

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR, NO. 52

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1987

40c

1987

The year in words, pictures

Editor's Note: The past year, as always, has been one of numerous highs and lows in the Gulf Islands. To mark the end of 1987, we offer here a compilation of the most noteworthy events covered in Driftwood during 1987, listed in a month-by-month breakdown.

JANUARY

• Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital was scheduled to receive \$257,000 worth of upgrading work.

Dr. Hugh Borsman, Salt Spring Island's representative on the Capital Regional District and an executive member of the regional hospital board, said some structural changes would be made to the hospital, but added that most of the money would be spent replacing old equipment and repairing "general wear and tear."

• Four Native Indian bands laid claim to territory extending throughout the Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands in a move they said was the first step toward improving the social, cultural and economic well-being of their members.

Philip Paul, a spokesman for the four bands, said they made the declaration because they have an unextinguished claim to the territory. He said no agreement for purchase or sale of the Indian lands was ever made in peace treaties signed with early white settlers.

• Colonel J.L. (Jack) Frazer of Salt Spring Island was informed he would receive the Meritorious Service Cross from Governor General Jeanne Sauve.

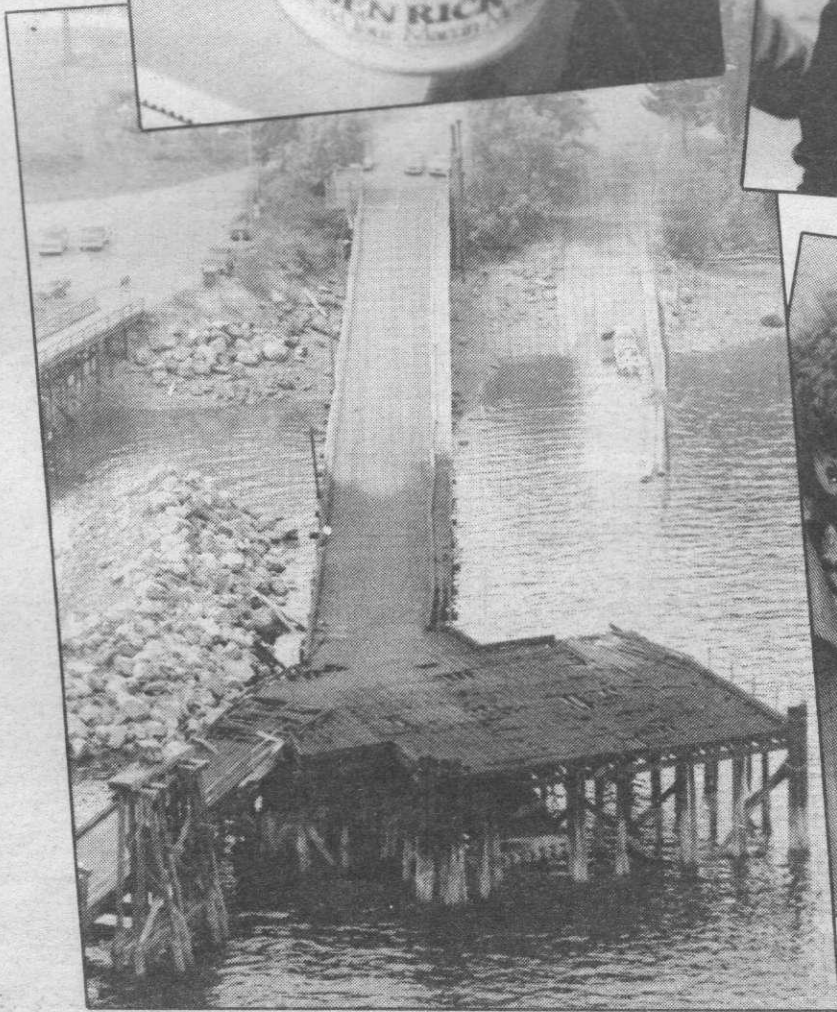
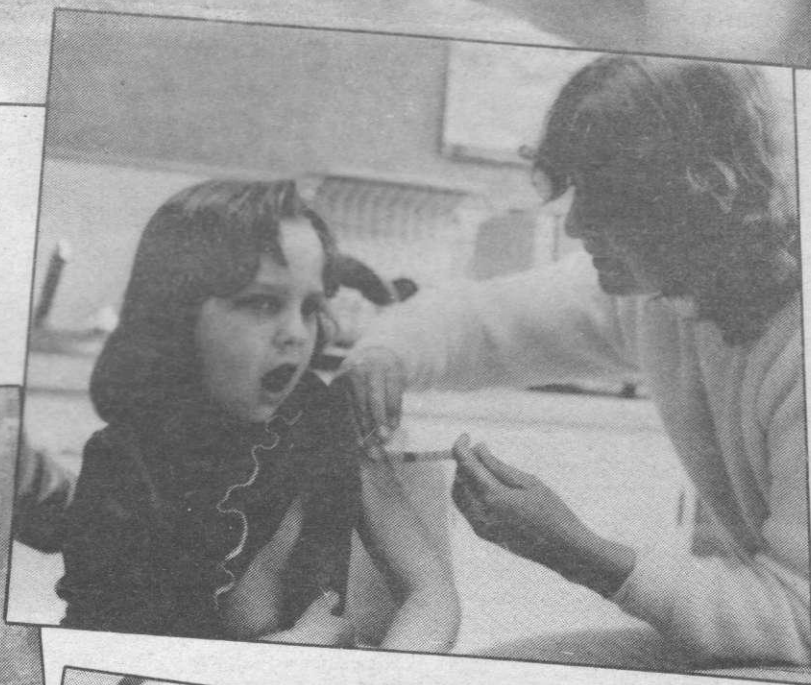
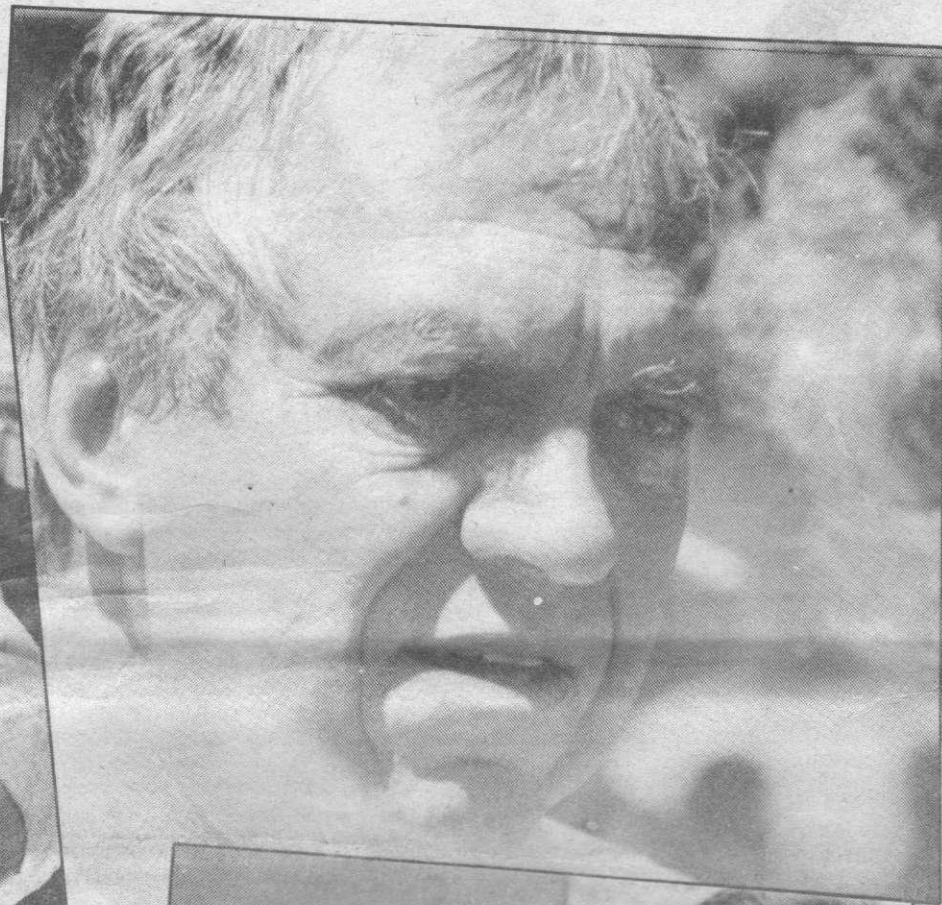
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Deadlines advanced

Driftwood's deadline and office schedules have been altered by the holiday season.

The Driftwood office at 126 Upper Ganges Road will close this Friday, January 1, and re-open on Monday, January 4.

Meanwhile, the deadline for real estate and display advertisements for inclusion in next Wednesday's edition of Driftwood has been moved up by one day. Those ads for the January 6 issue must be at our office by 5 pm tomorrow — Thursday, December 31.



Mishaps damage vehicles

Ganges RCMP are investigating two Christmas Eve thefts.

In the first, Robert Owen reported the theft of several items from his vehicle. Two gifts and three bottles of wine were taken from the vehicle when it was left unlocked in the Harbour House Hotel parking lot.

While police have recovered the stolen goods from the second incident, they are still seeking the suspects.

The break-and-enter and theft took place at a construction shed on Seaview Drive. The thieves gained access by prying open a lock. The stolen items — a white hardhat, three pairs of safety goggles and a crowbar — were found on McPhillips Avenue, close to the library.

