would close the school.

The population projection for

Saturna over the next few years shows growth at the school, he told the trustees.

The school currently has 13.5 full-time equivalent (fte) pupils enrolled. But if the primary grades, k to 3, were considered alone there would be only 6.5 fte pupils.

For the 1985/86 school year, the enrolment could be 14.5 but the primary grades would still only have 6.5 fte pupils. By 1986/87, the enrolment for the school would remain the same, 14.5 fte pupils, but the primary grades would have 5.5

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Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Renting an infant seat

Salt Spring mother Tracy Farina, centre, picks up infant car seat for daughter Jamie from Ganges health office last week. Gulf Islands chapter of Registered Nurses

Association of B. C. are renting seats for infants up to six months old. Looking on are nurse Sandi Ballantyne, far left, and Eleanor Deacon of health office. Seats cost

\$40 to rent but \$30 is refunded when seat is returned in good condition. Service is advertised elsewhere in this issue.

Talks continue over Saturna school

From Page 1

fte children in classes. The figures showed that cutting the school to primary grades would be "the thin edge of the wedge" leading to the school eventually being closed, Gaines said. He urged the trustees not to make a decision until after the school board meets at Saturna on April 25. If staff reductions are necessary, he said, the cuts should be fair and district-wide. The school is essential to the island, not just for the sake of the children but also for the community.

If the school were reduced to primary grades only, some people would be forced to leave the island. Geri Davidson addressed the school board on behalf of a group of parents who are concerned about the situation. The parents, she told trustees, accept the reality of cutbacks and the number of pupils enrolled at the school.

She suggested a compromise could be made for classes from kindergarten to Grade 5. By the time the children reach Grade 6, she said, they could handle the water taxi trip to Mayne Island. Advantages would include the children being exposed to a larger peer group as well as more teachers. An added bonus would be a wider physical education program as well, she said.

The current enrolment figures for Saturna school show that a K to 5 set-up would result in a school enrolment of 10.5 fte pupils. The Saturna school does not have a gymnasium and physical education is dependent upon good weather to allow the children to be outdoors.

Jim Money, of the PAC, expressed concern that if the number of children enrolled in the school came "close to the wire," the ministry of education may step in and order the school closed.

Superintendent Mike Marshall explained that if the enrolment dipped as low as five children, the ministry might order a closure. But, he added, such an occurrence was unlikely.

The discussion edged towards personality conflicts within the school but Hingston cut it off when he noted that the school board would not discuss the subject at a public meeting.

Money said that the PAC had approved a motion of support for the school staff.

But the validity of the motion was questioned by Starr Maas, a member of the group of parents urging changes. She pointed out that two families had withdrawn their children from the school and

two other families were asking to have their children transferred to the Mayne school.

And that hint of dissension puts the school trustees in a no-win position. Regardless of what decision is made, one side or the other will not be satisfied.

Marshall has made several trips to Saturna recently to talk with the two factions and plans a couple of more trips before the school board meeting at the end of this month.

He expressed the hope that a compromise can be reached.

Trustees object to bill

From Page 1

complain to the chairman of the CRD.

But school board chairman Charles Hingston expressed support for the letter to the CRD chairman. It would not be going over the committee, he said, but would allow the school board to express its opinion directly to the chairman and to the CRD board.

In a matter related to the sewer installation, the school board will request that the ministry of

education ask for an order-in-council to permit the sewer line to cross the playing field at Kanaka Road.

The plan for the sewer line calls for its route to be about six feet from the side of the road in the field area. The school district had suggested that the line should run down the centre of Kanaka Road but the CRD engineers disagreed.

The order-in-council is necessary to permit the right-of-way.

Host families sought

Host families for a cultural exchange program are being sought.

Intercambio Cultural Exchange is looking for homes for young Mexican boys and girls for two months beginning near the end of June.

The children will be between the ages of 11 and 16 and the families being sought should have children of that age for companions for the visitors. The exchange students have studied English and are eager to practise what they have learned.

They will become part of the family, sharing family chores. The host family will be expected to share room, board and family love with the young visitors.

Each prospective host family will be given orientation by representatives of the program.

Intercambio began in Mexico City in 1959 and has since arranged thousands of exchanges. The children exchange visits to the other country only during holidays from school.

For more information, call B.C. co-ordinators Tom or Erika Davy at 526-7443.

Costs for the Mexican visitors will be covered either by their families or by a service organization in Mexico. For Canadian exchange students, the same financial arrangements are made.

Trust Act changes shelved?

From Page 1

193 improvement district trustees and 53 school trustees.

Barbara Wallace, NDP MLA for Cowichan-Malahat, also had a few words to say in the House Thursday.

"That's not consultation, that's autocratic rule by an autocratic minister. The minister, for whatever reasons has decided he is going to do this," she said.

"The member from West Vancouver-Howe Sound (Reynolds) has indicated that there are 280

representatives from the various Gulf Islands. If there were just two or three you might think that those people didn't really speak for the people of the islands," Wallace said.

Blencoe closed by saying the best course now is for the minister to remove Bill 30 altogether and keep in mind the principles of consultation and local autonomy.

"The minister should work out a compromise with the Islands Trust," he said.

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FR	1735	9.1	TU	1230	2.0
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To be Frank

...by Richards

It wouldn't go up

It wasn't my week. Women's Lib was painting in her studio and I decided to make up the cabinet she wanted to keep her stuff together.

I made sure that it would go through the door and round the corner. I'm not stupid! And when it was nearly finished I dragged it around the corner and to the foot of the stairs. I stopped there.

Mainly on account of I couldn't move it up the stairs. That was a week ago. Only reason I didn't set a match to it is that I didn't want to end up homeless.

It's still there, on the stairs and we have to squeeze past just to get a glimpse of the painting.

Sliding down the bank

As if that wasn't enough for one week, I started on a path to the beach. It's something I've been going to do for 10 years.

When the path joins the garden there was a tree. The cliff has slowly dropped away and the tree was hanging over the path. I worked for days removing rock and shale and salal until every root was visible.

I chopped the roots away for fear of running into problems with the chain saw and the tree fell down the bank. But, alas, it stayed in place because the path is no longer steep enough to have it slide out of sight. So I reached down and kicked it. And I sat on the edge of the bank and pushed with my feet. It worked.

The tree started to slide faster and faster. So did I. If you really want some celebration to mark your pension, try sliding 20 feet down a shale bank fighting a small tree.

And the social eye doesn't even see the duelling scars!

What's the date?

Just what does the date on a milk carton mean? I poured myself a cup of tea on Tuesday morning, added cream and watched the curdling of the cream.

Naturally, I looked at the carton for the date and, sure enough, it was April 16. Is the date on the carton the curdling date? Or what is it supposed to convey to the thirsty consumer who likes his cream without curds?

That soapy slope

I have another beef. Why can't the manufacturers of baths get together with the makers of soap? On the rare occasions when I take a bath I place the soap firmly on the rim of the bath and close my eyes.

Next minute there is a splash as the stationary tablet of soap joins me in the water.

I've watched the action. You place a flat piece of soap on the flat edge of the bath and slowly and deliberately it moves towards the water. Get a curved soap like a boat that didn't float and the tablet will swing slowly from one side to the other until it rolls into the water.

If I can't find some place to set down the soap I've a good mind to quit bathing altogether!

A gardener at last!

For the first time in my life I have looked at the garden. Mostly because Women's Lib is less directed towards the garden these days.

Part of the appeal lies in the untrimmed growth swamping some of the lot. But, whatever might prompt me towards it, I have done more in the garden this spring than in years of springs before.

I never minded moving earth or rocks or trees, but planting and weeding were just not for me.

Hell of a time to be learning about the birds and the bees!

He knows it by hearsay!

Thinking of time, Bob Blundell tells me he depends on this column to learn the meaning of growing old.

I'm glad to oblige, even if I have some misgivings about accepting his tale. I can't tell him so because I never show disrespect to my elders.

Neither of us

He wouldn't want to be the only Liberal on Salt Spring Island, said Lee McColl. Neither would I, I assured him.

You can't spend your savings

Bare-bones funeral in England costs 600 pounds, I learned this week. The information has no value and was given me in the course of a letter.

I've got to decide where to go to die or to stay. Trouble with cutting back on something like that is that you can't come back to help enjoy the money you saved, even if you find a short cut to the hereafter.

What effect on a dish?

How would the change in designation of the CKVU transmitter on Salt Spring Island affect the dish satellite receivers I asked Bob Masters.

He is the driving force behind Sky-Vu Satellites. There is not much likelihood of any increase in scrambling, said Bob. The satellite business is a fairly strong lobby in the United States, he explained.

There are other factors which appear to favour the retention of the present broadcasting style, he added. One is the disaffection of advertisers towards any measure that militates against the maximum exposure to their messages.

A few days later I was killing time in Victoria, wandering around a department store. The television salesman was assuring two customers that there could be little doubt but that there would be a clamp coming down on open satellite broadcasts. He obviously doesn't watch the same show!

He's at Saanich

Former rector of the Anglican parish on Salt Spring Island and once an active member of the island Lion's Club, Ray Horsefield is a patient in the Saanich Peninsula Hospital. The hospital is on Mount Newton Cross Road, to the west of the Patricia Bay Highway at the Waddling Dog traffic lights.

Board to send delegates despite exhausted account

The school trustees' expense account is nearing zero but they will still find money to attend a meeting of provincial school trustees.

The school district budget for the first six months of the year had \$15,000 allotted to the trustees' expense account. But most of that money has been spent.

David Eyles pointed out last week that money should be in the account to allow the trustees to attend the annual general meeting of the B.C. School Trustees Association (BCSTA).

The school board has made a valuable contribution to the workings of the BCSTA, he said.

In the past, the board has sent two representatives to such provincial gatherings.

David Williams said the money to fill the account out could be found in other areas of the budget which

have shown a surplus. He described the search as "a matter of internal housekeeping."

