

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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

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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR, NO. 51

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1987

40¢

Regional district status proposed for Trust



Edible buildings

Embe Bakery cake decorator Karen Day is shown here with one of five gingerbread buildings she created for the Christmas season. Buildings made included replicas of the bakery, a church and three houses. Two of the buildings were to be raffled December 22 with proceeds being directed

to charity. Two others will be donated to each of Greenwoods and Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital. The Embe Bakery building, meanwhile, will remain in the hands of the Ganges establishment.

Christmas not a holiday for everyone

By MIKE TURKKI

December 25 is a statutory holiday, a time when most islanders gather around the Christmas tree to open gifts and share the joys of family life.

Yet for many islanders, particularly those in the transportation and service industries, Christmas is a work day much like any other. On Salt Spring, for example, many ferry workers, police officers, ambulance attendants, Coast Guard members, hospital workers and other professionals will remain on the job during the Yuletide season.

The B.C. Ferry Corporation is one government corporation that continues to operate Christmas Day. Although some changes in regular service are planned for December 25, all vessels on Gulf Islands routes will operate.

"A lot of the ferry corporation's employees remain on the job on Christmas Day," BCFC spokes-

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Outer Islands news begins on page 22



Mood music

Salt Spring Elementary School students welcome the festive season with song. Page 33.

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Regional district scheme receives mixed reviews

The concept of an Islands Trust regional district is receiving mixed reviews from Salt Spring Island's elected officials.

The regional district concept is endorsed in a review of the Islands Trust prepared by an all-party committee of the B.C. legislature and outlined in a report presented last week to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston.

The report's findings have been criticized by Dr. Hugh Borsman, Salt Spring's representative to the Capital Regional District (CRD), but endorsed by local Trust Committee members Nick Gilbert and Pat Byrne.

Borsman, speaking at a CRD meeting last Wednesday, called the review committee's proposal "a naive, impractical and hair-brained solution to what is not an insurmountable problem."

Borsman later told *Driftwood* his qualms about the scheme centre on the creation of a new form of government which was not requested by residents, and

on the cost effectiveness of an Islands Trust regional district. He also worries that Salt Spring — the largest of the 13 main Trust islands in terms of population and tax base — could see its interests over-ridden by smaller centres.

Gilbert and Byrne, meanwhile, welcomed the proposal because they feel it will give the Trust the added authority it has been

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By DUNCAN MacDONNELL

The Islands Trust should be restructured as a regional district, says a report from the all-party legislative committee reviewing the Trust's performance and mandate.

By being re-formed as a regional district, the Trust would assume authority for delivery of a wide range of services beyond the limits of its current land-use planning and control functions. Services to be transferred to the Trust would not include regional hospital care, however.

The all-party report, prepared under the direction of MLA David Mercier (SC, Burnaby-Edmonds) was presented last Monday to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston. The minister will now decide which of the report's recommendations will find their way into legislation.

Mercier's 29-page report is based on submissions received at a half-dozen public hearings held last summer and aims to decide what form of overall government would be the most suitable and cost-effective for the Trust area.

Principal reasons given for recommending regional district status for the Trust area are that the member islands have more in common with each other than with the seven separate regional districts they are now contained within, and that regional district status would be the simplest and most effective way of delivering a full range of services to islanders while maintaining the Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate.

It explains: "Our theme is to ensure that services are provided as efficiently and inexpensively as possible in response to expressed need. Also, it is desirable in providing local services to have local accountability tie in with local autonomy."

Those points, the report notes, arise directly from submissions received at public hearings. Islanders, it says, desire not only improved delivery of services but clarification of jurisdictions, better accountability and retention of local autonomy.

A key recommendation made in the report is that the Islands Trust Act and its definition of the Trust object — the 'preserve and

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Deadlines, hours altered

The holiday season has prompted changes to *Driftwood's* normal deadline schedule and office hours.

The newspaper's office at 126 Rainbow Road will close Wednesday, December 23, and re-open on Monday, December 28. It will close again on Friday, January 1, and re-open on Monday, January 4.

Deadline for all advertisements to be included in the Wednesday, December 30, edition of *Driftwood* will be at noon on Monday, December 28. Deadline for real estate and display advertisements for the January 6 issue of *Driftwood* will be at 5 pm on Thursday, December 31.

Christmas 'just another day at the office' for some

From Page 1

man Ron Davis said Friday. "Our InfoCentres remain open, and generally our vessels continue to sail."

Davis said the corporation tries to give a December 25 holiday to as many of its employees as possible. However, because service must be maintained — many people travel off-island to visit friends and family on Christmas Day — most ferry workers remain on the job. For example, the regular schedule between Long Harbour and Tsawwassen will be maintained on Christmas Day.

"We do cut back our service between Vancouver and Victoria to one run every two hours," noted Davis. "On the Fulford Harbour run, and on the run from Vesuvius Bay to Crofton, the first sailing in the morning will be cancelled."

Essential service, care workers to remain on duty

"It gives the crews of those vessels a chance to at least get up with their families on Christmas Day," said Davis. "Of course, it's pretty tough telling little Johnny — who wants his train set set up on Christmas Day — that Daddy has to get off to work, but that's the penalty people have to pay for working in the transportation industry, I guess."

Many staff members at Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital will also be working Christmas Day, although assistant administrator Karen Davies said the hospital tries to give many employees the day off.

"Christmas Day is really not all

that different than any other at the hospital, although we try to make it a little more pleasant," Davies said Friday. "We try to give as many as possible the day off, and fill in for them with casual employees who want to work."

"We also try to make Christmas special for the patients," she said. "We serve a lovely dinner at noon, and those staff members who are working are invited to join in. But, in general, it's just another work day. We maintain a full staff."

Gulf Islanders don't have to worry about being left without ambulance services during the Yuletide season, either. As ambu-

lance unit chief Gerry Parrott explained last week, the Salt Spring unit is ready to respond to any call for help on Christmas.

"There are two full-time employees here, myself and Cliff Leblanc," noted Parrott. "We try not to work statutory holidays. But four part-time attendants will be on call 24 hours a day during the Christmas holiday."

Boaters won't be alone on Gulf Islands waters during Christmas. December 25 is just 'another day at the office' for some members of the Ganges Coast Guard contingent.

"We have three people on per shift," said one Coast Guard member who will be working Christmas Day. "They work an

eight-hour shift, and then carry pagers for the other 16 hours.

"We have a shift cycle, and we stick to it. If that (Christmas) is your shift, then you work it."

"Usually, it's pretty quiet at Christmas. Boaters tend to stay home. But on New Year's Day, another holiday, it's busier. People like to go out for that 'first cruise of the New Year.'"

Ganges RCMP officers also maintain their regular shift schedule over Christmas. Of the Ganges detachment's five officers and one auxiliary, approximately half will be on the road Christmas Day.

"We try to give as many people as possible the day off, but we just can't close the shop and let the criminals run wild — which they'd probably do if they knew we weren't on duty," said Cst. Jim Harrison with a chuckle.

By local ad-hoc committee

Highways ministry employees given backing for purchase bid

An ad hoc committee established on Salt Spring to consider the provincial government's privatization program has thrown its support behind a bid by local government employees to form their own highway maintenance company.

At a meeting held December 11, the ad hoc committee — which includes representatives from a wide range of island organizations — gave its support to a proposal by ministry of highways workers to take over bridge and road maintenance operations in the Gulf Islands. Ministry employees, whose jobs will be contracted out to the private sector under the *Opportunities B.C.* privatization program, have indicated they hope to form their own company and obtain a contract to maintain roads on all five of the Southern Gulf Islands.

Gary Greico, chairman of the committee, said in a recent letter to Saanich-and-the-Islands MLAs Terry Huberts and Mel Couvelier that "as a broad representation of our community, we are neither endorsing nor condemning the privatization of our highways maintenance at this time. We are giving our local ministry of highways workers total support in their bid to form their own company to take over the maintenance of local roads on all the Gulf Islands."

Greico said the committee agreed to support the employees'

proposal because local highways workers possess the knowledge and experience needed to maintain roads on the Gulf Islands. He said the committee also feels that the five Gulf Islands could be combined into a single road maintenance unit.

"We support their proposal, based on their present and past fine service to the community, their local knowledge, quick response in emergency situations, and because their proposal represents a practical unit," noted Greico in his letter. "Not least is the continued employment of island residents and the economic benefits to the community."

Greico and the committee are hoping both Huberts and Couvelier will lend their "support and endorsement" to the employees' endeavour.

The ad hoc committee, formed by local residents concerned over what they termed a "general lack of information" about the Premier Vander Zalm's privatization plans, has been in close contact with government representatives

in recent weeks. Its members have been assured that the government is "very interested" in getting employees involved in the privatization program.

"We're lucky in the Gulf Islands to have a group (of highways' employees) with high standards, one wanting to retain those standards," Greico said in an interview last week.

The ministry of highways is currently conducting an inventory of its Gulf Islands highways maintenance operations. Once the inventory is completed, ministry employees on Salt Spring will be in a better position to develop their proposal.

Salt Spring employees of the highways ministry were pleased to learn of the ad hoc committee's decision.

John Stepaniuk, roads foreman on Salt Spring — who believes community support is essential to the success of the employees' proposal — said he feels the committee's decision moved local ministry workers closer to their goal of obtaining a roads maintenance contract for the Gulf Islands.

Re: **VICTORIA NISSAN** coupon...
(ad in Gulf Islands Driftwood Dec. 16/87)

An error was made in that the copy did not specify a limit. Ad should have read:

Limit of one coupon per vehicle.


Merry Motoring!

Hope you have the best Christmas on wheels!



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CHRISTMAS AT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 20th
7:00 pm: A Service of Lessons and Carols
St. George's, Ganges

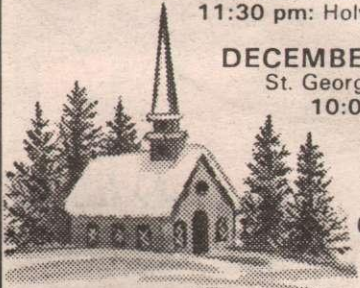
DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE:

St. Mary's, Fulford Harbour
6:30 pm: Carols
7:00 pm: Holy Eucharist

St. George's, Ganges
8:30 pm: Carols
9:00 pm: Holy Eucharist

St. Mark's, Central:
11:00 pm: Carols
11:30 pm: Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY:
St. George's, Ganges
10:00 am: Holy Eucharist



TO US A CHILD IS BORN: O COME LET US WORSHIP.

50-2

Season's Greetings from the staff!

Have a safe and happy holiday!


TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour (STANDARD TIME)

DEC.					
23	0830	11.9	27	0255	5.0
	1330	9.9		1035	11.9
WE	1640	10.5	SU	1745	5.7
24	0045	.7		2325	7.8
	0905	11.9	28	0345	6.6
TH	1435	9.1		1100	11.8
	1745	9.7	MO	1840	4.4
25	0130	1.9	29	0200	8.4
	0940	11.9		0445	8.2
FR	1540	8.1	TU	1130	11.6
	1905	8.8		1920	3.4
26	0215	3.3	30	0400	9.6
	1005	11.9		0615	9.4
SA	1655	6.9	WE	1200	11.3
	2105	8.0		2000	2.6

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And remember...if you're 'celebrating'— someone else should be driving!





