

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Serving the Beautiful Gulf Islands of Salt Spring, Mayne, Galiano, North & South Penders and Saturna

Ph. 537-9933

TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR, NO. 4

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

40c

Few objections from islanders as fares increase February 1

There were few objections to be heard from islanders following last week's announcement by the B. C. Ferry Corporation that fares will go up February 1.

The new fares, announced last Wednesday by corporation president Andrew Collier, amount to an increase of approximately eight percent for passenger vehicles on Gulf Islands routes.

There will be no increase in passenger or bicycle fares.

Passenger vehicle fares, (including driver) will go from \$14 to \$15 between Tsawwassen and the Gulf Islands, from \$5.25 to \$5.75 on Gulf Islands-Vancouver Island routes and from \$3 to \$3.25 on inter-island runs. The increases amount to seven, 9.5 and eight percent, respectively.

Passenger vehicle fare on the Vancouver Island-mainland ferries will go up \$1 to \$19, a 5.5% increase.

Collier said in a news release that the new rates reflect higher costs in operating and maintaining vessels and terminals.

"The board of directors agreed the main expense at this time is in providing and improving transportation for vehicles, therefore, passenger fares will not increase on any of the corporation's routes."

Collier said the new rate structure "ensures continued high-quality service while recognizing that the taxpayer's subsidy should not exceed reasonable levels."

The corporation's subsidy from the provincial government will be about \$41 million this year, down about \$2 million from last year.

Last time fares went up was in January last year. Residents paid about seven percent more on Gulf Islands-Vancouver Island routes with the re-introduction of commuter tickets. Regular fares on the same routes increased by about 24%.

Collier also noted that B. C. Ferries offers "one of the world's best travel bargains."

"In fact, this point is recognized by the American travel industry, particularly in California, Washington and Oregon. As a result I do not see a reduction in tourist travel because of this modest increase."

New fares for commercial vehicles will be \$1.70 per foot, up from \$1.55, between Tsawwassen and the islands, and 60c, up from 55c, on inter-Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island-Gulf Island routes.

Overweight vehicles will pay \$18.50 instead of \$16.75 on the Tsawwassen-Gulf Islands route, \$7 instead of \$6.25 on Vancouver Island-Gulf Island ferries and \$4, up from \$3.50, on inter-island runs.

Motorcycle fares will go from \$8 to \$9 between the islands and the mainland, from \$3.05 to \$3.50 to Vancouver Island and from \$2 to \$2.15 between islands.

Salt Spring Transportation Committee chairman Joan Ingram said Monday she felt the increases were not unreasonable. For that, she said, "we've got to give credit to the new man at the helm," referring to Collier who became president and chief executive officer just a few months ago.



Opening ceremony attracts hundreds

Hundreds of people were on hand for the official opening Saturday of the new Island Savings Credit Union building in Ganges. Television commentator and Salt Spring Islander Jack Webster was invited to speak and cut the

ceremonial ribbon. From left are Michael Schubart, president of the Island Savings board of directors; Tom Toynbee, owner of the property on which the new building sits; Jack Webster; Ray Bush, general manager of Island

Savings Credit Union; Andre La Porte, director; and George Heinekey, director from Salt Spring Island. Below, youngsters were impressed with Cecil, the Island Savings robot.

Driftwood photos by Alice Richards



Ferry crew fight car fire Friday

Crew members aboard the *Queen of Tsawwassen* were praised for their quick action when a vehicle caught fire as it was being driven off the ferry at Long Harbour Friday night.

The vehicle was part-way up the

ramp when it stalled. When the driver went to start the engine, the car burst into flames.

First mate Scotty Ryles told *Driftwood* Tuesday that excess fumes from a flooded carburetor flashed on the hot manifold to start

the fire.

He said crew members Donald Harker, Ian Lyon and Merv Walde went about fighting the fire "as though it were a regular thing."

He commended them for a job "very well done."

'Outstanding' results obtained in reading skills assessment

Results of an assessment of the reading skills of children in Gulf Islands schools compare favourably with children in other school districts of the province.

The reading assessments were carried out on three grade levels last year and Mike Marshall, superintendent of schools, brought the results to the attention of the Gulf Islands School Board recently.

"These results are so outstanding," he told the school trustees, "they really must be shared."

The children were tested on their understanding of words, comprehension of the reading material and other aspects of reading.

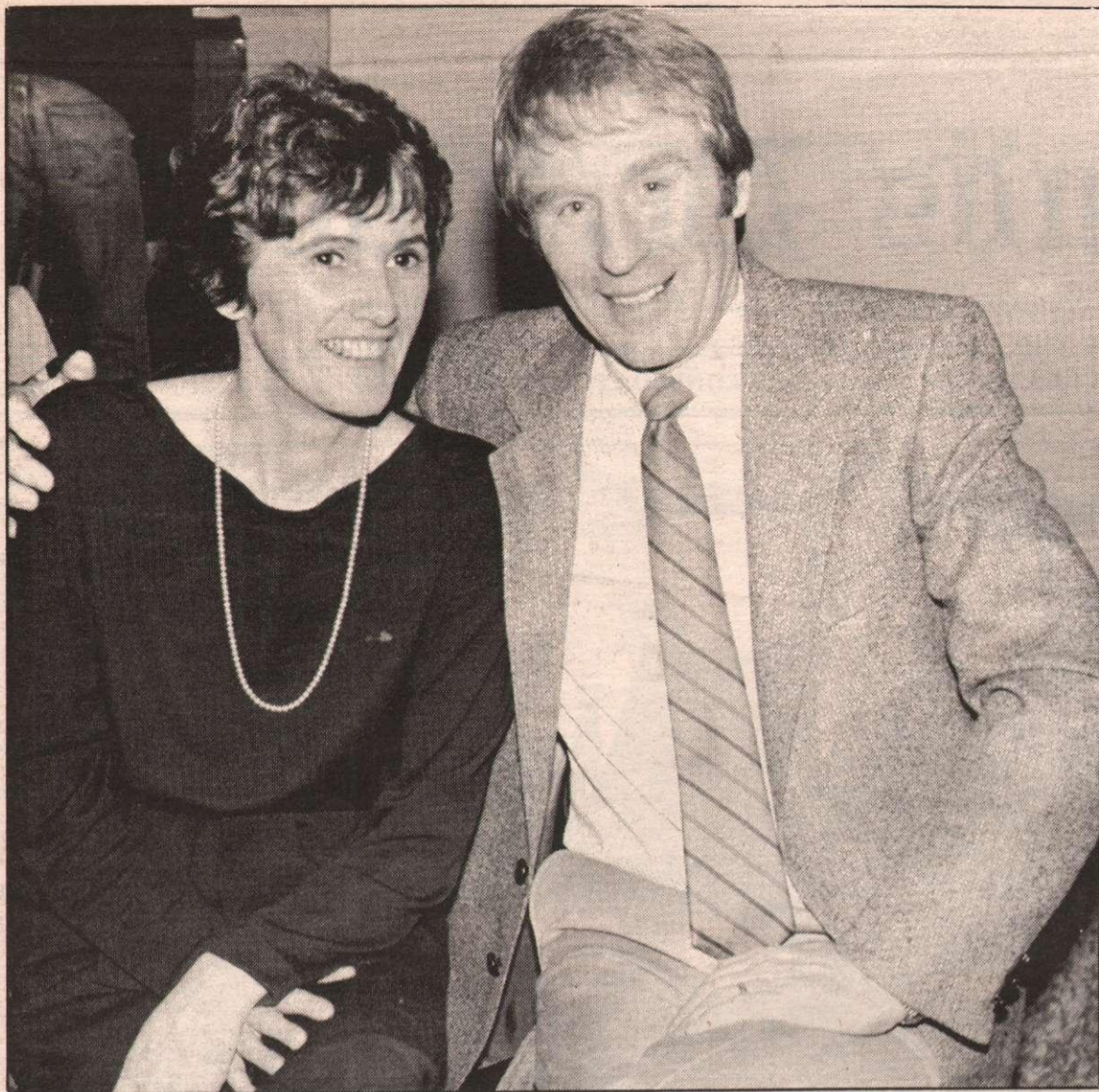
The tests were broken down to

four parts for the Grade 4 pupils and five parts for children in Grades 7 and 10.

The Grade 4 children of the Gulf Islands were ranked with a first in inferential and critical comprehension, and seconds in literal comprehension as well as understanding words and expressions. They came in sixth in their ability to locate and use information.

The Grade 7 children ranked third for both inferential and critical comprehension, fifth for literal comprehension, 18th for locating and using information and 21st for understanding words and expressions.

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Dinner for Woodley

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Linda and Glenn Woodley at appreciation night Friday at Fulford Hall. Salt Spring Islanders staged the dinner and roast to honour Woodley's contribution to the community in recreation. He served for 15 years on the recreation commission, many of which were

spent as chairman. He was presented with a painting during the evening, and was saluted with several roasts by local residents.