Slippery roads and the Christmas rush led to several car accidents on Salt Spring last week.

The first of three single-vehicle accidents took place December 18 when roads foreman John Stepaniuk lost control of his vehicle while reversing, and went into a ditch. The incident took place on Cranberry Road.

Slippery road conditions were also blamed for a single-vehicle accident which took place on Lang Road on December 22. The Toronto driver, Andrew Meyers, lost control and landed in a ditch.

The following day saw another accident involving one driver. The incident occurred when a male juvenile lost control of his car on Fulford-Ganges Road (at Seaview Road), and hit a parked car. The stationary vehicle, which belongs to Adrienne Sawyer, was severely damaged and may be written off.

The guard railing at Mouat's Mall was damaged along with two vehicles involved in an accident which took place on December 22. The incident occurred when driver Jack Keys lost control of his vehicle, striking a car owned by Maurice Spurill, and then the railing.

The final incident took place Monday at the intersection of Upper Ganges and Long Harbour roads. A vehicle belonging to Donald Baker sustained considerable damage to the front end, after striking the back end of a vehicle driven by Julian Van Hoeke. There were no injuries.

A brown purse-type wallet has been turned into the local RCMP detachment. The owner is asked to claim it at the office.



Susan Dicker

Newspaper welcomes editorial staff addition

Driftwood enters the new year with two new — but familiar — people in its editorial department.

Susan Dicker rejoins the Driftwood staff to take over from Mike Turkki, who has taken a medical leave of absence, and unofficial contributor Andrew Gibson has become a regular columnist.

Dicker was a Driftwood staff member in 1986. She completed an eight-month work term here under the auspices of the University of Victoria's co-operative journalism program, then returned to the university and earned her Bachelor of Arts

Greenwoods, Lady Minto

Closer administrative ties pondered for two facilities

A report on health care in the capital region, expected to be made public within 30 days, may recommend closer administrative ties between Lady Minto Hospital and the Greenwoods intermediate care facility.

Sandy Gordon, chairman of the Hospital Society, said the organizations have been moving in that direction for two years but could not indicate whether a joint administration would be formed in the near future.

Meanwhile, Peter Vida, president of the Gulf Islands Interme-

diante and Personal Care Society, said closer co-operation would be taking place.

One concerned Islander, Peter McAllister, will welcome the news. Several months ago he submitted a series of health care related suggestions to the Capital Regional District (CRD). One of his concerns was integration of the health care and social service delivery systems in the Gulf Islands.

In his submission to the CRD, McAllister suggests the integra-

tion of all aspects of health care delivery — including acute care facilities; clinics; intermediate, personal, extended and outpatient care services; social services, mental health; care of the disabled, home care and dental care.

"Integration would guard against duplication of services and hence be more cost-effective," the paper reads. "It would ensure continuity of care to the public through all ages and phases of one's life."

Cold waters, warm cheer waiting for first swimmers

It's cold and wet. It happens on New Year's Day and even the organizer is not crazy enough to do it.

It is, of course, Salt Spring's ninth annual Polar Bear swim, scheduled for 11 am Friday at Vesuvius beach.

Bill Webster, who has organized the event the past several years, says he has managed to avoid the dunking. He made it in to his knees once — but that was far enough.

"It's cold in there," he says.

Last year's event drew over 40 swimmers and even more are expected this year. The somewhat "sadistic" spectators, who usually outnumber the swimmers many times over, are also expected to flock to the spot.

degree in 1987.

Gibson, meanwhile, is a long-time regular contributor to Driftwood. His writings have included book and movie reviews, impressions of visits made to Argentina and Central America, and commentary on current events like the free trade debate.

While Susan Dicker's work will appear throughout the newspaper in the coming months, Andrew Gibson's columns will be found on page six.

Driftwood welcomes these additions to its staff, and sends Mike Turkki best wishes for a rapid recovery.

Prizes will be offered to the oldest and youngest male and female participants. Creative costumes — such as last year's Captain Marvel and (appropriately) a snowman — will also be applauded with prizes.

Entering the frigid waters is a bit of a shock at first, a veteran Polar Bear swimmer will tell you. However you freeze so quickly, you don't feel anything after awhile. It's only an hour or so later that, without a bottle of stimulant, one might realize the true implications of the freezing cold dip.

So what makes people crazy enough to do it?

"Salt Spring," answers Webster.

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Happy New Year, everyone!

We wish you all a happy & prosperous 1988!



TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour
(STANDARD TIME)

DEC.					
30	0400	9.6	3	0645	11.7
	0615	9.4		1155	10.1
WE	1200	11.3	SU	1400	10.3
	2000	2.6		2225	1.3
31	0455	10.6	4	0715	11.7
	0800	10.1		1225	9.9
TH	1210	11.0	MO	1445	10.1
	2040	2.0		2300	1.4
JAN.					
1	0530	11.2	5	0745	11.6
	0930	10.4		1310	9.6
FR	1245	10.7	TU	1530	9.8
	2115	1.6		2340	1.7
2	0610	11.6	6	0810	11.4
	1100	10.3		1345	9.2
SA	1305	10.5	WE	1610	9.5
	2150	1.3			

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Holiday imbibers must depend on taxis

Salt Spring Island Ambulance crews will not offer their traditional free rides home this New Year's Eve.

Last year, says a spokesman for the association, the service was called upon three times and on each occasion a taxi was available. The program is not intended, he added, to replace a commercial enterprise with a free alternative.

No free ambulance rides this year

Ambulance crews also said they hoped the infrequent use made of their service last year indicated drivers were pre-arranging safe transportation.

As a group, the association has decided to support the Designated Driver program. While it did not reach that decision early enough this year to allow wide

promotion before New Year's, it intends to join forces with several island businesses to publicize the program in the upcoming year.

This year, the crews plan to enjoy New Year's Eve with friends and family. They warn, however, that if you plan to drink, don't drive. If you do, you might be getting a free ride from them to the hospital.

to be frank

Just not the job!

Don't drive a sports car in caulked boots. It can't be done.

I was invited to dinner during one of December's particularly vehement emphases on rain. Bring a flash and boots, she urged, in case there is no parking near the house.

I don't remember buying a pair of gum boots since the 1940s and the only covering I wear on my feet is shoes. What to do?

I remembered a pair of abandoned caulked boots in the garage where my son-in-law Patrick Gaines had left them. You can figure if Pat leaves a pair of boots around, there's not much wear left in 'em! There wasn't. Worse than that, they were too big for me. I reckon if someone is going to leave a pair of ripe boots in my garage, they should at least make sure they fit me. But not him. Not on your life!

I put on this pair of boots and waddled out to the car. Then I remembered that I was driving an old Porsche somebody had left at my place. Gee! I hate that sound of tearing upholstery!

Eventually I had to give in and change to shoes to drive the car.

Odd thing is that when I got there I didn't need the boots anyway.

But if you're driving anything smaller than a Mack or a Kenworth, better you change those caulked boots!

Music: Music: Music!

It was Christmas and Corey Hart was featured on television. I learned a lot.

I listened to my daughter and my granddaughter growling at each other over the qualities of Mr. Hart's presentation. It was good, insisted the newest voice. It offered nothing, asserted my daughter's voice of authority.

The indignation quotient rose sharply.

It put me in mind of the debates, equally heated, of nearly a quarter-century ago, when my offspring had the effrontery to assert that beetles and beach boys had the edge on crooners and jazz. Only a tone-deaf ignoramus would make such assertions and I lost no time in so proclaiming.

by richards

But, casting my mind back another couple of decades or three, I recall the same lively, vital debate with my parents over the relative merits of jazz and classical music. My parents were just as pig-headed as my kids!

And they were luckier. They had never had occasion to debate such issues in their youth. Music was a quiet, personal entertainment, centred on piano, phonograph or mouth organ except among the more proficient on various other instruments. You made your own music, why would you, in that day, want to dispute it?

Maybe those were the days!

One of the early settlers

Mrs. Ethel C. Johnston is living in Victoria today, but that is only a recent habit. Not only did she live for many years on her native island, Pender Island, but she was born there 92 years ago.

We had a note from Mrs. Johnston explaining that she passes on her copy of *Driftwood* to Gulf Islands friends also in the city.

One of the original settlers of the Gulf Islands, Mrs. Johnston recalls that she was a correspondent of the *Sidney Review* many years ago, writing a news column for the Sidney paper and others.

"I am still interested and also amazed at the developments which have followed those early years," she said.

She also expressed greetings and good wishes to her friends on the islands.

I was cured!

I was seriously ill recently, with the kind of cold that would have killed an ordinary man. That is a quote from my former employer and mentor, Clair Rivers. He always described his ills in that manner.

Being so deeply versed in medicine, I cured myself.

Nothing to it! I was runny and sneezy, so I dosed myself with antihistamines. Later, I fell back on the old faithful, hot whisky.

It knocked me out. For an hour I was blissfully unaware of my cold, lying abed where I had made my weakly way.

Funny thing, it says on the anti-sniffles don't touch alcohol, but it doesn't say anything about histamaniacs on the whisky label.

Trouble is, who bothers to read labels until he's getting over the effects?

Scenes of the year in passing

Page one scenes from 1987 are, clockwise from top left: Lane Gromme issues challenge to help raise local funds in aid of Rick Hansen's wheelchair marathon; NDP leader Ed Broadbent visits Salt Spring Island; Galiano student B. J. Basarab receives inoculation from Capital Region health nurse Jane Cameron; Maggie Lee and Jessie Toynbee exchange greetings at celebration marking 100th anniversary of Burgoyne Bay United Church; and Crofton dock is knocked out of commission after July 24 fire.