Performers

TOP: Gulf Islands Secondary School teachers Clive Prior (left) and John Bergsma (right) team up with Principal John Wellingham during Friday's talent show at the school. LEFT: Teacher Scott Bergstrom "sings out" during an air band number he and other staff members performed. ABOVE: G.I.S.S. agriculture teacher Mike Byron played and sang a country and western tune, complete with yodelling, as part of the talent show.

Mechanical problem delays ferry arrival

A mechanical problem on the ferry *Queen of Burnaby* resulted in the vessel arriving late at Tsawwassen on December 16.

Ron Davis, a spokesman for the B.C. Ferry Corporation, said Friday the *Burnaby* "lost air pressure" in one of its engine control systems. The malfunction forced the vessel to travel at a reduced rate of speed, and it arrived in

Tsawwassen approximately 20 minutes late.

Upon arrival, the *Queen of Burnaby* was replaced by the *Queen of New Westminster* for the December 16 late morning and evening sailings between Tsawwassen and Long Harbour.

The *New Westminster* has since been replaced by the *Queen of Tsawwassen*.

51-2

Season's Greetings

PAMELA VALLEE, C.G.A.
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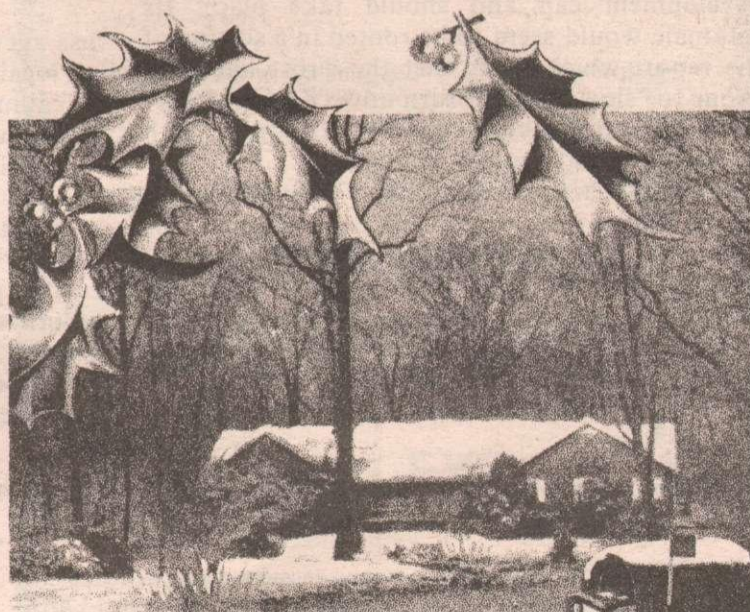
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Season's Greetings!

to all our customers & friends in the Gulf Islands.

Thank you for turning out at our recent car show, and for giving us such a warm welcome!

AL & DICK GREGG & THE STAFF AT

Discovery HONDA Ltd.
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President, Frank G. Richards; Publisher, Tony Richards; Editor, Duncan MacDonnell; Reporter, Mike Turkki; Advertising Sales, Jeff Outerbridge; Front Office, Circulation, Catherine McFadyen; Accounts, Jill Byron; Production, Anne Lyon, Alice Richards

Report deserves careful scrutiny

While the new form of government proposed last week for the Islands Trust area is bound to be the focus of debate, islanders should pay equal attention to the mechanisms for development suggested in the same report.

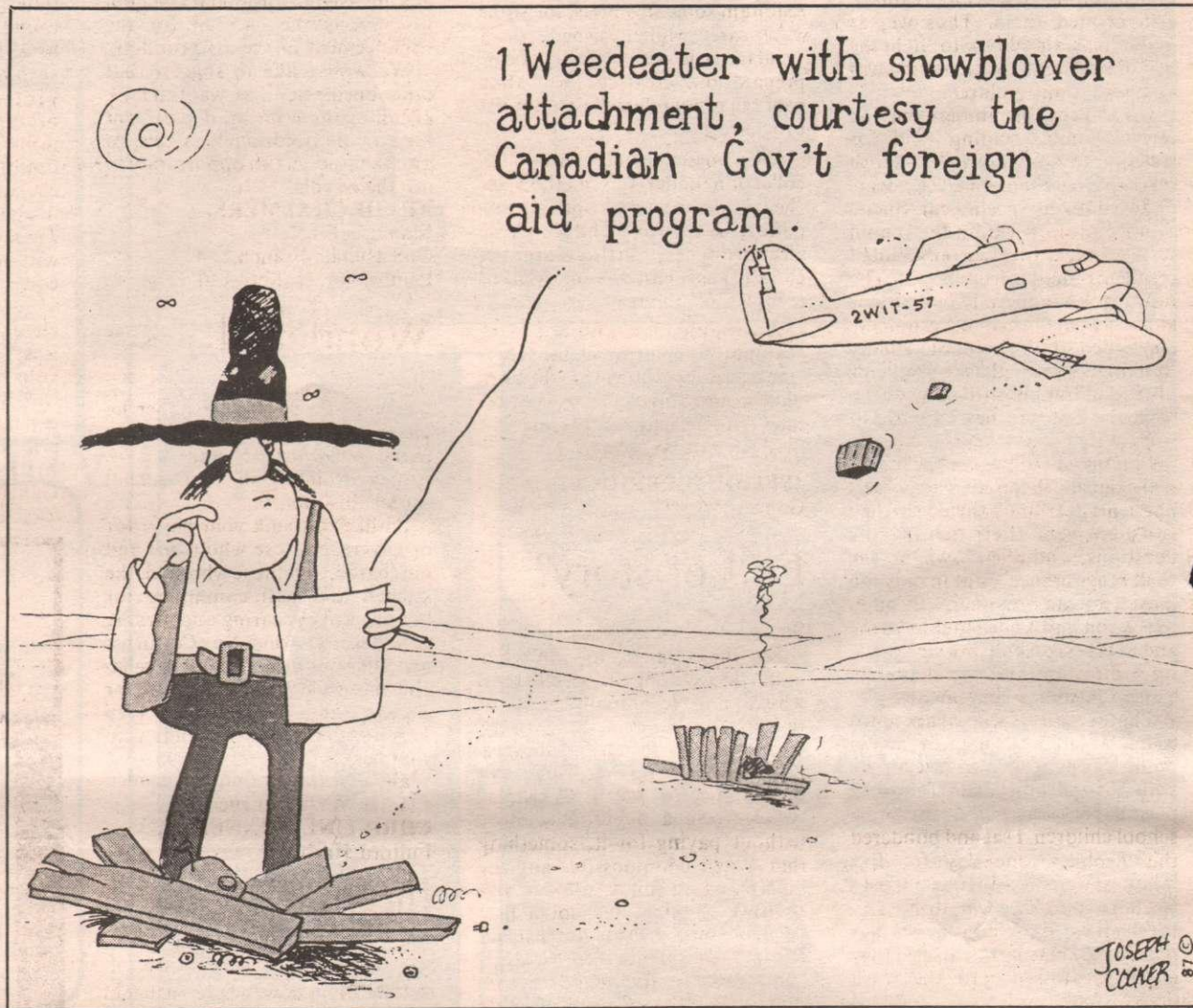
That report, prepared by an all-party committee of the provincial legislature and presented last week to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston, proposes an upgrading of the Islands Trust to a form of government modelled after regional districts. The rationale for the change, according to the report, is better delivery of services and the transfer of accountability to local hands.

Beyond that vision, however, there lie repeated recommendations which, if implemented, would determine the scope and extent of development on the Gulf Islands. For instance, the report suggests special status for areas already developed, recommends incorporation of built-up centres and whole islands, and asks for a regional community plan with provisions ranging from "the extremes of providing protection of the (Trust mandate) to providing for more intensive development in commercial centres which service islands."

In a nutshell, what the report appears to be advocating is construction and recognition of a more orderly structure governing where and when development can and should take place. Its rationale would seem to be rooted in a section of the report which notes that the Trust has been prone to "slow down or turn down development" when it was felt to be in any degree of conflict with its 'preserve and protect' mandate.

While that action is laudable — "it is safer to err on the side of preservation and conservation," the report says — the Trust's interpretation of that mandate has broadened over the years, causing an increase in restrictions imposed on development.

The irony of all this, of course, is that while the report concentrates on arguments for expanding the Trust's current role from a planning and land-



use agency to a government body responsible for all local and regional services, it gives equal weight to calling for the creation of a planning mechanism which would more clearly define and regulate that original role.

Not that there's anything particularly wrong with bringing a more ordered structure to the current planning and land-use process. The Trust at times seems to be a fractured association of islands with no clear policy interpretations or development guidelines applicable to all members. In a local sense, that is the body's strength; in a

regional sense, according to the report, it is weakness that prevents a vision of the whole from being brought into focus.

Perhaps regional district status for the Trust area would work for the betterment of all islands. When the electorate debates the pro and con sides of the recommendation, however, they would do well to remember that there is more in the package than creating a mechanism for improved delivery of services. A more important philosophical question is the one raised about the future form and extent of local and individual autonomy.

Absence makes ferry memories grow fainter

Short takes for a short week:

"Oh, no," Jim Stuart moaned as he signalled my truck to pull up at a Friday night CounterAttack roadblock installed in Ganges by local RCMP.

Stuart, an auxiliary policeman better known as the local wharfinger, peered in the window and said he figured my presence there was bound to ensure mention of the roadblock in print — something along the lines of an 'I was there' account detailing Counter-Attack procedures and reactions to same. I think he cringed at the thought.

Just for that, Jim, here's a mention.

On Friday night, just prior to

my encountering the roadblock, *Driftwood* held its annual Christmas staff party. Highlight of the evening had to be the tasteful Celtic music supplied by local musicians Terry Warbey and Richard Cross, whose services were purchased by publisher Tony Richards at the recent food bank auction.

Equally impressive was the care and attention the duo invested in entertaining when their schedule had them hard pressed to dash off in time to play at the Off Centre Stage Christmas coffee house being held at the same time.

(Tell me, Terry and Richard, did my ears deceive me or was that really a little-known Flying Mountain tune I heard at one

my word

by
duncan macdonnell

point?)

How long has it been since we've had regular ferry service between Crofron and Vesuvius? In terms of the calendar, almost five months. In terms of memory, it seems like forever.

Case in point: on Saturday, long-time friends from the Cowichan Valley dropped by the house

for the first face-to-face visit we've had since the dock went down. As the day rolled on into late afternoon, thought was given to the couple's return trip to Duncan. And for the life of me, I couldn't recall whether the ferry left on the half hour or the full hour. It's been a while.

