

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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

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TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR, NO. 20

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

40c



Students from Salt Spring Elementary among several groups of pupils from island schools to visit Cusheon Creek hatchery during open house last week. Students were given chance to feed fry and told about significance of project.

Into Cusheon, Fulford creeks

Fish hatchery set to release fry

A salmonid enhancement project on Cusheon Creek will release its first school of coho fry later this week.

The Cusheon Creek hatchery will release a total of about 5,500 fry it hatched from 8,000 coho eggs taken from Fulford Creek. Most of the fry will be placed in Cusheon Creek, with the remainder being released into Fulford Creek.

Cathy Reimer, who is working with the project, said the fry will be penned in the creek and fed by salmonid enhancement workers until the end of June, when they will be left on their own.

The fry that mature and return in three years will be used as a source of eggs for restocking of other Salt Spring Island creeks and streams.

Reimer said the success of the project to date means the Cu-

sheon Creek hatchery will likely start with about 2,000 eggs when it resumes that part of its operations this fall.

The survival rate of hatchery fry — 5,500 from 8,000 eggs — was good, she said, particularly in light of problems experienced with three water system breakdowns and a battle with fungal infection.

In light of that, she said, "we were lucky to have such a good survival rate."

The hatchery project, operated under the auspices of the Island Stream and Salmonid Enhancement Society, is not the only work being undertaken to improve salmon stocks on Salt Spring.

Reimer said workers — virtually all are volunteers — will be busy this summer feeding fry in the creek, improving fish ladders

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Fry were fascinating

Ad deadlines advanced by holiday

The Victoria Day long weekend has prompted advancement of regular *Driftwood* classified and display advertising deadlines.

People wishing to place display advertisements in our May 21 edition are advised that the deadline is 5 pm on Thursday, May 15. The deadline for classified ads is 5 pm on Friday, May 16.

Advancement of advertising

deadlines will not affect production or distribution schedules for *Driftwood*. However, our office will be closed on Monday, May 19.

This week's edition of *Driftwood* is substantially larger — and heavier — than normal, thanks to inclusion of our annual summer supplement for visitors.

At 44 pages, the supplement

contains information about accommodation, things to see and activities to pursue on the Gulf Islands. Among the features included are guides to hiking and bicycling trips.

Driftwood has published 50,000 copies of the guide. Those not included in this week's newspaper will be distributed to visitors throughout the summer months. The summer months.

Animal feed

Iodine scare draws public 'over reaction'

By SUSAN DICKER

Traditionally, excess iodine has not been the issue. We need iodine for normal functioning of the thyroid gland and prevention of goitre. Table salt in Canada has been iodized for this reason.

But in recent years iodine has become the focus for numerous studies, particularly for its apparently high level in cow's and goat's milk.

According to Ganges veterinarian Bill Vanderwekken, the research is a step in the right direction. But, he says, a recent flare-up of local hysteria associated with the iodine issue is not.

"We're a bit concerned about the levels of iodine in cow's and goat's milk. A bit concerned," he said. "(But) it's certainly nothing to get hysterical about."

The local concern began last year when several batches of contaminated feed forced Salt Spring farmer Jim Scott to slaughter 85 per cent of his goat herd. Studies conducted by federal government lab technicians proved the feed contained excess levels of iodine. The effect on the goats was devastating.

"The iodine seems to attack the immune system of the goats," says Eric Donnelly, who used Scott's feed and who also lost several goats. He noted that the iodine destroyed the goats' milking capacities, until they were

producing less than 50 per cent of their normal amounts.

With Jim's goats, Donnelly said, several kids were born blind, they had problems with their limbs, and their suckling instinct seemed destroyed. "They were hobbling around, physically unhappy. We destroyed dozens of goats. We shot them and buried them."

Vanderwekken includes increased salivation, tears, and coughing as symptoms of excess

'The problem has been grossly exaggerated.'

iodine. It can affect all organs in the animal's body as well as its reproductive tract.

"There was the one incident and only the one incident where the goats were definitely getting too much iodine," says Vanderwekken, referring to the Scott episode. "The problem has been grossly exaggerated."

A normal level of iodine in feed is considered to be seven parts

Turn to Page 2

Lake judgement reserved; CRD expected to table issue

B.C. Supreme Court is expected to hand down a decision this week or next on a challenge to the St. Mary Lake gasoline outboard ban.

The challenge, filed last December but kept out of court by repeated postponements, was finally heard last Wednesday in B.C. Supreme Court chambers in Vancouver.

The court accepted submissions and arguments on the challenge, then reserved decision for one or two weeks.

The challenge, filed by several St. Mary Lake resort operators and a lakeside resident, argues that the lake's electric-motor-only restriction is unconstitutional and says the Canada Shipping Act — the legislation under which the ban was enacted — does not authorize such restrictions for the protection of water quality.

Named as respondents in the challenge are the federal and provincial governments.

The court challenge follows a hearing held two months ago in North Vancouver to discuss the restriction. Chaired by Robin

Burnside, the federal transport ministry's regional director for ship safety, the hearing recommended that the provincial government be encouraged to seek a compromise solution, and that a return to the lake of gasoline outboards no larger than five horsepower might prove acceptable to both sides.

However, supporters of the gasoline outboard restriction have rejected a compromise, arguing that size limits would bring back virtually all the boats that once used the lake. Restriction opponents, meanwhile, say a five horsepower limit is too low — they seek a minimum of 10 horsepower.

The province has since asked the Capital Regional District (CRD) for its views on the issue. The board notified Victoria that Ron McQuiggan, Salt Spring's alternate director in the absence of Dr. Hugh Borsman, would support a 10 horsepower limit, then scheduled a discussion of the issue on its May 14 agenda.

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Veterinarian: iodine fears not founded on fact

From Page 1

per million. The feed Scott used, obtained from Surrey Co-op in the Fraser Valley, had levels close to 579 parts per million.

"It was a mixing error," Scott says. "They must have punched some wrong buttons into the computer." The feed devastated two commercial goat herds: Scott's and one owned by Merfyn Jones in Vanderhoof. The Co-op admitted liability, both Scott and Donnelly were compensated, and

Scare resurfaces one year after feed problem

Surrey Co-op has now gone out of business. "The Surrey Co-op situation is over and done with," Scott says.

But the hysteria is not. "I've had people come in saying they've heard there's an epidemic going on," says Vanderwekken. "There is room for

research on iodine levels, but the hysteria is unjustified."

Other medical problems are now being blamed on excess iodine, he said. "People say their goat can't have a kid: 'it must be this iodine problem.'"

Both the Scott and Donnelly families drank their goats' milk

for several months before the animals' medical problems were diagnosed.

"We were thinking it was horribly healthy," Donnelly says.

According to Scott, numerous tests showed that no damage to their own health had occurred. Donnelly also reports he did not

get sick.

Victoria nutritionist Pat Gardner says too much iodine in the diet can cause toxicity. She also notes that it is difficult to reach these levels unless a person supplements his diet with iodine tablets. According to Vanderwekken, 160 micrograms of iodine per day is considered an adequate amount. Toxic levels, Gardner said, can occur with a dosage between 1,000 and 2,000 micrograms.

To put this into perspective, one gram of table salt contains 76 micrograms of iodine. On average, a person consumes approximately five grams daily. With a total of 380 micrograms, we are already far over the necessary amount.

"We like the levels in milk to be below 150 micrograms per litre," Vanderwekken says. Some milk however, shows levels exceeding 1,000 micrograms, and to add to the concern, Gardner notes that iodized equipment is often used in the pasteurization process.

Government researchers are presently conducting specific tests on goats, whose milk may have higher iodine levels than cows.

While Vanderwekken reacts positively towards the research, he stresses the need to remain calm when dealing with the issue. "We've been drinking goats' milk with high levels of iodine for years. It's nothing new. Theoretically, it may be too high for humans, but it's been going on for years, and never caused any problems."

Vanderwekken ironically notes that, in recent days, iodine has been recommended to counteract the effects of radiation.

Some islanders are now having their feeds mixed without iodine, bringing the iodine count in milk to levels normally seen as too low. Vanderwekken says that while 150 micrograms is considered normal, some milk has been tested at 25 or 50 micrograms.

in brief

A Fulford man suffered neck injuries and laceration after rolling his car and plunging the vehicle in and out of ditches for half a kilometre on Vesuvius Bay Road last week.

The accident occurred at 9:50 pm on May 9 when James Douglas Andrew, 42, lost control of his vehicle on Vesuvius Road, in the Mobrae area. The Datsun rolled, up-ended itself, and went into the ditch five times before coming to a stop at the side of the road.

According to RCMP, the car is beyond repair.

Andrew went to the hospital the following day, where he was treated for laceration and neck injuries.

A police spokesman said the investigation is continuing and charges may be laid.

Salt Spring's Sea Capers committee has appointed Gordon McCrae and Bevis Walters a 'committee of two' to organize an opening ceremony for the refurbished Centennial Park bandshell.

The opening is scheduled to take place during Sea Capers, on Saturday, June 21, at 4 pm.

In effect this fall

Board approves smoking bylaw

Local smokers will have to break their habit — at least from 9 am to 5 pm — when a regional district bylaw to control smoking in the workplace comes into effect on September 1.

The bylaw prohibits smoking anywhere other than a designated workplace site. Employees and employers may decide whether smoking areas are needed and where they should be.

The bylaw received third reading at the April 23 Capital Regional District (CRD) board meeting and now waits for official adoption. Sooke director Ray Nestman, View Royal director Frank Bell and Esquimalt director Ken Hill opposed the bylaw.

Passage of the bylaw follows almost six months of debate in the CRD boardroom. The bylaw had originally been an amendment to an existing bylaw which prohibits smoking in public places, and was approved only after it was submitted as a separate bylaw.

The fine for contravening bylaw provisions ranges from \$25 to \$500 for the first offence, and from \$75 to \$500 for the second offence.

Director Martin Levin asked the board for the four-month delay in enacting the bylaw in order to "give ample time for businesses to become aware of the new bylaw and allow them to prepare and disseminate information."

Lake decision expected within week

From Page 1

Rick Rockliffe, a St. Mary Lake resort operator who opposes the engine restriction, is on the CRD agenda to speak to the issue. Also expected to speak are ban supporters Tom Gossett and Mike Larmour, both officials of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society.

The CRD said last week it would define its position on the issue at the May 14 meeting. However, CRD chairman Howard Sturrock told *Driftwood* Monday

he will recommend that the board refrain from discussing the issue until the Supreme Court has handed down its decision.

"I don't think we (the board) would be restrained from discussing (the lake ban) as long as we don't get into legal discussions, but whether it would be a useful way to spend our time is another question," Sturrock said.

He explained that he will advise board members to table discussion for a few weeks but it will be up to directors to either

heed or ignore that advice.

"I won't encourage the board to discuss the issue this Wednesday ... we should wait for a court decision," Sturrock added. "I will recommend that we do not discuss it for a few weeks."

He said he would contact the Salt Spring residents listed to speak to the issue and advise that the St. Mary Lake question will likely be postponed. It will then be up to the individuals, he said, to decide if they still wish to attend the meeting.

Staffing levels established

Schools superintendent Mike Marshall outlined to school trustees Thursday the projected number of Island teaching positions to be in effect in the upcoming school year.

The figures, he told the May 8 meeting held on Saturna, are only a base line and further increases will be sought later.

On Galiano, where enrolment is expected to jump, staffing will increase from 4.1 full-time equivalent teachers to 4.6. Salt Spring and Fernwood elementaries and the Pender Island School will receive no increases in teaching staff, and Saturna will go from

one full-time teaching position to 1.3.

Fulford Elementary increases from 7.6 teachers to 8.2, and the high school from 24.2 to 25.

The Mayne Island school is the only one slated for a decrease in teaching staff — from 5.2 to 4.7 — but Marshall noted that adjustments will probably be made and "it will have to go up."

Marshall said the projected number of teaching positions — 75.6 — is a conservative figure. The fiscal framework, he said, will probably allow for 80.5 teachers.

At Fulford Harbour		TIDE TABLES		Standard Time— Add 1 hour for daylight time	
MAY					
14	0300	9.0	18	0040	10.5
	0645	8.4	SU	0745	6.5
WE	1400	2.2		1145	7.1
	2305	10.6		1745	4.5
15	0400	8.7	19	0105	10.4
	0730	8.0		0800	5.3
TH	1450	2.6	MO	1340	7.6
	2340	10.6		1845	5.4
16	0500	8.3	20	0130	10.4
	0845	7.5		0820	4.0
FR	1540	3.1	TU	1500	8.4
	0010	10.6		1945	6.3
17	0545	7.6	21	0150	10.4
	1030	7.0		0850	2.5
SA	1640	3.7	WE	1610	9.3
				2040	7.4

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Fantastic fund-raising

Patricia Shandrak receives carnation from Phyllis Greico in downtown Ganges as part of local drive to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research. Efforts by volunteers and generosity of island residents raised about \$2,000 over two days of the campaign.