Ron McQuiggan disagreed. He wondered how the school board could pad the expense account and then turn around in September to explain to a teacher that there is not enough money to keep the teacher on staff.

Despite the objections raised, the motion to fill out the expense account from other parts of the budget passed with only McQuiggan voting against it.

LANCER BLDG.

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Awarded degree at University of Montreal

Carolyn Girard, daughter of Mary and Jack Girard of Ganges, received her bachelor of landscape architecture at the February convocation ceremonies at the University of Montreal.

She studied landscape architecture for three years at the University of British Columbia, where she received the dean's cup in landscape architecture and the University of British Columbia Scholarship.

She then received a French language fellowship to study landscape architecture at the University of Montreal, where she completed her degree.

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SECOND CLASS MAIL REGISTRATION NO. 0803

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1985

A fine contribution

More people than usual will remain abed Saturday morning as parents, coaches and referees take advantage of a carefree and quiet Saturday morning to sleep in. And hundreds of youngsters at Salt Spring Island will have to find something else to do until soccer season resumes in the fall.

Now is a good time for the parents of all those children who have been congregating at Portlock Park every week to consider the contribution made by some islanders for the benefit of many.

Without the coaches, referees and executive members of the soccer association the sport would not exist as it does today on Salt Spring Island.

They all deserve our gratitude.

Drunkenness

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are stepping up their campaign against drunk drivers.

This week there is a notice elsewhere in these columns of the implementation of CounterAttack on the islands. It is the provincial defence against drunks behind the wheel.

No driver can plead that he was forced to drink to the degree that he was incapable of driving. Each of us must establish a procedure if we take a drink. The procedure must ensure that we do not drive after drinking away our skills at the wheel.

The sequence of drinking, driving and death are too often seen to permit us to consider them lightly.

The police and the province have no alternative but to CounterAttack the drinking problem on provincial roads.

Check your intake of alcohol. Know your condition when you get behind the wheel. Have somebody else drive: somebody who has not been drinking. Or leave your car and get a ride home.

You're dead right if you figure you shouldn't drive home. And you could be dead wrong the other way.

In praise of laughter

Islands do not lend themselves to calm emotions. The quiet and calm surroundings of small islands are the factors that stir up sharp exchanges and bitter disputes in the island communities. We are insular people: not eager to yield our strongly rooted opinions to those of another.

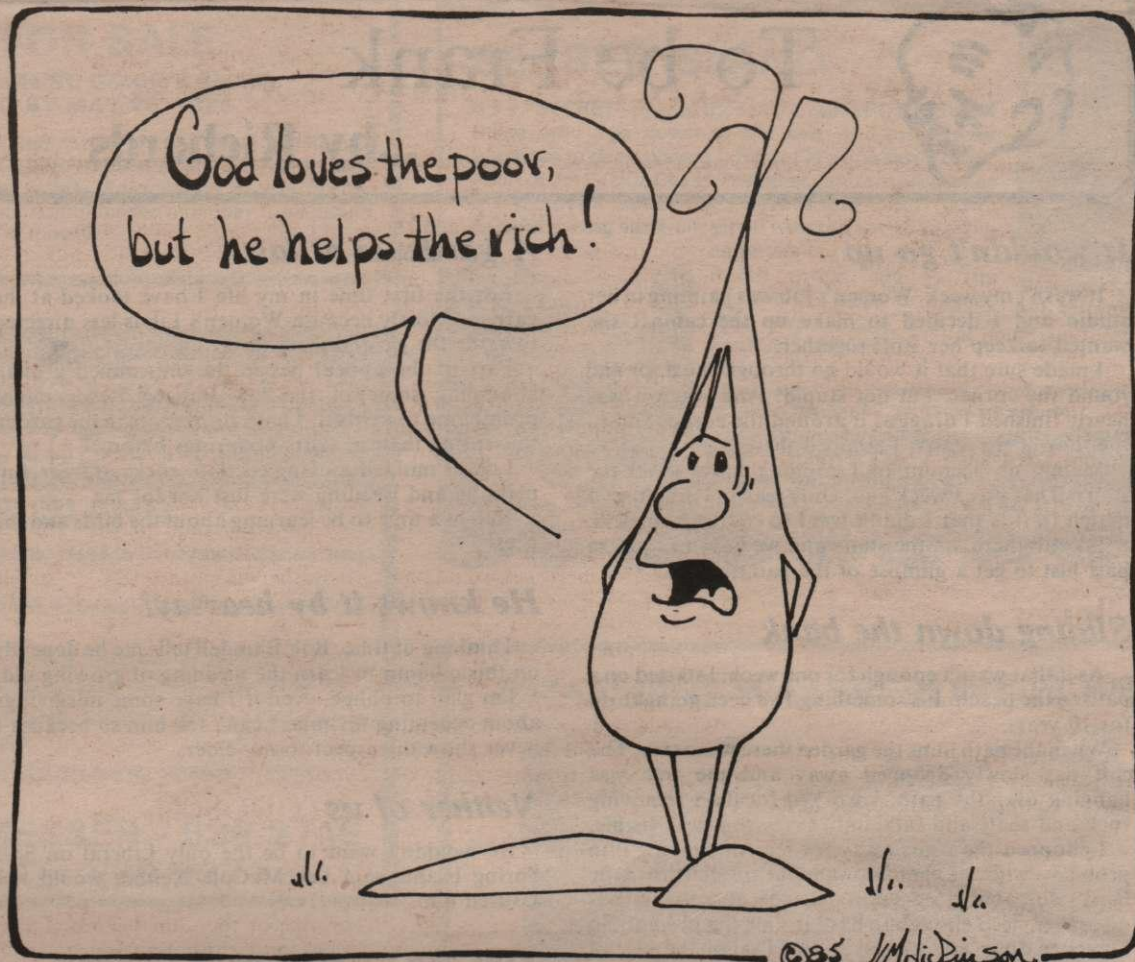
History shows that in small communities separated from the rest of society by natural boundaries, the affairs and matters of moment within the community tend to take on an importance beyond their real value.

Yet, despite this prickliness that comes from isolation: despite the quite aggressive individualism that marks many islanders, the islands have been a haven for those who are already out of step. There have been island residents who followed their own distinctive pattern of thinking or of living since there were islands.

The disruptive trends of the outside world have reached the islands and it could not be otherwise, because we are not isolated from the rest of the province. We are merely insulated. We have the political trends here and we share the acute tendency to polarization over provincial affairs. Most islands also extend this divisive philosophy to other activities.

Nevertheless, the island people should keep in mind the welcome that has always been extended to the eccentric or the non-conformist. The people of the islands have always been able to laugh at others. They have long enjoyed the relief of laughing at themselves.

In an age of intolerance of views, of faiths, of anything that is different, we need to retain that ability to laugh at ourselves. Laughter dissolves intolerance and if we are destined to have one or the other, let's choose laughter!



Letters to the Editor

Excellent response

Sir,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the people of Salt Spring Island for their support of the Firefighters' Muscular Dystrophy Drive.

The drive was held in Ganges and Fulford on Saturday, Mar. 30. Response was excellent as slightly over \$1,300 in donations was collected.

We would also like to thank *Driftwood* for their advertisement of the event.

**SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Delightful pathways

Sir,

Having returned from a ramble along the recently completed Bluff Park trails, what better time than now to pen a note of thanks to the Galiano Club and the crew responsible for the excellent job of work on the trail-making project.

The lower bluff area and beach are now accessible via a series of delightful woodland pathways, and I feel that this has tastefully added immensely to the enjoyment of our lovely Bluff Park.

**J. CHANCE-DAVIES,
Galiano Island.**

Tell it like it is

Sir,

As an employee of Greenwoods Intermediate and Personal Care Home, I would like to respond to Mr. Paul Layard's comment in the April 10 issue of *Driftwood*, regarding the status of persons placed in the care of Greenwoods. There are approximately 30% of the residents that are now extended

care. Several residents are confined to wheelchairs and many residents cannot get around without the use of a walker. Most of the residents that arrived on "foot" at the opening of Greenwoods six years ago have become extended care and they are being kept at Greenwoods.

Management claim they are unable to meet the H.E.U. demands, but recently accepted a healthy wage increase for themselves and the R.N.'s at Greenwoods. In fact the contract that has been offered to us is "less" than what we are getting now. So Mr. Layard, I would like to invite you to work side by side with us for a day and then tell me Greenwoods, isn't extended care. Now, let's keep the record straight and tell it like it is.

P.S. I did not vote to go out on strike.

**M. ATKINSON,
Ganges.**

Thoughtful people

Sir,

Thank you to all the thoughtful people on Salt Spring Island, to Jim Meldrum and other residents who supported us with coffee and goodies to eat while we were out on strike.

Your kindnesses were most appreciated.

**GREENWOODS STAFF,
Ganges.**

They have never complained

Sir,

Bill Webster: We at Greenwoods do not and never did complain about having to take care of our elderly residents!

On behalf of everyone on staff at Greenwoods, we would like you to know that off or on duty, we love our residents!

**JONNA MATTIESING,
On behalf of all the
Greenwoods staff.**

Sneaky, dishonest

Sir,

Some 30 people from the Trust Islands went to Victoria last Tuesday to watch our democracy in action. After an hour in the parliament buildings with the Municipal Affairs Minister and MLA (Socred) John Reynolds, we had lost what little faith we might have been clinging to.

Hundreds of islanders have petitioned the Premier, Ritchie, and their MLA's to leave the Islands Trust Act alone, and not remove the Trust's ability to hire and direct its staff. It was apparent that all those phone calls, telegrams and letters were not being heeded. We are faced with sneaky and dishonest legislation. Sneaky because it was introduced without consultation; dishonest because it pretends to be what it is not: a mere housekeeping matter.

We must understand that this government is committed to dissolve our grass roots planning process, and impose, instead, their own development schemes on the islands. Mr. Ritchie will give no honest reason for this legislation, and is steadfast in his intent to neuter the Trust.