Snowflakes the size of quarters fell up at the house all Sunday morning, holding forth the promise of a white Christmas (in our neighbourhood, anyway). As aesthetically pleasing as it was, however, the arrival of the rest of Canada's weather provided sudden thoughts of the difficulty I would have making it down our steep hills into town for work on

Monday. I figured one answer was to be found in the closet with our cross-country skiing equipment — until we found that one of the dogs enjoyed a fine meal of the ski boots some time back. Now you know what to get me for Christmas.

December is such a tremendously busy month in the newspaper business that I often find it cancels out the time usually spent on preparing Christmas cards for mailing. Missed again this year.

But, this space has its advantages. To everyone on — and off — my Christmas mailing list, all the best of the festive season, and a Happy New Year to boot. And if you must, make it a ski boot.

(How's that for subtle?)

Light the bell

Sir,
I am writing in regards to L. McGregor's comments last week concerning the "power struggle over fresh air". (*Shortage*, December 16, 1987).

The question within the letter — "When will the dawn of illumination light the bell of ignorance, within the minds of men, at all economic levels?" — should begin to be answered or understood at the home level, on all economic and age levels.

We should not depend upon the superpowers of the world to solve our problems. We, as individuals, also created them. Thus we, as individuals, should try to "light the bell of ignorance" within ourselves and within our children.

Instead of imagining "buying oxygen" and "trading gold for trees," let's imagine in-depth regular discussions and lectures (as opposed to a once-a-year Social Studies project) within the school system, regarding current global problems that affect us all. The result would hopefully be that our kids would become genuinely concerned, to the point of actually thinking about these problems instead of thinking about when the heck the 2:30 pm bell is going to ring.

Parents should open their eyes and educate themselves to what's happening around them, so they can answer their children's questions, and their own. If the "bell of ignorance" is lit in only the most minute manner, through education and knowledge at home and at school, it will be a step in the right direction and can definitely lead to greater achievements.

The reason I was sparked to write this letter was because, at one point, I was also plagued by the guilt of putting sandwiches in plastic bags every day for three school children. I sat and pondered this problem one day for five minutes, which resulted in a trip to town to purchase sandwich size tupperware-like containers — plastic they may be but at least they don't get tossed into the trash daily.

We cannot get away from the fact that the existing superpowers and mega-corporations and powerful institutes control many of the major decisions (or non-decisions) in this world today, but that should not constitute our apathy as individuals. It takes time and energy to make the effort to teach ourselves and our children to change our outlook, whether it's regarding toxic waste, toxic food or toxic atmosphere. It is so much easier to leave it up to the next person.

ANNA M. PATELLA,
Walker Hook Road.

No solution

Sir,
In the December 9 edition of *Driftwood*, in the article *Water questionnaire set for other islands*, Saturna trustee Jim Campbell comments on the water problem in the Gulf Islands and uses Bermuda as an example of how this problem can be circumvented.

Firstly, Mr. Campbell was incorrect when he said Bermuda had no groundwater supplies. Although much of Bermuda's groundwater is contaminated by salt water seepage and heavy limestone deposits, there are some groundwater deposits of good quality and these are relied on heavily during periods of drought.

Inasmuch as Bermuda's residents do rely primarily on the collection of rainfall from one's roof, large-scale operations such as

letters

hotels are also dependent on other systems including de-salination equipment and huge reservoirs.

Bermuda homes are built entirely of stone, have stone slate roofs and large cement storage tanks under the home, usually ranging upwards from 16,000 gallons in capacity. One of the problems associated with water storage in this system is maintaining water freshness. In Bermuda, in order to provide a clean "catchment surface" and maintain some freshness, the stone roofs are white washed on a regular basis with a "lime wash" preparation, creating the "white roof" so often referred to in tourist brochures.

The worst enemies of water collection under this method are "heavy downpours" and stormy conditions, for under these circumstances, little water is collected as it either bounces off or is blown off the roof.

Although Bermudians occasionally mention that their "tanks are overflowing," they are more commonly heard to say that their tanks are near empty and that they have to buy water.

JEFF OUTERBRIDGE,
Ganges.

End of story?

Sir,
So the ex-highways minister didn't do anything illegal, eh? Then why did he (eventually have to) resign?

Interesting scenario: hungry, unemployed parent sees an opportunity to grab a Christmas turkey from a department store without paying for it, something that would be impossible anyway due to lack of funds.

However, since it's not a nice thing or, should I say, not a smart thing to do, even though explainable ("my children are hungry and it's Christmas after all, isn't it?"), the department store called the police and told them.

The police have a job to do and they do it.

They came and arrested the parent and laid a charge of theft, that after due time and legal effort had been objectively applied and led to the person's imprisonment.

Then there was a minister, who, due to getting "privileged information" attempted to sell privately-owned property to other people "in the know". He too got "found out" and reported.

After an "investigation" (that cannot have been as objective as can be expected) the resulting report stated that the action had not broken any laws, and was therefore not illegal - despite the conflict-of-interest guidelines, and that the minister had only acted in a dumb manner, apparently out of "ignorance" and not "intent".

End of story. End of story? Surely it cannot be that it ends here?

JOHN MOYSEY,
Fulford Harbour.

Student skills

Sir,
It was with much appreciation that Pemberton, Holmes Ltd. received their recent award for the annual Light-Up Contest sponsored by the *Gulf Islands Driftwood*.

Although we appreciate this award, we must confess that the true thanks go to the art students of Gulf Islands Secondary School.

In late November we contacted Sandra Locke, the teacher of the

art program, and asked if her students would be able to assist us in decorating our window. Sandra Locke passed the request on to Gabrielle Jensen and Dana Fewings, who created the artwork which won the award.

The staff at Pemberton, Holmes would like to thank Gabrielle and Dana for their efforts, and Sandra Locke for her supervision of the project.

Pemberton, Holmes Ltd. will be donating \$50 to the art department at Gulf Islands Secondary School for use as they see fit for the enhancement of the art program.

We would like to suggest that other businesses may want to look at calling upon the art department for specific needs such as this, to give the students an opportunity to use their skills.

ARVID CHALMERS,
Manager,
Gulf Islands Branch,
Pemberton, Holmes Ltd.

Wonderful

Sir,
Please, through your paper let me thank all of those people who participated in the craft fair at Beaver Point Hall and school earlier this month.

I'd like to thank your paper for its coverage, those who came and purchased, and those who sold, the kitchen and hall committee for hours spent preparing and serving their delicious food, Kay Catlin for her generous donation of *Amelia*, and those who bought tickets for *Amelia* (and congratulations to Tegan Adams, 3 years old, who won her).

The craft fair, I think, was once again a wonderful success.

CHRISTINE DONNELLY,
Fulford Harbour.

Ill-advised

Sir,
I hardly know where to begin with more comments on your carol insert. I'm pleased to see another reader pointing out a strange variation from the norm in *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, where the line about the virgin's womb seems to have been bowdlerised into something else. This may be a mishearing (it can't be a misreading) of the well-known words. Did the anonymous compiler of the sheet work from memory alone? Mishearing is easy enough, mind you. I read once about a child who used to sing (for the fourth line) "Goddamn sinners reconciled."

I admit though that the "norm" isn't what Wesley originally wrote in 1739, but a mixture, mostly via George Whitefield, who in 1753 gave us the well-known opening (whereas Wesley had *Hark how all the Welkin rings/Glory to the King of Kings*). Still, all the books

Letters

Driftwood welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest.

Please sign your letters, keep them as brief as possible and include a telephone number where you may be reached during the day.

Deadline for letters is 10 am on the Monday prior to publication. Letters received before then will be subject to space limitations; those arriving after the deadline will be considered for publication in the following week's edition of *Driftwood*.

I consulted (excluding *The Oxford Book of Carols*, which omits it) have *Offspring of a Virgin's womb*. Perhaps you can tell us where your version comes from, so that we know who to blame for the most bothersome thing of all, a wholesale butchery of the third verse. Check it up if you dare: the 8 lines (omitting the refrain) of the "normal" version are scrambled into the order 5, 6, 7, 8, 4, 3, 2, 1!

As for Frank Richards' note on "The First Nowell", he's right about the lateness of *Noel*, if a little off in the earliness of the "English" spelling. The Oxford Dictionary tells us that *Nowel* showed up not in 1599, but as early as Chaucer's time; the spelling with two Ls is found about 200 years later, and is now certainly the accepted spelling. Mr. Richards is likewise a victim of (I hope) bad proofreading, since he must refer in his last sentence not to "a final double-vowel" but a double consonant. Incidentally, the carol in question was first printed as *The First Nowel* in 1823, then along with the music in 1833, in Sandys' collection, as *The First Nowell*.

I also notice that the Greenwoods carol book has at least some of the same mistakes as your insert. If they copied you, they were ill-advised, though one can hardly blame them for trusting a local paper.

MURRAY SHOOLBRAID,
Ganges.



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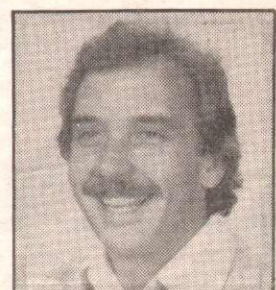


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Freedom 'to' is not the same as freedom 'from'

By ANDREW GIBSON

DAD: How was your day, son?
SON: O.K., I guess.
DAD: You guess? You got a problem?
SON: Well, I'm not sure. You know Kevin, next door?
DAD: Sure, he's the tall one. Nice kid. Wasn't he at your birthday party?
SON: Yeah, and he was at camp too. I like him a lot, but ...
DAD: But what?
SON: Well, I'm not sure about him now.
DAD: Tell me about it.
SON: He's real nice to me, but he's hard on little kids. He tries to tell them what to do, and if they won't do it, he pounds them.
DAD: I'm surprised — that nice boy. So polite. Maybe one of them

said something terrible to him.
SON: No — it's happened a few times, and yesterday he got this little boy, Enrico, you know, down and really pounded him.
DAD: Doesn't anybody try to stop him?
SON: I tried to, but he just told me to shut up and mind my own business.
DAD: Well, once is one thing. Everybody makes mistakes. But if he does it all the time, that's something else.
SON: He says if I'm a real friend I'd be on his side.
DAD: If you're a real friend you'll tell him what you think. You'd better keep clear of him, at least until he gets over this kick. He might start giving you a hard time.
SON: I feel bad about it. He's a lot

guest column

of fun, and he's good at everything. After the fight — that's what he calls it — he was real friendly. He asked me to play right wing on his team. He's captain, you know.
DAD: Don't do it — you get too close to a guy like that and you can't call your soul your own. He'll own it. There's an old saying 'Judge the strong by how they treat the weak.'
SON: I'm glad you told me, Dad. How was *your* day? You were at a meeting, weren't you?
DAD: Yes, about Free Trade, but that's dull stuff. You don't want to hear about that.