Happy New Year

Thank you for your support

Marguerite Lee
Susan Wyatt
Olive Layard
Maureen Rowell




51-2

Season's Greetings

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At the close of 1987,
BARBARA L. FALLOT, R.M.T.
will be closing her
Massage Therapy Practice
on Salt Spring Island.

I wish to thank all my patients and the medical community who have supported me during the past eight years. My wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy New Year. I can still be contacted at 537-2537 or at my Sidney office at 655-3355.

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Published every Wednesday at Ganges, B.C. by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Box 250, Ganges, B.C.
V0S 1E0
Ph. (604) 537-9933
From the Outer Islands
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New spirit for islands?

The review of the past 12 months of 1987, carried in this week's edition of *Driftwood*, provides the reader with what must seem like a long series of contrasts between turbulence and tranquility. To borrow a phrase: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Or was it? While the islands and islanders no doubt had their share of collective and individual highs and lows in the past year, it appears to us that a greater spirit of co-operation emerged in 1987 — promising, we hope, a will and effort to bring us more good than bad in the coming 12 months.

In the wake of the uncertainty and unrest caused by Victoria's announced intention to privatize the highways ministry's bridge and roads maintenance operations on the Gulf Islands, for instance, we now face the promise of a joint bid involving employees of those local operations, backed up by solid support from private citizens and groups. How's that for community interest and co-operation?

Another unsettling event which turned out to have a coalescing effect on islanders was consideration by the B.C. Ferries Corporation of a new terminal at Isabella Point, to be followed by phasing out of existing facilities at Long Harbour and Fulford Harbour. The local protest which followed demonstrated a united will to be consulted before the fact — an occurrence which has not been, to our knowledge, lost on Victoria.

A subsidiary result of that and related events like the temporary loss of the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry has been a melding of the joint views and interests held by representatives from each island to transportation committees which consult with the corporation. For the first time in a long time, we are told, the committee members now work together, instead of in the interests of their islands alone.

Much the same can be said of local attitudes towards the Islands Trust, which were



Sea of masts grows from jam of boats in Ganges Harbour

predominantly positive when voiced to an all-party committee of the provincial legislature which visited Salt Spring last summer to solicit views. Even those critical of the Trust locally were quick to defend an institution they consider their own.

True, all of the above examples are cases of dealing with the 'enemy' from without. But even in purely internal matters, islanders showed in 1987 a tolerance for each other that would have seemed surprising only a few short years before.

The battle for pool referendum votes, for

instance, was for the most part fought with cool tempers and an acknowledgement of opposing points of view. When the dust settled, it did so amicably.

Likewise, smaller flash points like Centennial Park and Grace Point and Coon Bay on Galiano Island burned brightly for but a few moments, until calm was restored by a co-operative approach taken by all concerned with the issues. If that continues to be the case for most of what will face us in 1988, we should look forward to a good year.

Have a Happy New Year — one day at a time

An odd sort of Christmas. At a time when decorating trees, wrapping presents and exchanging season's greetings are the main thought in most minds, my pleasant mood was shattered by news that burial awaited a long-time friend.

We had known each other since early adolescence, sharing the same acquaintances and classrooms and graduating from secondary school together in the early 1970s. Although our paths then diverged — his into forestry, mine into newspapers — we managed to stay in touch at various points over the years.

His end came tragically, in an

automobile accident in northern B.C. While driving from one work site to another, his truck collided head-on with a loaded auto carrier on a ice-covered stretch of highway. He had no chance.

The funeral service drew a large crowd, including a good number of other people from my early-70s high school graduating class. Some I had also kept in touch with over the intervening years; others, I had not seen for a decade or more.

No matter — the familiar bonds were re-established at the wake which followed the service. Old habits and mannerisms arose from the dim memories of teen-

my word

by

duncan macdonnell

age years, to match that head growing bald or that face now showing creases born of the adult world. However slightly, the joy of reunion managed to temper the great sadness of the occasion.

Until someone brought up the

obvious: "We've got to stop doing this," he said. "It seems the only time we get together now is for funerals."

Realizing that that scenario was unlikely to change much made me pause and scan face after face around the room. I quickly calculated that although we are all supposedly in the prime of life, tragedy would surely strike again, and it might arrive sooner rather than later. Which of these people will I not see again in the flesh?

A depressing thought for the festive season, I know, but it was one I could not shake over the next week or so. At a time of joy and rejoicing, it is absurd to be

dwelling on our limited mortality — unless the bleak thoughts are used as a counterweight to heighten the awareness of how many blessings most of us have to count in each day of our lives.

Good friends, fortunate surroundings, life itself — I focused on and counted all of those. And while the exercise cannot diminish the immediate sadness of losing someone, as a safety valve it was enough to provide a sense of perspective that brought some good cheer back into a corner of my soul.

As for facing the reality of mortality . . . well, have a happy new year. One day at a time.

Tragedy

Sir,
A tragedy happened in Fulford. In a way it affects us all, but most of us don't realize it. Most don't even know it happened.

What happened? The spawning coho salmon in Fulford Creek were all killed. Only two males made it up to the spawning area.

It was a rough time for salmon this year. The weather was so dry they had to wait long past their usual time to go up the stream and spawn, because the creek was so low. Fishermen, seals and other predators took their toll of the waiting fish. Finally, when the rains came and the fish started up the stream at last, the unbelievable thing happened — they were "poached", taken illegally from the pools in the still shallow stream.

A long time past, when there were uncountable fish and very few people, catching them in the stream when they returned to spawn was a normal thing to do. Now, there are uncountable people and very few fish. That is why they are protected by law, a law which protects them and us, too, if we think about it.

When I was a child I could go out in the rowboat with a hand line and get a bunch of grise for supper. They were young coho spawned in the numerous small creeks of the islands, as well as the bigger streams of Vancouver Island and the mainland. This source of food and recreation has since virtually disappeared for a number of reasons — development, destruction of streams, overfishing, and the ravaging of spawning runs.

In recent years, a group called Salmon Stream and Enhancement has been trying to reverse this trend and bring back the fish. They have cleaned up the streams, removed obstructions, rescued baby salmon trapped by hot dry weather and transported them to bigger pools so they'll survive. They've put incubation boxes in the three elementary schools on the island to teach the children about salmon. They've built and maintained a hatchery, going out every day to feed and care for the little fish, and so much more it takes too long to tell.

They were doing such a great job it was recognized and rewarded by the federal fisheries minister, Tom Siddon, who gave them extra money to expand their work on the island — and now this has happened. How could it happen? We need to start thinking of salmon as we would think of sheep. If someone began killing sheep as they went to lamb, there would be immediate action to stop them. Not just the law, but anyone who knew about it would try to stop it. It has to be that way with salmon, too. It's too late for anything else.

NANCY WIGEN,
Fulford Harbour.

Changes

Sir,
This is an open letter to the people of Salt Spring Island.

As time moves on and changes are being constantly made, so I am making a change. At the close of this year, and after eight wonderful years of practice on this island, I will be closing my massage therapy office on Salt Spring Island.

Dear people of this island, I wish to thank you for having given me the opportunity to know you, and for the great show of faith you had in myself and my work. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you and to try to help you.

You accepted me those many

letters

years ago when I was a novice in massage therapy and have taken me to this point where I can perhaps be classified as an "old hand" (pardon the pun, but I shouldn't and couldn't resist it). The experiences I have received while living and working on this rock are invaluable. Thank you for your trust.

As of January 1, 1988, I will be working full time in my clinic in Sidney, B.C. — not so terribly far away. I can still be reached at my Salt Spring number or in Sidney at 655-3355.

BARBARA L. FALLOT,
Sidney.

Reasons

Sir,
Is there any valid reason why B.C. Ferries has the *Queen of Tsawwassen* on the Vancouver to Long Harbour route at this time of year? Last week we rode the *Queen of Burnaby* with an elevator and lots of car deck space plus somewhere to sit down in the cafeteria. We can't even get a hamburger on the *Tsawwassen*. Small licence was the only explanation I could get from the cashier!

While waiting at Tsawwassen terminal, the big *Queen of Nanaimo* sits abandoned. The terminal people say it is in reserve — reserve for what? Why can't this bigger ship be on Gulf Islands service? The heck with customer service on the route between Long Harbour and Gulf Islands.

While on board the *Tsawwassen* the grade of service is definitely not first class from the management point of view to provide a 1960 ferry with no elevator. Truck and car people should insist on a larger ferry for space on the cardeck. Why not do away with Long Harbour now if they can't provide a bigger ferry with elevator and more space on the cardeck and lounges plus a menu with some hot items.

JOHN TURNER,
Vancouver.

First rate

Sir,
Here we are aboard the *Queen of Sidney*. We on the Comox-Powell River run certainly do rate to have a brand swanking new elevator, bright new signs and BC Ferries catering.

One year on this run and we get an elevator. How long was this type of ship on the Gulf Islands with no elevator? Last year was the "Year of the Disabled," Rick Hansen is fighting to make travel and life easier for the handicapped, and has won on this ferry route.

Gulf Island people should know how much we appreciate BC Ferries putting the elevator on this ferry. As a travelling salesperson, handicapped with wheelchair, I can now go on my own without staff help.