Where is our M.L.A. Mr. Curtis, who encouraged the establishment of the Trust in 1974? He's not in the house during debate on an issue that greatly affects many of his constituents. He's too busy to accept visits and phone calls.

A historic debate is taking place in our legislature. The opposition is defending local autonomy, the democratic process, and a fine piece of legislation to preserve and protect our unique and beautiful islands.

Across the floor Mr. Curtis's seat is empty, and Mr. Ritchie repeats ad nauseum "have faith". But most of the time he chats with his cohorts and hears nothing.

Public pressure is increasing and the Socred slogans "partnership" and "consultation" are already

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More Letters to the Editor

From Page 4
wearing thin. Please keep up the letters and phone calls to the Premier and Mr. Curtis. They can't ignore us much longer.

A final word of thanks to the hundreds of people on Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands who have actively fought this issue, and demonstrated such strong support for the Trust and local autonomy.
NICK GILBERT,
Trustee,
Ganges.

Clever people

Sir,
A group of American teachers in the Seattle area had a clever idea of how to comprehend the cause and

effect of the rich countries and the poor in our world. If we think of our "global village" as a town of only 1,000 people (instead of 4 billion) the whole picture would be much clearer.

— Only 70 of the 1,000 would be citizens of the U.S., seven percent of the total population. And they would receive 50% of the town's income.

— This income would be a direct result of controlling 50% of the town's material resources.

— The 70 Americans would have an average life expectancy of 70 years.

— The other 930 people would have an average life expectancy of less than 40 years.

What a strange and frightening town this would be, eh? Several questions come to mind about this town:

1) How long could such a town survive, if the non-Americans were aware of the Americans' advantages?

2) How long could the 70 Americans continue to extract the raw materials essential to their standard of living from the property of the other 930?

3) Would the 70 Americans have to spend more and more of their resources on soldiers and military equipment and private police forces...and why?

Rather clever people, the group in Seattle. Remind me to write a letter about it.

VIRGINIA NEWMAN,
Ganges.

Tours proposed

Sir,
As a B.C. patriot and a lover of the sea I'm looking forward to living on one of the Gulf Islands. Easter weekend I chose Salt Spring as my first step in exploring them one by one.

The people of Ganges were friendly and helpful, and I thank them...and am wondering if some enterprising person could start a touring business on Salt Spring that would take visitors especially as foot passengers on a land tour of the island, and deposit them back to the ferry.

RUTH BARTLETT,
Burnaby, B.C.

The means to end Trust

Sir,
Re: Islands Trust.
I respond to a letter appearing in your last issue from the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs in which he defends recent amendments to the Islands Trust Act. He says the amendments are intended to establish logical staffing procedures for the Trust and the Ministry and avoid what he views as the "awkward system" of the Trust appointing personnel while the Ministry pays them. He promises the amendment is not targeted at changing the objects or duties of the Trust or its elected composition.

The Minister's personal attitude toward the Trust and the attitude of his Government has been plainly stated time and again. In their view, it ensures political objectives they seek to do away with. They think that by giving a specific locale a modest element of environmental protection and assurance of continuation of its unique lifestyle the Trust is a thorn in the flesh of centralized government.

For the Minister to say that he is merely housekeeping by introducing the present amendments is nothing more than a half truth. By transferring the responsibility for appointment and assignment of staff from the Trust itself to the Ministry, the amendment specifically abrogates the independence of the Trust. It has the potential of creating out of the Trust area merely another region of the Province which can be managed under the Municipal Act like any other. By doing so the object of the Islands Trust Act to protect the unique amenities of the Islands for residents and citizens of the Province, may easily be ignored.

The amendment which the Minister would have us think is an

be done in this province. Because we are basically hewers and drawers here in Lotus Land by the Peaceful Ocean we maintain that tenuous relationship with the twitches and shrugs of places such as the U.S. and Japan.

But the problem runs deeper than that in Bee Cee. The problem centres, very much so, on the attitude of citizens. And that attitude is not being helped by the shenanigans of Billie's Bunch.

In the Far East, Pierre of the One Finger caused havoc before he fled to the hills of Westmount. Brian of B.C. came along and the attitude, nationally, changed somewhat. There was room to move and to try things.

As time goes by, Brian of B.C. may be just an Irish version of the One Finger but the attitude of the denizens was allowed to switch.

And that is what we need here in Bee Cee.

Billie and his Bunch won't or can't create that change in thought. Smiling Bob of the Indepers won't be given the opportunity to try.

So, dear folk, what we need in Bee Cee is a revival of either the Grits or the Tories.

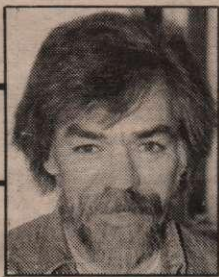
The Grits are gathering forces for a run at the top. But they are saddled with a leader with all the appeal of burnt toast. Arthur Lee? Who's he?

Meanwhile, the Tories have gone one better. They have chosen, if that's the right word, Peter Pollen of Vic's City to be front and centre.

Doesn't pollen cause hay fever?

The next few years should be interesting times, hereabouts, as we stumble from pratfall to pitfall. Billie will try other tricks to prove his macho image and the province will suffer just a bit more each time.

One must have faith that there is enough in reserve to ensure that when the voters get another chance to choose, there is something left to be concerned about.



Bill Webster

Now that fate has taken the main game for Salt Springers out of the ridiculous and close to reality, denizens cast about for other topics of conversation and debate.

Work, 22 years later, has begun on the sewer system, the better to install 45-storey condos along the shores of Grunges Harbour.

And so goes the main game of "We-Need-It: No-We-Don't" which has been played, lo these many, many years.

And as one wanders the alleged streets of the backwater village, one hears mutters on matters completely different.

The natives are restless. The concern focuses on Billie's Bunch and their shenanigans in the Stone-Pile-By-The-Harbour in Vic's City. Bee Cee is in bad shape and the health of the provincial body promises to worsen.

The talk centres on what can be done to save at least a bit of what passes for a prosperous province these days. Unemployment reaches new heights. The buck has been stretched and squeezed to the point where the lady doesn't grin but frowns in restrained agitation.

Billie has announced that the restraint program has done the job and now is the time for all good citizens to come to the aid of the provincial economy. What's left of it.

Which brings up a moot point.

Recession is a way of life lately. Just when we turn the economic corner to catch a brief glimpse of better times, another recession rears its head and we find ourselves back where things began but more so.

Which brings us to the gist of the conversations carried on at street corners as loungers watch the pipe being put into the ground.

What can be done to break that vicious cycle which leads us, not up and out of the morass, but deeper into money malaise and the who-gives-a-damn attitude?

World events impose certain conditions on what can or can't

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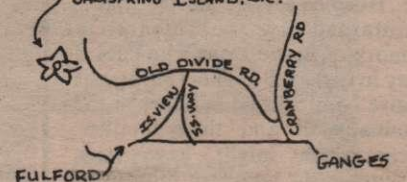
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Report from China

Driftwood's Galiano Island correspondents have taken a leave of absence for several months to go to China, where they are engaged teaching English in Zhengzhou, a city in central China.

Basil and Kathlyn Bengier will be reporting from time to time on their experiences in the Orient. Following is their first report.

A few prominent newspapers have correspondents or reporters in China. Others have China watchers stationed in Hong Kong or Taiwan trying to pick up news second-hand.

Driftwood has two "Chinese people" watchers stationed in the centre of China at Zhengzhou in Henan Province. Zhengzhou is an industrial city, important railway centre and provincial capital with a population of over a million people. It is located on the great north China plain which stretches for hundreds of miles in all directions.

All of the Chinese we have met, and the number must be nearing 100, are uniformly courteous, friendly and helpful. Our Chinese interpreters are young men in their 20's and they couldn't be more kind and solicitous of our welfare.

Our 28 students range in age from the 20's to low 40's. They have told us something of their lives and circumstances so we are fast becoming friends. All work for YRCC as engineers or technicians.

Spring has not yet come to this part of China, so the dominant colour is drab with the dull yellow earth, and in the city the red of brick and the grey of concrete. However, the streets are lined with trees and there are many parks and gardens, so we are looking forward to greens and the many colours of flowers.