SON: Sure I do. We hear all about it at school. It means there wouldn't be an economic border between us and the States.
DAD: That's right. Well, there was a big argument. I can't understand some of these people. They want Canada to stay off by itself with its own little market, when we could be part of the big American one. No guts, I say. They're afraid to slug it out on equal terms in the free market ... I'm sorry, son. Is this over your head?
SON: No. We talk about it in class. But, Dad — when one side is 10 times as big as the other ...
DAD: That's got nothing to do with it. Look ... Canada and the U.S. are friends. We're almost like another state.
SON: But we're a different

country, aren't we, Dad?
DAD: Yes, but ...
SON: Well, aren't they likely to treat us like they do other small countries?
DAD: What do you mean?
SON: Dad! We get modern history. We know about Vietnam. And we know what our own government thinks about what's going on in Central America.
DAD: What are you saying? They're our friends. We identify with each other.
SON: Yes, but you know, Dad, like you say, judge the strong by how they treat the weak.
DAD: That's enough. Haven't you got homework to do?
SON: Yes — I'd better get started. Thanks for the advice about Kevin, dad.

Comparisons

Sir,
 Enclosed with the Christmas card from my sister in Three Hills, Alberta, was the usual note updating us on their activities. "Dixon and I manage to swim three or four times every week in our new pool. There are two senior swims we go to, *Swim and Soak*. There is a paddling pool, water slide, hot tub, whirlpool and sauna, as well as the swimming pool. Even have tables and chairs with umbrellas, plants, etc. We can hardly believe that we have such a facility in Three Hills — such a small town (of) 2,500."
 Sure glad we on Salt Spring didn't squander our limited resources on such a facility.
M. B. MACLEAN,
 Ganges.

Run, don't walk

Sir,
 We are visiting Ganges from Renfrew, Ontario, and cannot say enough good things about it. The hospitality, kindness and friendliness of all is a delight.
 Sunday we had the happy experience of hearing the Salt Spring Singers. What a group. From beginning to end they put on a polished, finished performance.
 Much of this credit must go to Joy Johnsen, who is obviously a perfectionist. The diction was exceptionally good and we were able to understand every word — even in unfamiliar but beautiful songs like *The Jesus Gift*.
 The novel arrangement of *Silent*

more letters

Night was so well done. For a few magic moments, we thought we were on Bourbon St. in the French Quarter of New Orleans.
 We could go on at length about the individual voices and their blending but feel we have taken up enough space. Larry was a member for years of Sarasota, Florida's *Chorus of the Keys*, singing barbership harmony, so we well know how much effort goes in to an event like this. Keep up the good work and continue to bring "*Joy to the World*."
MARGARET & LARRY RITZA,
 Ganges.
 P.S. We have been told that the Salt Spring Singers give two concerts a year and two performances each time. For the next one, we'd advise you to run — not walk — to the nearest ticket outlet, as on Sunday it was standing-room only!

Thank you

Sir,
 On December 12, and for the 37th year in a row, Santa Claus and his helpers were delivered to our islands by the Bellingham Sea Scouts aboard the *SES Discovery*. The Bellingham, Washington, Jaycees assisted Santa by assuring that his sack contained candy and a toy for each of the nearly 350 children who met the jolly old boy on Salt Spring Island. We offer all the visitors a hearty vote of thanks

for this project of international goodwill.

The list of local helpers is long and we, the local committee, wish to say thank you and acknowledge the generosity and help of the following businesses, organizations and individuals:

The Canadian Legion, Golden Hands Arts and Crafts, Gulf Island Trading Co., Red and White Meats, Village Market, Butcher and Deli, Bin and Barrel, Embe Bakery, Mobile Market, Ross and Ganges, Driftwood, Coast Guard, Firemen at Ganges Firehall, School District, Ganges Pharmasave, Breadwinners, The Deli Shop, Harbour Low Cost, Alisi Catering, Hastings House, The Chalet, Luigi's Restaurant, Golden Island Restaurant, Vesuvius Inn Kitchen, Vern Denmore, Brad and Mary McCarter, Bill and Beth MacDonald, Malcolm Graham, Ian Wight, Susan Power, Al Hengstler, Louise Harker and her happy helper, Libby Jones, Gary Lundy and Dwaine Prosk.
 Merry Christmas to all.
PEARL GRAHAM,
WINN WILLIAMS,
 SSI Chamber of Commerce,
 Christmas Ship Committee.

GREETINGS

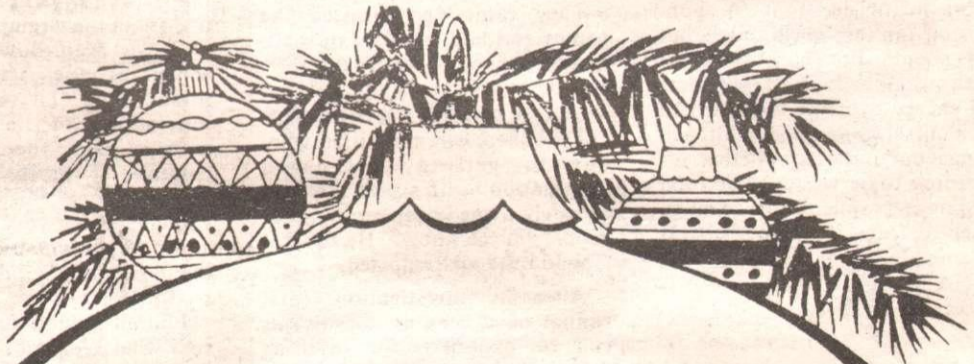
Here's wishing you the best of holidays with friends and loved ones all around you!



Goodie

Christmas Seal It!

Support Your Lung Association



Once again . . . this space was to have shown a staff picture — but someone forgot to bring a camera to the staff party . . . **AND THE DRIFTWOOD REPORTER DIDN'T SHOW EITHER!**

Our wish is that you and yours will have a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

LES & STAFF AT

PS PHARMASAVE

Merry Christmas

May your holiday be joyous in every way.



Orcas Gallery

Wolfgang & Nectas Kranz
 Roger & Chris Pike

Premier took us on an interesting ride

VICTORIA — "Hold on to your hats; you ain't seen nothing yet," was Premier Vander Zalm's promise as he wrapped up the first full session under his "fresh-start" Social Credit government.

It's a motto that has his supporters reaffirm their belief in the man with the charismatic smile and boundless optimism, but causes his weary opponents to wonder where he will strike next. For few premiers have so delighted their followers and so enraged their adversaries.

To say Vander Zalm is an enigma is to call a nuclear explosion an inconvenience. B.C. has never had a premier like him; nor, for that matter, has the rest of Canada. The year 1987, under his leadership, was proof of that.

Here's a man who lives in a castle in his Fantasy Gardens theme park, but is taken seriously by his fellow premiers. Here's a religious man who not only condones gambling but wants to introduce it in a much bigger way. Here's a man who says he wants labour's co-operation and probably means it, but succeeds only in alienating labour more than his predecessor, Bill Bennett, ever did.

Fired up by his impressive victory at the polls in the fall of 1986, Vander Zalm started off the new year with promises of a "fresh start." He was going to

capital comment

hubert beyer

still to come. His privatization and decentralization programs, introduced in the fall of 1987, were probably the most ambitious plans for far-reaching changes in B.C. in decades. Like all changes, they triggered fierce opposition.

The loudest cries were heard when the highways ministry's bridge and road maintenance operations went on the auction block. Even staunch Socred supporters began to have visions of an Interior B.C. paralyzed by ice and snow-bound roads inadequately looked after by the private sector.

Decentralization, kicked off to the tune of \$1 million for each of the eight development regions established under the program, created equally loud cries of foul when the premier had to admit that there was no detailed plan for its implementation.

The year 1987 also saw the Vander Zalm solution for the problem of a court decision, according to which the government discriminated against young, single welfare recipients by paying them less than their counterparts with children. The premier's answer: equalize payments by giving the others less.

Throughout all this, the government was plagued by a series of scandals involving conflicts of interest. The outcome of these scandals varied. Jack Kempf lost his job as forest minister; Cliff Michael stepped down from his post of highways minister; Stephen Rogers was moved from environment to intergovernmental relations, and Stan Hagen was reinstated as advanced education minister, following an investigation.

But in spite of all the setbacks, the scandals, the political sniping and the massive opposition to his style of governing, Vander Zalm is able to point to a relatively good year.

The economy performed better than expected. Housing starts, one of the traditional economic barometers, were up considerably from the previous year. Retail sales, signalling consumer confidence, soared. Unemployment went down, and the 1987-88 provincial deficit will probably be smaller than anticipated.

The one thing that remained constant during 1987 was the premier's smile. The opposition asserts that 1987 was a terrible year in B.C. politics, but Vander Zalm would probably say it was faantastic.

'Premier's smile remained constant.'

put an end to the province's turbulent politics of confrontation. He was going to usher in a new era of co-operation.

Not yet revealing his hand, Vander Zalm promised an end to labour strife which, he said, had always torn the province's fabric asunder. "There must be a better way," he said.

In the spring session of 1987, Vander Zalm produced the blueprint for his vision of a more peaceful and productive British Columbia. Bills 19 and 20 were introduced in the legislature.

If the premier had banned trade unions outright, the result couldn't have been more explosive. Organized labour reacted swiftly and with a vengeance, calling for a one-day general strike in protest over the new legislation.

When Bill 19 was passed after one of the most bitter debates in the legislature, trade unions vowed to boycott the Act, which they are doing to this day.

To get the new labour legislation in place would have been enough for most premiers. Not for Vander Zalm. The big news was

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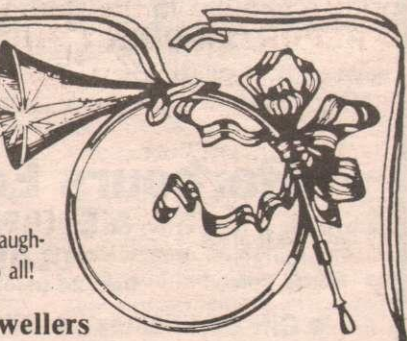
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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Enjoy a terrific holiday season filled with laughter and good spirits. Our best wishes to all!

Salt Spring Precision Jewellers



more letters

Thanks

Sir,
Once again the Fisherman's Ball and potluck was a great success. The Ganges Fisherman's Association would like to thank the following for door prizes: Jill and Linda from the Vesuvius Inn Kitchen, Ross and Ganges Marine and Equipment Ltd., CanFisco, Mikka Industries and Roberta Elliott for her wonderful gingerbread house.
See you all again next year!
GANGES FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

Real power

Sir,
I heard a recent lecture by UBC agriculture-biology professor Dr. Holling on the U.N. report *Our Common Future*, which explains some of the changes our society is going through. He said society, like an organism, historically goes through four changes in development: stage one is growth and development (resources are exploited); stage two is growth of regulating institutions (i.e., government and laws); stage three involves a release in energy and change of direction (where things begin to fall apart); and stage four is the one we're in now — an adaptive pause where individuals and groups question and assess where we're going, to find a new direction.
The real leaders are not in government but in the citizens, in the pubs and coffee shops, sorting out alternatives, finding new models.
The real power now lies in people networking and supporting each other politically and economically, and consulting each other.
I have a lot of trouble with 'authority figures' who are back in stage two telling us what to do. For example, the whole free trade and

privatization issues are being handled 'from above' without bothering to consult those who are involved. My solution for now is to free Canada and trade Mulroney and to privatize the provincial government!