Court remands juvenile on 11 break-in charges

A Salt Spring youth appeared in court last week to face 11 charges of breaking into nine businesses in Ganges last summer.

The spree started in May and continued until September. The court heard that the juvenile, 16, had been in the company of an adult when the incidents occurred.

Judge R. E. Hudson remanded the youth until February 12 for a probation officer's report. The youth was also placed on curfew and must be home from 8 pm until 6 am each day except Friday when the hours of curfew are from 10 pm until 6 am.

The court heard that the cost of the break-ins, in theft of money and goods as well as damage, was close to \$450.

The youth was charged with breaking into O'Hara's Fish shop, Embe Bakery, the Chamber of Commerce tourist information office and KIS Secretarial Service, Mouat's Trading Company, the offices of Jonathan Yardley and

Edith Sacker as well as Salt Spring Subs twice and the clubhouse at the golf course twice.

Judge Hudson was told that when police talked to the youth last fall, he admitted to being involved in the incidents. He was charged under the Young Offender's Act.

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Robbie Burns Supper

Fri., Jan. 25
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Refreshments at 6 o'clock
Call to dinner at 6:45
Dancing later.

Advance tickets - \$12.50/person

Fastball league meeting next week

A number of Salt Spring Island ball players are tired of slowpitch and are making an early start to organize a fastpitch league for the 1985 season.

The Salt Spring men's fastball league will hold an organizational meeting next Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 pm in the Harbour House Hotel.

Players, team representatives and anyone interested in umpiring are urged to attend.

Speeding cost \$35

Speeding on his motorbike on Fulford-Ganges Road cost Max Burton a fine of \$35 in court last week.

Judge R. E. Hudson heard that Burton was stopped and charged with speeding on November 23. Burton entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

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To be Frank

...by Richards

From then to now

Marriage has changed in the past decades. It used to be from wed to dead and now it's just from woo to woe, in one move.

Enshrined

Not like television, which never changes. Trouble is that the TV lives in the living room in the average home and there's no escape. Except listening to the boners. In a movie there was the comment, this week, that a fellow could read the menu in French, Italian and Swiss. What language would Swiss be? And a classic definition of him whose name is preserved for posterity within the hall of fame. He, or she, as the case may be, is an "enshrinee".

Miss Iles and Mistles

Thinking of missiles. I like it with smiles better than rhyming with thistles. Like mistles or missals. As a boy I went to church a lot. And I carried many a missal from one side of the altar to another. I can tell you that's one heavy book. It puts me in mind of the altar boy who was helping renovate the church. He lifted the missal off the altar and carried it to the church door. There he met a pious woman coming in. Boy, book and woman were all on the floor of the porch with the missal on the unfortunate woman's leg.

"Why can't you be like other boys?" she asked him, indignantly, "and read comic books?"

In that instance, of course, the missal was a miss ile, with a short second syllable.

If there were emphasis on missal and less on missile, life might be more assured. Who knows? But don't confuse it with mistle. Scotch mist is never guided and rarely nuclear. And you might stub your toe.

Of course they're dollars!

There is a feature of some advertising lately that annoys me very. It is the practice of specifying Canadian dollars in an advertised price. Even firms as Canadian as the beaver list prices in a Canadian publication as so many dollars, Canadian. If they were asking for Hong Kong dollars, the reminder would be obvious and sensible. But when a commodity or a service is advertised in a Canadian medium, the price should, in my opinion, be specified in nothing but Canadian dollars. I remember many years ago coming home from the United States and having the CPR refuse Canadian dollars at Port Angeles. It was legitimate. The transaction was taking place in the United States and it was not untoward to ask for the currency of the country. But I had hoped that a Canadian company might be more lenient.

Looking to the future

I can only write it this year:
Mother, dear, tell me, do:
Shall I be like you
When I'm ninety-two?

That Webster broolly

Quite the chic umbrella Jack Webster was wearing on Saturday. I wouldn't want to be rude, but I couldn't help feeling that he could have used one several sizes bigger.

There's no such word!

And a note to many an announcer, and others. There is no such word as nucular.

Quicker by bottle!

On December 6 a letter was mailed from Pender Island to Salt Spring Island. It was addressed to Mrs. E. Lee, South Salt Spring Women's Institute, Salt Spring Island, B.C. The letter, from Pender Island W.I., Paisley Road, RR 1, Pender Island, B.C. bore an "A" stamp and two cents. It was received on Salt Spring Island on January 17. The letter took 43 days to travel perhaps four miles. There is no such post office as Salt Spring Island. But there are two post offices on the island. And there was no correction on the envelope to indicate that it had strayed for lack of the correct post office. It might have been quicker by bottle.

Those are times past

The Society of Painters in Oil and Water Colours will close their 11th annual exhibition on Saturday next. It could be on any of the islands, but it wasn't. The announcement is the first classified in a copy of the London Times for June 22, 1815. It is one of a number of early newspapers in the possession of W.H. Saunders, of Welbury Point.

A very capital bay horse was offered at the price of 60 pounds. Apart from the details of this seven-year-old horse, the price is interesting. It is shown as 60 l. The later, ornate script "£" appears to have been a thing of the future.

Most interesting announcement was by the African and Asiatic Society. The president of the society was W. Wilberforce, MP. He was a world figure in the international campaign for the abolition of slavery. His fellow directors were Earl of Crawford and Lindsay, Lord Gambier, Lord Calthorpe, T. Stephen, and others.

The anniversary dinner of the society would be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Queen St., on the morrow. Dinner on table at five o'clock. Tickets, 15s each. About 100 Africans and Asiatics were expected to dine in an adjoining room. You could free them, but you still didn't have to share the same table with slaves.

Mrs. Trist, of St. George's House, Ramsgate, received young gentlemen between the ages of three and eight for her preparatory school.

An elegant light modern chariot on its first wheels was offered at 150 guineas. Yellow outside and blue inside, with yellow squabs, it boasted an excellent driving seat on a neat Salisbury boot.

Offer of a very different nature was 20 Southwark Bridge shares by a broker.

You were also invited to buy a distillery, a cheesemongery, a millinery, a druggist's or shares in the Trent and Mersey Canal, the Grand Trunk Canal, Rochdale, Ellesmere and the Old Union, the Grand Union, the Kennet and Avon, Lancaster or Regent's Canals.

Oddly enough, when the prize was a lottery ticket, the newspaper used the script pound symbol to announce a prize of £30,000. The front page is quoted here. In 1815 and for another 125 years or so, the Times devoted its front page to classified advertising.

Another busy bee

I had a letter from a reader in Victoria who also has a bee in his bonnet. C. Morgan, "The Barnyard Bard", of Bay St., read a comment in this column last week about honey and quoted the rhyme about the busy little bee. And I'm grateful but not grateful enough to run it yet again. Which probably makes me one of those sons of bees.

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120's—Reg. 5.35 ea.

LIBBY'S
Pork & Beans NOW **79¢** EA.
19 oz. tins — Reg. 1.49 ea.

LIBBY'S CREAM STYLE
Corn NOW **59¢** EA.
14 oz. tins — Reg. 1.05 ea.

CAMPBELL'S
Tomato Soup NOW **2/79¢**
10 oz. tins — Reg. 55¢ ea.

DOLE
Pineapple NOW **99¢** EA.
19 oz. tins — Reg. 1.45 ea.

DAIRY MAID
Apple Juice NOW **2/1.49**
1 litre ctns. — Reg. 1.29 ea.

Kraft Dinner NOW **2/99¢**
7 oz. pkgs. — Reg. 75¢ ea.

EMPRESS
Raspberry Jam NOW **2.39** EA.
24 oz. tins — Reg. 3.49 ea.

BEST FOODS
Mayonnaise NOW **2.49** EA.
750 ml btls. — Reg. 3.49 ea.

PUREX
Toilet Tissue NOW **1.59** EA.
4-roll pkgs. — Reg. 2.35 ea.

PRODUCE SPECIALS — JAN. 24-26

DOLE WHITE
Mushrooms
 LB. **1.59**

PINK
Grapefruit
 5 lb. cello bags **1.59** EA.

MEAT SPECIALS — JAN. 24-26

CHUCK
Blade Roast  **2.84** KG **1.29** LB.

CROSS ROB
Roast **4.02** KG **1.79** LB.

LEAN
Ground Beef **4.16** KG **1.89** LB.

FRESH PURE PORK
Sausage **4.02** KG **1.79** LB.

FRESH CUT UP
Fowl **1.74** KG **.79** LB.

Gulf Island Trading Co.



Get a good thing going. Yourself.



Gulf Islands Driftwood

Published every Wednesday at Ganges by

Driftwood
Publishing Ltd.

537-9933
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SECOND CLASS MAIL REGISTRATION NO. 0803

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

Fare increases not unreasonable

Apathetic was the word used by one observer to describe the public's attitude towards last week's announcement of a fare increase by the B.C. Ferry Corporation.

We submit, however, that apathy is not the reason that there have been few objections to the fare hike. On the contrary, it is just that people are becoming accustomed to the inflationary increases in the prices of goods and services.