Driftwood photo by Duncan MacDonnell

Returning hatchery fish fit into restocking plan

From Page 1

built at the mouth of Cusheon Creek and at the hatchery, carrying out trout fry rescue work, and conducting rehabilitation projects on Fulford and Reid creeks.

Also slated for this summer is preliminary cleanup work on Ganges Creek. Reimer, a member of the Ganges Creek Task Force struck by the Islands Trust Committee, said the work should "make people aware the creek is there, and that it has some potential."

Another project about to be launched is the installation of a fish incubator in a Fulford School classroom for the benefit of

students.

Last week, the Cusheon Creek hatchery held open house to show the public the progress of work carried out to date. A number of schools sent classes of students to visit the site, and most pupils had the opportunity to feed the fry.

The Island Stream and Salmonid Enhancement Society includes about 30 members. The main people involved in the hatchery project were Cathy Reimer, Dave Waldie, Arnie Hengstler, John Elliot, Deborah Nostdal, Jonathan Oldroyd, Al Hoskins, Marina Scott and Frances Keman.

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19-3



to be frank . . .

. . . by Richards

What a web of ants!

I know that it's dangerous to mention the little beasts, but I would be most hesitant to wax indignant over a charge by any claimant that I'm a depressant.

But I have to note that one reader tells me that her cat eats the small ants, squashed or crawly.

Like the weather

The national political picture is like the weather in the islands. Every newcomer to the province is familiar with the assurances of all old-timers that they have never known a day as cold or dry or as wet or as hot as it has been the past week.

And what do we have now? Alberta has never looked the same before. Nor have the Liberals. Nor Prince Edward Island. And Ontario and Quebec!

The secret heart

Every time there's an internal dispute the relationship of their members towards each other are clearly characterized by parties.

The social democrats love each other. The Liberals tolerate each other and the Tories hate each other. At least, that's the way it all comes out.

Who to believe?

The incident of the Russian power plant has left a void in the news columns of most of the world.

When the reactor went sour we have stories of meltdown, crop failures, deaths by the thousands and threats to the world.

Now that the fog has cleared a little most of us are curious as to which rumours reported as accurate news were in fact, accurate news and which were rumours.

Governments, power producers and news services might do well to join forces in an effort to recover the credulity which has been virtually lost.

A breakdown in a nuclear power station is a tragedy. Inaccurate, exaggerated speculation offered as news is an equal tragedy.

Good brown eggs

Best story I heard was from Ken Byron. I think it came from his uncle, and namesake.

A great Canadian General was travelling from army camp to army camp. The only thing anyone knew about him for sure was that he wanted eggs for breakfast and they had to be brown.

The cookhouse was worried. They had only white eggs. It didn't matter. The cook was up to any demand. He nonchalantly made a pot of tea. When the tea was cold he dunked the white eggs, all nicely browned by breakfast time.

Radiation level near normal; water supplies not affected

Fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident are negligible in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Gulf Island areas, says North Salt Spring Waterworks spokesman Mike Larmour.

As of May 7, radiation levels in Vancouver reservoirs were at one-tenth of the maximum acceptable level, Larmour said. "With what's known, it is apparent there is nothing to be concerned about," he said.

Meanwhile, noted musician and island resident Valdy last week measured the level of radiation in the air around Salt Spring and noted an increase of between six and 10 millirems.

Six rems (a measure of radiation strength) is considered near fatal, and 12 to 15 millirems is termed normal. A radioactivity gauge measured the local level at approximately 22 millirems.

"The millirem rate is not bad," Valdy said.

According to Larmour, the Coquitlam reservoir shutdown last weekend was a false alarm. A screening test indicated the need for more testing but, when further testing was carried out, nothing of significance showed.

Larmour also noted that the period between May 9 to 12 revealed a small increase of iodine in the air.

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Consider election of regional district alternates

The position of alternate to a regional district representative has been open to question ever since that system of government was formed in this province.

In the case of incorporated municipalities, the function of an alternate regional director is perfectly clear. Each municipality names a director—and an alternate—to a regional board. The directors and alternates are always elected members of the local municipal council, either aldermen or the mayor.

If the municipality's director is unable to take

part in deliberations at a regional board meeting, his place is taken by the alternate, who speaks—and votes—in the director's place. And why not?

Meanwhile, adaptation of this procedure to a community without local government leaves the alternate director outside the elected body. In the electoral areas, the director is elected and may then appoint an alternate to speak for—and vote on behalf of—the community in the event of his absence.

That system, and the people who represent Salt

Spring on the Capital Regional District (CRD) board, have come under fire recently. Criticism has been directed at the stands taken by Ron McQuiggan, Salt Spring's alternate to the CRD in the absence of Dr. Hugh Borsman, on issues like a bylaw to regulate smoking in the workplace and a provincial government request to the CRD for its opinion on a compromise to settle the St. Mary Lake outboard motor issue.

Many island residents were upset by the positions Mr. McQuiggan took on those issues, with several arguing that the alternate director had not been elected to speak for them. Thus, they argued, he had no business deciding island issues.

However, the villain in this piece is not Mr. McQuiggan, but the Municipal Act. That's the legislation which allows appointment of non-elected alternates to speak for electoral areas.

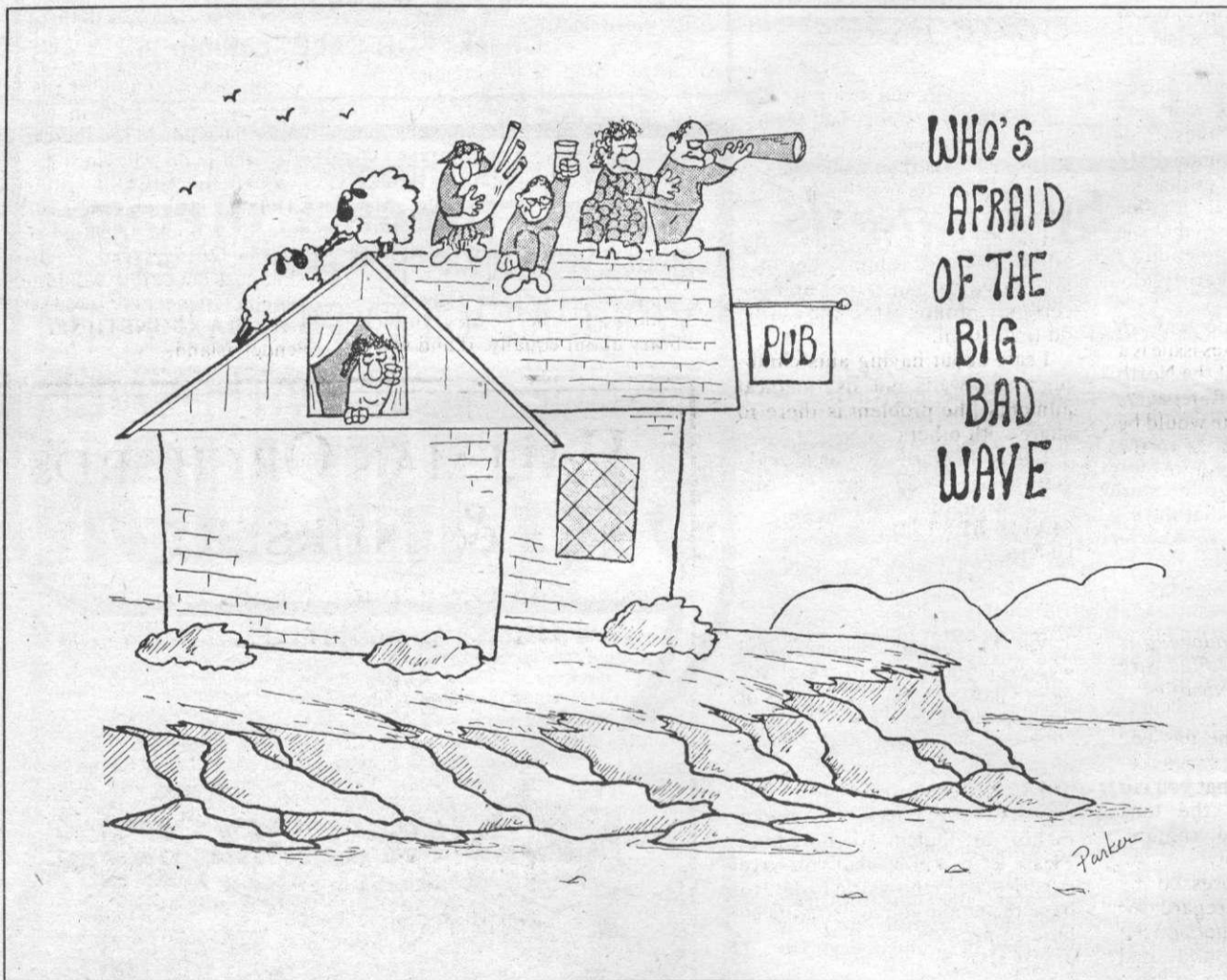
A municipality's alternate regional district representative, because he is a member of council, is or should be fully familiar with community opinion when he speaks at the board level. In electoral areas like Salt Spring however, the alternate director cannot hope to match the familiarity the elected representative gains through regular—albeit unstructured—contact with issues and the electorate.

That fact ensures alternate directors from electoral areas will never have a smooth ride—until and unless the position is filled at the ballot box, at the same time as the director is elected.

As it stands now, the Municipal Act flaw is a hole in the fabric of the regional district system. As such, it begs the municipal affairs minister to take corrective action.

Either the alternate director should be elected at the polls, to ensure he is a part of the administrative function, or the practice of naming an alternate in electoral areas should be removed from the Act.

In simple terms, we cannot direct blame at the victim of a weakness in our legislative fabric. Instead, we must take steps to eliminate that weakness.



Cryptic notes, baseball cards and old nurseries...

It's that time again. The shoebox beside my desk is bulging with all sorts of random notes that deserve a bit of attention, and if it can't be in article form it may as well be in passing.

First up is a cute, anonymous note I received purporting to name the people in a photograph of early island residents printed as a recent *Looking back* entry.

The note was simple enough. It identified the people pictured on page 13 of our April 23 edition as (left to right): "Anthony Netboy, Bill Luker, Isabel Hunt, Michael Hogan, A. Salmon, Jennifer Bradford and Name Withheld."

Two thoughts strike me. One is curiosity about how all this is going down with people who don't read *Driftwood* regularly and may have missed the first installment of the pseudo-saga, and the second is the thought that our fixation with the famous (on

Salt Spring, anyway) could be accented in wider ways.

On the first count, there's not much I can do, short of publishing a weekly box score or recount. On the second, I think some enterprising soul should produce a series of baseball cards bearing the photographs of local residents and offer them for sale in our shops. I'd just love to walk by Harbour Low Cost and hearing one kid say to another: "I'll give you two Anthony Netboys for one Bill Luker." Why not?

Moving along, we have a note here from a reader in Victoria seeking information on the Balmoral Nursery, a Salt Spring enterprise which advertised in the *Daily Colonist* from December, 1862, through 1963. If you have any knowledge of said nursery, direct replies to Mrs. D.D. Fraser at 1161 Burnside Road, Victoria,

my word

by

Duncan MacDonnell

B.C. V8Z 1N5.

The first of what I'm sure will be a flood of local connections with Expo surfaced recently with publication in the Vancouver *Sun* of a profile of Denis Blais, executive chef at the official restaurant at Canada Place.

Whozzat? Blais, it turns out, is the nephew of Rita Dods of Rita's Inn in downtown Ganges, and a graduate of Gulf Islands Secondary School. The *Sun* article makes brief mention of Salt Spring while focusing recipes for good-looking

dishes Blais has dreamed up.

This late flash just in: members of the Salt Spring transportation committee, who concern themselves with matters relating to ferries, note that this newspaper has carried a number of ferry-related stories over the past few weeks with no reference to the committee. People, they say, should be reminded that the committee is still there.

Happy to oblige. A couple of important dates are on tap for the committee, by the way — a meeting today (Wednesday) with ferry corporation mugwumps, and an annual general meeting on May 26 at the Harbour House Hotel. Details on both next week.

We're rapidly running out of space here, so the other notes will have to go back into the shoebox until next time. In closing, my

apologies to the ball team for missing Sunday's game — my Mother's Day weekend was going just fine until mom opened the cookie jar and drew out job slips for putting up the clothesline, digging the garden, mowing the lawn and tying back a few leaning trees. How could I pass that up for a three-and-two count?