Also, in *Common Ground* magazine, astrologer Michael Down says in his article *Astrology Predicts Continuing Economic Turmoil* that Saturn and Uranus conjunct as they enter the sign Capricorn... it puts pressure to get in line with our means and make hard choices between competing priorities... the more we align with coming changes, the more we will ground our ideals and visions of a new order in thoughts released by the Uranus-Pluto conjunction consciousness explosion of the 1960s, into concrete form. The more we avoid and defend the old order, the more fear and paranoia will pervade the state, conceivably involving even para-military control of an Orwellian nature.

In any case, I wish you all empowerment, revolutionary dreams and may the best of all that's meant to be (for you and all of us) come true.
SUE HISCOCKS,
Ganges.

Cutbacks

Sir,
We wish to inform Salt Spring Islanders of the ministry of health's impending decision to remove massage therapy treatment from the Medical Services Plan in January.

Our objections to this policy are outlined in the following letter to Health Minister Peter Dueck and submitted to *Driftwood* for publication.

We hope Islanders who benefit from massage therapy and who support our contention that it is an important component in the health care system will write to Mr. Dueck and to our MLA Mel Couvelier, Minister of Finance, to object to this erosion of medical services.

Please write today.

We, the Registered Massage Therapists on Salt Spring Island, wish to express our strong objection to the provincial government's intention to drop massage therapy from the Medical Services Plan. As concerned health care professionals, we are worried that many islanders will suffer as a result of this decision.

Salt Spring Island's population is approximately 6,500 permanent residents, of whom 40 per cent are over 55 years old and most of these are on fixed income. Our retired, senior, and premium assistance patients simply cannot afford the burden of extra medical costs.

Our records show that 25 per cent of Salt Spring's residents benefit from massage therapy treatments. Most of these are physician-referred patients who suffer from pain and immobility resulting from whiplash, tendonitis, chronic back pain, bursitis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, migraine headaches, etc. In B.C., massage therapists have 87 per cent success in treating these problems yet use only one-tenth of one per cent of the provincial health care budget.

Therefore, we feel that massage therapy is cost-effective. It costs the Medical Services Plan less than \$40 per patient per year with most patients seeing a therapist an average of 4.5 times a year. If our services are deleted from the plan, our patients will seek relief from pain-killers or from physiotherapy, or may need to be hospitalized with no net savings to the Medical Plan. We argue that health costs could actually increase without the treatments now provided by massage therapists.

We urge you to reconsider your ministry's position on funding this important component of the health care system.
DIANE CRAWFORD,
BARBARA FALLOT,
MASAYO HORA,
SUSAN JUST,
Registered Massage Therapists,
Ganges.

Pulp, paper industry stepping up research into formation of dioxins

The Canadian pulp and paper industry is stepping up its research into dioxin following the release of a U.S. report linking the production of those toxic chemicals to processes employed in the creation of bleached paper products.

Peter Wrist, president of the Quebec-based Pulp and Paper Research Institute, was quoted recently as saying that a "high-priority" research program currently underway is designed to determine how dioxin is formed in pulp and paper mills — as well as how it can be reduced or eliminated.

Dioxin refers to a group of 75 chemicals that includes 2,3,7,8-TCDD, a compound sometimes referred to as "the most deadly chemical known to man." Dioxin can be produced naturally through the combustion process, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also found the chemical in pulp mill effluents — leading many experts to suspect that the use of chlorine as a bleaching agent in such mills may also be creating the toxic chemical.

According to Wrist, the institute plans to accelerate its research into alternative bleaching

systems that produce quality products while being environmentally safe.

The environmentalist group Greenpeace, which has criticized the pulp and paper industry on the dioxin issue, feels the institute's pledge to accelerate its research program is not enough. A spokesman for the group said recently that alternative oxygen bleaching processes are already widely employed in the Swedish

'The most deadly chemical known to man.'

pulp and paper industry. More research into the process is not necessary, she said.

Howard Hart, president of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry, stresses that dioxins are not used by the pulp and paper industry, but are "unwanted byproducts." Hart added he is impressed by a recent EPA statement that "there is no basis to conclude at this time that these products are unsafe."

Dioxins — including the deadly

2,3,7,8-TCDD — have been found in eggs taken from heron nests near B.C. Forest Products' Crofton Pulp and Paper Division adjacent to Salt Spring Island. This year, officials of the Canadian Wildlife Service concluded that no young birds were produced at the Crofton heron colony, but stressed there was no evidence linking the presence of dioxin in the eggs to the absence of young.



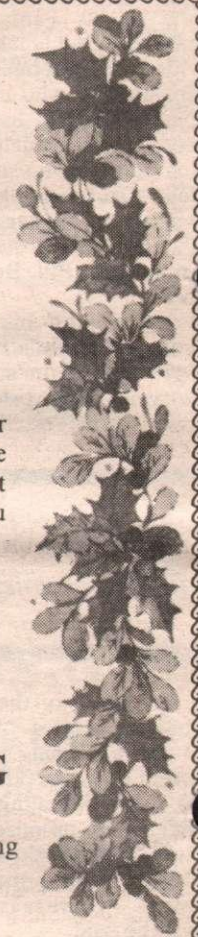
CWS officials concede, however, that dioxin — particularly 2,3,7,8-TCDD — is embryo-toxic in some animals.

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Changes pending

Pornography legislation a short-term solution

Over the past several years many people have written to me urging action against pornography. Others — but not as many — have expressed the fear that any attempt to control pornography will result in repressive censorship that destroys our right to free speech and to artistic and political expression.

To try and deal with these conflicting views, the government has introduced Bill C-54, which amends the Criminal Code by eliminating the present sections dealing with obscenity and introducing new sections dealing with erotica and pornography.

Almost everyone recognizes that pornography which involves children, or which links sex to violence, does harm to individuals and to society. In a powerful statement to the Fraser Commission on Pornography and Prostitution, the Ontario Advisory Council on the Status of Women said:

"Pornography is unacceptable not because it portrays explicit sex but because it promotes hatred, violence, degradation and dehumanization. Pornography is sexist material that portrays women as a distinct sub-human species that does not feel pain or humiliation in the same way as men, and which desire violence and degradation for sexual pleasure. Pornography advocates, encourages and condones coercion, sexual violence and battering and portrays these activities as normal behaviour. As an expression of sexist ideology, pornography promotes a climate in which acts of sexual hostility directed against women are not only tolerated but ideologically encouraged."

Others object that even so-called soft-core pornography robs women, and in some cases men, of their dignity. As a group of women from Newfoundland told the Fraser Commission:

"Pornography suggests that a woman's value lies in her physical appearance and her ability to sexually satisfy a man. All other

from ottawa

by jim manly

capabilities are trivialized ... Pornography undermines values that are important to our society because it dehumanizes the participants, desensitizes the viewers to the suffering of others, and distorts mutual, caring expression into a base act committed by a powerful figure upon a powerless object."

Carol Beigie, a Toronto economist, draws a direct link between pornography and the poor economic position women have in our society:

"It is pornography, the most visible and virulent symptom/form of sexism, that may continue to segregate women's abilities from the economic mainstream long after legislation protecting equal pay for work of equal value is in place."

Unfortunately, as the Fraser Commission points out, there is little hard evidence that could prove or disprove these statements. But as is the case with smoking and lung cancer, the

circumstantial evidence points to a clear connection between different kinds of pornography and the difficulties women face from sexual violence and low economic status.

But to what extent can any law deal effectively with this problem? The present laws regarding obscenity are a joke. They have not prevented proliferation of pornography, but they have been used to censor books and movies of clear artistic merit. Similarly, the definition of pornography in Bill C-54 is too broad and, if it is not amended, will result in the censorship of material that a minority might find objectionable but which does not offend the majority of Canadians. As with every attempt at censorship, C-54 will provoke a reaction in the name of free speech.

If pornography can be more sharply defined along with better guarantees for artistic and educational freedom, I will probably give Bill C-54 my reluctant support. But I have no confidence that it will solve the problems pornography creates in our society.

At its best, legislation can only be a short-term, stop-gap solution. In the long run our society must continue the long struggle against sexism in all its manifestations. This means popular education

against sexist advertising which sees women as objects, educational programs to help both boys and girls develop a healthy sense of their own and others' sexuality, funding for transition centres to help women and children who are victims of violence, and an

economy which gives both men and women a chance to participate with decent incomes.

Perhaps pornography will never disappear completely, but if we work at it, we can create a society in which it is not so much of a problem as it is now.

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14⁹⁵

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To my friends at
Croftonbrook:

**SEASON'S
GREETINGS!**

Bill Webster



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and faith... may
all things
that encompass
a special
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Thanks for the pleasure
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Very Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

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**We invite you to drop in Thursday, Dec. 24,
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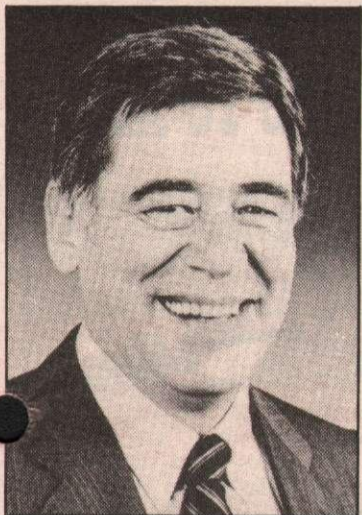
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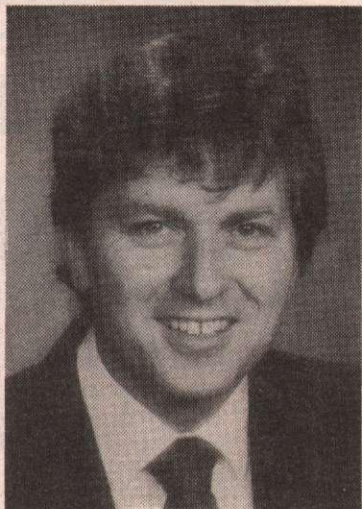
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Better Trust relation urged

Provincial government policies and practices affecting the Gulf Islands should be realigned — where possible — to conform to the Islands Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate, according to an all-party committee of the B.C. legislature which recently completed a review of the Trust.

The committee prepared its report after conducting public hearings last summer. At those meetings, it says, concerns were expressed by islanders over conflicts between their wishes and the way some government agencies carry out their affairs. Sin-

gled out for criticism were the B.C. Ferry Corporation and the subdivision approval branch of the provincial ministry of transportation and highways.

Regarding ferries, the committee limits its recommendations to a call for all comments regarding the service to be referred to the minister responsible.