While one journal has described the fare increases as "the second in just over a year," a more realistic description would be "the first in more than a year."

B.C. Ferries is faced with steadily rising costs, the same as any other business, and must be expected to charge more for its services to offset those cost increases.

Groups such as the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, in protesting an increase that amounts to little more than five percent on mainland-Vancouver Island ferries, are doing themselves more harm than good. The chamber's loud protests will likely turn away some tourists but a five percent increase certainly will not.

If there is any aspect of ferry transportation on this coast that merits a protest, it's the lack of federal funding that comes our way. While east coast ferries get federal subsidies, those on the Pacific get none.

There is another disparity in the fares charged by B.C. Ferries and those charged by ministry of highways vessels. There should be little or no difference between the two on ferry routes of similar length.

Smoking bylaw

The issue in the Capital Regional District appears to be whether or not the proprietors of businesses in the region have acquainted themselves with the smoking bylaw. Are they aware?

Last week the board approved a somewhat laborious procedure to ensure that district businesses are, in fact, aware of the bylaw.

The question paramount in the mind of most residents who have a thought for the regulation is that of penalties. What happens if someone smokes? Those who don't smoke are fearful that nothing will happen. Those who do smoke have not been organized for comment on the subject.

The only bylaws of the region which have been fairly consistently enforced are those relating to building regulation. Property owners who build in defiance of the building regulations have been prosecuted. In most other areas the existence of a bylaw has been deemed a deterrent and not too much attention has been paid to enforcement.

Is awareness the purpose of the bylaw? Or will it be enforced?

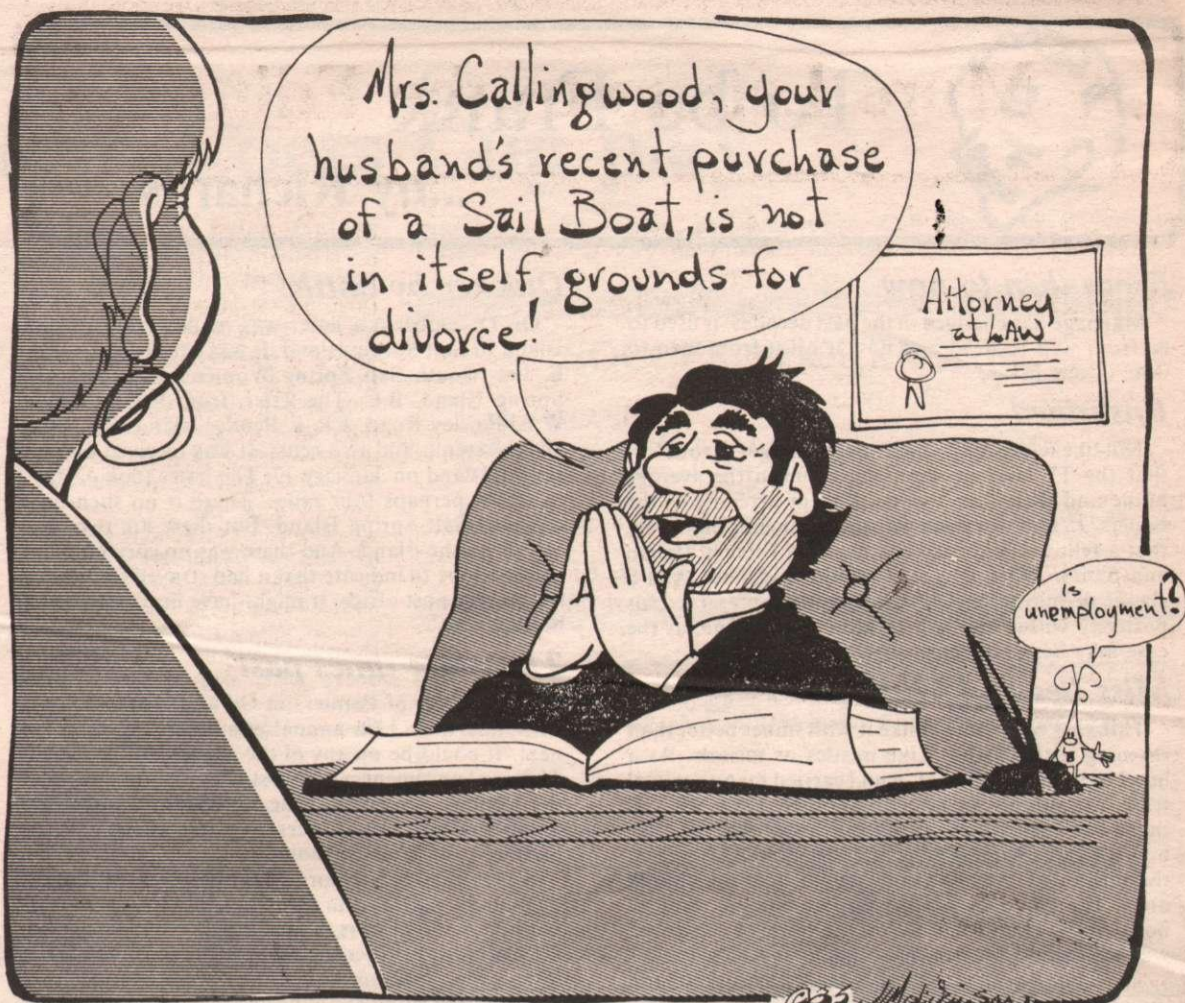
If there is to be no enforcement, then awareness is paramount. If there is to be enforcement, then it would be logical to assume, as in the case of any other law or regulation, that the suspect is fully aware of the error of his ways.

A happy ending

Friday evening marked a happy ending to Glenn Woodley's long stint as a recreation commissioner. The people he had served, those he had worked with and those whose interests have centred on recreation on Salt Spring Island were there to have dinner with him, to take part in a presentation to him and to join in the festive air which characterized the appreciation banquet.

By the end of the evening Woodley had a clear picture of the regard of the community for his long record and a large number of island spokesmen had detailed their perception of his contribution.

It was, in fact, a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted so many years to the needs of his community.



Letters to the Editor

Planning is essential

Sir,

I would like to make a couple of comments concerning community planning on Salt Spring Island. First, I think your editorial last week hit the nail squarely on the head. We do indeed need planning now simply in order to protect the very rural character that some of your correspondents and a sadly misinformed Minister of Municipal Affairs say will be lost because of planning.

No one likes red tape less than I do, nor do I believe in ramming something down the throats of an unwilling public. That way lies dissension and animosity as we have seen from the sewer controversy. But I do hope to persuade those of you opposed to planning that the very freedoms inherent in a rural community can only be retained by careful, community endorsed planning. Just as those of us who farm and raise families on this island survive by careful planning and use of our land base and other resources, so will the community survive and prosper and remain pleasant to live in by planning the use of its resources—essentially the land, forests, water, air, wildlife and so on. Failure to so plan will mean the gradual degradation of all those things and pretty soon we will wonder why it isn't the way it used to be!

I must reply to John Nicolson's quite misleading letter of December 19. Yes, a majority of those present at the Fulford Harbour meeting on the community plan were opposed to it. I respected their opinions on allowing a vote and the Advisory Planning Commission perhaps wisely decided not to push the issue in the face of such resistance.

But Nicolson has no right to speak of an "overwhelming majority of the community." The only way that could be determined would be by referendum. I would also have welcomed a more informed and fair debate at that meeting. We would

have listened, considered, modified and come back to you for approval. I believe any such plan must reflect the wishes of the people whose lives it affects—and protects. However, no planning will also affect them, but in that case they will have forfeited their right to control and change and will inevitably be imposed from outside and above.
DAVID WILLIAMS,
Chairman,
Advisory Planning Commission.

Unmetricated eggs

Sir,

Do you know why nothing has been done about the eggs?

Yours is the only paper I read so the matter may have been raised in the national press but never a word have I seen in *Driftwood*.

It is a long time since we all found that 32 equalled nothing and the radio news still leaves me in danger of a chill or heat stroke as I cannot guess the temperature.

That shock was followed by the country being Metreaced—and was it not?

It was nice driving at 50 where 30 had been the limit but the mental arithmetic with fives and eights to find how far I was going or had been was (and is) tiresome.

Now all this time has passed and still nothing has been done about the eggs. In a Metrampled country surely eggs should not be sold by the dozen! Not only is a dozen Imperial but 12 is not compatible with Metric.

I really think something should be done—cartons of 10 should be the order (at the same price of course) and I just hope that my letter may catch the eye of Authority.

In closing may I ask that you, as I do, spare a sympathetic thought for that unfortunate creature the two point five-four centimetre worm—what an appalling appellation. To blazes with Metric!!
R. J. WESTON,
Ganges.

A tribute to veterinarian

Sir,

We who own pets, should be grateful to have a dedicated man such as Dr. C. Address on our Islands!

His sensitivity and kindness is something to behold. Those of us who have lost beloved pets—understand what it means to have a person such as Dr. Address—at that sad last farewell.