Before I go, what do you think about running a weekly box score on the killer pole, the one at Booth Canal Road? Or, failing that, how about a poll on the person most likely to next come into contact with the chunk of wood? Or a special baseball card with the pole's picture on it and a list of 'hits' on the back? Or a collector's set of cards bearing pictures of the vehicles it's claimed? Or ...

We'll be back to normal next week.

No respect

Sir,
Being an Islander temporarily living with relentless snowbanks, a reluctant spring and unpredictable postal delivery, the age of my copy of the welcome *Driftwood* does not matter. However, it's important to me that I have a chance to redeem myself about the article in *Canadian Living* magazine; no matter how old the news.

I was most assured to read that Islanders questioned the article written by Sally Armstrong. I was upset when I read what Sally mistakenly attached to my name.

When Sally phoned me last year to make boat arrangements for her trip around the Gulf Islands, she asked me about some story which was supposed folk lore from the Burgoyne Bay area. I'd never heard of it and I told her so. However, I made arrangements for her to meet with Dick Toynbee, who seemed the best person to verify or dispel the story. She never made contact with Dick.

With respect for the island and islanders, the subject and quote Sally pinned on my name is not only inaccurate, it's completely made up. I still know nothing of the story and I would have no hesitation being in the Burgoyne Bay area at night.

The article may do lots for the island's tourism, but it certainly does nothing for my respect for journalism.
AMY MACLEOD,
Cassiar, B.C.

To no avail

Sir,
Regarding Mr. Grayling's letter about my petition for improved bus service and ferry connections, I wish to add that I have approached the Chambers of Commerce for Mayne, Galiano and Salt Spring islands for support in this matter — all to no avail.

I found them to be, in one case, unwilling to support this issue, and to totally ignore it in the other two cases.
DAVID CLEGG,
Ganges.

Add a name

Sir,
It makes me angry that neither the B.C. Ferry Corporation nor B.C. Transit will consider providing adequate connection service at Tsawwassen for Gulf Islands passengers. Yes, there are problems in changing a schedule, but why should one ferry's worth of a small number of Gulf Islanders be singled out to suffer because of heavy traffic in the Deas Tunnel?

As for B.C. Transit's problem of connecting bus services, it is a red herring. They could improve service enormously in the fall, winter and spring by running their normal bus service on the hour (rather than every two hours) when a Gulf Islands ferry is leaving or coming in. As it stands now, for example, we have to wait almost two hours if a winter ferry misses the evening bus, or on Saturdays we have to leave downtown Vancouver at 9:30 am to catch a post-noon ferry. Providing a few additional bus runs on their regular service, to come within an hour of meeting a Gulf Islands ferry, is surely a possible compromise solution.

David Clegg, please add my name to your petition.
MIRIAM CLAVIR,
Pender Island.

Call a vote

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to the Capital Regional District, filed with this newspaper for publication.

Sir,
I wish to express my deep concern over Mr. Ron McQuiggan's recent comments endorsing the use of power boats on our drinking reservoir.

First, let it be pointed out Mr. McQuiggan is not our elected representative. On such a critical issue as the future of our potable water reserve, he should have abstained from making any comments until the return of Dr. Borsman. In my discussions with dozens of St. Mary's Lake domestic water users, I have heard nothing but outrage at Mr. McQuiggan's audacity in expressing his personal opinion on such matters.

His comments regarding only 300 people belonging to the Water Preservation Society are totally irrelevant to the issue. Many people do not wish to join clubs or societies but still want a secure source of clean water.

Dr. Borsman has endeavoured to let the community vote on contentious issues such as mid-week vending in Centennial Park and yet, on the most critical of issues, the use of our potable water, it would appear that he allows an unelected representative to make statements that are totally unsolicited.

The only democratic way to resolve such a contentious issue is a vote by all ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Water Ratepayers Association. Such a vote would be inexpensive and factual as to the true feelings of the electorate.
W. DENNIS O'HARA,
Ganges.

Disregard

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to a thief, filed with this newspaper for publication.

Sir,
It wasn't so much the gas you stole out of my car that inconvenienced us but the fact that you cut the gas line and let the tank empty onto the ground, contaminating our water supply.

What we were impressed by was your extreme disregard for human safety. Had we not noticed the gas on the ground and attempted to start the car to drive our children to school, there could have been an explosion.

The cost of the repair and another fill-up of gas is comparatively inconsequential.
DONNA MARTIN,
Ganges.

Enthusiasm

Sir,
We now have a pool society. And, if the support we got at last week's meeting is any indication, we'll be building our swimming pool this time.

At the meeting was a good number of enthusiastic islanders who voted unanimously in favour of forming a legal society. This yet-to-be-named entity will be leading us in our exercises towards a Salt Spring Island swimming pool.

If you're not already a member of numerous and sundry groups on the island or, better yet, if you are looking forward to a swim and relief from what ails you, show your needs and voice your interests to the pool society. Make this

letters

action group represent you.

Information on your pool society and action plans will be forthcoming after this week's steering committee meeting. In the meantime, let's think of all the good reasons why, young and old, we need an indoor swimming pool this side of a ferry trip.

GAIL BRYN-JONES,
Ganges.

Status quo

Sir,
Our volunteer-run library in Ganges is, I believe, doing a great job. I love to go there; it is friendly and efficient.

I have received good service on inter-library loans and any other help I needed. I don't think government interference is wanted, and I've been told that the staff, like me, prefer the status quo.

Are there others who agree with me?
JOCELYN HOCKING,
Ganges.

Spare us

Sir,
Please spare us from intolerance. I feel sorry that last week's letter writer does not enjoy Mr. Richards' column in our weekly paper. If you do not like it, don't read it.

I do not read every letter to the editor, or every column, but they are all part of our paper and are certainly of interest to those who do read them.

I care about having ants climbing up my walls and, like medical ailments, the problem is there to share with others.

I look forward to our weekly copy of *Driftwood*. Carry on, Mr. Frank Richards.
MAVIS BEATTIE,
Ganges.

Sir,
Yes M. Sinclair, whoever and whatever you are; I do care! It's nice to have a touch of normalcy in this rapidly-changing world where violence, discontent and change without reason are the norm.

Your letter intrigues me as it is the first time I have run across malice attributed to boredom. Please let us know what you have experienced in this world to date to have the ennui you are striving so hard to promote.

J. NICHOLS,
Ganges.

Courtesy

Sir,
With regard to the May 7 article *Drivers urged to obey road crew instructions*, we who flag strictly for the highways department do not necessarily agree with those who speak for the flagpersons who work with the blacktop crew.

Regarding the points imposed on a driver's license for infringement of the highway code, this matter is best left to the RCMP and the judiciary. (A flagperson's authority extends only to reporting any infringements to the RCMP — not to the public in general).

We who flag for Highways wish to thank the highway crew, equipment operators, truckers, school bus drivers, ferry crews and passengers (we are aware of ferry schedules) and the public in general for the co-operation and courtesy shown to us in a sometimes difficult situation.

JOHN 'SCOTTY' INNES,
Ganges.

Overlooked

Sir,
Would joining the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) system provide all of the Gulf Islands with an improved library service? What would it cost? Why is the issue being brought forward through the school board? What would happen to the books and facilities now owned by the people of Pender and Salt Spring in their present libraries? Some points which have been overlooked so far are:

- Any Gulf Island resident can join the VIRL system now, by paying an annual or semi-annual fee which may be more reasonable than the proposed tax increase.

For \$24 per annum, per family, you can use any of the branches which you find convenient — Sidney, Brentwood Bay, Esquimalt, Duncan, etc.

The loan period is two weeks, there are no overdue charges for seniors, or for anyone on paperbacks, periodicals or uncarded material. The reference material is excellent, but usually must be used on the premises.

- Belonging to the VIRL on this basis does not prevent anyone from taking full advantage of Open Shelf, the Mary Hawkins Library, the Pender Lender, the Greater Victoria Public Library System (whose annual fees are similar for non-residents).

In our family we use the Pender Lender and the Sidney branch library about equally. If and when

we do not travel to Vancouver Island so often, we would use the Open Shelf and the Pender Lender.

- To us, visiting the Sidney branch is a treat. But such a large, well-stocked branch would not be possible on any of the Gulf Islands, for the same reasons that we do not have the range of banks, supermarkets, chain stores, etc.

A branch library on Salt Spring would be virtually useless to those of us who live in the Outer Islands, since very few of us come to Salt Spring regularly.

- The petition now circulating is vague about what might be available on the Outer Islands, mentioning "revolving" book stations or small branches. A bookmobile would not be based on Salt Spring, it would have to come from Sidney, just as our other services such as the CRD health nurse and building inspection.

The usual ferry schedule only allows a short half-day visit to any of the Outer Islands, via Swartz Bay. The frequency of the visits could be no more than weekly, probably less. Adult users would probably find it less convenient to select, order, receive and return books through a bookmobile than through Open Shelf.

Salt Spring Islanders who do not understand some of these basic facts should study an ordinary ferry schedule (not Expo summer). A full understanding of the ferry schedule would explain why the Outer Islands are increasingly alienated from Salt Spring.

As to the costs of joining the VIRL, in last weekend's *Sun* the hardcover books reviewed started at \$24, and averaged \$27 to \$28. That cost per capita would not be popular if it meant reduced service.
SANDRA JOHNSTONE,
Pender Island.

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Legislature burdened by shadow of boredom

VICTORIA — How boring is the Fourth Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia?

It's so boring that reporters and politicians complain about how boring it is. Everybody seems to agree that the current session in Victoria is enough to put insomniacs to sleep, but they can't agree on the reasons.

Some New Democrats say that Expo has taken the zing out of the debate in the legislature. The government, they say, is so preoccupied with the world's fair that it is neglecting its legislative duty.

Other NDP members blame the media for the boredom that has settled over Victoria. Reporters, they point out, no longer cover the debates in the legislature. If the politicians want to draw attention to something, they have to call a press conference. So they say.

The Sacred members, on the other hand, aren't complaining, although they, too, admit that it's

boring. They believe they are doing such a good job that the opposition can't find anything to fight over.

None of the above reasons are responsible for the lacklustre performance of the B.C. Legislature. The real reason is fatigue brought on by age. Most of the MLAs have been hanging around the place for too long. They have extreme difficulty producing an original thought. That goes particularly for the government side.

Governments deliver their best performance during the early stage of their existence. That's when they implement all the ideas they fought for in vain during their opposition days.

A party that comes to power after years and years in the political wilderness tends to be vigorous. It tries innovative ideas and new approaches.

After a few terms, however, a government will invariably run out of steam. The well goes dry.

The best example in British Columbia is the birth and death of

capital comment

by
Hubert Beyer

the old Social Credit government under W.A.C. Bennett, which swept to power on the ruins of a tired coalition government which hadn't had an original idea for years. Twenty years later, W.A.C. Bennett's creation crumbled for much the same reasons, giving way to the enthusiasm of a newly-elected NDP government.

Reporters covering the legislature at that time remember the first session under Dave Barrett's reign very well. Totally aside from politics and the chasm that separates the left from the right in this province, there was a kind of euphoria in the legislature they hadn't seen for years.

It was a new and youthful

government. Its members were eager to leave their mark on the province by introducing ideas they had only dreamed of before. Again, I'm not talking about the merits of some of the changes the NDP made, although in retrospect, even the harshest critics cannot find much wrong with what the NDP did.

For one thing, they didn't have any budget deficits. Mind you, they also didn't have a recession to deal with. But more important, most of the NDP creations, including the government-operated insurance scheme and the protection of agricultural land, remain pretty well intact to this day.

The end, however, came fast for the NDP government. It broke with the tradition of dying from the effects of old age. It was executed for doing too much too fast, which scared the daylight out of the public.

The new Sacred government under Bill Bennett also had its agenda of things it will be remembered by — megaprojects.

There was Northeast Coal, the Revelstoke dam, Expo 86, projects which caused big political storms during their inception and implementation.

But what now? Aside from the Site C hydroelectric project in the Peace River country, the government has run out of imaginative ideas. The well is, once again, dry.

The question is whether the current government has reached the point at which W.A.C.'s government collapsed onto itself. Will it survive the next election?

The Sacred politicians will, of course, deny that the government is showing signs of senility. The opposition will say that the signs have been there from the start.

The question will not be decided by politicians. The fate of the government will be decided by the public's perception. If the public believes that the government has reached the limits of its imagination, nothing will save it from defeat.