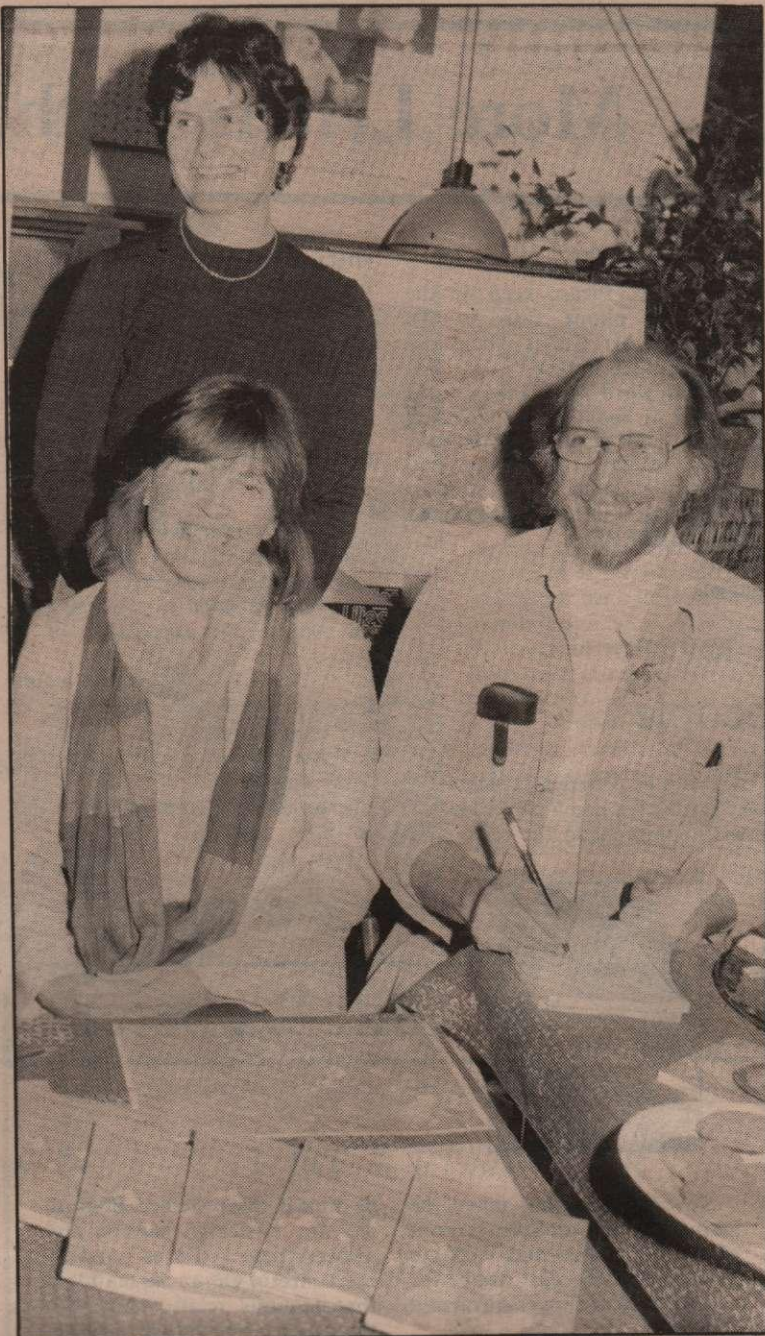
Busy as we are there are moments of nostalgia—"Home thoughts from abroad." On Galiano the daffs must be blooming and the Bluffs carpeted with blue-eyed Marys.

The city houses the headquarters of the Yellow River Conservancy Commission for whom we work teaching English to a group of the engineers and technicians who were selected from over 100 applicants.

The YRCC employs over 30,000 people distributed throughout the drainage area of the Hwang He or Yellow River, in which area over 100,000,000 reside.

In this city there are at least a million bicycles, or so it seems. In the streets a continuous stream of cyclists occupies much of the road and impedes motor traffic. Buses are used only for longer journeys and cars are reserved for officials or the use of large enterprises such as the YRCC which appears to resemble a crown corporation such as B.C. Hydro.

The first and continuing impression of China is of people; first the number of them and second, as one gets to know them, their character.



Driftwood photo by Alice Richards



More Letters to the Editor

From Page 5

innocuous matter of routine administration is in fact the means to the end of the Island Trust.
GORDON B. SLOAN,
Ganges.

as terminally ill and the service continues as needed along with hospice volunteers.

3. Under the direction of the doctor the Home Care Nurse may visit homes of persons who need nursing care.
MARGRET KAUFMAN,
Administrator.

Letters to the editor must be signed before they will be considered for publication. In addition, writers must furnish an address and telephone number where they may be reached during the day.

Roles explained

Sir,
Re: Health Related Services.
There appears to be some confusion with the public regarding roles of homemakers and hospice volunteers. I hope I may clear this situation.

1. S.S.I. Homemakers Service is a non-profit organization started here in 1975. This agency employs professional, bonded homemakers who work in homes of persons who are elderly and/or ill and no longer are able to cope with daily maintenance of their homes. Their duties include some light house-keeping, preparing meals, shopping, etc. and some personal care, such as bathing, shaving, transferring, but not nursing care.

Under the government Continuing Care Program a client is assessed by a government assessor and this agency is notified as to the number of hours a homemaker may work and what type of care is needed. A financial assessment is also done and based on client's income, a small fee may be charged. The majority of clients are not charged.

2. Hospice service started and is maintained by volunteers in memory of Bessie Dane who passed away in early 1984. Their purpose is to give comfort and support to the terminally ill and their families. Homemakers might have been working in the home for months or even years before a client is classed

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Book launched

Island writer Peter Weis was at Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply Saturday to launch his first book *Weeds and Seeds*. With him in photo are Suzanne Gagnon, seated, who did art work and Maralyn

Horsdal, partner in new publishing company Horsdal and Schubart Publishers Limited. The book, a compilation of Weis' articles previously published in *Driftwood*, is available at local bookstores.

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SHOES SHOES SHOES SHOES SHOES

Opening of attractive new pubs followed easing of liquor laws

By FRANK RICHARDS
Island Pubbing: A Guide to Pubs on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands by Bob Tyrrell and Boyd Corrigan. Orca Publishers. \$9.95.

The attraction of the English countryside is contained in the variety of pubs and hotels. Throughout Europe the quaint old hosteleries are part of the lure that brings the tourists. They've had a long head start over North America. Some of those European hosteleries date back 800 years and more.

In British Columbia the different approach to the sale of beverages resulted for many years in the provision of hotels solely to accommodate visitors. In a large city a large hotel reflected the importance and prosperity of the city it adorned. In the rural areas a hotel was sometimes a converted residence making a precarious living. It was sometimes an adjunct to a beer parlour.

The beer parlour of British Columbia's past was an institution designed to attract as few people as possible. It usually consisted of a bleakly furnished room delightfully appointed to provide a drab, hard seat for the drinker and a bare table for the drink.

There was only one drinking establishment worse than a British Columbia beer parlour: a Saskatchewan beer parlour.

CHANGING SCENE

When the government of the province decided to ease up on the

tight regulations governing drinking places it was not appreciated that the new regulations would give rise to a series of attractive and popular British Columbia pubs.

The introduction of meals and entertainment into licensed premises changed the whole pattern of social drinking for thousands of British Columbians. And the change is clearly evident in many establishments all over the province.

Bob Tyrrell and Boyd Corrigan recognized the changing pattern of social drinking when they undertook a labour of love and toured Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands to examine and assess the qualities of the local pubs.

Island Pubbing is the authoritative guide to these attractive establishments which have taken the place of the dull and the drab. There always have been attractive premises in which to drink a glass of beer, but they were not encouraged by the regulations.

In addition to those on Vancouver Island, the book lists five establishments here in the islands. The writers visited Fulford and Vesuvius on Salt Spring; Sh-Qu-Ala Inn and the Copper Whale on the Penders and the Hummingbird Inn on Galiano.

The book shows pictures of the inns and it offers a summary of the services provided. I'm somewhat prejudiced towards the trivia which is dotted through the pages.

For example: How many Gulf Islanders does it take to screw in a lamp bulb? Thirteen—one to fit the bulb and 12 to conduct the ecological impact study.

A fool and his money were lucky

to get together in the first place.

Why did the Mounties take two weeks to carry out their raid on the Canadian Union of Postal Workers? It took them that long to steam open the door.

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to Amy McLeod at the chamber office.



South Salt Spring Women's Institute members, above, during luncheon last week.

Henry Woolf here Saturday for workshop and performance

From the Salt Spring Centre Preview Interviews is planned as a regular feature of the Salt Spring Centre's Centre Stage Summer Festival of Theatre. An interview with one or more of the contributing artists will precede each production.

This procedure began last summer when the Salt Spring Centre hosted the Global Island Theatre's collective creation *A Different Mirror*. The success of that venture has led to this season's series of theatre events which commences Saturday evening with Henry Woolf's award-winning production of the Heathcote Williams play *Hancock's Last Half Hour*.

Mr. Woolf is presently out of town. Meanwhile, as a means to kick off Preview Interviews and present a glimpse of the forthcoming Centre Stage season of shows, we humbly interview ourselves.

Q. What do you know about Henry Woolf?

A. He's not very tall...except in artistic stature. He was a member of the original cast of England's Royal Shakespeare Company's internationally acclaimed production of Peter Weiss' *Marat/Sade*, under the direction of Peter Brooks.

Woolf recently directed the world premiere production of Harold Pinter's work, which had its world premier in Vancouver. Woolf teaches dramatic arts at the University of Saskatoon.

He will arrive here this weekend to lead a workshop at the Salt Spring Centre and perform *Hancock's Last Half Hour* before

going on to assume his role as co-director of the Vancouver Shakespeare Festival.

Q. Who is Heathcote Williams?
A. An iconoclast. An eccentric. The most prominent "squatter" in England. The most brilliant English dramatist since George Bernard Shaw—often compared to Congreve. And by the way, he wrote the play that we are going to see on Saturday evening.

Theatre critic John Lahr—at the time he was artistic director for the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts in New York City—wrote of Heathcote Williams' first full-length play *AC/DC*, "...The long scene with Perowne is a breathtaking literary and theatrical tour de force. In its scope—the verbal power matching the pain and humour of the gesture—Williams creates one of the most stunning moments on the English stage in the last decade. It is rare to be in the theatre and have language become a visceral event. But this is what happens in *AC/DC*...Williams' images of psychic struggle are horrifying and painfully funny."

Q. Tell us more about the summer festival of theatre.

A. Well for a summer festival it starts quite early, in the spring to be exact. Following on the wake of *Hancock's Last Half Hour* we have in June a Commedia Dell'Arte workshop with Lina DeGuevara.

Q. What is Commedia Dell'Arte?

A. Theatre sports, if you remember, which was taught and performed here on the island, is a modern improvisational form of theatre based on the North American predilection for sports. Commedia Dell'Arte is a classical improvisational form built around several stock characters such as the well known Harlequin.

Now at the end of June we have

scheduled the first of our premiere productions of new Canadian plays. On June 29 Centre Stage at the Salt Spring Centre will present the premiere production of *Foreplay* by Kiko Gonzales.

July 12 and 13 will see the premiere production of *Dying Echoes*...a new play in which Edgar Allan Poe (played by Bill Murdoch) retells the story and restages some of the events which surrounded the writing of his most widely known poem, *The Raven*. The play is written by Douglas Bankson, co-founder of Vancouver's New Play Center. Bill Murdoch recently played the role of Nat Smith in Phil Borsos' film *The Grey Fox*.