Highways, however, comes in for special mention. The report recommends that:

- subdivision approvals should be transferred to the Trust if appropriate authority is granted by adopting a regional district format of organization and management;

- the ministry should consider modification of provincial road standards to suit the special nature of the Gulf Islands; and

- the practice of provincial construction and maintenance of roads on the islands should be

amended if the decision is taken to modify the structure of the Trust through incorporation — at which point responsibilities would be negotiated with the local areas.

The latter recommendation, of course, is up in the air since the province's announced privatization scheme would involve turning over local maintenance of roads and bridges to the private sector. The other two recommenda-

tions, however, appear to answer frequent complaints by the Trust over a lack of control of subdivision approvals and about inconsistencies in road standards applied on the islands.

In another section of the report, a blanket recommendation is made for the establishment or refining of guidelines "for each ministry dealing with Trust area matters, to ensure their operations conform with the object (of the Trust)." It adds a call that, where possible, the appropriate responsibilities should be delegated to local areas.

For Islands Trust

Municipal Affairs discussion paper outlines regional district structure

The structure of an Islands Trust regional district was laid out in an internal municipal affairs ministry document prepared before an all-party legislative committee released its recommendations calling for the change.

A Possible Structure Of An Islands Trust Regional District was finalized by the ministry on December 1, about two weeks before the all-party committee's report was presented to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston.

The ministry study outlines the powers, political structure and tax changes the Islands Trust would assume if it abandons its traditional planning and land-use role in favour of full-fledged regional district status.

The basis for the outline is a discussion paper, also prepared by the ministry, which proposes changes to current regional district legislation. It assumes that those changes would be in place to govern an Islands Trust regional district.

A synopsis of the ministry's Islands Trust study is as follows:

GEOGRAPHY

An Islands Trust regional district would have a total population of 12,840 — using 1981 census figures — and be the second-smallest regional district in the province. Those numbers are not significantly less than the population of several other regional districts, however, and the report notes that the projected tax base of \$1.087 billion would be more than contained in eight regional districts now functioning.

POWERS

Islands Trust regional district powers would be derived from three sources — the Islands Trust Act already in place, sections of the Municipal Act governing service powers of a regional district, and the delegation of subdivision approval authority from the provincial government.

The regional district would provide general, extended and local services. The first group would include general administration, planning and development control, and grants-in-aid.

The second grouping would include building inspection, nuisance regulation and soil removal regulations. Local services, the third group, would include refuse disposal, local parks, fire protection and recreation.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Two forms are suggested — one proposes a structure with two directors from each of the 13 member islands being given one vote each, the other suggests the number of directors and votes for each island be weighted according to population. The latter model has Salt Spring with two

regional district's residents, giving it 10 of the 26 votes at the board level. Gabriola Island would have one director and three votes, while North Pender and Bowen islands would each have one director and two votes. All the rest would each have one director and one vote.

The difference between the two models, the discussion paper says, is that the former is based on "federalism," with each island operating as a relatively independent but equal and semi-autonomous partner in the federation. The latter model is strictly representation by population.

LOCAL STRUCTURE

Local Trust committees would remain in place and continue to work in conjunction with the General Trust. However, it is suggested that there should be "evolution over time to a more conventional regional district structure to enhance local representation and autonomy.

"In other words," the discussion paper says, "the general trustee presence on the local Trust Committees would be reduced over time."

In the interim, it is proposed that the legislative authority of local committees be restricted to "the community planning sphere and not extended to regional district service powers which should be exercised by the full board."

Turn to Page 13

'Islands Trust regional district powers would be derived from three sources.'

directors and 10 votes, and all other islands having one director and votes ranging from one to three.

Under the first model, the structure of the new regional district would mirror the existing Islands Trust format. Local Trust committees would remain in place with the same bylaw powers for planning, the General Trust (composed of the chairman and two vice-chairmen) would remain in place and hold community planning authority but see its planning powers adjusted "relative to the introduction of an overall Trust plan which could lead to greater local autonomy on local planning matters." Also left in place would be the Trust Council, comprising all 26 trustees from the 13 member islands, but it would become the regional district board for the purposes of exercising legislative authority — a change from its current status, which is not formalized under existing legislation.

The second model, which suggests representation by population, recognizes that Salt Spring would have 44 per cent of the


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New Trust format charted by report

From Page 12

To meet the need for a higher degree of local representation and autonomy in the management of local services, the paper suggests establishment of a 'local community,' a new form of status outlined in the proposed changes to current regional district legislation.

"This would allow for the creation of a local community commission comprised of four elected members and the electoral area director(s) who would have seats by the virtue of their office," the paper says. "These commissions would have the status of standing committees, would have responsibilities delegated to them and would advise the board on delivery of regional district services in the local community area."

It adds: "It is not stretching the concept too far to consider endowing the commissions with responsibilities in the planning sphere."

COMMUNITY PLANS

On the local level, a community plan for a single island would be created in the same fashion as present, the paper says. It would be adopted by a local Trust Committee comprised of the two local trustees and the three General Trust members, using the 'one-man, one-vote' rule.

A plan for the entire Trust area could be adopted by the three-person General Trust, again using the 'one-man, one-vote' rule. The paper adds that consideration should be given to making preparation of that plan the responsibility of the full Trust Council acting as a regional district board but voting on a 'one-man, one-vote' basis and not according to the weighted vote scheme.

BUDGET

An annual budget of \$3.126 million is envisioned for the Islands Trust regional district. The total includes \$615,500 for general services — i.e., administration and planning — and \$2.51 million for local services on each of the islands. The projected cost of local services ranges from a low of \$7,388 for South Pender to a high of \$921,129 for Salt Spring.

The paper says the projected budget is based on current expenditures by the Islands Trust and by the various regional districts supplying services to the islands.

'An annual budget of \$3.126 million is envisioned for the Islands Trust regional district.'

It assumes that all local services would continue to be financed from the tax based of the area being supplied, and that general services would be financed using a general tax levy on all of the islands.

The general tax levy would be 59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, compared to 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property valued. Salt Spring trustee Nick Gilbert says the 59 cent levy would be comparable to what is now paid locally for regional

district services.

As noted earlier, the tax base of the new regional district would be \$1.087 billion.

TRANSITION

Creating an Islands Trust regional district from the seven regional districts which now overlap the Trust area boundaries would require transferring the responsibility for provision of services to the new body. Also, there would have to be "adjustments" made to the func-

'The paper also notes that an operative rule... is maintaining the delivery of existing services.'

tions of the seven regional districts affected.

In making the transfers, the paper notes that the following must be kept in mind:

- ensure existing regional districts will continue to be able to finance outstanding debts;
- maintain the security of existing Municipal Finance Authority debts;
- transfer responsibility for services wholly contained within the islands to the new regional district;
- enable the new regional district to contract for services from adjacent regional districts where necessary;
- transfer assets and liabilities to the new regional district where appropriate; and
- continue the bylaws of existing regional districts until the new regional district establishes its own.

The paper also notes that an operative rule to be heeded is maintaining the delivery of existing services during the creation of the new regional district. It says service arrangements among the islands and the seven current regional districts are complex, but that transitional arrangements "can be designed to effect a smooth transfer."

LEGALITIES

Finally, the paper notes that implementation of an Islands Trust regional district would require amendments to the existing Islands Trust Act. Amendments would cover:

- establishing the Islands Trust as a regional district;
- enabling cabinet to assign powers to the Trust;
- designating the Trust Council as the regional board for the exercise of regional district service powers;
- establishing voting rules for the exercise of regional district service powers, if different from conventional rules;
- establishing local trustees as electoral area directors for the exercise of regional district service powers; and
- designating the chairman of the General Trust as the chairman for the purpose of regional district service powers.

In addition, the paper notes that supplementary letters-patent would be required to amend the roles of the seven existing regional districts.

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Regional district proposal only one aspect of package

From Page 1

protect' mandate — are to remain enshrined in provincial legislation and to be used as the framework for the new regional district. Ordinarily, the authority given to a regional district to provide services is vested in letters-patent, which are granted by cabinet and not written up as legislation.

The report points out that the two main functions of the Trust, as defined by the Trust Act, are to "preserve and protect," and to deliver services. But the Trust Act, it continues, is "a hybrid piece of legislation" which emphasizes preservation and protection without making adequate provision for the delivery of services.

Re-forming the Islands Trust into a regional district would meet both objectives by giving the Trust the authority to provide a wide range of local and extended services to its member islands under a format which uses the 'preserve and protect' object as its guiding principle, the report says.

Trust representatives, it adds, are best suited to carry out both responsibilities.

The change to regional district status would involve much more than a shift in governmental responsibilities or the form of representation, however. The report also calls for drawing up both a regional community plan and local community plans, both of which would "range from the extremes of providing protection of the object to providing for more intensive development in commercial centres which service islands."

'But the Trust Act is a hybrid piece of legislation.'

The regional plan would include identification of areas to be preserved and protected through ecological reserves, heritage designations "and other provincial enactments." Local community plans now in place, meanwhile, would be amended to conform to the regional plan.

The report adds that special consideration should be given to developed areas within the Trust area — i.e., Ganges, and Snug Cove on Bowen Island — "to

recognize the service role they play within the less-developed areas," and that incorporation of those areas (or whole islands) should be encouraged.

One reason given for recommending incorporation for some areas is that it would allow for "improved management of the tax base and collection."

The report also recommends placing limits on the powers of the General Trust Committee, composed of a chairman and two vice-chairmen, and on the authority of local trustees.

The report explains the first recommendation by noting that there is a tendency of the General Trust "to be too deeply involved in local matters when local matters did not specifically relate to the object" of the Trust.

As for local trustees, the report notes that the major concern which led to passage of the Islands Trust Act was over uncontrolled development on the islands up to 1974, but that protection of 'unique amenities' and 'environment' became the focal point of the Trust, sometimes to the detriment of reasonable development proposals.

"The apparent stance of trustees to slow down or turn down development when they felt the object was threatened is supportable, because in such matters it is safer to err on the side of preservation and conservation in order to promote the object," the report says. "However, the definition of the object in general and the passage of time has broadened the spectrum of actions of the trustees in promotion of the object, with a related increase in the restrictions imposed on development."

Turning to financing, the report notes that Trust operations are funded by contributions of money and support services from the provincial government, and through a local tax levy. Under a regional district format, the Trust should have its support from the province lessened to conform to what is provided to other unorganized areas of B.C., the report says, and its residents should "bear their fair share of the cost of services provided to them."

Trust-area regional district raises 'headquarters' query

Where would an Islands Trust regional district place its administrative headquarters?

The report of the all-party committee which recommends regional district status for the Trust says it is not necessary for a central service area to be set up on any one island, but that the decision should be left to the Trust.