Mistaken

Sir,
This letter is to correct certain mistaken facts contained in a personal ad in your classified section last week.

The coveted trophy is the Bill Webster Meritorious Driving Award and is awarded to a driver showing examples of ability above and beyond the mere need to stay on the road.

To Mr. Z. Placebo Flamingo, the Patriotic Pickup is again mobile and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

The next award ceremony will feature as a theme song, *Short People*. Plan to attend, Mr. Flamingo and learn not to cast aspersions on a rapidly developing island tradition.

LOUIS BOLIVAR-FINCHLEY,
Vesuvius.

Balance

Sir,
The April 23 decision by the CRD to delay passage of the Salt Spring noise suppression bylaw should be viewed as a new chance to reach a more equitable solution to the obvious problems facing members of the gun club and residents affected by their operations.

It should also be noted that all sides in this debate agree there is a noise problem generated by this facility—Dr. Borsman knows it, the club executive acknowledges it, residents suffer with it, and now, several CRD directors advocate that something must be done about it.

Exempting the discharge of firearms (for both private ranges and shooting clubs) will not make the problem go away. At best, it is a band-aid approach to the situation—one that will only serve to stall progress towards any final, fair solution.

We are willing to accept a limited exemption within the bylaw—one that would not restrict the club's weekend tournaments, but would restrict any unorganized shooting on Sundays and during evening hours. Would this not allow the club to fulfill its organizational commitments, provide ample time for members to engage in target practice and, at the same time, ensure definite times of peace and quiet to the surrounding areas? Will the gun club recognize that its location in a central residential area necessitates

a quieter, more responsible facility?

Perhaps it is time for our public representatives to decide if the gun club should impose its standards on the community without consultation or consideration.

Once again, the proposed exemption will only serve to delay the examination of the broader issues at stake; the issues of proper land use and community planning, public safety and noise abatement.

Hopefully, these issues will indeed be held up for public scrutiny and this exemption will not be ratified merely because it was asked for by a well-organized special interest group in order to temporarily avoid the realities around them. This pause in the official process should serve as an impetus for examining the real issues—for Dr. Borsman to truly mediate an equitable solution that can be upheld within the bylaw. This means that meaningful dialogue must be established.

The sham of meetings stacked with gun club members who ultimately decide on the exemptions that benefit only themselves should not be tolerated, and concerned residents should make this clear to the regional director.

This bylaw should protect fairly, and in turn, restrict fairly. In its present form, it does neither, and we will continue to challenge this document until it reflects a more reasonable balance between all segments of our community.

ROBIN ANDISON,
DAVID HENSHALL,
Ganges.

Dissidents

Sir,
I have an uncanny feeling that somehow the world terrorist threat might soon be used to subdue all American dissident movements that are perceived by Ronny Reagan to be anti-American or a threat to the current aggressive U.S. military stance. This would include muzzling the peace movement.

I suggest, in fact, that phase two or three of the American anti-terrorist campaign may soon be launched upon North America and it will bring about a new era of McCarthyism in order to subjugate that precious American freedom — free speech — by linking peace activists with com-

more letters

munists and terrorists and thus intimidating the weaker among us from speaking out in favour of a peaceful or non-nuclear-weapon world, or at the very least pushing for a freeze on nuclear weapons testing.

Given Prime Minister Mulroney's love-in with President Reagan, such a threat to democracy would probably overflow into Canada. I hope we haven't seen the last peace walk in Victoria. I hope that those among us who believe in the democratic process will continue to work for the peace movement in a peaceful, democratic, non-violent manner and that we will not be intimidated by anyone or anything that may be put in our way.

HELEN E. BRIGHTWELL
Victoria.

New laws

Sir,
It is time again to deal with the issue of land development and how to refine the Islands Trust so it can deal effectively with the day-to-day decision-making that is necessary for proper land use on Salt Spring Island.

The official community plan is law; the zoning bylaws, with their maps, are in place and are also law. To overcome misinterpretation and flip-flops on grey areas, the Islands Trust should be willing to provide any land owner, upon request, with a confirmation of zoning document.

This would allow any owner to proceed with development plans that are consistent with the bylaws and the official community plan. It could have an expiry date of 365 days, which is similar to the preliminary layout approval that has an expiry date of 180 days.

The document would allow an owner's plans to move along in a consistent manner and eliminate some of the time-consuming paper-shuffling that presently goes on in Victoria. It could also include a simple statement: "Where a subdivision of the subject properties conforms to the existing bylaws, the Islands Trust, hereby waives the 10 per cent road frontage requirement provided any lots created and assessed by frontages of less than 10 per cent are proven buildable."

This statement would allow for an owner's plans to include cul-de-

sacs and assist in keeping the nature of land use rural.

The next document is a little more complicated. Once the owner has obtained a confirmation of zoning, he may find that a particular development plan may require an approved park dedication agreement, which, under the law, can total five per cent of the total area of the subject lands. Under the new municipal Act, this land can be dedicated as park or paid for but, either way, it requires an agreement by the Islands Trust.

An approved park dedication agreement could be negotiated with the Trust in advance of the owner submitting applications to the highways department.

These two simple documents, once in place, would greatly increase the efficiency of the development process and clarify the rights for the owner.

What motivates my suggestion? This alone — that Trust members have shown no interest in advancing proposals for overcoming their inabilities. Now, it is true that they would like to hire more staff, but these additions, if allowed, would tend instead to the entrenchment of the presently inadequate system.

MURRAY CYPRUS,
Ganges.

On Salt Spring

Sir,
Conflict. Confrontation. On Salt Spring.

Well, what do you expect with all these Johnny-come-lately types over here on retirement? Little frogs from big puddles. Gotta let them try their paddles.

Well, at least the sewer thing seems to have settled down. But don't kid yourself—there's still the gun club thing.

Oh well, let them play for a while. Keeps them busy. Don't know why the club doesn't use silencers. Any worthwhile crook in New York or Chicago has been using them for years. Gets the job done, with no more noise than an air rifle.

Oh yes, the big deal on St. Mary Lake. Confrontation, confrontation.

Well, ole buddy, it seems to me the problem is underwater exhaust, which is standard with

outboard motors. Why not inboard motors, with exhaust into the air? Wouldn't be no more pollutin' than the cars buzzing around the lake.

Yeah, well that's too easy. No conflict, no fun.

Do you know you're going to be right unpopular? No more conflict?

Don't worry, ole buddy, they'll think of something.

R. J. STIBBARDS,
Ganges.

Rejection

Sir,
We, the undersigned, Trustees of Lakeshore Estates Waterworks District, located on the waterfront of St. Mary Lake, wish to go on record in the strongest terms against any compromise to the EMO regulation banning gasoline-powered boats on the lake.

One of us uses an electric motor, replacing an outboard motor previously used, and the other has never used any lake craft but a rowboat and sailboat. It was pleasurable last summer when the EMO restriction became effective, to see the additional colourful windsurfers, sailboats, canoes etc. Two or three lakefront residents were observed disobeying the law and were not reported, but will be if any further use of their outboards occurs.

There have been many excellent letters in *Driftwood* supporting the EMO legislation, such as Bis Whitby's letter reminding that the EMO status was overwhelmingly supported following a public hearing in 1982.

In July, 1982, action had to be taken in regard to a proposal to open a water-skiing school on the lake, which all goes to show that we must be ever on our guard against those who, with all the best intentions, could cause further deterioration of this resource.

One of our members has been in touch with the federal minister of transport; local MLA Hugh Curtis, minister of lands, parks and housing, and the chairman of the Capital Regional District.

With all due respect to Mr. McQuiggan, we would suggest he get together with Dr. Borsman on his return in regards to presentations to the CRD. Mr. McQuiggan's views certainly do not coincide with ours.

J.A. DUTHIE,
J.D. COOK,
Ganges.

more letters

Appreciative

Sir,
Thank you, LeRoy Jensen, for providing our community with a stunning and very moving experience with your show of paintings, graphics and drawings. Your show was a celebration of the goddess in all of us, evoking sensuality, nurturing, warmth, darkness, mystery, love and light. You are an inspiration to an artistic community that is willing to look inside themselves personally and be open and willing to change and grow.

You have given us an opportunity to share with you your life-long devotion and struggle; your deep need to balance your painting, home and family. You offer us an opportunity to understand the connection, the process, the humanity experienced by painters from the past to the present.

Thank you, LeRoy.
MARGARET KORRISON,
Vesuvius Bay.

Quality

Sir,
I am one of those off-island readers of *Driftwood*, not because I plan on retiring there in the near future, or because I used to live on your enchanted island, but because of the high quality of reporting and scope of the paper.

In particular, I like the reportage on international issues. Often, small community papers are negligent in this regard — assuming community papers must be strictly local in content — and thus perpetuating ignorance of the global village.

Andrew Gibson's series on Nicaragua is among the best I have yet read on the subject. His articulate analysis is rare in the mainstream press.

Another obvious strength of the newspaper is the letter to the editor section. Lots of writers (living among the other artists) getting involved in exercising freedom of speech helps reflect the grass roots character of the community.

I also enjoy immensely Duncan MacDonnell's wit and wisdom in *My Word*. Oh, and the sheep cartoons are an excellent way of cushioning the sometimes prickly issues you Salt Springers must deal with.

DAN DEVANEY,
Ladysmith.

P.S. Who is this Salmon fellow everyone's talking about?

Share dream

Sir,
Furthering your dreams in the form of prose, poetry and graphic arts is what Moonsee is all about. By giving our dream (that is, Moonsee) shape and substance, we hope to reflect artistic expressions unique to the Gulf Islands.

Forming the idea of gathering materials to produce a literary publication felt a lot like planting seeds of unknown origin. Who could guess what flowering verse would come forth?

To all those who submitted their works, thank you; your talent, energy and encouragement are well appreciated and we will be contacting you during the next month by mail.

Submissions were sparse and after careful consideration of the materials submitted, we feel that we have accumulated half the required amount needed to produce a varied swath of Gulf Island talents.

Therefore, we are extending our open invitation to all islands

residents to shoot for the moon, or further if you like, by submitting your poems, prose (2500 word maximum), and camera ready black and white graphic arts to Box 668 as soon as possible. We will continue to accept invitations for the month of May. Submit your dreams.
BRONWYN ELKO,
Ganges.

Refusals

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Revenue Minister Elmer MacKay, filed with this newspaper for publication.

Sir,
The current Conservative government may choose to cooperate in preparing for crimes against humanity as defined by the Nuremberg Judgment by joining in preparations for nuclear war. I do not. I am sending nine per cent of my federal tax payable — the amount spent on the military and 'defence' — to Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Fund, to be held in trust for eventual use in peace research and education. I cannot, in good conscience, oppose the nuclear state and continue to fund it. This freedom of conscience, I am glad to say, is guaranteed all Canadians by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canadian complicity in the USA's nuclear megadeath machine, most obviously through membership in NATO — which refuses to commit itself even on paper to no first use of nukes — and NORAD (which will soon be indistinguishable from Star Wars) makes me feel I've been turned into the proverbial "good German" whose silent, tacit, acquiescent co-operation and obedience fuelled the ovens of the Nazi holocaust as surely as did the shovels of the S.S. squads at Auschwitz, Dachau and the rest. This is a role I refuse to play.

Our reliance on megadeath monsters to threaten others with extinction to make ourselves feel safe makes me wonder whether we are already deformed past some point of no return. By the time we have surrounded the planet, at inconceivable cost, with Star Wars' iron brace, I am sure we will have passed that point for good. We will have become so morally and spiritually deformed as to be scarcely recognizable as what once we meant by human.

Traditionally, those who opposed war as a matter of conscience could become conscientious objectors rather than be forced into the army. But no one need be drafted by NATO or NORAD to initiate global devastation right now. With the coming of Star Wars, NORAD's computers will be able to do it on their own.

No — today we are coerced through taxation into supporting a war machine that threatens all life on this planet. The Income Tax Act must be changed to allow for conscientious objection now, while our acts still count. I want the government to establish an official Peace Tax Fund to receive directly the taxes of all Canadians who object to their money being spent to pursue military responses to questions of security and defence.

By denying that evil a small but significant amount of money from my taxes I feel that I am taking one small but significant step on the essential path of nonco-operation. I am heartened to know that through the freedom of conscience guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms this path is open to us all.

MURRAY REISS,
Vesuvius.

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Detrimental

Sir,
We wish to draw your attention to plans for Saturna Island which, we believe, will be highly detrimental to the interests of most islanders.

We understand that it is the intention of Gaines Enterprises to develop a private campsite on the island in the vicinity of East Point Road.

You will be aware that the history of campsites in the Gulf Islands is not a happy one. The sites have contributed to vandalism, break-ins, violence and noise nuisances.