Thank you, BC Ferries, for fast action — all your ferries should provide this service. I am a former

(Mayne Island) resident and I feel everybody should know about handicapped travel — first rate now on BC Ferries up north.

ARTHUR SPEERS,
Comox.

Support

Sir,
On behalf of the Grad Class of 1988 I would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to our Christmas raffle:

Mouat's, Sears, Mark's Linens, The General Store, McColl's Shell, Ganges Village Market, The Mobile Market, The Meat Department of Red and White, Embe Bakery, Pharmasave, The Video Ranch, Glads, Gulf Island Video, the Salty Shop, Heritage Boutique and Harlan's Chocolates, et cetera book & stationery, Rainbow's End, the Kanaka Place and Gil Mouat.

We would also like to congratulate the winners of the raffle: Vicki Byron won the first prize, the Christmas hamper; Don Fee won second prize, the Shell Cooler, and the Fish Plant won a Gift Certificate from Kanaka Place, and a box of chocolates.

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported our raffle to make it a success.

PAT MELANCON AND THE GRAD COUNCIL,
Ganges.

Miss him

Sir,
I understand that your reporter, Mike Turkki, is on an unavoidable extended leave of absence. I would like to say that he is a particularly fine young man, an interested, keen and perceptive reporter, and I will miss him very much, as I know you will do. Everyone who has dealt with him will wish him a speedy recovery.

On a similar note, could I express my sincere appreciation to *Driftwood* for publishing my director's reports? It has been an invaluable means of enabling the people of Salt Spring to remain informed at all times concerning the workings of our local government. Again, I thank you.

HUGH BORSMAN,
Regional Director,
Salt Spring Island.

Spirit

Sir,
I am sitting in the basement of the United Church. The Christmas hampers have been put together, and I am waiting to hear that they have all been safely delivered. This is a good opportunity to say thank you to all the people who have made this effort possible.

I particularly want to mention Mary Fraser and Vicki Miller, who did all the shopping for the hampers; to Bob Appleton, Santa's chief helper with the toys; and to Rose Donnelly and Ellen Mellstrom, who wrapped the

hampers and made them look so nice.

I would like to mention everybody else by name, but the list is too long: the people who packed the hampers and those who delivered them, those who bagged the vegetables and fruit, those who donated all sorts of goodies, the stores that offered such great co-operation, the United Church that gave us space, and the multitude of individuals and organizations that gave us the money to pay the bill.

On behalf of the Community Society and of all those who have had the joy of experiencing first hand this spirit of Christmas, I want to thank all of you good and generous people of Salt Spring Island.

MARY TOYNBEE,
SSI Community Society,
Ganges.

Helpful

Sir,
Since attending the public meeting to discuss ferry service that was held in Ganges on Monday, November 16, 1987, I have been in contact with the minister responsible for the B.C. Ferry Corporation and have some information to report.

The B.C. Ferry Corporation has now changed the status of the Isabella Point terminal; it is still only an idea. At this time there are

no concrete plans as far as Isabella Point is concerned.

The minister also informs me that if and when corporation officials decide to pursue the matter, then the people of Salt Spring Island will be informed and consulted.

I hope this information is helpful to your readers, and appreciate your allowing me space to share this information with them.

DALE LOVICK, MLA,
Nanaimo.

Savage

Sir,
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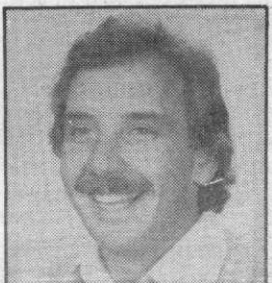


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Bard seeks — and finds — material for new works

By ANDREW GIBSON

NOTE: William Shakespeare, whose physical death was in 1616, is known to return to earth from time to time, always in dramatic situations. He appeared in downtown Ganges recently and, although dressed in doublet and hose, attracted no particular notice, since Islanders are accustomed to see people who are ... er ... different. However, one person did recognize him, and the following conversation took place:

ISL: Bill Shakespeare — old buddy! Welcome to Salt Spring, eh!

SHA (aside): A quaint vernacular, and how corrupted since my day. But no matter, the message of a crow is clear as that of nightingale. I thank thee for the welcome, however graceless.

ISL: Clue me in, Bill — what brings you here?

SHA: My scribblings are as much esteemed where I have gone as when I was enmeshed in mortal coil, and so I am dispatched to earth betimes, to seek out yet more tales.

ISL: I got it. But why here? These islands aren't exactly Big Apples.

SHA: (shaking his head): What wondrous alchemy of speech — islands into apples — but I take your meaning. Salt Spring is not Siena, nor Pender Padua. Yet I have heard there is high drama and low spirits here. What's amiss?

ISL: The background is, for a year now, B. C. has been a political earthquake zone. One jolt after another, all eights on the Richter.

SHA: Of earthquakes I have heard, but eights on the Richter?

ISL: It means heavy shocks — roads, ferries, schools, unions, public service, health. The islands are vulnerable because we are small and ...

SHA: To help thy hesitant words, because, though parts of a provincial whole, small islands are by nature's fiat fragile — a tremor in the main could be to them a fatal shock to road and ferry lifelines.

ISL: Bill, you took the words out of my mouth.

SHA: Tell me how this has come about.

ISL: The government is one year old. We expected some change, but not shockville. This guy ...

SHA: Guy? Is he kin to one Fawkes?

ISL: No — his schemes may well be lawful, though explosive.

SHA: Before he was elected, was promise made of such upsets?

ISL: He did nod and smile and look us in the eye and promise peace, business-labour amity, an end to confrontation. To my eye, legitimacy is thereby lost.

SHA: I now detect thy phrases have a certain rhythm — can it be my plays and sonnets have affected thee?

ISL: It may be, but only when I talk to thee. Did I so converse elsewhere, the men in white coats would be quickly summoned. But to the point — on this island are docks for ferries, two to our great island neighbour, and one to lesser islands, then the main. So it has been for many years, and population and prosperity has come thereby. But now there is a shadowy scheme to add a windswept ferry port, and subtract two which now exist, and thus to sever speedy passage to the main. A backward giant step, at vast expense, and lesser islands are in worse case yet. At risk are our economies.

SHA: But surely, ferries are the arteries of islands. Isn't it possible thus to sever them without consent?

ISL: We are treated as growers do their mushrooms. They keep us in the dark and throw us ordure. Nor is this all — to serve this topsyturvy terminal a new disruption road is planned. And, to speak of

roads, our island networks are in jeopardy.

SHA: How so?

ISL: Privatization — a zealot's dream, to be for all our B.C. ills a panacea. And where there is no ill, it still will be imposed, to throttle present merit. Our roads — well-built, well-maintained and guarded well against the weather by local public-service men — will go to contract, to take their chances with the lowest bid.

SHA: Passing strange is this. Queen Bess, although an autocrat, yet knew that private greed and public need are bad bed-fellows. And that was four centuries ago.

ISL: And this is but a start. All

'Salt Spring is not Siena, nor Pender Padua.'

endeavours that the public owns are on the block, for short-term gain and long-term pain. Even hospitals, it is said, will be in the tender care of Mammon. Further, our very parliament will be made a cipher — we are to be eight states, from which the lines of governance

will lead to one all-powerful office, at vast expense and risk of patronage.

SHA: I'll start a saying for thee — "Upon what meat does this our Caesar feed ..."

ISL: "That he is grown so great?"

SHA: Well done — and mark another line — "Men at some time are masters of their fates." Is it not possible that the spirit of the people has gone partly to the sheep, and of the sheep to the people, that you endure such buffeting without complaint?

ISL: Not so — not only these islands but the province is bewildered. We do not envy our cousins in America except for one

thing. There, did such a Caesar come to power and sow confusion, recall by public ballot is the cure. Would it were so here.

SHA: Yet is it not possible to make such a din, that sycophants take alarm, and unsupported he will fall? A million signatures — that would serve.

ISL: Would it were so — more years, and this must lead to Magna Carta at new Runnymede.

SHA: Ah — I hear what thou canst not, the piercing spirit voice of my sweet wife Ann, who calls me back. But I'll return to see how goes the battle here. (disappears).

ISL: Farewell, bard of Avon, an eloquent fella

We may yet make an end to Point Isabella.

Then howl down 8-States and privatization

Lest we get laughed at by the whole nation.

more letters

Power

Sir,

"What can I do?" So many people ask themselves that question as they read the headlines or watch the evening news on TV. Of all the real or threatening catastrophes, the overkill quantity of nuclear weapons is the worst. In answer, there is a book (now available in the local library) by medical librarian Elizabeth Woodworth of Victoria.

Her message is a strong one: people — you and me and so many others — are the ultimate source of political power. Why else would the superpowers have agreed to reduce some of the horrendous stockpile of these lethal devices if not because they are responding to concerned citizens?

Woodworth's book is full of useful strategies for average people who are either already involved in the peace movement or who feel they want to respond to the question, *What can I do?* — which is, of course, the title of her book.

VIRGINIA NEWMAN,
Ganges.

Generously

Sir,

Once again our community has responded generously to support the Mothers for Peace Maternal Health project. This year's kit will provide supplies to help about 250 to 300 Nicaraguan mothers and babies. Thank you all for making it possible.

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*.

Our Christmas party last Sunday at Beaver Point Hall was a success, the kids had a great time and \$325 was raised — just enough to complete the kit.

So many people gave of their time and talents and I would like to thank them all through your paper.