We also hope to have in July a recent staging of Edward Albee's modern classic *The Zoo Story*. It is an excellent production.

Q. Correct me if I am wrong. Centre Stage is providing a wider audience for premiere productions of new Canadian plays.

A. Correct.

Q. Centre Stage is also providing the residents and summer visitors to Salt Spring Island with a series of world-class theatre events.

A. We also hope that this series will make the shows more available for travel to other Gulf Islands.

Q. Is Centre Stage going to cultivate any "homegrown"?

A. Yes. Centre Stage hopes to develop locally-written theatre pieces in a workshop format. We also plan to stage one play per season drawn from the repertoire of world theatre.

Hancock's Last Half Hour will be seen at 8.30 pm. Saturday at Mahon Hall. Cost of the weekend workshop with Henry Woolf is \$65.

Anyone interested in workshops with Lina DeGuevara or Alex Bruhanski should contact the Salt Spring Centre at 537-2326.

Women's Institute celebrates 65 years

Members of the South Salt Spring Women's Institute dined at Fulford's Kingfisher Cafe last Thursday to celebrate their 65th anniversary. Former members came from as far as Merritt to join with friends in recalling old memories and high points in the organization's history.

President Evelyn Lee hosted the affair for the 30 members and ex-members. An anniversary cake was decorated in institute colours.

Maggie Lee of Victoria, a member of the local institute for the past 62 years, received a corsage from the president, who also presented a corsage to Lillian Lewis, president of the South Vancouver Island District, who came to Salt Spring to help celebrate.

The island institute's first minute book in 1920 recorded the following: "The institute is formed for the general betterment of the district in which it was formed. The head office to be at Burgoyne Bay schoolhouse. The proposed membership fee is 50¢ per annum."

It was recognized by the institute at the time that a community hall was necessary for social functions. Therefore its members set out to raise money through concerts,

dances and card parties. The site for the hall was donated by J.J. Shaw, father of Betty Drummond, a current member of the group. The hall itself was erected by volunteer labour.

In 1925 the hall's care became too much for the institute so it was handed over to the hall committee. Shortly after the hall was completely destroyed by fire.

Again the Women's Institute raised the money for construction and with insurance money and volunteer labour as well, a new and larger hall was built.

Fire struck again in July 1936 but once again the women of the institute came forward and as before built a bigger and better hall, which still stands today as Fulford Hall.

Other projects and accomplishments by the local Women's Institute include sponsorship of fall fairs and May 24 celebrations, assisting the local hospital, Queen Alexandria Hospital in Victoria and Children's Hospital in Vancouver, and helping the Farmers' Institute with the fall fair.

Every year the institute gives a scholarship to a graduating Gulf Islands Secondary School student in home economics or agriculture.

Drummond heads league

At the April meeting of the Salt Spring Catholic Women's League the new slate of officers for the coming year was elected.

President is Elsa Drummond; president-elect (organization convener), Jean Anderson; second vice-president (spiritual life convener), Joy Johnsen; third vice-president (community life convener), Val Gyves; secretary, Pat McCleery; treasurer, Ruth Kreissl; publicity and public relations, Lillian Beauchemin; Christian family life convener, Pat Beitel.

The president gave a detailed report on the many activities of the local council during the past year. Members discussed the World Relief Tea to be held on Saturday, Apr. 27, hosted by the United Church at Ganges. Parishioners of the two Catholic churches will be asked to donate articles for an attic treasures and paperback book sale at the the tea.

The annual diocesan meeting of the CWL will be held at the Sacred Heart Church in Victoria on May 13 and 14, beginning with the celebration of Mass at 4 pm, followed by a dinner at which the national president, Ardis Beaudry, will be the guest speaker. The provincial president, Pollyana Kilgour, will speak at the luncheon on the 14th.

Before the meeting was adjourned Ursula McEwan presented Elsa Drummond with a scroll commemorating her 25 years as a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

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Featured group

A traditional Irish band from Seattle, the Suffering Gaels, will be featured group at Celtic Music Festival at Ganges April 27-28.

Their music consists of jigs and reels, interspersed with ballads and songs from Ireland and Newfoundland. Group will host

instrumental workshops on festival's first day and play for dance from 9.30 to midnight that evening.

Players at work on *Living Together*

Alan Aychbourn's *Living Together*, part of the trilogy *The Norman Conquests*, will open May 21 at Mahon Hall in Ganges.

The Salt Spring Players' spring production, which will run until May 25, features Ron Dunbar, Brien Foerster, Sue and Alan Wyatt, Mongola and Janis Suess in the cast.

The Norman Conquests consists of three two-act plays about a group of related people, taking place during a single weekend in different parts of the same house.

According to Players spokesman Pat Desbottes, the common factor in the play is Norman's (played by Dunbar) inadequate attempts to involve himself in turn with his sister-in-law, his brother-in-law's wife and his own wife. Some

hilarious situations result, says Desbottes.

The play is produced by Dorothy Roberts and her daughter Brenda, directed by Pat Desbottes and stage managed by Murray Wynn.

Anyone interested in helping with the production is urged to contact Roberts at 537-2676. The Players are also looking for the record, *Girls Were Made To Love and Kiss*, and a large bear skin or brown fur rug.

Bridge winners

Gulf Islands Bridge Club winners April 8 were:

North-south: Kay Harrison and Marguerite Hall, Gordon Hutton and Fred Struve, Helen Shandro and Mollie Hardie, Irene Hawksworth and Dorothy Sneddon. East-west: Shirley Love and Phyllis Henderson, Lynne McLachlin and Marion Ashmore, Cobi Raymer and John Coates, Isabelle Richardson and Bunny

Jordan. Tuesday night: Gordon Hutton and Irene Hawksworth, Don Nemeth and Gordon Dafoc, Shirley Love and Marion Ashmore, Dorothy Crofton and Helen Shandro.

Fulford Bridge Club: Marion Andrews and Nancy Patterson, Dorothy Edwards and John Noakes, Bill and Betsy Minten.

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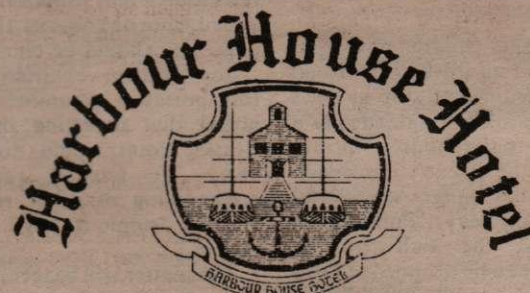
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Chamber manager

Salt Spring Island business-woman Amy McLeod has been named manager of Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce. Directors agreed two weeks ago to hire McLeod on a part-time basis,

after reviewing almost 20 applications for position. McLeod operates Island Adventures, offering tours and other activities for tourists. At one time she was secretary-treasurer of Gulf Islands School District.

Bus run may be cut

A school bus runs from Salt Spring Elementary School to the Beaver Point area and part of the run may be cut due to costs.

Trustee David Eyles wants the school board to cut part of the run because it costs the district about \$100 per month in overtime pay for the driver.

The bus takes children to various stops along Fulford-Ganges Road and was scheduled to stop at Lee's Hill. But the run was extended as a convenience to the children who are enrolled in the French immersion program at the Ganges school and who live along Beaver Point Road.

Originally, the Fulford area children were to be dropped at Lee's Hill. The bus run was extended to the Fulford Inn and then along Beaver Point Road.

Salt Spring Elementary School principal Tom Watson told the school trustees that up to four children could be riding the bus to Beaver Point on any given day.

Eyles said that if a dozen parents object to limiting the run to Lee's Hill, the school board should reconsider the proposal. But, he added, if no one objects, the run past Lee's Hill should be chopped.

Joy Ridley, chairman of the transportation committee, told the board that dropping the run to Beaver Point would not be that easy. It would require a rescheduling of other routes and create a "ripple through the whole system."

The matter will be reconsidered at the next school board meeting on April 26. That meeting is to be held on Saturna Island.

Chamber luncheon Tuesday

Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon Tuesday for volunteer workers who staff the tourist information centre at Ganges.

Guest speaker will be executive director of the Tourism Association of Vancouver Island, Joyce Brookbank.

Information centre is scheduled to open full-time May 1, but will be open on weekends till then.

Tuesday's lunch will be held at the Harbour House Hotel and begins at 12:30. Admission is \$10. Reservations must be made by 4 pm Friday to Amy McLeod at the chamber office.

Death of Fred Curtis

Fred Curtis of Salt Spring Island was found dead in his vehicle early Monday morning.

He had lived on Salt Spring for many years since moving from Victoria and had been employed for most of that time as a bricklayer.

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Sri Lankan town will soon house 25

The number of boys in residence at the Sri Lankan Boys Town—funded in part by donations from Salt Spring Islanders—will soon rise to 25 from 15.

In 1982 the world development committee of four local churches—Anglican, Community Gospel, United and Roman Catholic—agreed to support one overseas project and selected the development of a Boys Town in Sri Lanka. Assistance from the Salt Spring Rotary Club and matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency were obtained.

With help from nine other Rotary clubs a total of \$35,000 was raised.

The Rotary Club of Matala in Sri Lanka is responsible for the

development and operation of the project. A site was obtained from the government and in February 1983 the town was officially started.

The town's goal is to house 50 boys but it's taking longer than anticipated to reach the goal. Early in the summer of 1983 a severe drought hit the island and towards the end of that year racial tension developed between the Singalese and the Tamils and is still a major problem.

The town has 15 boys in residence and will increase by 10 as soon as a new dormitory is completed. Water was a problem but a new well has solved that.

Five boys have graduated after two years of school work with

instruction in gardening—growing vegetables, bananas, coconuts, spices and coffee. There is along waiting list to enroll.