An added factor in the Saturna situation is that, although supervised, the contemplated campsite will not be policed, there being no local RCMP detachment. It would therefore be open season for any roughnecks who wish to descend on the island for a binge.

If that is what islanders want, then so be it. But we do not believe that to be the case. And it is highly disturbing to find that an attempt is being made to approve this proposal with most taxpayers being unaware of what is going on. A public meeting is scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 16, as announced in your newspaper of April 30 — but most people do not know that and could not attend at that time, even if they did know it.

Even more disturbing is that the backers of this plan apparently want the rules re-written so that they will have *carte blanche* to issue temporary commercial and industrial permits for the island. And that, too, is up for discussion on May 16.

Is all this in keeping with the professed aims of the Islands Trust, of which Mr. John Gaines is a member.
We appeal to you, the public,

the Islands Trust and the provincial government to put a stop to this. At the very least, we want meetings on such important matters when everyone can attend them.
DOUG COLLINS,
JOHN JEFFERY,
and eight others.
Saturna Island.

Generosity

Sir,
Phase I of our new adventure playground has finally been installed. The Salt Spring Island Elementary Parents Group and the children would like to thank all those people who have helped us with this project.

A very special thanks to the Lions Club for their very generous donation — we salute you all. We also received a donation from the Recreation Commission, Gulf Coast Materials and private sources: we thank you too.

A special thanks to Ross Vanwinkle, Salt Spring Island Sea Food Products, Rita Dodds, John Christianson, John MacAstocker, Jim Bird, Ed Erwin, Wayne Soroka.

To all you fathers who donated your Saturdays (weekends are short), thank you—Kim Mullin, Tom Watson, Ross Braidon, Mike Larmour, John Huntley, Soren Jensen.

more letters

Please forgive the writer if I have omitted contributors; we thank you anyway.

I would ask all parents to go and look at the new playground, admire it, then think about additions to it. It took two years to raise funds for phase I — let's try to complete phase II in six months. O.K. children, enjoy.
SALT SPRING ISLAND ELEMENTARY PARENTS GROUP,
Ganges.

Running out

Sir,
It's six weeks until Sea Capers. Time is rapidly running out for organizers to volunteer for this year's Apple Box Derby. As we have retired from this event — as of last year — we are seeking new organizers to take our place. Anyone interested in stepping in to keep this event alive should get in touch with us as soon as possible.
As many previous racers have

retired, we need new entrants as well.

Come on. This is a chance for parents to do something with their kids.

The fuel for this event is cheap...the fuel of participation.
DENNIS MARSHALL,
Ganges.

Supporters

Sir,
I would like to thank the following businesses for their tremendous support of our Work Experience program again this year: Mouat's, The Salty Shoppe, The Travel Shoppe, Gulf Island Trading Company, Ganges Village Market, Island Esso, Video Ranch, Heritage Boutique, Pharmasave, Kanaka, Harbour House Restaurant, Embe Bakery, Driftwood, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Commerce, Humperdink's, Lady Minto Hospital, Richard Murakami, Don Irwin Collision, General Store, Flowers and Wine, Sylvia's Scissors, The

Canadian Coast Guard, Mariner Towing Ltd., Bay Ventures Ltd., Joan Drummond, Garret Forest.

Without this input from the community our program would not exist.

SCOTT BERGSTROM and students,
Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Time, energy

Sir,
I would like to thank all the participating artists, musicians, poets, video artists, writers, fashion and hair designers and the many volunteers who have donated their time and energy to the *Mamajuice* project, and will continue to do so for another two weeks of exciting programming.

I strongly encourage anyone who hasn't seen the show to come and have a look. I am glad that the community will have a chance to experience women's imagery, which has in the past been edited out of mainstream culture.

People thank me for the show, but I have only been the catalyst. The real driving force has been community support. Thank you for your mama/papa juice.
CHRISTINA ESTABLE,
Ganges.

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Special thanks

Sir,
Thank you for your support and donations for the Carnation Days for multiple sclerosis.

Special thanks to *Driftwood* for the wonderful coverage in the paper; the Ladies Auxiliary; Lions Clubs; the Legion and all the people who have donated.

Special thanks to Molly Akerman, who was in Fulford, Jenny Colquhoun who helped us a lot in Ganges and all the Guides and volunteers.

JEAN and LES STEVENS,
Ganges.

Magnificent

Sir,
At the risk of seeming dreadfully biased, I would just like to say what a magnificent concert the Salt Spring Singers put on on Saturday (and Sunday, too, I hear). I was surprised how moved I was listening to them and I'm a tough old egg, too. I could hear every word even in songs where they overlapped between parts, and I know how hard it is to make all the s's and t's sound at the same moment with more than three people.

There was warmth in the tone when warmth was needed and brightness when brightness was needed. It was excellent and I was so proud of our very own Salt Spring Singers who, I know, spent hours with Joy Johnsen honing those songs until they reached this high standard.

Personally, I want to hear *Follow Rain and Rivers* and *Forest Shadows* again — soon.
JOAN M. RAESIDE,
Ganges.

Parameters

Sir,
I suppose that if one could determine where decisions affecting a local community such as Salt Spring Island are made, by whom, and for what reasons, one could begin to measure that community's ability to define and carry out its own objectives and its independence from unwarranted direction, undue pressure and **abstruse interference.**

For example, it would be interesting to discover to what extent recent developments in the Ganges core and the Island's highways, roads, forest lands, lake water, ferry service and air quality reflect the needs and expressed wishes of those most affected at the local, community level.

If there is a significant gap

between what Salt Spring Islanders want and what is taking place, it could well be that some governing mechanisms other than the Capital Regional District or the Islands Trust, as presently constituted, is required to eliminate the gap.

Salt Spring Islanders have gained wide respect for creativity in the arts and in the international pursuit of peace. I would agree that, for an island as unique as Salt Spring, a creative, unique governing structure is required: one that places clear authority and accountability in local hands and yet remains within the accepted parameters of democratic, political responsibility. The appropriate model, I feel sure, lies somewhere in the thinking of a Salt Spring Islander.

From time to time, it might be helpful to the Salt Spring Island Trustees if the particular needs of Islanders as a whole could be brought to the attention of all members of the Trust. I have no doubt that some lobbying by special interest groups has and will continue to take place; lobbying which may not always reflect the general view.

LOWELL HICKS,
Ganges.

Good taste

Sir,
Congratulations and thanks to Dale Codd and Credit Foncier for their taste, wisdom and good sense in contributing to the development of Off Centre Stage. Arrangements are being made to replace the carpet, and the outside porch is also being repaired, which will make it possible to extend the arts tearoom outside for spring and summer.

Meanwhile, *Mamajuice* is underway at Off Centre Stage with over 75 submissions of paintings, weavings, ceramics and sculpture. Works are on display in the gallery between 1 pm and 4 pm.

Karen Reiss, Christine Estable, Heather Martin and others will be available to moderate informal gab sessions on current women's issues like military toys, non-sexist parenting, women's sexuality and feminist spirituality.

There are two current themes

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more letters

with the program — the creative expression of women, and international peace. *Mamajuice* is the antithesis of war; just as darkness is not the opposite of light, but the absence of light, so perhaps can war be said to be the absence of love.

Other aspects of the program include a workshop on relationships conducted by Diana Eckstadt, on May 18; and Dorothy Livesay will read poetry and speak about world peace — the only topic she will speak on in public — on May 22.

MARK SUESS,
Ganges.

New meaning

Sir,
Hubert Beyer's tribute to the monarchy took on a new meaning in light of an experience I had a couple of weeks ago. I was driving south along the island highway from Nanaimo when a flat tire forced me over to the shoulder of the road. My mishap coincided exactly with the arrival of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Cassidy Airport. Hundreds of people, dressed in their Sunday finest (though it was but a Thursday), crowded the airport tarmac while still others waited in small pockets on either side of the road for a glimpse of the royal couple.

Within a couple of minutes, the RCMP escort motorcycles pulled out onto the highway, and the following limousines of the motorcade whizzed by, headed for Nanaimo and the B.C. Ferry terminal.

As I was hopelessly searching behind the truckseat for the missing part of the bumper-jack, I

happened to look up in time to see the vehicle carrying Charles and Diana. It was only for an instant, and the speed of the limo, along with the dark tinting of the bullet-proof side windows, made it difficult to make out their faces clearly, but I noticed how witty and charming the Prince was and how good-looking but somewhat shy was Diana.

I tried desperately to find a bad angle by which to view her, but I failed. Something about them — maybe it was the warm way that they were waving — reassured me against the permanence and stability of our constitutional monarchy. I knew in my heart that in times of real trouble, I need only meditate on those two sincere smiling faces and all would be well again.

Two hours later, long after the crowds had dispersed (and after I

had trudged four miles to and from the nearest gas station to borrow a lug wrench), I was back on the road again with a smile on my face and the knowledge that life's trials and tribulations should not be taken any more seriously than a royal pain in the ass.

SHILO ZYLBERGOLD,
Vesuvius.

Clarification

Sir,
The Salt Spring Painters' Guild wishes to clarify the question of jurying for members of the guild who wish to participate in the upcoming seventh annual show and sale.

Although the two jurors will be selecting juror's-choice awards, no work submitted for the show will be rejected.

We hope all our members new and old will participate.

MARGARET THRELFALL,
Ganges.

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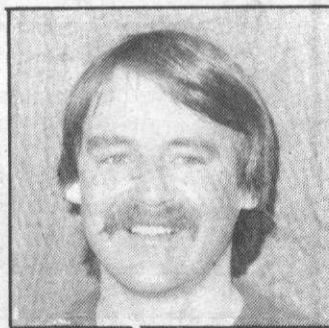
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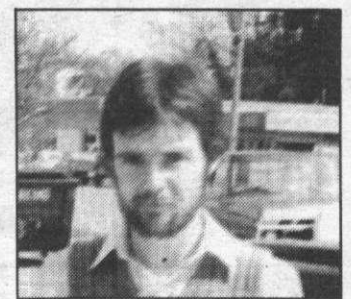
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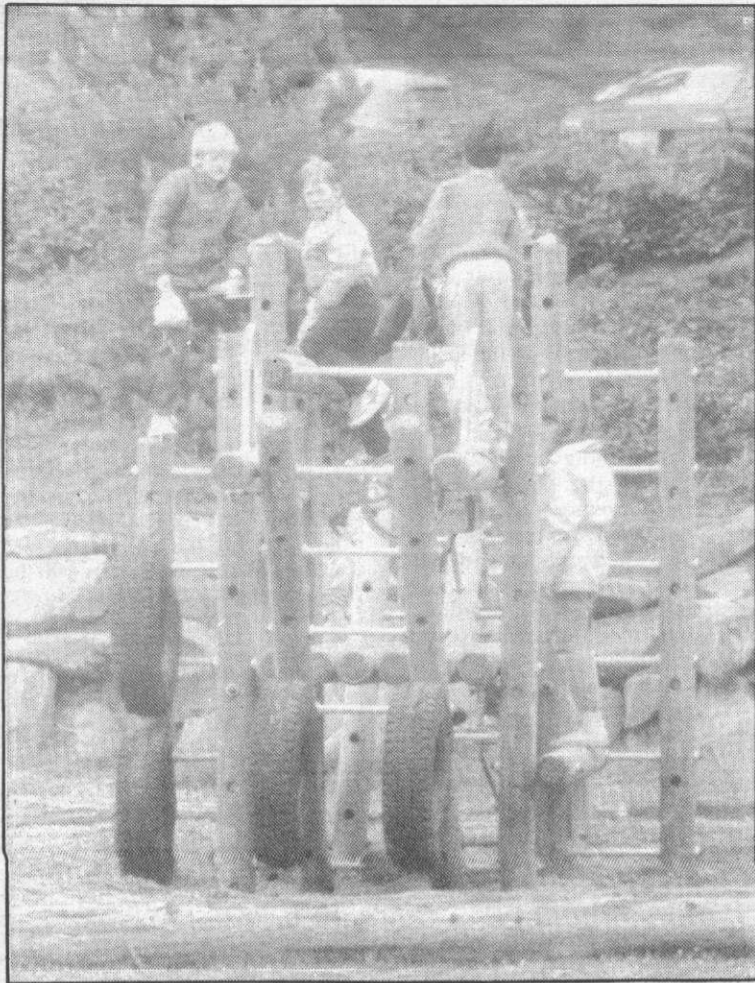
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Pupils enjoy new playground
New playground installed
by school's parents group

A new primary adventure playground was installed last week at Salt Spring Elementary.

Installation work was handled by volunteer parents, who worked under the supervision of the manufacturer, Big Toy Inc.