Thanks to: Noni Fogarty, Lisa Erck, Sandy and Dave McKerrel, Jake, Megan and Katie Watt, Mike (A.K.A. Santa Claus), Heather Blagdon, Mark Suess (A.K.A. Dancing Bear), Barb Slater, Leslie Morris, June the piano whiz, Judy Carne, Dianne Forbes, Pattersons Store, Sue and Jonathan Yardley, Elizabeth Haevens, Jules Atkins, Jane Becklake, Rod McGuckin, Lynne Quinn, Les Ramsey, Carole Heydemann, Jackie Walker, Gerry Munneke, Mobile Market, Donna Sneade, Elodie Stauffer, Annie Goodall, Lori Larsen, Elaine Golde, Francoise and many more.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and hoping for Peace on Earth in our time.

MAGGIE RAMSEY,
for Mothers for Peace,
Ganges.

Delightful

Sir,

To the delightful carollers who came round Brinkworthy Place on December 22 in the rain and cold and gave us some traditional music, thank you. You made my Christmas.

E. FENNER,
Brinkworthy Place.

Questions

Sir,

'Tis the time of year to be joyous, but also to contemplate the new year as to how improvements could occur. They just don't happen. Effort is involved.

My concern is Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital. I arrived on Salt Spring Island just short of 19 years ago to semi-retire from an active surgical practice in Vancouver.

I was delighted to find that although it was not in printed form, the same credo that was there at St. Vincents Hospital existed here — *The patient always comes first*, and here it also included a lot of T.L.C.

At that time, including bassinets, we had 29 acute care beds with a front office staff of three persons. And in the pneumonia season, the halls were filled with beds also.

Gradually, "the old order changeth, yielding place to the new" — but is it necessarily improvement?

Now we have double the population and only 19 acute care beds — some of them plugged with persons not yet catalogued as to their disposal.

Now I will ask questions.

Why do we have a medical chief of staff appointed by the hospital board without consultation with the medical staff as to their views on the subject. He may or may not have the confidence of the practicing physicians and he also may or may not carry to the board the wishes of the staff.

Why do we have a top-notch operating room facility virtually lying idle, except for what I would call minor procedures, when we have an excellent surgeon, capable anaesthetists and a skilled nursing staff? Sure, they get all sorts of paper training in case of disaster — it only makes the hospital look great for accreditation — but if a razor is not honed through every day use, it soon becomes dull and useless, as do those that handle it.

Why do the residents of the islands, if they become seriously ill, have to face being shipped off-island, even though we always have had capable G.P.s and specialists who can readily cope with most such cases? So please, hospital hierarchy, let these capable doctors with their patients make some decisions and not be governed by a dictatorial code that could be changed at a whim from case to case.

It would seem to me that now the patient is a front office statistic necessary for the hierarchy existence and the attending doctors are a barely tolerated necessity.

Thus it is my opinion, after quite a few years of close observing, that Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital has deteriorated to the point that it is not much more than an administrative first aid post with good nursing attendants.

Could it be possible that the old ways could be wedded with advances in technology and we could once again have a proud organization serving fully the needs of the ill in the community?

R. P. McCAFFERY, M.D.,
Ganges.

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SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SOCIETY NEWS

★ THANK YOU, DRIFTWOOD for letting us use this box to spread our news to the people of Salt Spring. And thank you especially for all your helpful publicity about the Christmas Hampers.

If anyone who should have had a hamper didn't receive one, through not knowing or not asking, we at the Centre are extremely sorry and can only hope that neighbour, friend or family came forward with help where help was needed.

And now, a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our friends and neighbours!

New Trust format recipe for disaster

By HUGH BORSMAN

The recommendations of the report released by the parliamentary committee studying the Islands Trust, will if adopted, be a complete, absolute disaster for Salt Spring Island.

Before explaining why this is the case, I would like to make clear that in concert with the majority of Salt Spring Island residents who made a presentation to the parliamentary panel when it visited Salt Spring Island, almost all of us advocated retaining the Trust, strengthening the Trust, paying the trustees more adequately, providing them with more staff, increasing their authority in certain areas, and giving them more time to spend on "preserve and protect" concepts rather than spending almost all their time on such things as planning and zoning. That is what we, as well as many others who spoke elsewhere, asked for.

These suggestions could have been met almost overnight if the government wished to implement them. Instead, we were presented with a poorly conceived, impractical and seriously flawed scheme that just might suit some island or islands, but certainly not Salt Spring Island.

I will offer some salient background information regarding the report and then discuss some special services which will be greatly affected by the Report's recommendations. My

'We were presented with a poorly conceived, impractical and seriously flawed scheme.'

main thesis is, of course, that tremendous disadvantages and disservice would be rendered to Salt Spring Island should we be required to leave the Capital Regional District (CRD).

BACKGROUND

It is proposed that the 13 islands elect two Island Trustees each, and each of the total 26 trustees would have one vote. For example, Gambier Island with 37 persons (1981 census) would have two votes and Salt Spring Island with 6,142 (1986 census) would have two votes. Thetis, Lasquiti and Saturna islands, all with under 300 persons each, would have two votes each. How could this be acceptable?

In terms of a tax base, Salt Spring would carry about one-third of any costs attributable to the region. If the Outer Gulf Islands (part of the CRD) were added, Salt Spring Island and the Outer Gulf Islands combined would represent over 50 per cent of the total tax base.

The report suggests that general services, presumably paid by all,

director's report

by hugh borsman

would come to \$615,500. Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands would pay over half of these costs. For Salt Spring alone the cost for general services (e.g., chiefly administrative costs) would be 0.59/1000 and Salt Spring would get very little, if anything, for this amount.

The entire report mentions special services more or less in passing. In any municipality or electoral area outside the Trust, planning and zoning might occupy 15 to 20 per cent of administrative attention and perhaps something less than 15 to 20 per cent in terms of dollars. The rest of administrative time and money is devoted to special services.

You would never guess that fact reading the report. The report focuses on the 26 trustees, known as the Trust Council, and suggests the Council would become "the Board" (i.e., the new Regional Board) for the purposes of exercising "service powers." Interestingly, every island would have almost completely different service requirements and no island representative would wish to finance services his or her island didn't enjoy. There would be an absolute denial of what is usually referred to as 'regional thinking.'

In the general euphoria enjoyed at present by the Trust representatives, they have obviously overlooked the importance of special services. Subsequently, no part of the report has given adequate attention to specific special services, certainly in respect to Salt Spring Island. Attention to this matter is absolutely crucial.

SPECIAL SERVICES

For four years your regional director has been solely responsible in the area of special services. It is perhaps easy to take services for granted. However, services are not supplied by the regional director, although depending on his or her interest and diligence, he or she may be able to play a major part in policy decisions and then be responsible for keeping things operating smoothly.

Services are supplied by the staff of the regional district and we are fortunate to be able to call upon an incredibly helpful, efficient and progressive group in the CRD. Salt Spring avails itself of about 16 services provided by the CRD. Some of these services are critical to the community: engineering services; health services; hospital planning services; financial and computer services; and executive

Turn to Page 8

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Islands Trust regional district

Special services question overlooked in review

From Page 7

directors service (expertise including obtained legal opinions).

All these departments are constantly providing counselling services to the regional director and to others who request their assistance, but special services provide much more as well. I will discuss three special services to demonstrate their value.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

There exists a large, competent, helpful staff of engineers who are constantly improving our services. At present, they operate the Ganges sewer and a water district and will be planning for a transfer station, financed by the CRD, to replace the landfill on watershed. The department is also responsible for supervising the local sewer commission and for considering long term requirements. Could a regional district infrastructure financed by 12,480 persons (total population of the 13 islands) begin to provide this specific service?

HEALTH SERVICES

The health department also has a superb, large staff of qualified nurses, health inspectors and other specialists who provide services to the islands. The department is led by Dr. Perry Kendall, who may well be one of the more innovative and progressive people in his field in Canada.

The CRD is, at present, compiling a computer base which will identify types of illness in respect to location within our region as well as other epidemiological factors. Greater Victoria, including Salt Spring, joined a group of Canadian cities who have adopted a healthy cities concept endorsed by the federal health ministry. These cities devote their efforts to encouraging a healthy lifestyle for their citizens.

What proportion of health services and support can be provided by a new regional district supported by 12,480? Perhaps one public health officer might be appointed for the total 13 islands, with little provision for progressive and innovative initiatives which the CRD envisages for the region and which the people on Salt Spring are entitled to expect.

HOSPITAL PLANNING SERVICES

A particular example with universal appeal concerns our hospital. The Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital is one of four operated by the CRD, or more particularly, by the Capital Regional hospital district and its hospital and health planning commission.

The chairmen of Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital, along

with myself as chairman of the regional district health committee, the staff of the hospital planning committee, and many knowledgeable local people have just completed a long-term study for the future health needs of Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands. This study includes such concerns as acute, intermediate and extended care bed requirements for the future. The study envisages more housing for the elderly, as indeed it should. In the next 10 years we expect there to be another 200 persons, over 75 years of age, living alone, with incomes under

'If other islands think there is some advantage for forming a new regional district, good luck to them. I suspect at least the Outer Islands and almost certainly Bowen Island will want no part of it.'

\$10,000 per year. These are just some of the problems we face — there are many more dealt with in the study.

Salt Spring residents' input into these sorts of projects is channelled only through the Salt Spring regional director. At the moment, I, as regional director, am also chairman of the regional health committee and am on the executive, as well as holding the position of acting chairman of the Capital Regional hospital board, and also represent the regional board on the hospital and health planning commission.