MARY AND CHARLIE JOHNSON,
South Pender Island.

Stream cleaning

Sir,

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Association is meeting on Monday, January 28, 7:30 pm in the Salt Spring Elementary School Library.

We have obtained funding for four employees for 10 weeks work through the Canada Works Program. This group will be used to clean up some of the creeks and prepare them for salmon enhancement. The streams involved will be Ganges, Cusheon, Booth Canal, possibly Maxwell (Cranberry runoff) and Duck and Fulford Creeks.

We would like property owners and people who live near the creeks to come to the meeting and form a community group for each creek.

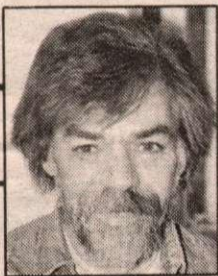
We would also like to encourage participation from the schools and the Outdoor, Hiking, and Rod and Gun Clubs, and the Fishermen's Association.

Anyone interested in Salmon Enhancement who cannot come to the meeting can leave their name with me.
KATHY REIMER,
Ganges.

More Letters to the Editor

Typical magnanimity

Sir,
The annual CARE Tree Christmas drive for 1984 was a success, achieving its target of \$10,000 and more.
For this we owe a debt of gratitude to *Driftwood* which got behind the drive with magnificent support.
In spite of difficult economic times the people of the Gulf Islands and British Columbia have once again shown typical magnanimity and the Lions Club of Pender Island is most appreciative.
GORDON DICKIN,
President.
Pender Island, B. C.



Bill Webster

A case of piracy

Sir,
This is a special report of "piracy" on the "low seas". Well, at least a problem of minute magnitude, relating to a vicious vending machine on the Fulford ferry run.
You know the one! Always surrounded by angry Salt Springers at the start of every trip. Each taking their turn, depositing coins for non-existent beverages, you mutter softly to minimize the embarrassment of being taken again, as you continue feeding coins and pressing buttons; any buttons, in hopes of eliciting some response, rather than ominous silence. Until finally, in

disgust you slink back to your seat, drinkless and penniless, wishing you had been man enough to give the thing one healthy kick. And then you look on guiltily as the next victim of the "pirate" relinquishes his last quarter.
Now I must add in all fairness, that I did receive something from this mechanical monster a few trips back. Hot water! No tea. No lemon; just hot water. No, make that tepid water. A sort of tokenism I decided, to keep me trying. As if to let me know that it might dispense the tea, perhaps next time.

And what of the money? Collected, but never returned. A coin release button hooked up to thin air? At least in Reno, where putting money in machines and not receiving a return is acceptable; you get to see the flashing lights and rolling fruit. Also occasionally; satisfaction of coins thrown back at you.

An interesting concept. No "overhead". No "service work". (Except of course, for the gnome who slips in at night and shovels the coins into a sack).

Perhaps the B. C. Ferry Corporation, rather than raising fares February 1, should consider "cloning" of this particular pirate, and install one on all their runs to insure a profit, or at least to reduce their deficit.

GARY GREICO,
Ganges.

Thank you

Sir,
Through the medium of your paper I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone responsible for my "appreciation" night on Friday.

The food was great, the "roasts" enjoyable, and the friendship gratifying.

I have been most fortunate to be able to serve the people of this island and I hope that I will be able to do so again in the future.
GLENN WOODLEY,
Ganges.

Opening Saturday

Sir,
This Saturday, January 26, 1985, the new Fulford School will be officially opened. The celebrations will last from 2 till 4:30 pm and the theme will be the old and the new which seems doubly appropriate as our founder school, the Little Red School House on Beaver Point, will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The staff and some of the parents and children will be dressed in period costume and we would like to encourage anybody else to do the same.

Everybody is most welcome to attend and we would like to specially extend this welcome to people who have been connected with the old school and are part of the living history of this area. A special welcome also to the people of our parent school, Salt Spring Elementary and to all friends and well wishers.

There are posters announcing the opening everywhere, but we have not sent out any personal invitations as we felt it would be impossible to do this without leaving out some worthy people. You are all welcome! We hope to see you there.

JACQUELINE TAYLOR,
Fulford Elementary School.

Living is in jeopardy

Sir,
The biggest news to commercial fishermen in 1985 is that the sea lions are eating all the fish and the fisheries department doesn't recognize that there is a problem.
This is bad news for sportsmen too. Ask any commercial fisherman about it: it means their living is in jeopardy.

GEOFF HOWLAND,
Ganges.

Contributions up 15%

Sir,
On behalf of the British Columbia Lung Association, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your readers for the generous support given to the 1984 Christmas Seal Campaign.

Although the campaign does not end officially until January 31, the British Columbia Lung Association has had its most successful year ever, in spite of the poor economic conditions in the province. To date, campaign contributions are up 15% over last year's returns.

Monies raised through the Christmas Seal Campaign enable the British Columbia Lung Association to provide much needed support to vital medical research projects, programs of public and professional education, school education programs to convince school children not to take up the cigarette smoking habit, and informing adults about the hazards of air pollution, tobacco and occupational lung diseases.

Once again, thank you all very much.

R. W. KING,
President,
British Columbia Lung Association.
Vancouver.

Commercialized Christmas

Sir,
I find it incredible that any middle class working family would voluntarily run up charge or loan accounts of a thousand dollars to "celebrate" a religious holiday. This seems especially true when one notes the newspaper headlines regarding the state of our economy.

Even more remarkable is the fact that the recipients of the profits or the shareholders of the lending institutions spend their time in some exotic area like Mexico or Hawaii away from the "happy traditional family ritual". Their kids don't get the opportunity to break the \$187 mechanical gadgets between Christmas and New Year's like the kids at home. Instead, they have to tough it out as junior surf riders.

It amazes me that folks succumb each year to the warm loving human pageantry which was designed as a break from hum-drum work-a-day lives, but which has been transformed into a blatant two-month commercial spectacle. Instead of happy thoughts and thoughtful gifts in the spirit of good will and togetherness, the masses flock to the marketplace to select more and bigger symbols of self indulgence which are proudly displayed to the world between bureaucratically-expensive mugs of Christmas cheer. We certainly wouldn't want anyone to think that we couldn't afford to buy the best for our kids, or maintain a lofty level of conviviality with our peers, would we?

But who am I to throw rocks at the festival? Where do I get off commenting on life's little pleasures? After all, the turkeys are entitled to their season, aren't they? I do hope, though, that none of them get caught in a roadblock.
A. I. FARRELL,
Ganges.

More letters
Page 6

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Killing FIRA will not create stronger Canadian economy

By JIM MANLY, MP

During the 1980 election campaign, the Liberals promised to strengthen the Foreign Investment Review Agency so that it would give greater protection for the Canadian economy. After their election, however, the Liberals reviewed their policy.

Under pressure from the United States, the Liberal government announced on November 12, 1981 that it would not be strengthening FIRA.

Stephen Clarkson gives details of this turnaround in his book, *Canada and the Reagan Challenge*. At a meeting of Canadian and American cabinet ministers on October 13, 1981, Paul Robinson, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, demanded a formal statement that FIRA would not be extended. After Canadians gave this assurance, the Americans raised the ante. On December 4, U.S. trade representative William Brock demanded that Canada eliminate FIRA's policy of obtaining performance requirements before approving takeovers. He specifically objected to requiring guarantees "to purchase Canadian

goods and services, to reduce imports, or to export specific quantities or percentages of production."

Under continued pressure from the U.S., the Liberals "streamlined" FIRA to make it easier for foreign firms to get quick approval. Under the streamlined guidelines, an astounding 98% of all takeover bids were approved in the first five months of 1984, compared with the 91% approval for the years 1974 to 1983. Less than one-half of the 1984 approvals promised increased employment or new investment. So much for the Liberal promise to strengthen FIRA.

For the Conservatives, however, the very name and idea of FIRA was loathsome. Since the September 4 election they have moved quickly to send out a signal to foreign investors that the Canadian barn door was open.

In December, the new government introduced Bill C15 which proposed to eliminate FIRA and to replace it with an agency known as Investment Canada. The Mulroney government hopes that it can create jobs in Canada by attracting foreign capital.

Judging from past Canadian

experience, New Democrats believe the Investment Canada approach will not create jobs but will result in a higher level of foreign control over our economy. For example, depending on the size of the firm, Canadian-owned companies spend two to five times as much on research and development as do comparable foreign-owned companies. In the same way, because they import more components, foreign-controlled firms do not develop spinoffs to the same extent as do Canadian firms. Foreign firms send a disproportionate amount of money out of the country in the form of interest, profits and other service charges.

Although far from perfect, FIRA did give some protection to Canada's economy. It gave us the possibility of requiring guarantees for job creation and Canadian content in exchange for allowing for investment in our resources. Killing FIRA will not create jobs and will not create a stronger Canadian economy. For this reason, I and other New Democrats plan to fight Bill C15 in the hope that the Conservatives might take a second look, this time from a less dogmatic point of view.