The playground is 22 feet by 36 feet, modern and safe. Larger than an existing unit at the school, the new equipment is insured and maintained by the school district.

Acquisition of the equipment was a project undertaken by the Salt Spring Elementary Parents Group in late 1984, in response to concerns expressed by parents and teachers about possible problems with the primary grades at noon hour and after school. The school has 200 students and limited playground equipment.

"This adventure playground unit is an asset not only to our school but to the entire community, as it will be used by children after school and throughout the summer while their parents attend functions at or near the

school," the parents group said in a release.

Money for the adventure playground came from fund-raising activities staged by the parents group, and from donations by community groups.

Parents say they appreciated donations by the Lions Club, the Salt Spring parks and recreation commission, and by Gulf Coast Materials.

Cost of the playground was \$3,200 and installation added another \$800 to the bill. Parents will continue fund-raising activities over the spring and summer until the entire amount is raised.

Parents plan to be at each Saturday's farmers market to sell donated rummage goods (donations are needed) and will stage a spring fun carnival in co-operation with teachers and students at Salt Spring Elementary.

Donations can be sent to the parents group through Tom Watson, Salt Spring Elementary principal.

For equipment grant

Commission meets request

The Salt Spring Island parks and recreation commission has granted \$600 towards an adventure playground being installed at Salt Spring Elementary School.

Purchase of the playground equipment was a project of the Salt Spring Elementary Parents Advisory Group. Its representative, Kathy Singbeil, asked the commission's April 28 meeting for the grant funding.

Singbeil told the meeting that the playground equipment carries a \$3,200 price tag, that the parents group has already raised \$1,500 towards the cost and that it hopes to come up with the balance through fund-raising projects to be carried out this year.

On behalf of the group, Singbeil asked the commission for \$600 to pay for equipment installation and shipping costs.

Parents last week installed the playground under the supervision of the manufacturer, Big Toy Co. of Vancouver. By installing the equipment themselves, the parents saved \$1,700 in charges which would have been levied by the manufacturer.

Singbeil told the meeting that the parents' decision to donate the equipment arose from a concern over lack of playground facilities. She added that parents felt negative behaviour by children could surface if there was little for them to do during recess and lunch hour breaks.

The school board will be responsible for maintaining and insuring the playground equipment.

The playground was initially scheduled to be erected two weeks ago but delays in shipping caused the work to be postponed until last week.

April rainfall
not even close
to record level

April, 1986, was a cold and gloomy month but, according to the records of Robert Aston, rainfall for Ganges was less than normal.

A total of 45.21 millimetres (1.78 inches) of rain fell during April's 13 rainy days. During the same period last year, the total was considerably higher at 59.69 millimetres (2.35 inches), and the record book average for April rainfall comes in at 54.8 millimetres (2.16 inches).

The maximum amount of rain falling in one day this year was 9.9 millimetres (0.39 inches), while in 1985 it was 15.24 millimetres (0.6 inches).

The total amount of precipitation to the end of April for 1986, however, comes a little closer to normal amounts. Up to April 30, 49.6 centimetres (19.61 inches) had been dumped on Ganges. The amount last year was 24.41 centimetres (9.61 inches), and the average for the same period is 43.59 centimetres (17.16 inches).

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Outer Islands parents seek middle-school hearing

By SUSAN DICKER

Gulf Islands school trustees assured Saturna parents last Thursday that concerns over dismantling of Mayne Island school are unfounded, but refused to call a public meeting on the issue at this time.

"There is clearly not the foundation for concern that parents think there is," said schools superintendent Mike Marshall. "If anything seriously destructive

was going to happen, we would go to them and discuss it."

A letter read to the board from Galiano resident Mary Hardy outlines several reasons why parents hope the Mayne Island middle school — for students in grades eight and nine — remains intact.

"Firstly," Hardy says in her letter, "the elementary school social background experienced on Galiano (and Saturna) is quite

different from that in Ganges in that our students attend (a) small, self-contained school." The Mayne Island school, she says, introduces children to a larger social group while maintaining the security of a smaller school.

Hardy says closer academic attention can be paid to their children on Mayne, where similar contact with Salt Spring is impossible to maintain through long-distance calls and rushed,

ferry-abiding counsellor conferences.

Hardy's final point takes student health into consideration, as she notes it takes several months for grade 10 students to adapt to the early mornings and long hours of travel. "It would seem that the vulnerable physical condition of 13-year-old would be affected more adversely," she says.

among parents.

He told the board: "I am concerned about putting reasons for requests of transfer, which may be personal, to a public forum. I don't want to have to air personal, sensitive, legitimate requests for transfer."

Marshall said final decisions cannot be made until settlement of the water transportation issue, which will be discussed at this week's board meeting.

Karen Forest, speaking for Mayne Island parents, said they were concerned that one to five student transfers each year could lead to an erosion of the program. She called for a public meeting to discuss the issue.

School board vice-chairman David Eyles noted that board policy leaves transfer decisions to the discretion of the superintendent. Marshall said there is a strong feeling among board members for the Mayne Island program, and that he doesn't know what initiated the "paranoia"

Compared to last year

Building activity surges on islands

Construction activity on the Gulf Islands is proceeding at about twice the pace set at the same time last year.

Building permit statistics released in early May by the Capital Regional District (CRD) show a marked increase over 1985 in the number of buildings under construction on both Salt Spring and the Outer Islands.

This March, 41 permits were taken out on Salt Spring for work — house and commercial building construction, plus plumbing, chimney and other projects — valued at \$431,172. That activity brought the 1986 totals to date to 112 permits for work worth \$1,178 million.

By comparison, 25 permits covering work worth \$619,078 were taken out in March, 1985. During the first four months of 1985, Salt Spring totalled 65 permits for work valued at \$866,306.

The increases for 1986, then, are 16 permits in the month of March and 47 permits for the year to date. In terms of value, work underway this March is worth \$187,906 less than a year ago but, in totals for the year to date, the activity covers construction worth \$1,178 million — over \$300,000 more than a

year ago.

That increase gave the CRD permit office \$13,728 in revenue over the first four months of 1986, compared with \$8,228 in the corresponding period of 1985.

The same trend is evident in the Outer Islands, where 30 permits were taken out in March, 1986, for work worth \$899,150 — bringing the 1986 totals to date to 61 permits and \$1,138 million. In 1985, the figures for March were 15 permits and building projects worth \$160,896 and, for the first four months of the year, 46 permits and work worth \$473,460.

The increase in year-to-date figures is 15 permits and just over \$650,000 is the value of construction work. Correspondingly, CRD permit revenue from the Outer Islands jumped from \$5,607 in the first four months of 1985 to \$10,901 in the same period of 1986.

On Salt Spring, most of the increased permit activity comes by way of plumbing work and construction of single-family dwellings, while on the Outer Islands the hike can be attributed to the building of commercial structures.

Newspaper publisher named to position on industry board

Driftwood publisher Tony Richards has been named a director of an organization of B.C. and Alberta newspapers.

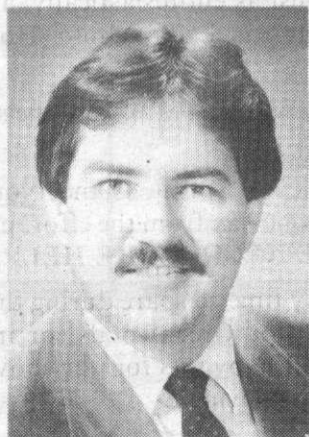
Richards was elected last Friday to the board of Western Regional Newspapers Ltd. (WRN) at the

group's annual meeting in Vancouver. The company, owned by 60 community newspapers, operates a national advertising sales arm on behalf of its shareholders.

Richards was named to the board for a one-year term.



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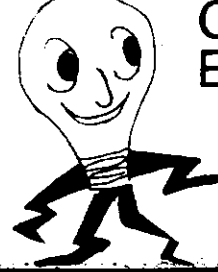
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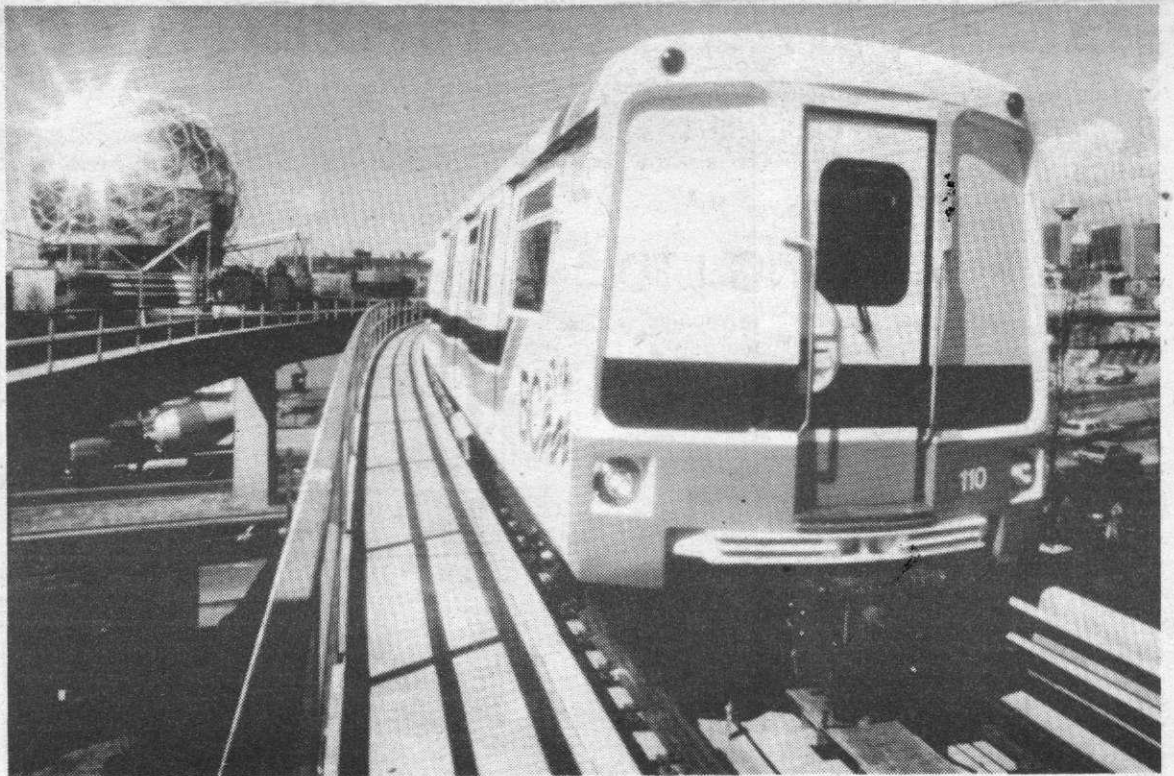
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Sarcophagus cover in which Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II was re-entombed (left) is one of 67 objects on display in stylized

pyramid of Great Hall of Ramses II at Expo. Sky Train (right) will help visitors reach the fair, which Frank Richards describes below as

an exhibition well worth taking in. A three-day visit, he advises, is the best approach to take for those wishing a good taste of the fair.

Brief taste of Expo leaves visitors hungry for more

By FRANK RICHARDS

The world on wheels, the world in space and the world speaking to the world; it's all part of Expo. It is all part of the greatest exhibition ever seen on the nation's west coast.

The theme of Expo is transportation and communication; the secret of Expo is excitement. There is excitement for the casual visitor and there is excitement for the youngster.

Excitement is Expo. There is the excitement of novel attractions. The gondola cars of the Sky Ride and the narrow track of the monorail are busy all day long hauling people and more people and still more people around the grounds. In addition, there is the Sky Train, which runs a shuttle service between the Expo grounds and the Canadian Pavilion.

The word is excitement and the password is movement.

Expo is colourful, with all the fun of the fair, besides. There are rides and displays and theatres as well as the pavilions of other nations, other provinces, other attractions and those of Canada and British Columbia.

The movement is non-stop. The excitement is there in every pavilion and every display.

The cost is not cheap and many will not be able to take part. They can still see much of Expo hidden from the visitor, however. The shows and the displays and the scenes of festivities can all be seen in the living room, through television.

There are still two ways of seeing Expo. There are those who will take the family and run cautiously through the costs. A sandwich in

one pocket and a couple bars of chocolate in another will help the day through and reduce their costs. There are food outlets everywhere and even the brown bag will not meet the demands of youthful appetites; but they help.

The visitor is well advised to read as much of the show as possible before taking part. A one-day pass is enough to provide a broad impression of the vigour and the movement and the noise. Select the pavilions you want well ahead of time, and bear in mind that the busier the day, the longer the line-ups and the more delay there will be getting in to see the displays.