Three cows will soon be purchased and the much-needed milk will supply the town and neighbouring children. Boys in the town are orphans or come from poor homes.

Wilf Peck named to Scott Point water board

When the members of the Scott Point Waterworks District held their annual meeting Saturday, a new director was chosen by the group.

The waterworks district covers about 40 residences on the Long Harbour peninsula at Salt Spring.

Wilf Peck was chosen to serve a three-year term as a replacement for John Woodward. Joe Richardson, with two years left on his term, was selected to be the chairman for the year. Art Botham has a year left on his term and he fills out the three-man board.

The Scott Point Waterworks District utilizes water from one well having a flow of about 20 gallons per minute. But the water is brackish and contains such things as sodium and chlorides.

To purify the water, it is filtered through a reverse osmosis system which removes up to 95% of the solids. System operator Phil Hume describes the filtered water as being almost distilled.

A problem with the system in 1973 allowed the intrusion of salty water, Hume explained, and the subscribers decided to try the filter system. Water, at a pressure of 450 pounds per square inch, is pumped into the filter. Hume said that for every 10,000 gallons pumped into the filter, the system produces 5,000 gallons of clean water. The output can be boosted to 7,000 gallons per day, he said. The users of the system currently take up to 3,500 gallons of water each day.

While the reverse osmosis system costs up to five times that of a normal well, Scott Point residents pay a lower fee for water than any other area on the island, Hume said.

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Winners named

Winners of Salt Spring Rotary Club draw have been announced.

Charles Baltzer won first prize of a video cassette recorder and Phyllis Jorgensen won the radio.

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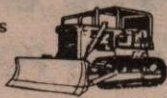
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STAR WARS:

What to consider deciding Canada's involvement

From the Salt Spring Nuclear Disarmament Group
Who really wants weapons in space?

Canada, along with other NATO countries, has been asked to participate in the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars". This scheme is intended to develop a defense against nuclear missiles by stationing in space immensely powerful weapons which could identify and destroy incoming missiles before they reach their targets.

The decision as to whether Canada should take part might be based on a number of considerations:

1. This plan represents a dangerous escalation of an arms race which is already almost out of control. Even the serious threat of such a scheme is bound to generate a similar response from the Soviets.

2. Canada's participation would be a further blurring of our long-standing resolve to distance ourselves from the insanity of nuclear weapons. Other American allies, including Margaret Thatcher's government, have expressed serious concerns over the American plan.

3. One advantage that is being touted is the availability of large sums for research which would create jobs and increase our level of technology. Surely there are many things on which this money could be spent for the benefit rather than the destruction of humankind.

4. Actually the whole idea is so ludicrously far-fetched that it is difficult to imagine anyone proposing it seriously unless engaged in the armament industry and standing to gain from the

billions of dollars involved. Imagine a system capable of pinpointing thousands of missiles being launched from widely dispersed locations anywhere in the world's oceans, and then hitting each one with something like a laser beam at 100% accuracy.

Obviously any such system would have to be computer controlled in order to automatically respond within the seconds or few minutes available. The thought of having our world ended by a short circuit or other malfunction would be funny if it wasn't so tragic.

If you share the view that this scheme is dangerous and not one in which Canada should be involved you can help by writing and expressing your views to: Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, Minister of External Affairs, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, K1A 0A6.

The Soviet Union presently has around 22,000 nuclear warheads. The U.S.A. has 30,000 and plans to build 17,000 more within five years. Britain, France and China have a few thousand more, all targeted on the Soviet Union.

Twinning project

The search is continuing for a Soviet "twin" community. A careful study of the potential village or town is being conducted by local project supporters with the assistance of the Soviet Embassy, a U.S.-based twinning organization and like-minded U.S. and Canadian communities.

Meanwhile, the concept of a Canada-U.S.S.R. cultural exchange continues to attract new Salt Spring supporters. For info, phone Wilf and Jesse Peck or Louise Beijk.

Peace library opens

Feeling helpless in the face of what's being done in the world? The first step out of that sense of helplessness comes by finding out a little of what actually is being done in the world, on your behalf and with your money.

You owe it to yourself and your family to know, and the newly-opened Peace Library is how. Up-to-date books, magazines and fact-sheets that will help you understand how we arrived at our present state of danger, and hopefully how we may rescue ourselves from it too, are now freely available on loan to any interested reader. The publications cover a wide range of peace-related issues, and have all been donated by island residents.

Video-tapes and audio-cassettes are also available, during opening hours, 8:30 - 3:30 at Salt Spring Elementary School library, Tuesdays to Thursdays. Contact the librarian, Suzanne Gagnon.

On top of it down under

"Thank you for your letter. It is heartening to have your support and I can assure you that we will maintain our position," says New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange in a recent letter to one Salt Spring resident.

His government refused to bow to U.S. pressure to allow ships possibly bearing nuclear weapons into New Zealand's ports. New Zealanders voted overwhelming to be a nuclear-free zone, and their government seems to be listening.

On March 18 Les Benjamin, MP for Regina West, introduced a bill to

declare Canada a nuclear weapons-free zone. In brief, the bill declares:

- Canada to be a nuclear weapons-free zone;
- no nuclear weapons to be manufactured, tested, stored or imported within Canada;
- penalties outlined for violations;
- a world referendum on nuclear disarmament.

The debate was talked out of time by the Tories, so it could not come to a vote. However, speeches by members of the government revealed their intention to continue, if not promote Canada, as a partner in the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons.

(The government recently admitted that spent fuel-rods from Canadian nuclear reactors are funneled into the American nuclear bomb production-lines in Tennessee and elsewhere.)

Les Benjamin intends to raise the issue again, and your support would be much appreciated. Write to him at 2833 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, and to the prime minister in Ottawa.

Upcoming

Saturday, April 27: Victoria Walk For Peace. Starts 12 noon at Centennial Square. This year—International Year of the Youth—will see more emphasis placed on young people in the walk and rally. The theme *Peace is Everyone's Struggle* will also highlight Canada's involvement in the arms race.

Bus info: the No. 70 Pat Bay Highway bus to Victoria leaves Swartz Bay at 53 minutes past each hour, Saturday morning. Bus travel time, approximately one hour.

May 10-12: Women's Alterna-

tives for Negotiating Peace: the B.C. & Yukon Regional Conference at UVic. All women welcome. The inadequate progress of peace negotiations in the face of the ever-increasing nuclear threat to the survival of our planet makes this conference important.

The conference must come up with a concrete plan of ongoing actions that will contribute to the awareness of this threat; will bring more women and women's groups together on the issue; and will provide structures and plans for follow-up efforts.

Contact Beth Hill at 537-2655 if you would like to know more. Registration forms for the conference can be picked up at et cetera.

April 25 at 7:30 you can join the next meeting of the Voice of Women at the Community Centre Women's Place. And, of course, if you just feel like an evening at home in the armchair, listen in to Radio Peace on Co-op Radio 102.7 FM, Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30.

Also tune in to *Morningside* every Thursday at 9 am (CBC AM) for a weekly feature entitled *Peace and War*.

For more information on disarmament activities here on Salt Spring Island, contact Maggie Schubart.



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Exquisite shallot is queen of onion family

I suppose it is not at all that unusual for anyone, upon the publication of his first book, to go to the book launching event heart in mouth, so to speak.

It was very comforting therefore to have the company of the artist—who is, not surprisingly, fully as beautiful as her drawings—which helped a great deal to soothe all those butterfiles in my stomach. One would suppose that after six years of being published on a weekly basis, after some 300-odd articles, that this sort of thing would be old hat. Well I found out that it is not.

Nevertheless, it all fits in perfectly, in some curiously appropriate and rather organic way, as the book itself speaks about the incredible beauty of life, about carrots in the mouth, butterflies among the cabbages, and old hats in the compost—as well as about many other matters of life.

In this light then, in the sparkling stream of photons from our sun as it were, it is only natural that his should be so, butterflies and all; and that Maralyn Horsdal, the competently professional editor cum publisher of the book, should celebrate her birthday on the same day as I do, is yet another demonstration of the mysteriously sublime synchronicity typical of the dynamics of all life.

That this sublime synchronicity can be upset by our wilful intervention, and that editing can be as fraught with pitfalls as any other perilous profession, was demonstrated again in last week's column. Long have I advocated the control of garden pests with their natural predators, with my beloved spiders, wasps, and now also with those pesky little earwigs—tireless assassins and dedicated munchers of everything intent on munching on our produce—and the very method chosen by the department of agriculture to control the winter moth.

Stunned beyond belief and speechless with outraged surprise, I found that some editorial shuffling of a few words had resulted in what, as far as I and my bugs are concerned, is nothing less than sacrilegious heresy. What had been written as control *with* natural parasites had been edited into control *of* natural parasites, in a complete reversal of everything I and my favourite predators are trying to do.

Hence I would not be surprised at all if *Driftwood* were picketed by hordes of outraged bugs, to demand the recognition of their inalienable rights and their rightful status in the

web of life, and to demand an immediate cessation of the senseless persecution, slander and harassment of their kind.

But let us now turn from matters political to matters of taste, and to the sublime flavour of the queen of the onion family, the exquisite shallot. Indispensable for that incomparably divine flavour of French soups, the shallot has long commanded the favour of chefs the world over, and incidentally, a commensurate price as well.

Prices of \$5 to \$8 per pound are not uncommon and, at least among connoisseurs, a lively difference of opinion regarding the comparative merits of red, yellow or grey shallots occupies much of their time. Yet this aristocratic onion is quite easily grown, especially in our climate.

It requires a steady supply of moisture and nutrients throughout its growing period, and since it is quite cold-hardy, it thrives in our extensive spring period and its abundant moisture. Later on, when its leaves start to die off upon maturity, the shallot requires a three to four-week bone-dry period—in the ground—to develop maximum flavour and storage qualities.