Directors not in agreement with value of smoking law

Advertising the smoking bylaw is throwing good taxpayers' money after a bad bylaw, said Geoff Dunn during debate last Wednesday afternoon at the Capital Regional Board.

He was promptly corrected by Martin Levin, who considered it spending good money for a good bylaw.

Question before the board was a list of recommendations from the community health committee.

Directors agreed to give greater publicity to the regulations regarding smoking in public places.

It is recommended that those jurisdictions sending out tax notices be invited to enclose a copy of the

bylaw to retailers and others subject to the law.

That arrangements be made for television and radio appearances to provide information about the bylaw and that free-service announcements be made in community newspapers in Fernwood, Fairfield and James Bay.

Official letters will be sent to managers of shopping centres, malls and markets asking that they inform their tenants of the bylaw.

Chamber of Commerce, Victoria Labour Council and the Victoria Restaurant Association will be invited to distribute information furnished by the CRD.

More Letters to the Editor

Fund-raisers

Sir,
I am writing to enlist the help of people in the community so that we may help raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House affords the opportunity for families to live together in a fairly normal setting adjacent to a hospital when they have a seriously ill child receiving periodic treatment from that hospital.

The inspiration for a local fund-raising committee comes from the two Salt Spring children who have succumbed to fatal diseases in the past few years.

Our committee plans are to first hold a garage sale in mid-February, then make a quilt which will be raffled off this summer. We invite contributions to the garage sale (we can pick up), help in quilting or general help and support from anyone interested.

Please call Roberta Temmel at 537-9863 or myself at 537-9618.
DEBORAH NOSTDAL,
Ganges.

Workers can be proud

Sir,
I was one of the few passenger witnesses of a near tragedy that took place at the Long Harbour terminal on Friday evening's unloading of the ferry from Tsawwassen. An auto stalled on the wooden ramp about 15 feet from the ferry exit. Suddenly it burst into flames. Within a second or two flame covered the underside of the car igniting the tires. Vigorously burning, this presented a very dangerous situation.

The ferry workers responded immediately in spite of the danger of explosion. The auto passengers were guided out. A vehicle close by the exit was backed away. The crew

knew the exact location of the extinguishers. No time was lost. The fire was doused with two extinguishers as efficiently as possible.

The ferry workers deserve a great deal of credit as it would have taken very little additional time for the asphalt of the wooden ramp to have caught fire, placing the dock and even the ferry at risk.

The bridge was informed immediately after the incident and the auto towed off using the service vehicle so that the dozen remaining cars could be discharged. There was no time wasted in spite of the seriousness of the incident.

As a travelling passenger, it gives one a great deal of comfort to know how rapidly and competently the crew responds to an emergency. The ferry workers can take pride in having prevented a major fire through fast action. Well done.
ALLEN S. CUNNINGHAM,
Ganges.

Artists and Artisans of the Gulf Islands

(Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna)

Have you picked up your entry form for the major exhibition to be held at the Salt Spring Art Gallery in the Ganges Centre (over Post Office) from March 30-April 6, 1985?

Entry forms are available at *et cetera*, Pegasus Gallery and the Waterfront Gallery and at locations on Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna Islands.

Categories for entry are: Sculpture, Ceramics and Pottery, Fibre Arts, Painting, Art Glass, Jewellery and Creative Woodwork.

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Centennial Park

CRD will enforce marketing rules under terms of grant

Capital Regional Board has approved an application to the minister of lands, parks and housing for a free crown grant to Centennial Park in Ganges.

On the recommendation of the electoral area services committee, the board unanimously approved the application last week.

The same motion provided that the use of the park will be as stipulated in the current lease, which is for recreation in the public interest in addition to a Saturday market.

Directors were told that the ministry is prepared to reactivate the board's 1982 request for the grant provided that the nature of its use is spelled out. The ministry wants the region's plans for the use of the park, in writing, before proceeding further.

The problem is that people use the park for selling during the week, reported Dr. Hugh Borsman. The lease states "No vending at any other time".

The Recreation Commission, as agent for the region, might be considered the responsible party, added Borsman, but it is not their function. Will the CRD enforce this provision, he asked.

If that is a condition of the lease, then the board must ensure that the terms are met, replied Esquimalt Mayor Ken Hill.

The chairman, Howard Sturrock, agreed.

The lease spells out the conditions for a free crown grant, he told his colleagues.

"I can't see any way we could accept the lease and then not enforce it."

In the meantime, said Borsman, the board has a lease which is not being enforced.

John Mika suggested it be referred to the solicitor.

Martin Levin recalled that while he was living on Salt Spring Island he sold many cabbages and lettuces at the park market.

The question has already been to the solicitor, explained the

chairman. The motion was approved.

SOCCER:

DIV. 2A: S.S. Wranglers vs Lakehill, Sun., Jan. 27, 10 am, Ganges.
 DIV. 4A: S.S. Selects vs Bays United, Sun., Jan. 27, 12:30 pm, Victoria.
 GIRLS: S.S. Cosmos vs Prospect Lake, Sun., Jan. 27, 12 noon, Victoria.
 DIV. 5C: S.S. Sounders vs Gordon Head, Sat., Jan. 26, 10:30 am, Victoria.
 DIV. 6C: S.S. Strikers vs Peninsula, Sat., Jan. 26, 11 am, Victoria.
 WOMEN'S: S.S. Sockeyes vs Taylors Madness, Sun., Jan. 27, 11:30 am, Ganges.
 INTRA-ISLAND: Senior, Sat. 10 am: Stingers vs Fury, Portlock #1; Sharks vs Lazars, Portlock #2; Kicks vs Leopards, Portlock #3. Junior, Sat. 9 am: Eagles vs Mites, Portlock #1; Panthers vs Wildcats, Portlock #2; Devils vs Demons, Portlock #3.

Buying satellite dish considered by district

The search for ways of obtaining the educational television programs on Knowledge Network for Gulf Islands schools continues.

Superintendent of schools Mike Marshall told a recent meeting of the Gulf Islands School Board that there were three ways of obtaining the programs. The school district could ask the local cable companies

to carry the channel but that would mean bumping another channel to make room, he said.

The school district could also make use of a satellite dish to pick up the signal. The programs could either be taped for replay in the schools or transmitted to the various schools.

Marshall told the school trustees that the use of the dish and taped programs seemed to be the most feasible way. He would check with Knowledge Network to determine if the programs could be legally taped.

The resource centre in Salt Spring Elementary School would be used to tape the programs if that is how the channel is to be picked up. Marshall indicated that purchase of the necessary equipment, a dish and a taping machine, would be covered in the capital budget for the district.

If the school board does decide to set up a transmitter, a volunteer has indicated that he would look after the repeater station for the district.

More than one CRD

There is more than one CRD. The designation is shared by an oil company.

When Castrol Ltd. sought clearance on the trademark, the CRD's solicitors filed an objection in accordance with the board's instructions of September 26, 1984.

Last week the board's objections were withdrawn and the Castrol company will proceed with its plans.

Directors learned that Castrol has used the trademark for some 15 years. It is an Ontario-based company.

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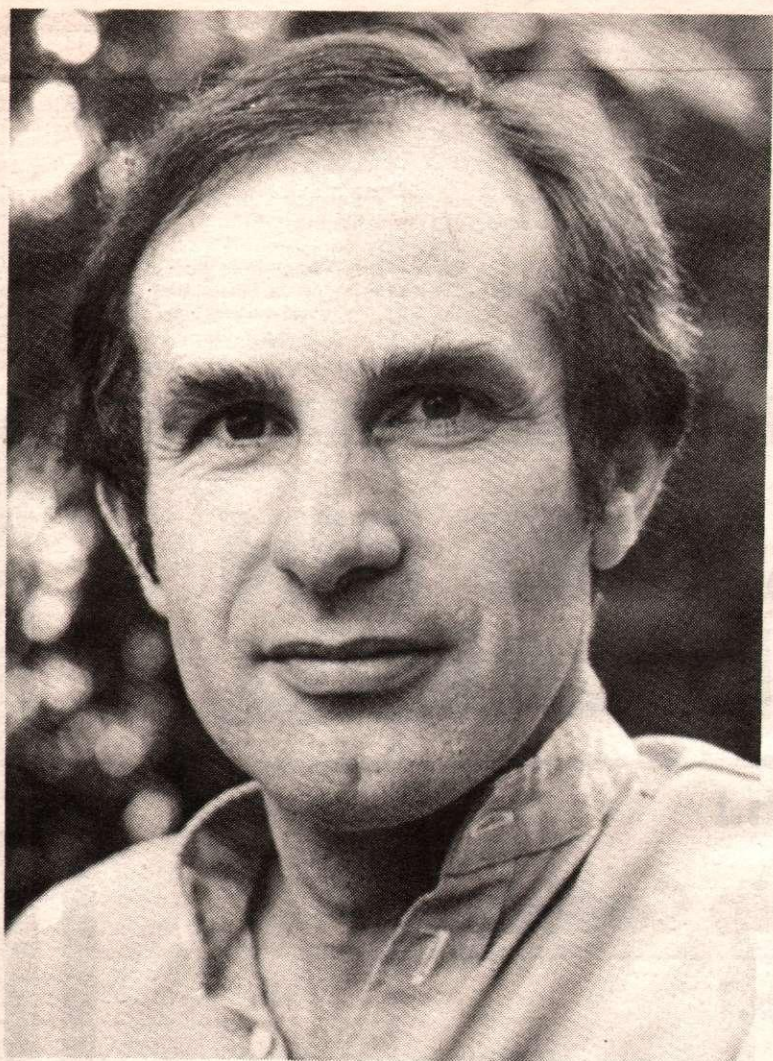
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Professional days scheduled



Keith Digby

Bastion Theatre director to give workshop here

The artistic director of the Bastion Theatre Co. will give a workshop at Salt Spring Island next month for people involved in amateur or professional theatre.