How better could we make our own decisions that affect us? What input is left if we on Salt Spring leave the CRD? If Salt Spring breaks away from the CRD, our island becomes the offspring of a small, fledgling Islands Trust Regional District.

I have tried, by using just three examples of special services to show you how much we gain by remaining with the CRD, and more particularly, what we have to lose by separating. We share the cost of these superior services with 250,000 people within the CRD, yet retain our autonomy. I repeat, what could we expect in services from a regional district financed by 12,480 people?

Now you will hear suggestions that we should contract out services — five, about which there would be no doubt, have been listed above. Naturally enough, those are the expensive services; you get what you pay for. How much they would cost under contract (probably more than now) we will soon discover.

We have our own building inspection department: there is no need to arrive at some complicated formula for sharing that service with a new regional district. We have a capable animal control officer in the person of Howard Byron, who also supplies an animal pound: there is no need to get that service tangled up with some tax sharing formula. The work of the parks and recreation commission is paid for directly by Salt Spring taxpayers, so there is no reason to change that arrangement.

However, when we come to some of the lesser services, why should we have them placed under a new regional district and find ourselves sharing administrative costs with a number of other islands when, for what are trivial costs, we can continue to be part of the CRD?

If other islands think there is some advantage to forming a new regional district, good luck to them. I suspect at least the Outer Gulf Islands and almost certainly Bowen Island will want no part of it. The Trust, with the good graces of the ministry of municipal affairs, can still gain everything they have asked for without asking Salt Spring to sacrifice what it has, and should continue to expect.

Despite what I hope has been a convincing case, I don't ask you to make any final decisions. The CRD has asked the regional director for the Outer Gulf Islands, Vern Roddick, myself, and the heads of major departments to study the report in detail. We will assess what we (Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands) will lose in convenience and efficiency. We will also produce some reliable financial figures. This analysis should be completed by mid-January and at that time an information meeting will be arranged for the residents. I would further hope that no decision will be thrust upon us. We must insist, if there is a major change, that we have a chance to vote.

Dr. Charles Alsberg, N.D.
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN

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Year opened with study of pool facility for Salt Spring

From Page 1

Frazer was being awarded the medal for the part he played in creating the successful evacuation plan that enabled many western diplomats and officials to escape from Uganda during a July, 1986, coup there.

Members of the Salt Spring Swimming Pool Society announced they would unveil their proposal for an indoor swimming pool at a meeting to be held on the island in February.

"At the public meeting, the swimming pool society will bring forward for its members and the public a rough draft of the proposal it will take to the parks and recreation commission," said Wayne Taylor, vice-president of the society.

FEBRUARY

It was announced that Vancouver Island's loss could turn out to be Galiano's gain.

The ministry of environment and parks said that in exchange for the deletion of some lands from Strathcona Provincial Park, negotiations had started with a private company to establish "new park opportunities" on Galiano Island.

It was learned that the Islands Trust area would be exempt from an April 30 deadline the provincial government set for the easing of a full coastal region moratorium on new fish farm leases and licences.

The province said that it would remove the current freeze from all B.C. waters by April 30 — except for the Islands Trust area, where the moratorium would remain in effect until sometime in June.

The Island Futures Economic Development Society said it has come up with a plan that could allow Salt Spring residents to purchase and manage MacMillan Bloedel's property holdings here.

Ken Renaud, chairman of the Island Futures committee investigating a possible purchase, told a meeting of the Salt Spring Island Planning Association that it might be possible to purchase the MB's 4,800 acres of island property if a private corporation was formed by local residents.

It was learned that West Coast lighthouse keepers afraid of losing their jobs might get the public forum they'd demanded.

The federal transport ministry's move to cut costs by turning manned lighthouses into automated ones caused Pacific lighthouse keepers to press for an independent review of the subject.



Fred and Iola Brookbanks were named joint winners of Chamber of Commerce award for citizen of the year. Couple later moved to Sidney area.



Jennifer Moore marked Canada Day at North Galiano celebration.

MARCH

A potential gap in local medical services was closed with provision of two twin-engined helicopters for emergency night flights.

Two companies — Air-Lift Services and Okanagan Helicopters — placed machines on standby to fly Gulf Islands residents to hospitals in Ganges, Victoria or Vancouver. The arrangement solved a problem that arose when the federal government began stringently enforcing a rule prohibiting single-engined helicopters from flying after dark.

Dennis Beech had a problem. Beech, owner of the Salt Spring Esso service station, learned he would have to move its business from its current location along Fulford-Ganges Road so the Grace Point development project could proceed. When he looked for a new location, however, he found that there wasn't any suitably-zoned property available in the area.

Turn to Page 10

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Trust welcomed right to accept land donations

From Page 9

• Members of the community fired on a proposed Islands Trust bylaw designed to amend the Official Community Plan and allow some light industry on property at the corner of Rainbow Road and Jackson Avenue.

Bylaw 179, slated for public hearing on March 20, reclassified Block 5 of the Official Community Plan to permit automobile service and repair as secondary uses. Block 5 encompassed several lots at the corner of Rainbow Road and Jackson Avenue, two of which the Trust was being asked to rezone to Commercial 3 to allow the Salt Spring Esso service station to relocate there.

• The Islands Trust had waited more than 10 years for the right to accept donations of land and money. According to Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston, it would have to wait a bit longer — but would soon have that power.

Speaking at a quarterly Trust Council meeting held on Bowen Island, Johnston said provisions would soon be in place giving the Trust permission to hold donations of land and money.

• The skies above the Gulf Islands, it was learned, might get even noisier if Canada's largest helicopter company became the second to provide a commuter service between Vancouver and Victoria.

Victoria city council's committee of the whole approved in principle an application from Okanagan Helicopters to start a helicopter taxi service between downtown Victoria and Vancouver International Airport.

APRIL

• The Islands Trust Industrial Task Force was nearing the end of its deliberations on Salt Spring Island zoning and land-use issues.

Task force chairman Pat James announced that the task force — appointed by the Islands Trust to consider a variety of land-use issues — would hold its final meeting and then present suggestions to the public at a meeting tentatively set for the end of the month.

• A Simon Fraser University professor said he hoped to organize an archaeological exploration of Indian middens on Salt Spring Island during the summer.

Dr. Roy Carlson applied to the provincial government's heritage conservation branch for a permit to conduct excavations on three adjoining properties on the island. The location of the site was not disclosed at the time, to guard against anyone disturbing the middens before the archaeological team arrived to set up camp.

• It was learned that B.C. teachers, including those in School District 64, could take job action during the month to protest the provincial government's proposed Teaching Profession Act.

Gulf Islands Teachers' Association president Barb Aust said Monday that although job action by teachers wouldn't be popular, she felt it was necessary. "While we do not expect our actions to be popular, our future as professionals and the delivery of service we can offer to the children will be forever altered if Bills 19 and 20 are passed," she said.

• The Salt Spring Island Employment Action Society opened its office in Upper Ganges Centre.

The centre, designed to help alleviate unemployment on Salt Spring, began operations with a volunteer staff. It offered a variety



Volunteer firemen called out to summer blaze at landfill



Deborah Hodson and 'Pender' the otter were part of park branch's program of public talks at Beaver Point Park.



Cheryl and Sylvia Murray were among hundreds of islanders who attended Salt Spring's fall fair.

ty of job-search services to individuals actively seeking employment on the island.

MAY

• A sudden change in the way the provincial government funded

school districts resulted in a larger-than-expected tax increase in the Gulf Islands.

School District 64 officials learned that the provincial government had implemented a program designed to make the province's wealthier school districts pay a larger portion of their annual education budgets. As a result, the total 1987 residential tax levy for School District 64 — which is considered a 'rich' district — jumped to \$2.6 million from a predicted \$1.81 million.

• Close to \$6,000 was raised for Rick Hansen's *Man in Motion* campaign at two events held in Ganges.

Pledges totalling \$2,636 were made to entrants in a fun run sponsored by Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital, and at least another \$2,800 was pledged to teams taking part in a wheelchair relay race. Another \$297 was collected from a bake sale serving both events.

• School District 64's board of trustees expressed its opposition to the instruction-only campaign initiated by Gulf Islands teachers.

In a motion passed unanimously at its May 7 meeting, the board stated that it did "not support the continued instruction-only campaign of its teachers." Board chairman David Eyles added that trustees were not pleased by the situation in district schools.

• A one-day walkout by Gulf Islands' teachers saved School District 64 approximately \$15,000.

The ministry of education indicated the district could keep the savings. Education Minister Tony Brummet said in a letter to the board that any money saved as a result of the walkout should be placed in the district's *Fund for Excellence in Education* account.

• A cheque for \$10,000 was presented to Rick Hansen on behalf of Salt Spring and Saturna Island residents. The money, handed over at a Coquitlam ceremony by islanders Sharon Rowe and Clifford Crooks, represents pledges and donations made toward Hansen's *Man in Motion* fund for spinal cord research.

JUNE

• Activity throughout the Gulf Islands ground to a halt as hundreds of unionized workers walked off their jobs to protest

B.C.'s Industrial Relations and Teaching Profession Acts.

B.C. Ferry Corporation vessels serving the islands were idle, teachers stayed away from classrooms, and members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, hospital workers and others walked the picket line in protest of the controversial legislations.

• Forty-three members of Gulf Islands Secondary School Class of 1987 bid farewell to tests and textbooks at the traditional *School Leaving Ceremony* held here.