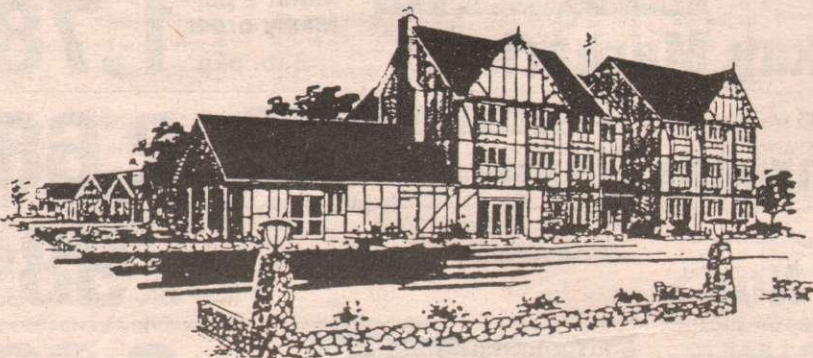
A municipal affairs ministry background paper on the structure of an Islands Trust regional district, meanwhile, deals only with the method to be used to determine a site, and not the location of the site itself. It says the question should be put to the Trust Council — or regional board

— and decided on a 'one-man, one-vote' basis.

Nick Gilbert, Trust chairman and Salt Spring representative, says any discussion of location is conjecture at this point.

"I don't think the present elected people should have a say in where it (a headquarters) would be placed," he said. "It's safe to say that, for now, the headquarters should remain in Victoria to ease the transition of functions."

However, Gilbert added that the office may eventually end up on Salt Spring. Such a move, he added, would have "tremendous implications" for the island's economy while giving islanders better access to local government.



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Cost, tax questions face 'new' Trust structure

From Page 1

seeking, while leaving intact its "preserve and protect" mandate.

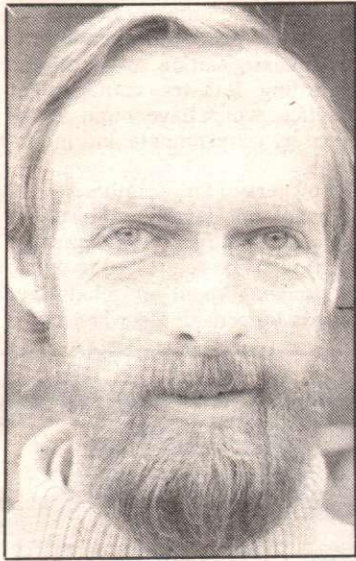
"On the whole, I think it (the review report) is an honest attempt to recognize the wishes of the public," Gilbert said.

Borsman disagreed. He noted that at public hearings held by the review committee, residents spoke in favour of continuing and strengthening the Trust and its mandate — but did not call for creation of "a whole new bureaucracy."

He added: "This is not a report about what islanders want done with the Trust — it's a report about what (the committee) wants to do with the Trust."

Borsman is more concerned about the cost-effectiveness of an Islands Trust regional district, however. He points out that Salt Spring Island shares in 16 CRD functions, and that financial maintenance of some of those services is spread among the entire district. The cost of assuming full responsibility for those functions, along with the expense of setting up a new administrative infrastructure, might make local services more expensive or "second-rate," he said.

"Right now, we share our costs with a quarter-million people,"



Nick Gilbert

Borsman said. "The services we receive — water, sewer, health — we couldn't afford for 12,000 people."

He added: "My big worry is that we are being asked to give up something that works well, and trade it in for God knows what."

Gilbert and Byrne, however, doubt that the cost of an Islands Trust regional district would result in substantial tax hikes, or

that services would suffer.

Gilbert points to a report prepared by the municipal affairs ministry which suggests an annual Islands Trust regional district budget of \$3.126 million — a figure covering continuation of services already in place and identical to the amount now spent each year by the Islands Trust and by the various regional districts providing services to the islands.

The budget outline says a uniform tax levy to recover those costs would be 59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Gilbert said islanders already pay a comparable amount for CRD services, plus 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to finance the Trust.

"We have a rich tax base and we already pay into the regional district function an amount that would likely cover the cost," he said. "There's no reason to believe there would be a significant tax increase."

As for scope and quality of services, Byrne said it would be possible for an Islands Trust regional district to contract out some functions to other regional districts while it adds to the administrative infrastructure now in place for the Trust itself.

While the two local trustees disagree with Borsman about the practicality of the new regional district, both parties share a score of questions over how and when the new system may be put in place, and what form it might take.

Borsman raised those questions at last week's CRD meeting, which led to formation of a committee to study the potential impacts of the Trust regional district. With fellow director Vern Roddick, who represents the Outer Islands, Borsman will meet with technical staff to assess the loss of efficiency and increased costs the CRD would suffer if the Islands Trust becomes a regional district.

Borsman said one reason he requested formation of the committee was in response to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston's statement that the Islands Trust regional district scheme would go ahead unless concerns were raised.

For their part, Gilbert and Byrne say they have questions about transition periods and legislation for the new regional district, plus fears that the proposal may be stalled while Johnston reviews submissions on the proposal.

The Trust has scheduled an emergency council meeting for December 8 and 9 to discuss the course it should take in dealing with the regional proposal.

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Mandate earns review support

From an Islands Trust point of view, the strongest point contained in a recommendation that it assume a regional district function is that the change would presumably take place with any erosion of the Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate.

Trust chairman Nick Gilbert said last week he was pleased to see the review report recommend retention of the Islands Trust Act as the vehicle for adding regional district powers to its role. The Act enshrines the Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate.

Another critical point in favour of the Trust, Gilbert said, was the report's call for continuance of the local Trust committees and their responsibility for local autonomy.

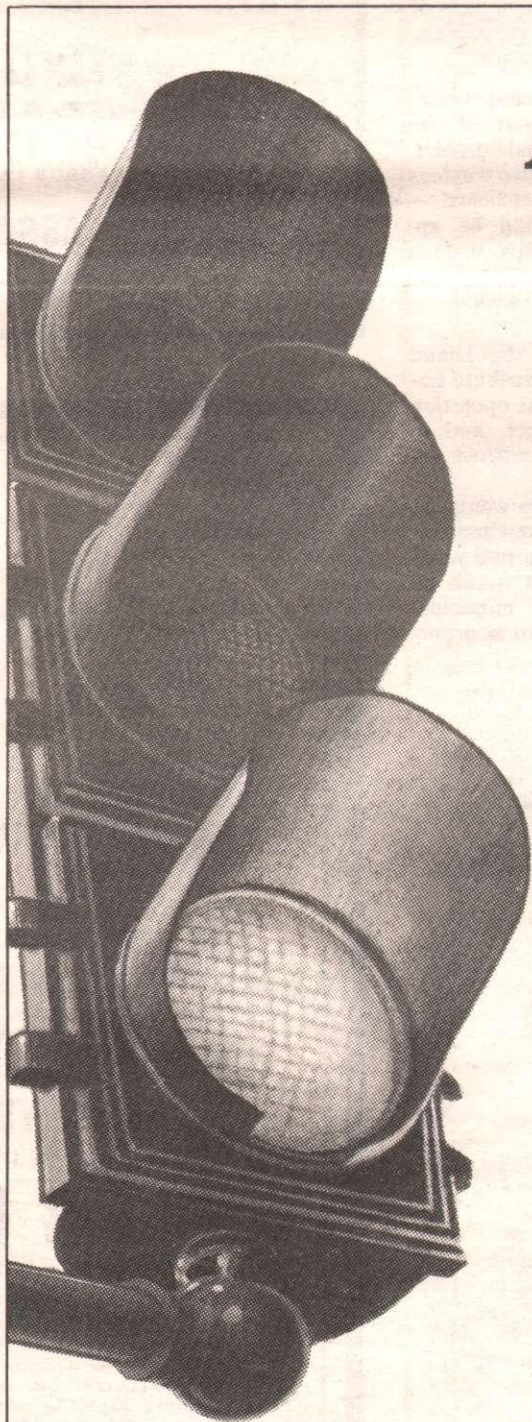
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The management of all timber stands in the Gulf Islands should be considered when preparing a regional community plan for the Islands Trust area. That's the response of an all-party legislative committee to criticism and concern expressed over tree-cutting practices on the islands.

The concerns, voiced at public hearings held earlier this year in conjunction with a review of the Trust, are noted in a section of the all-party committee's report to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston.

The report said that the com-

Tree-cutting concerns aired

mittee heard criticism of the logging methods used on private lands, and about clear-cutting procedures on all forest lands. By way of balance, it adds that other submissions expressed concerns that the rights of timber holders to manage and harvest their holdings was being impaired or threatened by actions taken or considered in the Trust area.

"The impact of moving logs from the woods to storage areas

and storing logs on land or in offshore booming areas was the subject of concern expressed at hearings," the report says. "Conversely, those that require such facilities were concerned about the loss of their facilities."

In answer to the conflict, the report recommends that:

- the rights to harvest timber pursuant to a plan suitable to the forests and lands ministry be preserved;

- the forest industry be encouraged to expand the communication of information to the public regarding forestry management practices which have found acceptance by governments and industry;

- owners of large timber stands who are not legally required to prepare and file forest management plans be requested to do so;

- management of all timber stands be considered when deve-

loping the Trust area regional community plan recommended elsewhere in the review.

Also suggested for consideration in development of the Trust area regional community plan was the recent report by the forests and lands ministry which classified foreshore lands in the Gulf Islands according to suitability for aquaculture.

The intent of the regional community plan, it notes, is to define the mandate of an Islands Trust regional district and designate appropriate development areas.

Committee makes allowances for incorporation of centres, islands

A municipal affairs ministry outline for an Islands Trust regional district anticipates the incorporation of some member islands and communities.

The paper says the change will likely result from desires for increased local autonomy for community planning and delivery of local services.

To meet those anticipated requests, the paper describes how any one island might evolve to full

local self-government.

The process, it says, would begin with a referendum to create a 'local community,' allowing establishment of a local community commission of four elected commissioners and the two local trustees.

"The local community commission," it explains, "would provide additional representation and enhanced community advice to the local trustees, the local

Trust Committee and the Trust Council while imposing a minimal administrative and financial burden on the local community."

The next step, if the community so wishes, is to hold a referendum to incorporate as an independent municipality.

"This would provide the community with almost complete autonomy in both community planning and local service provision," the paper says. "While the community plan would be prepared and adopted by the locally-elected municipal council, it would be subject to the objects of the Trust, an overall Trust plan, and the minister's approval."

The municipality would continue to function as part of the Islands Trust regional district, and continue to have two trustees on the regional district board — but the trustees would be appointed by the municipal council instead of being elected by the community, the paper says.

It also notes that the island municipality would contribute financially to the general operation of the regional district, and to those functions it wished to participate in.

Provincial assistance would be available to ease the new municipality through the first five years of its life. As well, it would be eligible to receive municipal grants now paid only to incorporated municipalities.

Review report suggests structure for Trust Fund

A philosophical debate over the format of an Islands Trust Fund has been settled by recommendations contained in an all-party legislative committee's review of the Trust.