Keith Digby will explore the play from pre-rehearsal research to closing night and post-production reflections from the perspective of both actor and director. *Searching the Play: From the Script to Performance* will be offered at the Salt Spring Centre February 1-3.

Digby was trained in English, speech and drama at St. Mary's Teacher Training College in London, England, where he graduated in 1965. He has a bachelor of education with honours and a master of fine arts (directing) from the University of Alberta at Edmonton.

His teaching background includes drama in the public school system for nine years, four in England and five in Canada, teaching Grades 7 through 12.

Digby has been with Bastion Theatre since 1982 and has held other director's posts continuously since 1975.

Problems and concerns encountered as a play unfolds will be examined in the workshop, to provide a better understanding of the play and the acting/directing interchange.

The workshop will begin with an introductory lecture and orientation Friday, Feb. 1 at 7.30 pm. The cost is \$125 (\$110 to Theatre B. C. members). Registration is through the Salt Spring Centre on Blackburn Rd.

Children in Gulf Islands schools will be having a few days of holidays between now and the end of the school year as teachers take part in professional development days.

The school year, as decreed by the ministry of education, lasts for 195 days but the teachers are allowed to take five of those days for professional development.

The school year ends on June 28 but the children and the teachers will take the Easter break from

March 29 until April 9.

In addition, all the schools will be closed on March 8 for a district-wide day of professional development for the teachers.

The schools will be closed for various other days as well.

The school at Galiano closes for half a day on June 11 to allow for planning for September.

At the Mayne school, February 1 has been set aside for school visits.

The Pender school closes January 30 for half a day to allow teachers a chance to become familiar with computer programs. On February 15, the teachers will take part in other events. Some will go to a conference of the B. C. School Trustees Association, a music conference or visits to schools on Salt Spring or in Sooke.

The school also closes May 29 for a day of evaluation and promotion.

The school at Saturna closes on January 24 to allow teachers to attend a drama conference sponsored by the Association of B. C. Educators.

At Salt Spring Elementary School, a half-day on May 17 will be set aside for a review of the CARE program.

Fulford Elementary School staff go on a two-day retreat beginning February 22 to discuss the

philosophy and policies of the school as well as the concept of the community school.

On April 24, the staff will talk about the policy and curriculum for the gifted and computer programs. They will discuss the library policy as well.

The staff of Fernwood Elementary School will look at putting instructional theory into practice on February 15 and half a day on May 15. They also will plan for September on June 27.

Gulf Islands Secondary School takes a semester break on January 25. On April 12, they will hold parent interviews and discuss such topics as professional and school activities.

Pensioners install officers

New officers of the Fulford Old-Age Pensioners' branch were installed by branch representative Ernie Edwards January 8.

New president of the group is Cameron Leask; past-president is Betty Brigden; first vice-president is Evelyn Lee; second vice-president, Louise Adshead; recording secretary, Gladys Slingsby; corresponding secretary, Elsa Drummond; and treasurer, Nell Bushby. Directors are Quentin Wilson, Bob Scott, Bessie Kilgour and Walter Brigden.

Edwards reminded the branch that the objective of the organization is to promote matters pertaining to the welfare of elderly citizens of B.C.

At the branch's monthly business meeting January 15, the draw for the afghan took place. Winner was Edith Yardley.

Hospitality committee served refreshments following the meeting.

Fined \$400

Mike Currell of Salt Spring appeared in court last Tuesday on a charge of being impaired while having care and control of a motor vehicle. He was fined \$400 and lost his driver's licence for at least six months.

Currell was stopped by RCMP at midnight on November 14 at North End Road. The police officer had seen the vehicle being driven in a "jerky manner", the court was told.

Judge R. E. Hudson accepted Currell's plea of guilty to the charge and allowed him three months to pay the fine.

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Five members of Western Brass

Western Brass to play at Ganges

"Five virtuoso brass players equals one unforgettable musical experience," is a quotation by well known composer Dr. Murray Adaskin.

And the Salt Spring Concert

Society is planning such an experience Sunday when it presents a concert by the five-member Western Brass.

Louis Ranger and John Selkirk on trumpet, Joan Watson on horn,

Thomas Eadie on trombone and Eugene Dowling on tuba are all principal or senior members of the Victoria symphony and have extensive national and international musical backgrounds.

Their music, the concert society reports, embraces a variety of styles and periods.

The concert will be held at Mahon Hall and begins at 8 pm. Admission is \$4 at the door or by sponsoring ticket.

Western Brass will play again Monday morning at 10:30 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Second concert will be open to the public as well.

Trustees go on the road

The Gulf Islands School Board will be taking its act on the road for meetings at various schools.

The school trustees begin their road-trip with a meeting at Fernwood Elementary School on January 31. They travel to Fulford for a gathering at the south Salt Spring school on February 13.

The March meeting is slated for Pender Island and will be held March 13.

On April 11, the school trustees

will meet in the board room in Ganges.

The public portion of the meetings begins at 1 pm. The trustees get together in the morning for committee meetings and spend at least an hour behind closed doors to talk about confidential matters.

The trips to the Outer Islands schools are an annual event with the school board. The trustees hold one meeting on each of the Outer Islands during the year.

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Bird count finds western grebe most common species on island

When members of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club went out to count birds on the island in early December, they found the western grebe was the most common species.

Bird count co-ordinator Marguerite Pearce presented a report on the count to a recent meeting of the club. In the report she noted that the western grebe was counted 4,813 times with most of the water birds being sighted in Booth Canal where "4,170 birds crowded shore to shore."

The 164 counters sighted 22,888 individual birds in 108 species. In the 1983 count, there were 145

people out and they found 24,823 birds of 112 species.

The counters were counting birds on all areas of the island except Musgrave Landing and Sansum Narrows.

The robin population on Salt Spring came to 2,799 birds, mostly in the Vesuvius area. Last year there were close to 1,500 robins seen.

Sparrows proved to be the most common of the small birds with 2,278 seen although the count for sparrows dipped by 700 from the year before.

The number of eagles has also declined. There were 61 eagles counted. In 1983, there were 78 and in 1981 the counters saw 99 of the big birds.

Unusual sightings included two Cassin's auklets as well as 12 Brewer's blackbirds, a species seldom seen on Salt Spring during the winter count.

There also were three Hutton's vireos, a Swainson's thrush and four orange-crowned warblers seen at various points around the island.

Results of the count are sent to the Federation of B. C. Naturalists for inclusion in a newsletter. The numbers also go to the B. C. Provincial Museum.

Pearce noted that a cattle egret had been seen near the golf course and at Roland Road. But the bird could not be included because it had not been seen on the day of the

count.

The cattle egret is about the size of a small gull, being white in colour with long black legs and a long dull-yellow bill.

Workshop at Galiano

Two visitors from England have found that the most common response to the nuclear and other threats is: "But there's nothing you (or I) can do about it."

Mike and Jen Turner will give a workshop at Galiano Island Saturday to help people cope with the feeling of powerlessness and with what they call "psychic numbing," the denial of painful feelings of dread, fear or frustration.

Psychiatric surveys on children, say the Turners, give "ample evidence" of how life under nuclear shadow encourages fatalism, destructiveness and an impulsive search for immediate gratification. "They need our help in finding purpose and joy in living."

The workshop, entitled *Transforming the Nuclear Threat: From Despair to Empowerment*, will be held in the activity centre from 10 am until 4 pm. Further details can be obtained from Barbara Scoones at 539-2413, or Joan Paterson, 539-2475.

'Outstanding' results

From Page 1

The Grade 10 students ranked first in inferential comprehension, second for understanding words, fifth for critical comprehension, 12th for locating and using information and 45th for literal comprehension.

The children were expected to understand the meanings of words which would be considered part of the vocabulary of a child at the different grade levels as well as the meanings of words which might be new to them. They were also tested on the meanings of expressions using prefixes and suffixes as well as words which have multiple meanings.

For the comprehension aspects of the assessment, the children were tested to determine how well they

could infer the main idea and relationships. They were asked to make generalizations from what was read as well as to evaluate the information available.