JULY

• A Friday night fire that threatened the Maxwell Lake watershed on Salt Spring Island pointed out that access to the property should be limited, according to an adjacent landowner.


The fire, which authorities believe was caused by a cigarette, was discovered by Scott Stepaniuk, who smelled smoke as he walked by the property. Tom Gossett, who lives nearby, said the fire would have "turned the lake into a mudhole" if it had burned a significant portion of the Maxwell watershed.

• The ministry of health warned B.C. residents that some well water pumps in use throughout the province could be contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The discovery that some well water pumps in use could contain the toxic chemical was made following the release of a technical report on the subject by Ontario's ministry of environment. B.C. residents were urged to check the make, year and

Turn to Page 11

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Loss of Crofton dock cast cloud over summer

From Page 10

model of their submersible pumps to ensure they were not contaminated.

• Deer are dying in the Gulf Islands each year as a result of disease and starvation, and several local officials were convinced it was directly attributable to herd over-population.

Reports of deer found sick or extremely weak convinced experts that the deaths of the deer is directly related to increasing deer populations on the islands. Dr. Helen Schwantje, a respected wildlife veterinarian, told Pender residents that over-population is one of the primary causes of deer die-off.

• An estimated 450 people turned up at the Farmers' Institute grounds in Ganges to meet New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent.

The event, sponsored by the Gulf Islands NDP Club, was an informal gathering that included a barbecue, musical entertainment and games for children. Joining Broadbent on the grounds were Cowichan-Malahat-the-Islands MP Jim Manly, former B.C. premier Dave Barrett and several other MPs and MLAs.

• A Victoria-based consultant was hired to complete the Ganges incorporation study launched in the fall of 1986 by the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce.

Pat James, chairman of the incorporation committee, announced at a July 13 meeting of the Ganges advisory group that Tom Moore of Tom Moore and Associates had been retained to complete the report.

• An early morning fire caused extensive damage to the Crofton dock on July 24 and forced the B.C. Ferry Corporation to suspend regular ferry service between Vesuvius Bay and Vancouver Island for an indefinite period.

The fire, which investigators determined was a case of arson, started sometime around 2 am. A storage shed on the deck was destroyed, and the most easterly portion of the dock — as well as the loading ramp — sustained considerable damage.

AUGUST

• August 2 was a day for reminiscences and renewals of old friendships as more than 1,000 of Salt Spring's early residents gathered on the Farmers' Institute grounds for the long-awaited Old-timers Reunion.

Men and women who lived on the island prior to December 31, 1949 came from throughout B.C. and other parts of the globe to attend the get-together. There was plenty of hugging, kissing and hand-shaking as long-lost friends were reunited — often for the first time in years.

• A Nanaimo developer failed in his bid to purchase MacMillan-Bloedel's Salt Spring holdings.

Gary Kadatz, MB's lands manager, said that Nanaimo developer John Upward failed to satisfy one of the conditions in an agreement with the company.



Jake Javorski joined other local veterans in observing Remembrance Day.



Sand-building contest held in conjunction with Sea Capers produced beach-full of entries.

"That can only mean the deal has collapsed," said Kadatz.

• There was no mistaking the word Salt Spring residents delivered to members of a provincial government committee reviewing the Islands Trust.

"The overwhelming message is rah-rah Trust," observed MLA Dale Lovick (NDP - Nanaimo) in the midst of a day-long parade of islanders to Central Hall, where the all-party review committee heard submissions from 11 am to 9 pm.

• The provincial government accepted a Salt Spring Island application for \$409,000 in Job-Trac funds.

While acceptance of the application was no guarantee the island will receive project funding, Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce representatives were "cautiously optimistic" that their request would be approved.

SEPTEMBER

• The summer's sunny skies were good for tourism in the Gulf Islands, but more than a few local residents were starting to wish for rain — buckets of it, in fact.

The number of Gulf Islanders whose wells had gone dry was growing with the passing of each rainless day. On Salt Spring, a number of homeowners were without water, and fire hazard ratings were extreme.

• Although public student enrolment in the majority of British Columbia's school districts was declining, School District 64 officials announced that the number of pupils in the Gulf Islands continued to grow.

"We're far and away the fastest growing of the smaller (under 2,000) school districts in B.C.," Superintendent Mike Marshall said. "School District 64 has accounted for 73.4 per cent of the growth in all small school districts in B.C."

• The amount raised in the 1987 Terry Fox Run on Salt Spring was about \$5,500, according to *Driftwood*, which sponsored the fundraiser.

Immediately after the last of the event's 123 participants crossed the finish line at Salt Spring Elementary School, a tabulation showed they had amassed pledges totaling \$5,444.

• The extension of Jackson Avenue in Ganges provoked concern from wildlife officials when the ministry of highways filled a section of Ganges Creek with dirt, thus damaging its watercourse.

Fish and wildlife officers accused the ministry of highways of proceeding without approval from

the ministry of environment. Damage to the creek would mean a re-evaluation of thousands of hours of studying and planning by local members of the Creek Task Force.

feasibility of bringing a swimming pool to Salt Spring continued deliberating possible building sites.

Two locations under scrutiny were Mouat's Park and Brinkworthy Place. The latter, offered

OCTOBER

• A joint committee studying the

Turn to Page 12

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Ferry service concerns highlighted year-end

From Page 11

as a donation by Brinkworthy Estates, was eventually chosen, as Pool committee members bowed to opposition against use of the park.

The swimming pool controversy simmered through the weeks of October, finally erupting in November.

- In a seemingly never-ending saga, Islanders called for improved ferry service between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay.

Over 100 people gathered at a public meeting to voice their frustrations over the current service. While the meeting was attended by Saanich-and-the-Islands MLA Terry Hurberts, the ferry corporation neglected to send any of its top executives. While re-establishing the link between Vesuvius and Crofton headed the list of concerns, islanders also called for a larger, faster and more reliable vessel for the Fulford-Swartz Bay route.

- The ferry corporation hit the headlines once again with its proposal to construct a new terminal at Isabella Point. The letters to the editor which followed expressed concern over displaced employment and the impact on island economy.

- While local children prepared ghost and goblin costumes in the last week of October, Salt Spring's highways ministry employees learned their part in Premier Vander Zalm's privatization program.

The local crew was given 200 days notice and told its duties would be turned over to the private sector. The announcement prompted concern from roads foreman John Stepaniuk, who wondered how the island's economy and level of road maintenance would be affected.

NOVEMBER

- To have a pool or to not? The question dominated *Driftwood* headlines and letters to the editor as the community geared up for a November referendum.

Those in favour of a pool pointed to health, exercise and recreational benefits. Others, concerned over increased tax burdens, warned islanders not to get "soaked by the pool."

In the final analysis, islanders voted to stay dry. Over 70 per cent of eligible voters turned out to cast their ballots, with a total 1,621 residents voting against the proposal. Those voting in favour of the pool numbered 1,113.

- Salt Spring motorists were reminded by concerned bus drivers to heed the flashing red lights of school buses.

Several close calls, where drivers watched motorists ignore the signals and narrowly miss hitting children crossing the street, prompted the reminder.

- A large crowd turned out to remember those who died fighting for this country, in Remembrance Day ceremonies held November 11.



Wayne Simons pedalled Western Cycological entry to first place in early-year relay race held in Ganges to raise funds in aid of Rick Hansen's campaign for spinal cord research.

The Royal Canadian Poppy Campaign was also remembered, raising some \$3,500 for projects benefitting veterans and other members of the community. This figure exceeded the 1986 total by approximately \$500.

DECEMBER

- A noisy new pest in the form of

commercial clam diggers had invade Booth Bay, threatening the privacy of homeowners and possibly the clam population itself.

Booth Bay residents who approached federal fisheries officials were told current regulations offer little protection for shellfish populations. Nor do criminal and civil laws seem to convince au-

thorities that such digging should be disallowed near residential areas.

Local residents took the only apparent course available to them by planning to form a Booth Bay resident's association and lobby different authorities.

- After more than four months without a ferry link between Vesuvius and Vancouver Island, the *Salt Spring Queen* finally resumed service December 11.

The shutdown occurred July 24

after fire ravaged the Crofton ferry dock. It took three months for Pacific Piledriving to repair the damage.

- Ministry of highways officials were called to work around the clock several days in December, as the full force of winter weather hit the Gulf Islands.

Major rainstorms caused flooding in several areas of Salt Spring. A section of Ganges Creek flooded the Gulf Islands

Turn to Page 13

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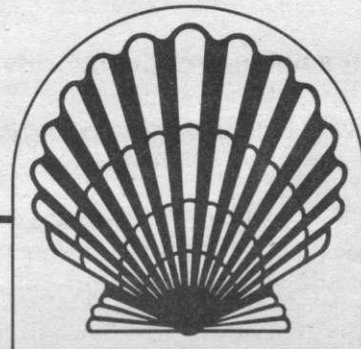
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From Page 12

Secondary School playing field plus several other properties in the village, while leaves, carried by rushing water, plugged numerous culverts.

Local crews were again called to action when the season's first

snowfall covered roads and temperatures fell below freezing.

Bad weather and strong winds also caused ferry stoppages, including one hour of service from

the newly running Crofton link, and brought out B.C. Hydro crews to restore power to islands after trees knocked down lines.