Since a section of the Islands Trust Act was proclaimed early last year to give the Trust authority to accept and hold donations of land and money in keeping with its "preserve and protect" mandate, trustees have debated the structure and principles which should guide the fund.

One central argument has been whether the fund should branch out to cover land beyond its boundaries, with that land subsequently being sold to provide additional money for the fund.

Another has been whether trustees should take a direct role in management of the fund, even though that might place them in a potential conflict-of-interest position — i.e., favourable rezonings in exchange for land — or cause the public to shy away from donating to the fund because it is perceived as a government agency.

A third question has been the number of directors needed to oversee the fund — i.e., whether to go with a small or large group — and what proportion of trustee representation is desirable.

The all-party review committee's report, released last Monday, says the legislation setting up the fund does not envision anything more than "a facility to receive donations of land and funds" to complement the Trust's preserve and protect mandate.

Consequently, and in apparent answer to the above three questions voiced by trustees, it recommends that:

- the objectives of the fund be defined for operational purposes and not expanded beyond the basic form originally contemplated;

- an agreement be entered into with a Trust company, to be selected by the minister of municipal affairs, to be trustee for management of the fund;

- a segregated fund or a

non-profit society be established with a board of directors — not elected members of the Trust — to be selected (two members by the minister, two by the Trust) to manage the fund or the non-profit society;

- applicable administrative procedures be implemented;

- operating costs should be the responsibility of the Trust area, supplemented by the provincial funds, to maintain the (Trust mandate) which the provincial government deems necessary; and

- no further action is to take place until a regional community plan, identifying areas to be preserved or protected, has been adopted to the satisfaction of the municipal affairs minister.

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Film shows one price paid to maintain status quo

By GARY CHERNEFF

"Why did the teacher cross his eyes? Because he couldn't control his pupils."

Now tell me, do you perceive more of this riddle than that which lies on the surface? Are you one of our local educators who gratefully supplicates for the arrival of Christmas break; welcoming the opportunity to disentangle his eyeballs and reassess career opportunities?

Could be, but for me it was merely one of those benign little messages that comes fluttering out of the first Christmas party crackers, authored by the same prosaic little wise man or wise guy who specializes in fortune cookies.

Well, the point of all this is that the holiday season is here, whether you are deep or shallow. We normally expect a gradual increase in excitement as the holiday season approaches, but this one has been a sleeper. Perhaps because of the clement fall whether, most of us entered December rather abruptly, being yanked from Indian summer to dreary winter in the space of a night and a day.

So here I am to tell you about some of the things that can make it fun. Art is fun, you know!

Everybody loves movies and the one I suggest you see is the Bernardo Bertolucci film, *The Last Emperor*. This is a gut-wrenching account of the tragic life of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China. It is a document of the manipulation of a human life for the maintenance of archaic traditions in the face of a disintegrating social matrix. It is also an insightful inquiry into the politics of power and social cooperation.

The historical context of the film is formed by events in Asia and the world between 1908 and 1950. As Pu Yi, at age 53, stands deposed and under arrest for acts of treachery against his people, his memory flashbacks reveal his installation as emperor at age three, and subsequent events in his life.

We see his confinement in the forbidden city, his manipulation

artseen

by gary cherneff

by functionaries and Japanese invaders, and a gradual disintegration of his life as a pawn who, because of his naivete is easily manipulated by more worldly power barons.

Bertolucci has given us a believable history, an epic, but surely less of a spectacle than an earnest attempt at understanding the Chinese mind and social values and how they have evolved through revolution. The overwhelming moral messages in the film deal with how societies ultimately degrade the value of an

'It is a document of the manipulation of human life for the maintenance of archaic traditions.'

individual in order to sustain the status quo.

There does seem to be a ray of hope in the new order, although the dreary and hardworking road to self-esteem in China is one which few could relate to from our comfortable western perspective.

The photography is grand and honest rather than opulent. The dialogue is insightful historically, and entertaining. It lifts our emotions through tragedy, passion, and the wonderful eroticism of the bedroom scenes. If that doesn't get you out to see it,

nothing will.

Well fun-seekers, what are you doing on New Year's Eve? Vancouver's got a great idea. They are following the lead of 15 cities in the U.S. to sponsor a "First Night" New Year's Eve which involves the Vancouver Arts Community in the celebration. This non-alcoholic arts event is a family alternative to blasting your brains out.

The sights for the celebration are the environs in and around the Robson Square Complex. These are some of the things that will happen: at Christ Church Cathedral there will be a children's choir, the Festival Players of Canada and Ingrid Suderman, and the Canada West Chamber Orchestra. The atrium of the Bank of B. C. Building will feature *A Touch of Brass*, Ballet B.C., the Judith Marcuse Dance Company and the Vancouver Chamber Winds Sextet. At the Robson Square Media Centre Cinema, you can see the Black and Gold Revue, Snake in the Grass Moving Theatre and Tamanous Theatre Simple Folk. At the Great Hall of the Law Courts there will be the Charlie Haden Jazz Trio, Shari Ulrich, Uhuru and the Paul Plimley Trio.

You might think all that would cost you a fortune, but on a first-come, come-first basis, a \$5 "First

Night" button will buy you all these and more. The finale is in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery at 11:30 pm till 12:02 am. Buttons are available at the Vancouver Sun, McDonald's downtown, the Bay downtown, and lower

mainland Credit Unions. They will also be available in various locations on New Years Eve. Things get rolling at around 7 pm. From me to you, Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.



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Gulf Islands Secondary School teacher Sally Walker (far left) presents the intramural volleyball trophy to the high school's winning team. Team members are (from left) Sheila Graham, Rose Graham, Derek Topping, Darrel Lee and another student. The award was presented at an assembly held Friday at G.I.S.S. Graham, Derek Topping, Darren

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Transportation body hopes for a productive new year

Salt Spring's Transportation Committee is looking forward to 1988 and hopes more will be achieved in the New Year.

David Clegg, chairman of the transportation committee, noted Friday that the committee — which includes islanders Mike Marshall, Hugh Borsman, Pearl Graham, Tom Toynbee, Bruce Patterson, Claire Nutting, Dan Evanishen, Bev Unger and Shirley Love — was established to identify "the transportation needs of residents" and work towards having such issues addressed by the B.C. Ferry Corporation.

"I feel we have been working toward these goals this year, and we're looking forward to 1988," Clegg said.

Clegg noted that the committee, with the help of Saanich-and-the-Islands MLA Terry Huberts, recently obtained a meeting with Transportation Minister Stephen Rogers to address some of islanders' concerns over ferry service.

Clegg said he found Rogers "receptive," but added that while the minister agreed on the need for a more consultative process on ferry-related issues, no specific structure was set. The transportation committee has asked to be consulted by the B.C. Ferry Corporation on all ferry-related issues.

The committee has worked throughout the year with the B.C. Ferry Corporation in an effort to improve ferry service to Salt Spring, but has found the process difficult. Recent events have made Clegg question the value of such "negotiating sessions" with the ferry corporation.

He noted that in the Outer Islands, the ferry corporation has indicated it plans to reduce its service to Saturna Island during the coming months. According to Clegg, Saturna Islanders were willing to accept such a plan until the ferry corporation announced it would shift its Route 5 vessel to Saturna on weekends — thus reducing service to the other Outer Islands.

Despite islanders' objections to this plan, the ferry corporation has implemented it, Clegg noted.

"This takes the entire negotiating process and throws it out the window," he said. "Things like this leave the Salt Spring Transportation Committee wondering why it bothers to set up negotiations, when the ferry corporation simply does something like this which invalidates the whole process."

Clegg said the Salt Spring Transportation Committee, though perhaps not directly affected by the Saturna decision, will likely support Outer Islands transportation committees if they choose to protest the move.

"One thing we've tried to do is develop unity (with the other island committees)," he added. "Salt Spring will have to stand in support of these protests."

Clegg added that although the

ferry corporation promised Salt Spring residents late-night service between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay on Saturdays and Sundays, this has not yet become a reality.

"The executive of the transportation committee met with the corporation on November 13, at which time we were assured by Rod Morrison (BCFC's general manager) that late-night sailings would be implemented," said Clegg. "This is something the island needs, and we were assured it would be brought forward. We still haven't got it, and I find it incredible that Morrison has not acted on this yet."

Clegg said the transportation committee will pursue these and other issues in 1988.

"We have hopes for a better New Year," he concluded.



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Slip time

Youngsters tackle snow-covered road on Mt. Belcher, near Ganges, where about six inches of snow fell early last week and was joined Sunday by another sprinkling. Rainfall and warming temperatures later left roads relatively clean and bare, however.

At U.K.. centres

Air Force POWs hold reunion

Three Salt Spring veterans attended a reunion held in England earlier this fall for members of the Royal Air Forces Ex-Prisoner of War Association.

Ivan Mouat, Jim Olding and Bruce Campbell took in the five-day event held September 7 to 12 at Southampton University. They were three of approximately 130 Canadian ex-servicemen and their spouses to attend the reunion.

In addition to the Canadian and British contingents, there were former air force POWs from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In all, nearly 900 ex-servicemen and their wives attended the reunion.

In addition to seeing Southampton, the ex-POWS visited Royal Air Force Base Abingdon and Portsmouth. On September 8, they had a civic reception at the Aviation Museum. Two days later, they participated in a service of remembrance at Winchester Cathedral.

Prior to the finale dinner held on September 11, the attendees were hosted at a civic reception in Bournemouth.

As Mouat noted last week,

Bournemouth has special significance for the Canadian contingent. All Canadian airmen were held in Bournemouth prior to seeing service with the Royal Air Force and, after being liberated from POW camps in Europe, they returned to the city on their way home.

The three Salt Spring residents at the 1987 reunion enjoyed it immensely. Mouat described it as "marvellous," and praised it for being well-organized.

Christmas to interrupt trans-Atlantic crossing

A 73-year-old Salt Spring Island resident is expected home for Christmas after a cross-Atlantic journey on his sailboat.

Frank Bannon left the Canary Islands on November 17 aboard his 10-metre sailboat and arrived in Antigua on December 17. His wife, Vivian, said last week from the couple's Salt Spring home that her husband will now leave the vessel in either Antigua or Florida and is expected back for Christmas.

Frank Bannon's adventure is the realization of a life-long dream to sail across the Atlantic — a desire he emphasized when naming his boat the *Pipedream*.

Vivian said that her husband, a member of the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club, decided some time ago that it would be easier to fulfill his dream by finding a vessel in England and crossing the Atlantic from there. Starting the journey from North America and crossing back again would have been too strenuous, he felt.

Two years ago, Frank Bannon purchased the *Pipedream* in Dartmouth, England, and began a series of short sailing trips interspersed with journeys home to Salt Spring. Little by little, the boat moved closer to a crossing of the Atlantic.

"He's slowly heading home

with the boat," Vivian explained.

Vivian noted that she was on board the vessel for about one month, when it sailed between Portugal and Spain, and that Frank has carried passengers on other stretches of the on-again, off-again trip.

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