On a one-day visit, take the monorail — if the queues are not too long — and travel from terminal to terminal to get an idea of the lay-out. You can get a map at the gates for \$2.14 or a guide

book for \$5.

First priority should be the British Columbia pavilion with its emphasis on discovery. The movie is well worth taking in, but don't get travel-sick from watching.

Japan offers the vivid dynamics taken from the national preoccupation with transport and communications. The enormous showing of model trains, all running, is impressive to any visitor.

Both the United States and Russia are close to the space race and this was reflected in their pavilions. The Russian showing includes a space capsule with diminutive cabin area set up for Expo visitors to climb through.

The European countries are all keenly aware of the theme of the exhibition and every style of transport and communications is

covered.

The fair opens at 10 am and closes at 10 pm. The nightclubs and restaurants remain open later and present a new look Expo 86 — with the lights on.

In addition to the displays throughout the grounds, there are innumerable entertainments provided by exhibitors.

Expo is a long walk among visitors with just the same thoughts you have; eagerness, enthusiasm and appreciation of a first-class presentation, not only by Jimmie Pattison and his gang, but by every participant, nation or worker.

The three-day ticket is the best bet if you want to see more than what a quick look-see will show you, but don't get the idea that you're going to see all there is to see in either one or three days.

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Art festival, centre plans receive financial boost

Salt Spring resident Allan Edwards has backed his personal commitment to a local summer festival of the arts—and a permanent, year-round arts centre—with a \$6,000 donation to festival organizers.

Festival co-ordinator Mike Armstrong told a group of about 70 people meeting last week at the golf club that Edwards' donation is a challenge to others to provide festival contributions.

The festival has set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for 1986, its inaugural year.

Speaking to the meeting, Edwards said his interest in an arts centre for Salt Spring stems from his belief that it is the ideal location for both the facility and a major festival of the arts.

Edwards has been down this road before. He told the meeting he was involved in attempts to establish a festival and centre in the Harrison Lake area of the lower mainland but the project met with opposition from the local Mennonite community and, after three years of operation, was abandoned.

He expects a different scenario on Salt Spring: "I really feel we are going to see this community support one of the finest festivals on the continent."

Armstrong noted a *Globe and Mail* report that said Salt Spring has the largest per capita ratio of artists in Canada. In noting that artists represent "the leading edge of society," Armstrong echoed Edwards' sentiment regarding the island as a prime location for an arts centre.

"Salt Spring is as far as you can get along the edge without growing gills," he said.

During the presentation, Armstrong outlined the three goals held by festival organizers:

- To plan and operate an annual festival of the arts on Salt Spring Island, and to expand to an annual festival of international calibre;
- To develop and construct an arts centre that will house an arts festival and related school of arts; and
- To promote and develop local performing and visual artists through the facilities of the festival of the arts centre.

Edwards and Armstrong both cited five years as a realistic goal for opening the facility, and Armstrong explained current funding question marks. Organization work for this year's festival didn't get off the ground before provincial and federal government grants expired, he said, meaning the community must be canvassed for support.

Armstrong said government funding may be easier to secure next year if the 1986 festival is a success. In the meantime, he has called on the community and Salt



Festival to include 'Wizard' encore

Spring businesses for support.

(Because the festival will draw visitors to the island, he is hoping hotels and restaurants will advertise this year's events to their customers.)

During question period, Illyd Perkins, president of the Community Arts Council, asked if festival organizers had considered a joint project with the Recreation Commission. Perkins noted that joint projects between recreation committees and arts centres exist elsewhere in B.C., and said he is concerned that the two groups here may be travelling parallel routes unaware of each other. He also noted the need for an independent feasibility study.

Armstrong said that organization is at the fledgling stage and is going to try to communicate with as many groups as possible. If people are willing to pay for it, he added, he said he is agreeable to working with the recreation commission on a joint facility study.

Armstrong added that an arts centre feasibility study would be done but, at present, the society is concentrating on fund-raising and membership.

In spite of funding questions, festival organizers are proceeding with plans to choose a site for the

arts centre, which could cost as much as \$3 million for land and building.

Armstrong said a number of possible sites have been examined and that he would prefer to see the centre located in downtown Ganges, where new developments have made a variety of siting choices available.

"The arts centre would create a space and atmosphere that would bring a life into Ganges, especially in the evenings, that it hasn't had before," he said.

Festival organizers have applied for non-profit status as a society and are optimistic that it will be granted before 1987.

"The non-profit society is directly related to community growth," said Armstrong, adding that "if successful, it will have national impact."

Armstrong feels the arts centre would be a facility that would complement the rural lifestyle on Salt Spring, and the potential exists to lead the arts in Canada.

This year's festival will take place in the activity centre of the elementary school. Adaptations are planned to make the facility more comfortable and enjoyable

for everyone. Armstrong said plans include a stage thrust, elevated seating, baffles in the ceiling and a screen across the back area "to hide the empty basketball court feeling and help acoustics."

Patricia Nobile is organizing entertainment this year, and she has confirmed performances by local entertainers Susan Cogan, April Curtis, Chris Kodaly, Wayne Prosk and Alex Bruhanski. In addition, the Salt Spring Players are bringing back *The Wizard of Oz*.

Nobile said there will be a focus on ethnic evenings, and groups from Nicaragua, the Philippines and Nigeria have been invited. Other performers who have yet to be confirmed include Ferron, Bim, Shari Ulrich, Valdy and the Paula Ross Dancers. In addition, various off-island theatre groups have been invited.

Festival organizers are hoping for support in membership contributions, but they also need volunteers. Four committees have been formed, and anyone interested in helping with this year's festival should contact Mike Armstrong, Patricia Nobile, Allan Edwards or Pat Desbottes for more information.

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Friends should try to influence 'unrealistic' U. S. foreign policy

LAST IN A SERIES

Perhaps, when trying to find out the truth about another country, it is a disadvantage to be a prominent person for whom red carpets are rolled out. Better to be obscure, as was our small group of five.

For four weeks we travelled and talked as we wished, and no official notice was taken of us other than low-keyed arrangements to visit, for instance, an open prison or a home for young offenders or a rehabilitation centre for women.

We travelled by car or by bus or, for a few days, on horseback. We went to markets, we walked for miles through the streets and barrios, we visited many communities, some of which had suffered the attentions of what have been called "freedom fighters."

Our Spanish being adequate, although not fluent, we were able to talk, as the occasion offered, with a cross-section of people — campesinos, rancheros, restaurant owners, waiters, taxi-drivers, soldiers, priests, refugees, children, old people, and foreigners helping Nicaragua, including our own CUSO people (who are surely our best ambassadors).

About some things there could be no mistake. Nicaraguans, unlike their neighbours, have no fear of their police or their soldiers. They feel able to speak freely. They are relaxed. Human rights, health care and literacy have all improved.

We judged that, although there is indeed dissent, the majority supports the government, and there is virtually no support for the contras. Considering the terrible danger that the country is in, we felt that there was astonishingly little loss of freedom, much less than, in a similar situation, would result from our War Measures Act. The church is split, as it is in many countries, but in total it is stronger and more vital than ever.

So, when we came home, it was bewildering to compare the Nicaragua we had seen with that of the Reagan administration media blitz, intended to influence American public opinion, and through it, the votes about funding the contras. Could it be the same country?

A Soviet beach-head in America? Millions of terror-stricken refugees fleeing into Texas? A huge 120,000-man Sandinista assault force poised to invade neighbouring democracies? A Nicaragua writhing in the grip of a grim communist dictatorship, in which all human rights are denied? Synagogues desecrated, churches going up in flames, Sandinista tanks riding over nuns, Sandinista soldiers disguising themselves as contras and torturing and killing

ANDREW GIBSON



IN NICARAGUA

their own people?

There is something of Alice in Wonderland about this.

"There's no use trying," (Alice) said: "one can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras are democracies? The contras are freedom fighters, the moral equivalent of the Founding Fathers? Trucks to carry them to their victims are humanitarian aid? It is legitimate to mine, by proxy, the harbours of a sovereign state, and attack, by proxy, her people?

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master — that's all."

It would be easy to deride such statements, but they are aimed with deadly accuracy at a powerful and vociferous part of the public, which, instead of the pluralistic world of reality, sees a world all good on one side, all evil on the other. Communism is expanded to include any part of the political left, democracy to include any part of the anti-communist right, even the death-squad states. McCarthy lives.

A foreign policy built on such unreality is built on sand. Perhaps Nicaragua will be forced back into being the abattoir she once was, and her neighbours are. Perhaps, at long last, there will be powerful political opposition, as there was from Morse and Fulbright and others during the Vietnam war.

But as of now both parties, mindful of the Moral Majority and the political action committees, and terrified of the soft-on-communism label, agree that the Nicaraguan government must go, one way or another.

What is happening in Central America should be a warning to Canada of the danger of too close an identification with the U.S.A. We like our neighbours, feel comfortable with them, and share many values, but our traditions are different, our history is different, our parliamentary system is different, and we are in the salutary condition of not being a great power.

It is inconceivable that we would allow our government to get away with the paranoia, exaggeration, and falsehoods used to justify American actions in Nicaragua. If we don't want to share in the inevitably tragic consequences, we should disassociate ourselves from such policies and try our best to change them — even if we become unpopular thereby.

After all, what are friends for?

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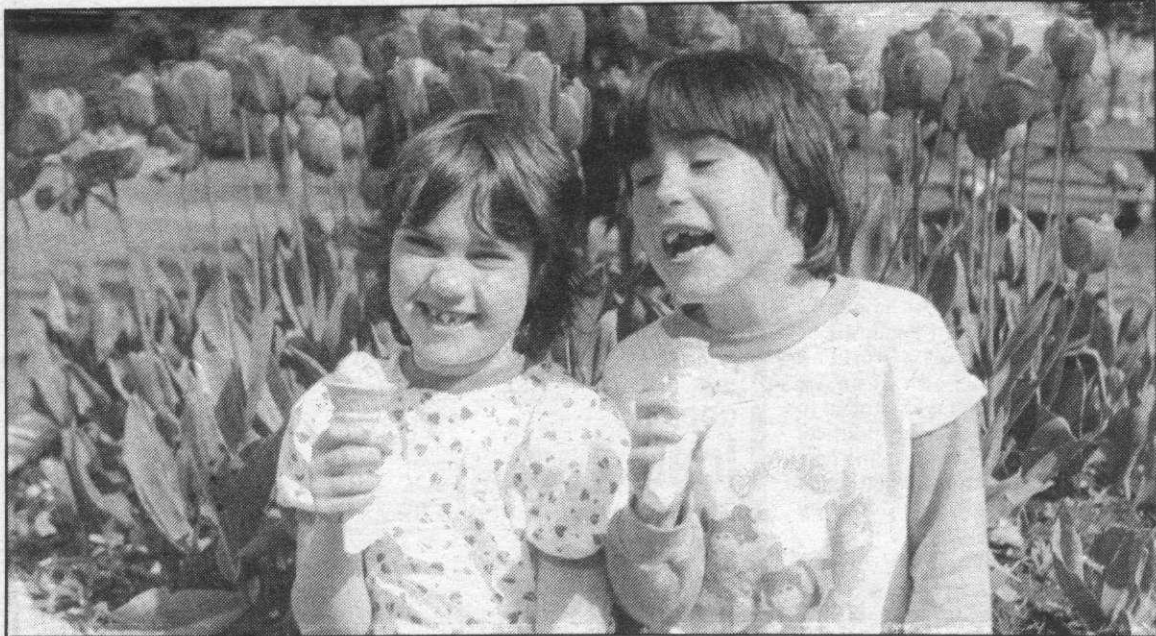
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Two lips

Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

Enjoying an ice cream in the park are Keldy Anderson (left) and Karla John. Beautiful tulip background was part of program

by Legion Branch 92 to have bright red colour blooming across Canada. The project marks the

Legion's Jubilee Year, which will be formally celebrated later this month at Ganges hall.

Marking Jubilee Year

Legion celebration planned

For the past year, various branches of the Royal Canadian Legion across Canada have celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the organization.

Salt Spring Island Branch 92 plans a dinner and dance, May 24, in the Activity Centre at Salt Spring Elementary School to join in celebrating 60 years of the Legion.

The event will be a community affair and organizers have issued an invitation to one and all of the island to join the celebration. Tickets, at \$15 per person, are available at various locations in Ganges.

The festivities will begin that evening with a happy hour at 7 pm. A buffet dinner follows at 7:30 pm. Groups wishing to dine together can reserve tables by getting in touch with the Legion branch on Hereford Avenue. Anyone interested in table reservations is urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Incidental music for the cocktail hour and the dinner will be supplied by Virginia Newman and Oscar Riley.