This ties in rather well with our summer drought period, when it is absolutely crucial to withhold any moisture at all. After harvesting, the curing and drying should be done under a south-facing roof in net

Farming and Gardening

BY PETER WEIS

bags for good exposure to air and to avoid the early morning dews of our cool autumn nights. If shallot sets are planted just about now, they will be ready for harvest in August, the perfect time for drying and curing.

Shallots are very easy to grow, especially in our climate, and coastal B.C. could easily be a major supplier of this so elegantly flavoured and profitable onion. High organic content in the soil, for continuous moisture retention, and raised beds for good drainage, will provide ideal growing conditions. Shallots require more phosphorus and potassium than nitrogen, and their perfect fertilizer therefore is fish emulsion, along with a tablespoon of bonemeal under the bulb at planting time.

Once a month side dress with fish emulsion until the middle of July, and after that cease all fertilizing and watering until harvest. Plant sets eight inches (20cm) apart in all directions, and to keep beds weed free and to retain moisture, mulch

with sheared weeds, seaweed, six-fold layers of newspapers or other suitable mulches.

That is all there is to it, and although sets may be fairly expensive, they will increase five to eightfold, provide their own sets for next year's crop, and a delicious source of income. The grey-skinned shallot has the thickest skin and stores best, and some consider it to have the most subtly superior flavour, but this is a matter of opinion and taste. Whichever ones

you grow does not matter, as all of them are winners.

I just hope that my first book will be just as much a winner as the shallot, and on the occasion of its publication I would like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the years. Your support of this column has led directly to the existence of *Weeds and Seeds* along with what must be, without any doubt, the most fantastic coincidences in all of creation. Thank you.

SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

- ★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to answer phone, type, & help with library - 537-9212 half days once a week.
- ★ MOTHERS TIME OUT - Wed. 1-4 and Friday 9-12 \$1 per hour per family. Please bring communal snack.
- ★ Annual General Meeting Salt Spring Island Community Society Apr. 17.
- ★ MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays 7:30.
- ★ FOOD BANK - Mon. & Fri. 2-4; Wed. 2-3:30.

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Fender bent

Minor accident occurred in the parking lot at Ganges Village Market last Thursday.

Donald Perkins backed his 1974 Dodge pickup into a 1980 Pontiac driven by Heather McManus. The Pontiac was dented with an estimated \$500 damage. The pickup was not hurt.

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Technologists' work vital in providing treatment

Hospital laboratory essential in health care system

By TONY RICHARDS
More than one islander gave up some of his blood for testing last week at Lady

Minto Hospital so that his doctor was able to make an accurate diagnosis of his condition. Several other residents had their

ears, nose or throat swabbed for other types of tests.

But how many of those people were aware of what happened to the blood or the swabs after they were taken?

Chances are those samples were tested by one of the five medical technologists employed at Lady Minto, who work out of the hospital's 450 square feet of laboratory space.

It sounds like a small space and looks like one too, but hospital administrator Malcolm Pinteau pointed out that Lady Minto's lab space is about average for a hospital its size. However, he said too that Lady Minto's laboratory is busier than most in a similar-sized hospital.

One of the reasons, the administrator said, was that the lab is quite sophisticated for its size. While many small hospitals would have a lot of tests done at a larger facility such as the Jubilee in Victoria, Lady Minto can provide a faster service to local doctors by doing the tests here.

Tests can be more accurate

In addition, the tests are more accurate in some respects, Pinteau said, in that specimens don't have to be subjected to the risk of deterioration in transporting them to Victoria.

Who are the people inside the laboratory and what do they do?

The medical technologists are Gordie Herman, Judy and Gerry Wilkin, Judy Rolfsen and Jean Taylor and basically their job is to analyze patient samples of blood, cultures and urine.

While a larger hospital will have facilities to carry out tests in several

different areas, Lady Minto's laboratory deals in three specific ones: Haematology, which involves blood analysis to detect diseases such as anemia and leukemia; clinical chemistry, which measures the body's chemical and enzyme activity; and microbiology, which detects bacteria which cause infections.

The most impressive piece of equipment in the Lady Minto lab is the Automatic Clinical Analyzer, set up to conduct 24 different chemistry tests. For instance, it will test blood serum by analyzing its content and producing a printout showing the amount of different elements contained within it. Six years ago the lab was able to do two chemistry tests. The Clinical Analyzer, purchased for almost \$40,000 about a year ago, enables the lab staff to do 24, though its capacity is 30.

The first test is completed in seven minutes and every subsequent test thereafter takes 37 seconds. According to Gordie Herman, 10-15 patients a day are tested by the machine, for a total of up to 80 tests daily. Before the machine was purchased, most of the chemistry tests were done off-island.

Equipment tested daily

Accuracy of the testing is essential. Every morning the equipment itself is tested using known controls to ensure that there is no error in any test. The lab also undergoes strict accreditation procedures along with an external quality control system for its chemistry tests.

Behind the hospital in the nurses'

residence is the microbiology laboratory, which deals with living organisms such as bacteria. A throat swab, for example, will go to this lab where it is rolled on to a type of gelatin and placed inside an incubator. Being left overnight under the right conditions will allow bacteria to grow and then be identified the following day.

Once the identification is made, the technologist will determine to what type of antibiotic the bacteria is sensitive. That information is then relayed back to the doctor who treats his patient accordingly.

Dr. Hugh Borsman, chief of staff at Lady Minto, described the lab facilities as essential to the medical staff. He also said the hospital was lucky to have some good, dedicated and hard-working people in its laboratory.

Lab tests, he said, can be life-saving.

If someone who may have appendicitis goes to the hospital, a white blood count is essential in making a diagnosis. Borsman cited older people with chest problems as well.

"If we don't monitor their blood chemistry they could die overnight."

Isolation of hospital must be considered

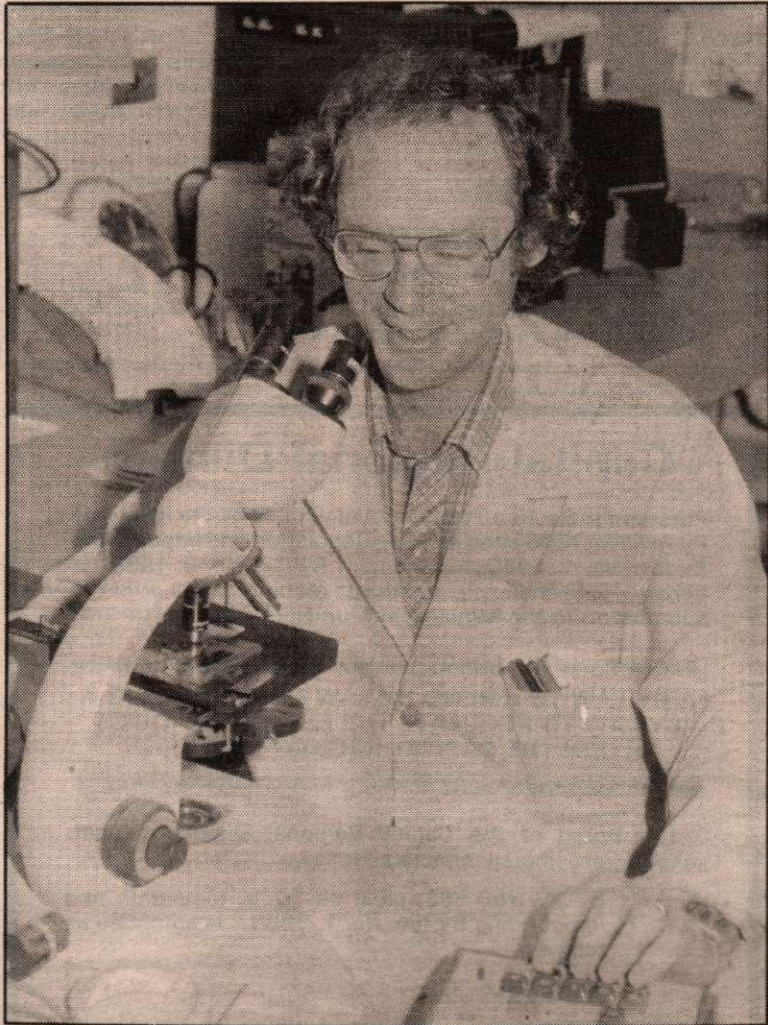
The lab, Borsman continued, was also important to the hospital because of its relative isolation. He said the government had to be reminded almost annually that sometimes a patient cannot be taken off the island. Not only is a helicopter not always available in bad weather, but it takes time to get it over here from Vancouver Island. The ferries don't carry patients over on special trips anymore and the weather often makes for too rough a trip on a water taxi.

For those reasons, the hospital needs "reasonably adequate facilities."