In the part of the assessment which tested their ability to locate and use information, the children had to use such things as a dictionary and guide words in an encyclopaedia. The Grade 4 children were asked to interpret pictorial information while those in Grade 7 interpreted maps and Grade 10 students were shown graphs and tables.

When Marshall presented the results to the school board, Salt Spring school trustee David Williams commented that there was "something really good going on there with results like that."

Meeting to adopt revised constitution


The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce will hold a general meeting tomorrow night (Thursday) for the purpose of adopting a revised constitution.

Committee reports are on the agenda, as is a proposal for a new membership fee structure. Directors voted to recommend adoption of the new fees at a meeting last Wednesday.

If the general membership approves the proposal, businesses with one to nine employees would pay \$45 a year, those with 10 or more would pay \$65 and individual membership would cost \$15.

Under the current system there are four membership categories. Individual membership costs \$35, a business with two or less employees pays \$45, motels and small businesses with three to nine employees pay \$55 and those with 10 or more pay \$65.

Directors also agreed to stage a Valentine's Dance Friday, Feb. 8 at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gym. Local band Club Mongo will play for the affair. Tickets are \$5 and are available from Ganges Pharmasave.



Province of British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Highways

Advance Public Notice Load Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 26 of the "Highway Act", notice is hereby given that load restrictions may be placed, on short notice in the near future, on all highways in the Saanich Highways District (which includes the Gulf Islands). Restrictions will be imposed as conditions warrant.

The restrictions will limit vehicles to 70% or 50% of legal axle weights, as allowed under the regulations pursuant to the Commercial Transport Act.

All term overload permits are invalid for the duration of the restrictions.

The public, and trucking and transportation companies, should govern themselves accordingly.

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The Legion in Ganges will host mid-island zone darts finals in early February and organizers prepare for the event. From left, Chris Marks, Sy Sloan and Ernie Donnelly are setting things up so that up to 50 players can throw darts until the winners are declared.

Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

50 players expected for finals February 9

The dart players at the Legion on Salt Spring are sharpening their aim in preparation for the mid-island zone darts finals to be held in Ganges on February 9.

Local organizers Chris Marks, Sy Sloan and Ernie Donnelly are busy taking care of details for the event. Marks said the mid-island zone takes in eight Legion branches from Nanaimo to the Malahat. Up to 50 players are expected to visit the island for the event.

Each branch is allowed eight players for the competition. The players will compete in singles, doubles and four-player team matches to determine the winners.

The zone finals winners will travel to Kitimat at Easter for the B. C. final competitions.

Marks issued an invitation to any

islander who has an interest in darts to come out and watch the competition. The organizers are eager for a good crowd of spectators to help raise money to finance the trip to Kitimat by the winners.

The Salt Spring team is composed of Ron Seymour, Daryl Little, Ian Byron, Keith Lavender, Alan Wyatt, John Teagle, Sloan and Trevor Northeast.

Dennis Andrews of the Salt Spring branch of the Legion took the singles competition in the zone finals two years ago.

As part of the fund-raising for the Kitimat trip, the Ganges group will travel to Duncan on January 27 for games against the Legion members there. Marks said that the trip to the Vancouver Island city is open to all who want to "play darts and have a fun day on a Sunday."



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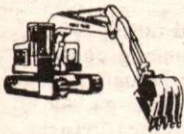
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Burns Night celebrated

Haggis season is upon us. Clockwise from left, Jim Ballantyne bears the Scottish pudding at a celebration of Robbie Burns Night held at the Vesuvius Inn Saturday. Dancing was part of the evening and Debbie Parmenter of Duncan prepares to do the traditional sword dance while piper Ruairidh McLennen plays the accompaniment. The toast to the haggis was presented by Ian Rothnie of Duncan. Also part of the celebrations of the birthday of the famed Scottish poet were pipers Fred Tarasoff and Angus MacLeod of Salt Spring.

Driftwood photos by Bill Webster

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Low-energy compounds converted to proteins

I met a bit of walking, talking, living, loving solar energy the other day: it was my wife. Finally, after all these years, it has dawned on me that she is a child of the sun. Actually, in retrospect, it was easy to figure out, in her case.

For the longest time I used to think that she is her parents' child; but since her parents are sun children too, well, this settles that. Perhaps that she is a Leo, a sun sign child, may have shed the first bit of light on this matter. The final proof, though, came through my toils in our garden, and it came like this.

To begin with, we put our garden in a sunny spot. Next, we grew some things, in the usual manner, and eventually we ate them. This keeps the body and the soul together, as they say. Then I started to think about these things when things went wrong. Then, when things did not go wrong anymore, I started to think about why things go right. This opened up a whole new vista of thought to me. Take sunlight, for instance: here it comes streaming in, and gets soaked up by plants; we eat the plants, or some animal does, and then we eat that; good stuff, all of it; keeps the body and soul together. Sunlight comes in neat little packages called photons; little quantum packages of solar energy. With this energy, the chloroplasts in

plants pry carbon dioxide and water apart, and lash it together again into carbohydrates, or sugars, a more complex compound, which we can eat.

Simple proteins result when the plant lashes some nitrogen to sugar. And when some phosphorus is hooked on to those, with solar energy, we have complex proteins, the kind we like best. Of course, the nitrogen, from the air, is contributed by those avid little nitrogen collecting bacteria in our soils; and the phosphorus is provided by mycorrhizal fungi, also in the soil.

Thus simple, low-energy compounds are assembled with solar energy into high-energy proteins. It is these we swallow, eventually, little fully-charged molecular shuttles. Inside our bodily selves, these shuttles are distributed to wherever they are most needed and then pried apart again, with previously stored solar energy, courtesy of our mitochondria.

In the process of prying these things apart, the original assembly energy becomes available for beating our heart, our brains, someone else, or to blink an eye. We can actually feel this solar energy humming inside us, and also see it

Farming and Gardening

BY PETER WEIS

when we comb our hair, pull a sweater over our head, or on the screen of any brain scanning device, as it traces the oscillations of our thought energy.

That is what we live on, our life energy, from the sun; hence, sun children. I think (by golly!) this is nice; thinking sun thoughts, as it were. When we are done with these energy shuttles, they are chucked out, most of them in short order, and when returned to the soil start the whole trip all over again; you would not believe how much nitrogen there is in urine, for instance.

Well, neat as this process is, I can see already where some improvements can be made. I cannot improve on the sun, but I can grow solar collectors—plants—like anything; and I can make compost like mad; to help the bacteria and the fungi. What they love best is semi-decayed organic material, to wallow in, and to multiply in to their heart's content.

All wastes, trimmings, leftovers, weeds, clippings, leaves, anything that was once alive, is still charged with energy, and the vehicle for infinite go-arounds. And the bacteria themselves, when their hours-long life spans are concluded, contribute their highly complex substance to this inexhaustible cycle as well.

Everything therefore goes on to the compost heap, and it is a never-ending marvel to see orange peels, coffee grounds, the whole messy garbage, turn into sweet crumbly soil that makes one's mouth water. It helps a great deal to chop up the

larger items, and to crush or bruise them, so the bacteria can get at them easier.

Our personal wastes go into the septic field; and the grass we grow on it goes into the garden as mulch, or on to the compost heap as well. A good balance helps there too: one-third nitrogen-rich material, like grass clippings and other fresh, wet, greens; and two-thirds dry, stiff and brittle things, like dead leaves, hay, chunks and twigs, all high in carbon. This should result in a 30 to one carbon-nitrogen ratio, the ideal ratio for fast decomposition.

There is no need to measure,

though, the pile will tell you; if it does not heat up in two days, there is not enough nitrogen. And if it starts to smell, there is too much nitrogen. Sprinkle some soil, and clay is best for its minerals, at a rough ratio of one to 10 of soil to wastes, over the heap periodically, and watch it work. Use finished compost in potting soil, under seeds, and as a top dressing. Lightly scratched in around growing plants, it does wonders.

Until next week then, we will consider a couple of compost methods, think sunny thoughts; it is the most natural thing to do.

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Board interested— with reservations

The Gulf Islands School Board is interested in the proposed school site which would be part of the subdivision development at the north end of Salt Spring, but with reservations.

Trustee David Williams explained the proposal to a meeting of the school board last week. He pointed out that the developers intend to set about 30 acres aside for community use such as a school. But the report on the project contained a discrepancy, he said.

The report, in the section on Duck Creek valley, notes: "The plan proposes that this valley of about 30 acres be reserved for the island community needs."

At another point in the report covering the infrastructure and services needed at the subdivision, a section on schools notes that proposed population for the area would mean that a school would be needed.

"...A site has been set aside for a school. This has been inspected in a preliminary way by the school district superintendent and a representative of the board. They indicate their general approval of the site."

Williams pointed out what he considered a discrepancy which was

contained in a covering letter from one of the developers, Louis Lindholm of Victoria.

The letter read in part: "We also agree to withhold from development the more or less flat area approximating 30 acres lying along Duck Creek for later negotiations with the school board and the Recreation Commission for the use of this land for community school and recreational use."