At 8:30 pm, the main event of the evening begins. Diamond Jubilee medals will be awarded to a distinguished group of island residents and service pins will be handed to members of the Legion.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the music begins. The Commodores, a 14-piece orchestra from Victoria — complete with a female singer — will provide danceable big-band music.

The Royal Canadian Legion came into existence in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in November, 1925 as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. The original organization brought together nine different groups

which had been working on behalf of veterans of the South African war as well as World War One.

The concept of the Legion — aimed at aiding veterans to adjust to a world of high inflation and rampant unemployment and to ensure that they and their dependents received fair pensions and other benefits. The membership totalled 20,000 vets in 800 branches across the country.

In December, 1960, Her Majesty the Queen granted the organization the right to use the word *Royal* and it officially became The Royal Canadian Legion. Today, membership involves 600,000 Canadians.

In May, 1926, the Legion Command for British Columbia was granted. There are, across the province, 179 branches with a membership of 113,000.

While the main thrust of Legion activities is directed toward the welfare of its members, the

organization also involves itself in the community.

For example, since 1978 the Legion has contributed \$47,500 per year toward the department of family practice at the University of British Columbia. The program, since its inception, has graduated 110 family doctors, many of whom are engaged in rural practice throughout the province.

In addition, the Legion offers funding of \$45,000 a year to the community geriatric division at UBC.

Time and effort of Legion members and money from its accounts sponsor a myriad of community activities from support for youth activities to helping senior citizens through housing projects to ensure low rental accommodations for them.

Next week, the efforts of the Legion on Salt Spring will be examined.

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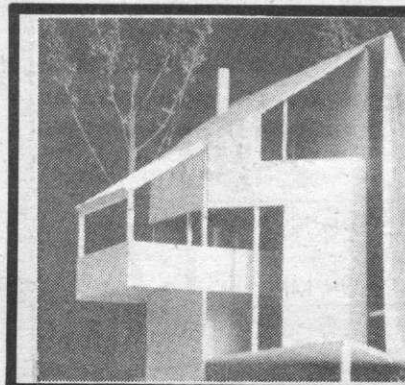
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Players earn prizes for prowess on links

By PAT DOHERTY

In the nine-hole ladies section, 20 turned out. Low net winner was Alice Brown, while the putt pot was shared by Shirley Graham, Jovce Guerin and Alice. The most entertaining golfer was Marg Fisher. On May 16, the ladies are invited to Mt. Brenton.

In the ladies 18-hole division, 52 teed off in the Rose Bowl qualifying round. Low gross for the day was posted by Connie Hardy, with 90, and runner up, with 92, was Irene Hawksworth. Winner of the putt pot was Lil Rayner with 26. Match play in all three flights will be completed by June 9.

Marie Hopkins and Kas Black were successful again in the seniors button competition at Gorge Vale, moving on to the next

round. The sun shone on the opening day of the Ladies Invitational tournament with 70 golfers participating. Results will be available next week.

In men's play for the Morris-Mouat and qualifying for the Matson cups, in net play for the Morris it was Al Badesso with a 68. At net 71 it was B. Kirwin, F. Cunningham, D. Keyes, and R. McKinnon. At net 73, it was R. Nemeth, T. Butt, J. Godwin, A. Black and A. McLean.

In gross play for the Mouat Cup, at 80 was R. Nemeth, at 82 was B. Kirwin and at 83, were M. Robertson and A. Badesso.

The first matches in the Matson Cup are to be finished by May 18. There was no men's play on May 8, as they were all girl-watching at the Ladies Invitational.

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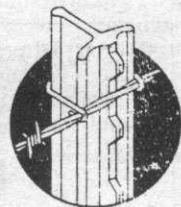
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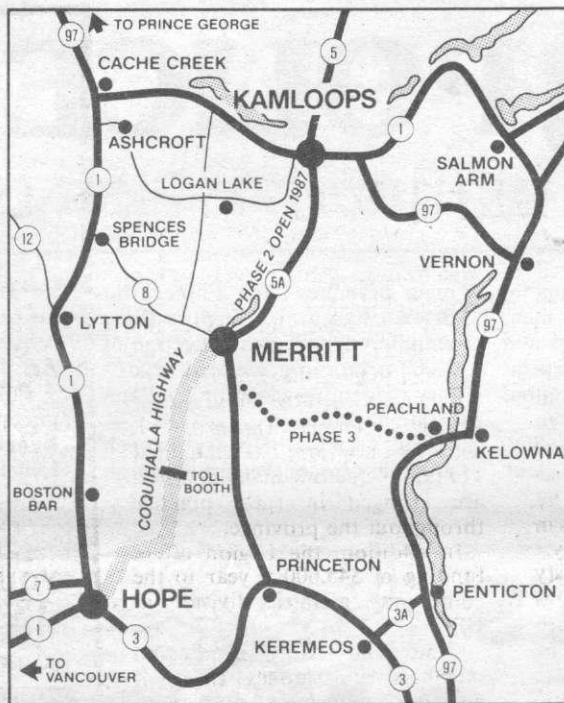
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Engineering feats as spectacular as the scenery

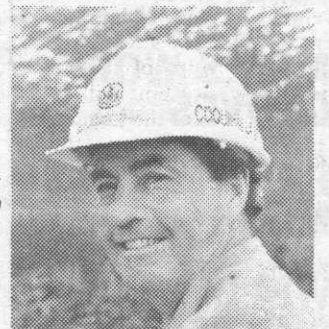
Avalanche zones. Rockslide areas. Delicate ecosystems. Raging rivers. Those are just some of the concerns addressed by the men and women who built the Coquihalla.

As you travel this route, note the stands of timber that have been left to maintain scenic beauty and to offer protection against avalanches. "Avalaunchers" (artillery guns mounted on tracked snow vehicles) are used to release avalanches under controlled conditions, thus reducing any threat of them occurring along the highway. Special bridge footings are placed well above stream beds in areas where flooding is common. Exceptional care was taken to ensure the environment and wildlife of the area were well looked after during and after construction. For instance, sections of three rivers were actually relocated. 10,000 fish were retrieved from the original channels and safely introduced to the rerouted rivers.

Phase II and Phase III to come!

By Fall 1987, Phase II will be complete, extending the Coquihalla another 75 km (46 mi) to Kamloops. The drive from Hope to Kamloops will then be 80 km (50 mi) shorter than before the Coquihalla was built. The completion of Phase III, will see the Coquihalla Highway reach Peachland in the Okanagan Valley.

"In British Columbia, maintaining and improving our transportation system has always played a key role in the development of our economic potential. Like each of the other routes into the Interior, the Coquihalla will help open the door to growth and new investment."



Hon. Bill Bennett, Premier

A colourful history!

First explored by the Hudson's Bay Company, the Coquihalla Pass was the sole domain of trappers, hunters and fur traders until the late 1850's, when prospectors entered the area in search of gold. The Pass later saw the Kettle Valley railway line put through and, after it was closed in 1960, two major pipelines, one oil, one natural gas, were developed along with local logging operations. Now, with touring and commercial drivers discovering this fast new route to the Interior, the future of this area has never looked brighter.

SHAVING TIME - SAVING MONEY

- Phase I - Hope to Merritt is 115 kilometres (71 miles) - four lanes, divided highway with extra lanes on grades.
- Posted speed limit is 100 km/h.
- Planning the Coquihalla began in the late 1960's to relieve future traffic congestion on the Hope-Princeton and the Fraser Canyon.
- Construction was accelerated in 1984 to be completed in time for EXPO 86.
- Construction created more than 26,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- The distance between Kamloops and Vancouver is shortened by 80 kilometres — saving one hour in driving time. Millions of dollars will be saved each year in vehicle operating costs for commercial and recreational drivers.



Hon. Alex V. Fraser, Minister

National police week hails ident section history

This week is police week and while national focus is on the 75th anniversary of the RCMP Identification Services, the local RCMP detachment deserves recognition.

The six local officers are part of a detachment which has been in effect on the Gulf Islands since Cst. Henry Sampson first patrolled the islands in the 1880s. Under Sergeant Mitch Hanks, the five Ganges constables enforce all areas of the Criminal Code, including narcotic, immigration, customs, liquor control and motor vehicle Acts.

"We do everything and anything," says Cst. Trevor Turner, who notes that the detachment keeps steadily busy.

Nationally, the RCMP Identification Service provides the police week focal point.

"In every Canadian community," a pamphlet on the service reads, "whenever a serious crime occurs, police identification technicians are called upon to assist in the investigation."

Service members take photographs and measurements. They make casts of footprints and tire imprints, and investigate other evidence such as broken glass and weapons. Fingerprinting is a major part of their work.


"One of their most important duties is to try and identify the perpetrator when no one has actually been caught committing the crime. Fingerprints assist tremendously in accomplishing this goal."

Today, fingerprinting is considered an established science. Seventy-five years ago, however, it


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POLICE WEEK-86

competed with other means of identification such as skull measurements, word descriptions and body measurements. Fingerprint evidence alone was not accepted by the courts for many years.

The RCMP Identification Services is now divided into four

main branches. The Fingerprint Branch has grown from a three membered staff and collection of 2,000 prints to a national repository containing close to 2 million criminal prints.

The Criminal History Branch provides criminal records through

an automated system and processes pardon applications and requests under the Human Rights Act.

Processing and returning fingerprints of a civil nature, the General Services Branch also registers firearms and operates

the Canadian police service information centre.

The Photographic Services Branch produces audio-visual programs for public relations and training, and supplies, maintains and repairs all photographic equipment.

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Fun fund-raiser

Sheila Palesch pauses, grinning at the applause of 130 women who gathered last Wednesday for a luncheon and fashion show at the

Harbour House. The IODE-sponsored event raised approximately \$275 for Cystic Fibrosis and Operation Eyesight.

Hospital group hears talk on geriatric care

The regular monthly meeting of the auxiliary to Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital was held on April 28 at the United Church Hall, beginning at 2 pm.

After a short business meeting, the guest speaker — Greenwoods administrator Jonna Mattiesing — gave an informative talk on the problems of old age care and, in particular, the everyday task of getting the residents interested in something that will hold their

attention and get them up and around.

It was really something to think about — after all, the majority of people will be in that category someday and, as the speaker so aptly pointed out, we should gear ourselves for that time when we will be in residence. If not Greenwoods, it will be some other type of accommodation.

The meeting adjourned and tea was served.

With tongue in cheek?

Anti-noise bylaw debated

By SUSAN DICKER

You're in the garden enjoying the sweet music of birds in the trees and the sound of Mozart wafting through the window. Is that chainsaw? Rototiller? The merry bark of a neighbour's dog?

Is that dog chained to a tree? It's an assault on the ears. The time has come to bite the bullet and to assume the basic right to quiet enjoyment of our property.

How do you define noise? A chainsaw? A seaplane? Trap shoots? What is objectionable noise? The crow of a neighbour's rooster welcoming the dawn?

So sparred Anne Lyon and Alice Richards as International Training in Communications (ITC) members last week staged a debate on Salt Spring Island's need for a noise bylaw. The debate was part of the group's Tuesday meeting, entitled *A Matter of Opinion*.

"It's important to note there are two sides to an issue," said moderator Donna Martin, adding that sides were chosen by straws and did not necessarily represent views held.

"Persistent and unreasonable noise is an infringement on our rights," said Shirley Horn, backing Lyon for the affirmative. "The bylaw is needed to encourage courtesy and restraint."

Rebutting Richard's call for consideration of rights, Lyon said "the only right infringed upon is the right to inflict unreasonable noise."

"Are we supposed to put a muzzle on our pooch?" questioned Richard's partner for the negative, Mary Gilbert. Gilbert described herself singing in the garden as she worked, saying she didn't "find my voice objectionable and unreasonable. Will I be asked to sing in front of the policeman when he comes to hear if my voice is objectionable?"

Gilbert, noting the important role cats and dogs play in our lives,

assured the group illnesses will increase should we lose these pets. "This," she summarized, "will lead to increased taxes."

Continuing, Gilbert said a noise bylaw would encourage those tourists who previously stayed away from the island—due to all the noise—to invade Salt Spring. The noise from increased traffic, she said, would destroy the bylaw's intent.

Richards set the stage for a house robbery. "Your dedicated dog of 20 years begins to bark and, seeing his opportunity, the robber immediately calls the noise control officer..."

"Today," she said, "we can root (loudly) for the Calgary Flames to go all the way. Tomorrow it is game over."

The negative won the debate by a vote of 9 to 7.

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