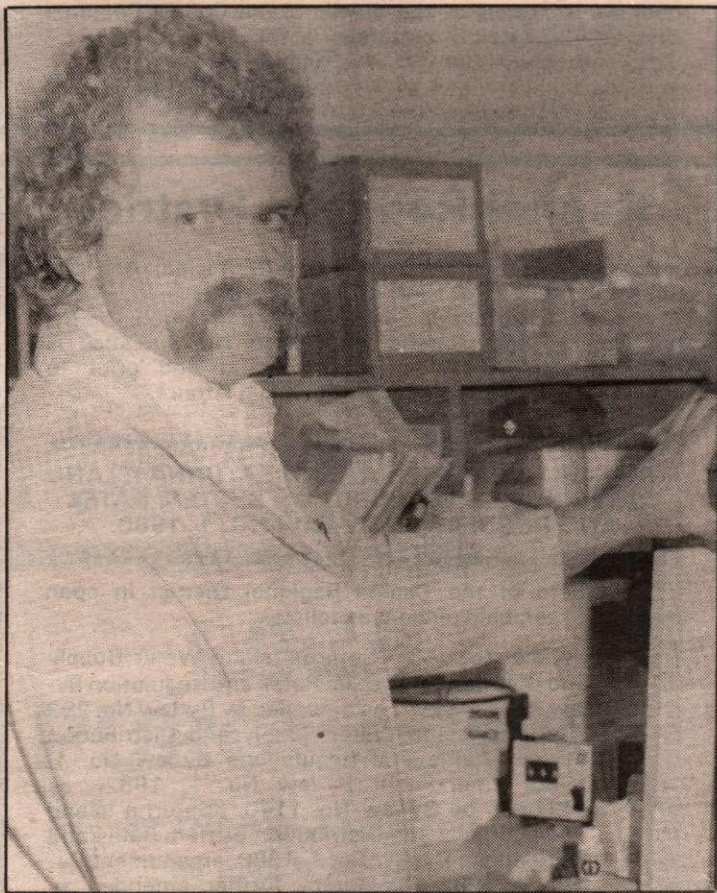
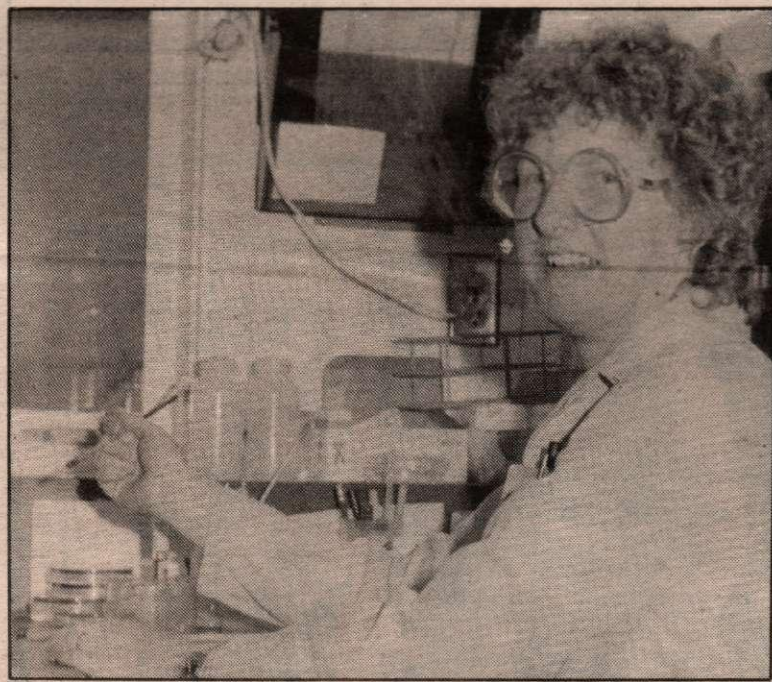
Lady Minto's laboratory facilities are currently undergoing improvements through renovations to provide a little more space, work that Gordie Herman hopes to see completed by Hospital Day, May 10.

At that time the public will have the opportunity to see first-hand how a hospital laboratory operates. Most of what you'll see will be quite interesting but I have a word of advice for the faint of heart: stay away from the little red blocks of gelatin on which the various bacteria are encouraged to grow.

You'll be enjoying the tour until the medical technologist tells you that those harmless looking, cream-coloured streaks are a thriving staph infection. It's not something you want to take home as a souvenir.



Above, Gerry Wilkin uses microscope in his work at Lady Minto laboratory while Gordie Herman, below, conducts test on clinical analyzer. At lower right is Judy Wilkin in microbiology lab.



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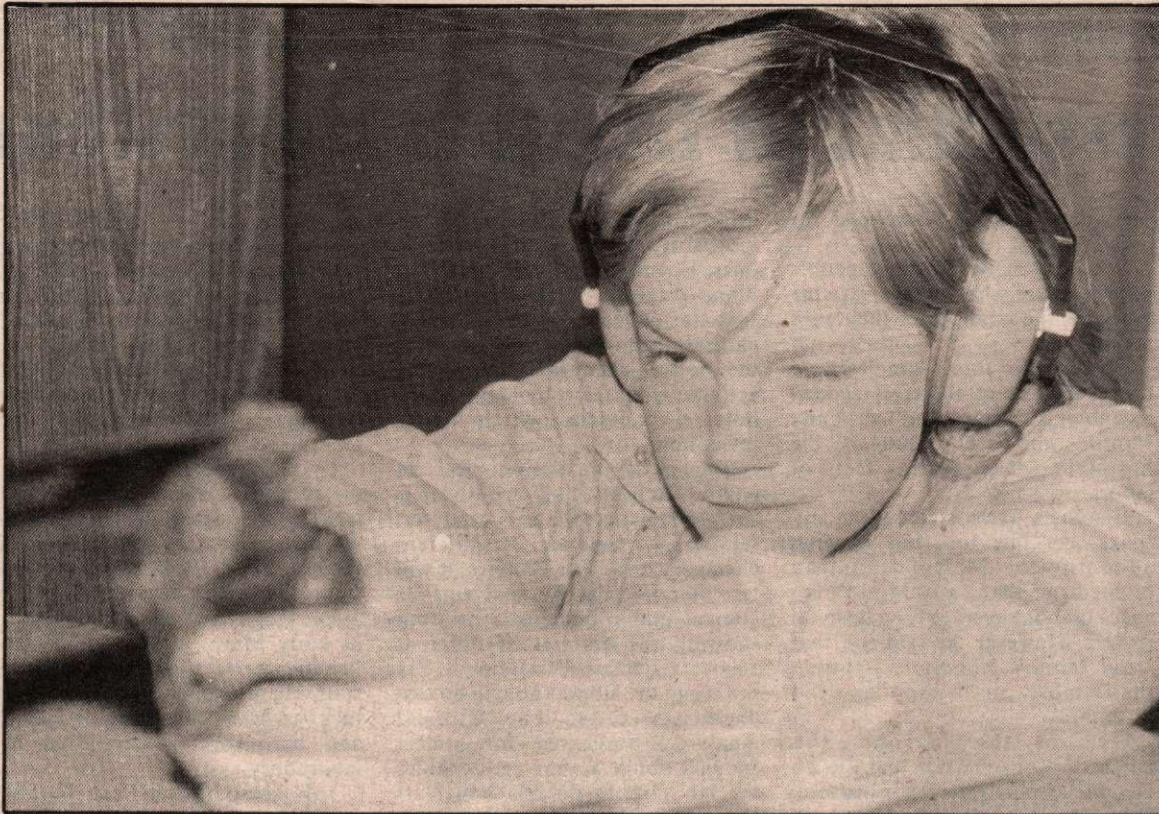
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Rifle and pistol shoot was held Sunday at Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club. At top, Devon Gear won sub-juniors trophy when she shot 229 in pistol event. Centre, Sharon Reynolds, who won ladies' aggregate category, is seen participating in rifle event. Above, examining results following big bore shot are, from left, Terry Slingsby, Neill Christensen, Des Smith, Jack Reynolds and Bernie Reynolds. Driftwood photos by Alice Richards.

Trophy shoot Sunday

Results of the trophy shoot held on Sunday at the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club are as follows:

Sub-juniors (under 10) listed in order: .22 event, Cathy Akerman, Devon Gear, Kenny Akerman and Alan Gear Jr.; pistol shoot, Devon Gear, Cathy Akerman, Kenny Akerman, Alan Gear Jr.

Juniors (aged 11 and up): .22 event, Sam Reynolds, Paul Reynolds and Steven Smith tied, Dwayne Bennett, Bobby Akerman, Vincent Bennett and Michael Fenlon; pistol shoot, Paul

Reynolds, Michael Fenlon, Steven Smith, Bobby Akerman, Sam Reynolds, Dwayne Bennett and Vincent Bennett.

Adult events:
Pistol: Louis Lorentsen, men's, and Kathy Cartwright, ladies'. .22 rifle: Cam Cartwright, men's, Kathy Cartwright, women's. Big bore: Cam Cartwright, men's, Kathy Cartwright, ladies'. Aggregate: Louis Lorentsen, men's, Sharon Reynolds, ladies'. Hunting rifle (new event): Cam Cartwright, men's.

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Capital Regional District

Pursuant to Section 769 of the Municipal Act, the following By-law No. 1336 cited as "Dog Regulation and Impounding By-law No. 1, 1980, Amendment By-law No. 8, 1985" is hereby published as at third reading and prior to submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NO. 688, BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF DOGS WITHIN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Board of the Capital Regional District in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. By-law No. 688, cited as "Dog Regulation and Impounding By-law No. 1, 1980", is amended as follows:

SCHEDULE "C"

Delete Schedule "C" and substitute therefor the attached Schedule "C"

A copy of the by-law may be viewed during normal working hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive, holidays excepted, at the offices of the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C.

William M. Jordan,
Executive Director.

Capital Regional District

Pursuant to Section 769 of the Municipal Act, the following By-law No. 1344 cited as "Saturna Island Water Supply and Distribution System Rates and Regulation By-law No. 1, 1980, Amendment By-law No. 3, 1985" is hereby published as at third reading and prior to submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

A BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND SATURNA ISLAND WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RATES AND REGULATION BY-LAW NO. 1, 1980.

The Board of the Capital Regional District in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. By-law No. 713, "Saturna Island Water Supply and Distribution System Rates and Regulation By-law No. 1, 1980", as amended by By-law No. 993 "Saturna Island Water Supply and Distribution System Rates and Regulations By-law No. 1, 1980, amendment By-law No. 1, 1982" as amended by By-law No. 1140, "Saturna Island Water Supply and Distribution System Rates and Regulations By-law No. 1, 1980, amendment By-law 2, 1983", is hereby further amended as follows:

By deleting Schedule "B" and substituting therefor the attached amended Schedule "B" and

By deleting Schedule "C" and substituting therefor the attached amended Schedule "C"

2. This By-law takes effect on all bills issued after adoption of this by-law.

A copy of the by-law may be viewed during normal working hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive, holidays excepted, at the offices of the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C.

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