Williams indicated that the school board was interested in the property but added that they would be trying to get the land for nothing.

Charged with mischief

Breaking a window in the RCMP office on Ganges Hill at Salt Spring resulted in a court appearance for two young men.

John Moulton and James King had been charged with mischief as a result of the incident on October 29. King also faces a charge of breaking into the *Driftwood* office on October 24.

Judge R. E. Hudson remanded the pair to February 12.

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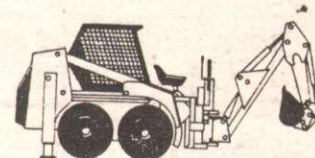
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Salt Spring Island couple will be looking for water in Oman

The Middle East country of Oman contains a lot of sand and a Salt Spring resident will be looking to see if there is very much water under that sand.

Bill Turner and his wife Sally are going to the small Moslem country to find water for the government. Oman is located at the southerly end of the Arabian peninsula near the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

Turner is a hydrogeology consulting engineer who has been

looking for water in many countries around the world. The pair have visited countries in South America, Southeast Asia as well as places such as Kenya and Somalia in Africa.

Sally Turner is a nurse and while the couple are in Canada, Salt Spring Island has been home since 1982. She was an operating room nurse at Vancouver General Hospital and hopes to find such

work in Oman.

The contract to find water runs for at least a year.

"We enjoy living in different countries," she said, "with different lifestyles and people."

While they were in Somalia, she worked with refugees as a nurse for an eye operation program being run by an English group known as Help the Aged.

She remembers baboons running around the hospital in Somalia. The animals would steal things from patients and were difficult to chase away.

Another animal, a donkey, would travel from the hospital to the market each day, pick up supplies and return on its own. The donkey had travelled the route so many times that it did not need supervision to carry out its task.

She explained that the trip to Oman from Salt Spring was a long one. The airplane ride to London takes 10 hours. Another plane ride lasts seven hours to the capital of Oman at Muscat.

And the question remains whether water in quantity can be found. There may be water there, Sally Turner said, but it might be similar to the water found in the springs of Salt Spring.



Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Sally Turner remained on Salt Spring to tidy up affairs while husband Bill left for Oman in early December. She began the trek to the

Middle East country this month. Turner will be occupied with the task of finding water in the desert country.

Debate on sewer decision tabled until next meeting

Move to eliminate the authority of the Capital Regional District to establish a sewer system in the western sector without prior consent of the property owners has been tabled to the next meeting.

The debate hinged on the question as to whether to extend it to include Salt Spring Island. The motion as introduced excludes Salt Spring.

Hugh Borsman suggested that something has to be done in Ganges and that until a decision has been reached the provision should stand.

Some level of government has to move into Ganges and find a solution, he urged.

Patricia Massey of View Royal wanted to go back to the original letters patent, where consent had to be given before any action could be taken.

John Mika noted that the installation of sewers requires the consent of the property owners, but extension to a sewer system does not call for that consent.

"It is a good and fundamental

principle of democracy that before you spend the people's money you get their consent," said Mika.

Doug Watts was fearful of opening up a new "can of worms" before the Ganges matter is settled. There is no call for immediate action in the western community, he reminded his colleagues.

The Ganges dispute has been going on for 15 years, said Mika. He has no confidence, he added, in predictions as to when that situation will be resolved.

Bridge winners

Gulf Islands Bridge Club winners January 14th were:

North-south: Kay and Chuck Harrison, Lorna and Peter Pentz, Liz Dafoe and Dawny Scarfe, Fred Struve and Gordon Hutton. East-west: Kay Sinclair and Alan Steward, Alisa McKay and Althea Morrisette, Margaret Ellison and John Coates, Joe and Madeline Frantz.

Tuesday night: north-south: Lorna and Peter Pentz, Irene Hawksorth and Gordon Hutton, Kay Javorski and Julie Godwin. East-west: Anne and Norm McConnell, Edith Owens and Fred Melhuish, Dorothy Edwards and John Noakes.

Fulford Bridge Club: Dorothy Edwards and John Noakes, Val Gyves and Marian Andrew, Kathleen Rathwell and Quentin Wilson.

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		Underheight	Overheight*		
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SUNSHINE COAST Horseshoe Bay - Saltery Bay Horseshoe Bay - Langdale (rtn.) Saltery Bay - Earls Cove (rtn.) Horseshoe Bay - Bowen Is. (rtn.)	\$4.00 \$2.50	\$19.00 \$11.50	\$23.50 \$14.00	\$2.25 \$1.10	\$2.00 \$1.00
MAINLAND - GULF ISLANDS Tsawwassen - Gulf Islands	\$3.00	\$15.00	\$18.50	\$1.70	\$2.00
GULF ISLANDS Swartz Bay - Fulford Hbr. Swartz Bay - Outer Gulf Is. Crofton - Vesuvius Inter-Gulf Islands	\$1.25 \$1.00	\$ 5.75 \$ 3.25	\$ 7.00 \$ 4.00	\$0.60 \$0.60	\$1.00 \$1.00
Brentwood Bay - Mill Bay	\$1.50	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.25	\$0.55	\$0.50

Children (5-11) half fare.
Passenger vehicle rates are for vehicles up to 6.1m (20') in length.
* Overheight rate applies to non-commercial vehicles over 2.03m (6'8") in height. Trailers are charged as separate units.
"Assured Loading" books of prepaid tickets are available for passenger vehicles under 2.03m in height and drivers travelling between the Mainland and Vancouver Island. Books of 10 tickets are \$260 and can be purchased at Tsawwassen, Horseshoe Bay, Departure Bay, Swartz Bay terminals, and at newsstands aboard ships. Also available at 1045 Howe Street (7th Floor) in Vancouver, and 818 Broughton Street in Victoria.

CLIP AND SAVE

By PRISCILLA JANSZEN

As you read last week in Taimi's column, my family and I are back from a month's holiday in Mexico. A month spent in a country as different from ours as Mexico is a fascinating holiday. We did so many unusual (for us) activities: I spoke a foreign language, we went to the jungle, we saw houses built with incredible wealth and people surviving in the streets, we swam on Christmas Day and we swam in the warm ocean next to coconut palms, we saw immediate relatives of everybody's pampered house plants growing six feet tall and flowering outside and Jesse got her heart's desire: "Me ride a burro!"

Public health nurse Jane Stokes will be coming the third week in February, the 18th, instead of the second week. She will hold her baby clinic at the usual hours at the fire hall.

Speaking of vacations, on the way home from ours we met Walter Ratzlaff who told us all about the

two-week trip to Palm Springs that he had won from making a \$50 donation to Timmy's Telethon. He and Marjorie have very much wanted to see Marjorie's sister in Oceanside, California, and they will land only about 100 miles from there. The Ottos, frequent visitors to Saturna and homeowners, have invited them to Del Mar, also close by, so they will tour quite extensively during their two weeks.

The Lions will hold another crib tournament February 9. Don and Sylvia Hogg will be there and it will be an opportunity to see Don before he takes up his new duties at Parksville. Don will not be leaving until the middle of the month due to all the unseasonable snow here on sunny Saturna.

Noreen and Tom Mohan, caretakers at Narvaez Bay,

approached their employers, Roethel Resources, and Klaus Roethel made a \$150 donation to the Community Club. The club is pleased to receive the donation.

Tom Davidson and Marjorie are visiting their daughter, Diane Gervis, in Port McNeil. This is a nice change since Diane regularly comes home to Saturna with the grandchildren. Jennifer is holding down the Saturna fort while her parents enjoy their trip.

The Community Club has received a Canada Works grant. The grant will pay for the employment of three people. We will hear more details soon.

Pre-school will start this Thursday at the hall. We plan to meet every Tuesday and Thursday for the next six weeks. All interested

children and their parents, who haven't received an invitation, phone Susanne Middleditch at 539-2937.

Kathleen and Bill Sheffield are taking the train south. They plan to visit Kathy's parents in New Mexico.

The kids went on their first swimming and skating jaunt of the year last Wednesday. The children toured the steam-powered lighthouse tender *Wolf* at the Victoria coast guard base. The engine room was the item the kids liked best. A member of the staff described it as "loud, claustrophobic and steamy." Gail Trafford and her son Lee were specially interested in the boat as husband Bill Trafford works on it. The kids will do swimming and skating for eight

weeks.

Bob Hindmarch is taking part in the YMCA's cardiac program. Part of the program is to walk a specified amount regularly. Bob will be using the Community Hall for this as it is level and out of the rain. He and Taimi would be happy to have anyone join them. Call Bob for days and times at 539-2049.

The Community Club is still eager for donations from the community for the recycling effort. So far the \$20 per household donations have come to \$260. Any further donations will be gladly accepted by Doris Ackerman.

The recycling group has a new president. Karen Muntean has taken over the responsibilities from Star Maas-Johnson. Thank you, Star, for your start-up enthusiasm and continued interest.

Chuck Bavis is out of the hospital and doing well. Ernie Atkinson is in stable condition and spoke with Don and Sylvia Hogg last Thursday.

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