• After a series of public hearings

held last summer, an all-party legislative committee recommended the Islands Trust be restructured as a regional district. The proposal, in which the

Trust would assume authority for a wide-range of services, received mixed reviews from Salt Spring's elected officials. While Trust committee members endorsed the plan, Salt Spring's representative to the Capital Regional District (CRD) called it naive and impractical.

Winter storms end year



Province of British Columbia

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Public Hearings

The Commission, pursuant to the Inquiry Act and Order in Council No. 690 as amended, appointing the Honourable Judge Thomas K. Fisher as Commissioner to enquire into and recommend the appropriate number of electoral districts, each returning one member for the Legislative Assembly and the boundaries for all electoral districts, will hold public hearings commencing in January, 1988.

In making his recommendations in regard to the appropriate number of electoral districts and boundaries for those electoral districts, the Commissioner is required to have regard to the following:

- (a) the principle of the electoral quota, that is to say, the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the Province, as ascertained by the most recent population figures published by Statistics Canada, pursuant to the Statistics Act (Canada), by the total number of electoral districts recommended by the commissioner;
- (b) historical and regional claims for representation;
- (c) special geographic considerations including the sparsity or density of population of various regions, the accessibility to such regions or the size or shape thereof;
- (d) special community interests of the inhabitants of particular regions; and
- (e) the need for a balance of community interests.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the dates and times specified:

CHILLIWACK	January 18, Monday, 11:00 a.m. Conference Room #1, Chilliwack Cottonwood Inn
SURREY	January 20, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Room 109, Newton Inn
BURNABY	January 25, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Burnaby Room, Sheraton Villa Inn
COQUITLAM	January 26, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Boundary Room, Best Western Coquitlam Motor Inn
WEST VANCOUVER	January 28, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. River Room, Park Royal Hotel
CAMPBELL RIVER	February 2, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Anchor Room, Anchor Inn
PORT ALBERNI	February 3, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Timberline Room, Timber Lodge Motor Inn
PARKSVILLE	February 4, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Court Room, Bayside Inn
MERRITT	February 8, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Banquet Room, Valnicola Motor Hotel

SALMON ARM	February 9, Tuesday, 12:00 Noon Board Room, Best Western Villager West Motor Inn
REVELSTOKE	February 10, Wednesday, 12:00 Noon Banquet Room, Best Western Wayside Inn
FORT NELSON	February 15, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Lower Laird Room, Coachhouse Inn
DAWSON CREEK	February 16, Tuesday, 12:00 Noon Room 201, North Country Inn
PRINCE GEORGE	February 18, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Cranbrook South Room, Holiday Inn
PRINCE RUPERT	February 22, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Banquet Room, Crest Motor Hotel
STEWART	February 23, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Prospector Room, King Edward Hotel
TERRACE	February 24, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Banquet Room, Desiderata Inn
SMITHERS	February 26, Friday, 10:00 a.m. Banquet Room, Hudson's Bay Lodge
NELSON	February 29, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Conference Room #1, North Shore Inn
KIMBERLEY	March 2, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Gerry Sorenson Room, Rhinecastle Inn
FERNIE	March 3, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Meeting Room #1, Cedar Lodge
POWELL RIVER	March 7, Monday, 11:00 a.m. Haida Room, Beach Gardens Resort Hotel
VICTORIA	April 12 & 13, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Parrot Room, Chateau Victoria
VANCOUVER	April 14 & 15, Thursday, Friday, 10:00 a.m. York Room, Georgia Hotel

Submissions both oral and written are invited on all aspects of the mandate. In regard to the principle of the electoral quota (see "a" above), it is a suggestion only, that persons making submissions use a population of 38,523 for each electoral district as a guide.

Forward written submissions to the Honourable Judge Thomas K. Fisher, 580-625 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2T6.

Persons wishing to make an oral submission at a hearing or general enquiries are asked to contact Mr. Terry Julian, Chief Administrative Officer, at 580-625 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2T6. Telephone: 660-4169.

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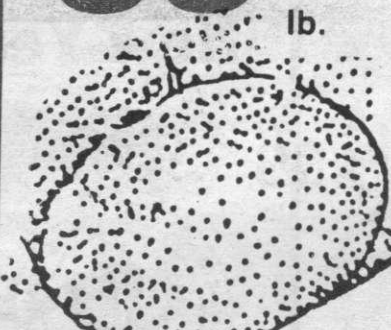
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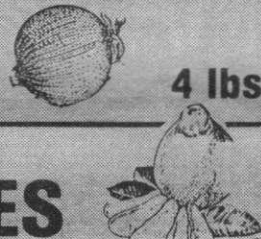
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Save 2.01
LIMIT 2 PER ORDER

KRAFT **Miracle Whip** 2.58
1 litre jar
Save 1.27

SCHNEIDERS **Cheese Slices** 2.74
Lifestyle or Regular 500 gram pkg
While stock lasts
Save on Salt Spring 1.75

CH'S FROZEN 341 ml tin **Grape Juice** 1.28
SAVE 71¢
TVALE FROZEN **Beverages** 98¢
• Raspberry
• Strawberry
• Fruit Berry
280 ml tin
RYLAND FANCY VERI **Green Peas** 58¢
14 oz. tin
SAVE 51¢

LAVITA • Macaroni • Spaghetti **Pasta** 1.28
900 gram bag
SAVE 71¢
DEL MONTE **Tomatoes** 98¢
Whole supreme 28 oz. tin
SAVE 67¢
GOVERNOR'S CHOICE **Tea Bags** 1.18
Poly 100's pkg
SAVE 81¢

CADBURY'S HOT **Chocolate** 2.78
500 gram tin
SAVE 77¢
BERRYLAND 14 oz. tin **Apple Sauce** 78¢
SAVE 21¢
LAWRY'S SPAGHETTI **Sauce Mix** 78¢
Your choice pkg
SAVE 31¢

SUNBURST **Cup A Noodle** 78¢
70 gram pkg
SAVE 47¢
COKE OR CANADA DRY **Soft Drinks** BUY 2 GET 1 FREE!
PLUS DEPOSIT

Gulf Islands Secondary School last week released its list of honour roll students for the first term of the 1987-88 school year.

Topping the list of 66 youths cited for high academic achievement was Grade Eight student Seth Shugar, whose straight-A performance earned him the only mention on the principal's honour roll.

Following is the complete list of honour roll students in the school's five grades:

For academic achievements

Secondary school students cited

GRADE EIGHT
David Bacic, Robin Clarke, Tracy Cunningham, Caitlin Hayes, Dana Hohmann, Irene Lam, Xuong Lam, Anthony Marks, Jessica Maron, Stacey Proctor, Isabel Prystawik, Lise Rondeau, Seth Shugar, Tanya Slingsby, Sheila Thomson, Candice Walde and Lianne Weisner.

GRADE NINE
Maggie Coombes, Amrit Crowther, Kate Gilbert, Grace Graham, Nick Hock, Deanna Little, Jennifer Lloyd, Alison Proctor, Kella Sadler and Kirsty Walde.

GRADE TEN
Julie Cunningham, Tristen De-

lisle, Rosabel Graham, Sheila Graham, Suzanne Jacquest, Amber Jensen, Lisa Koski, Tara Martin, Shandra Platta, Juda Shugar, Heather Thomson and Penny Vanderwekken.

GRADE ELEVEN
Jenny Barnes, Joe Cocker,

Hopi Hall, Joanne Hargreaves, Tamara Holmes, Peter Hoebel, Melissa Hunt, Lisa Jorgensen, Eva Lam, Michael Lord, Tony Marshall, Catrin Roach, Kurt Sadler, Teresa Sutherland and David Wellingham.

GRADE TWELVE
Jennifer Anderson, Kathy Caldwell, Jason Horney, Angela Donnelly, Chris Herck, David Jacquest, Gabrielle Jensen, Pat Melancon, Alison Stafford, Ryan Steuart, Lynn Vanderwekken and Doug Walde.

Ottawa announces rate increases for full range of benefit programs

Payments made under five federal government programs will be increased in January, Health and Welfare Canada announced earlier this month.

- The programs include:
- old age security;
 - guaranteed income supplement;
 - spouse's allowance;
 - family allowance; and
 - Canada Pension Plan.

The increase for old age security will see the maximum payable increase to \$310.10 a month from its current level of \$308.19. The maximum guaranteed income supplement (GIS) — paid to single, low-income persons — will rise to \$369.21 from its present \$366.28, while the maximum level for low-income married people will go to \$240.47 for each spouse, up from the \$238.56 now paid each month.

The maximum spouse's allowance — paid to needy people between 60 and 64 years who are married to GIS recipients — will increase to \$551.13 from \$546.75 a month, while the maximum widowed spouse's allowance will rise to \$608.46 from \$603.63 a month.

The above payment levels are adjusted every three months, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index calculated by Statistics Canada.

Meanwhile, family allowance payments — paid monthly for children under the age of 18 years — will rise to \$32.38 from 31.93. The increase is based on the change in the annual inflation rate, in excess of three percent.

Family allowance is paid out to 3.6 million families on behalf of 6.6 million children.

The Canada Pension Plan increases announced by Health and Welfare Canada will see benefit payments rise by 4.4 per cent, based on the rise in the cost of living over the past year, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

For those who become eligible for benefits in 1988, Ottawa says, the maximum monthly retirement

pension at age 65 will be \$543.06. A contributor can now begin receiving a retirement pension as early as age 60 and as late as age 70; the amount payable will be reduced for pensions beginning before age 65, and increased for those beginning after age 65.

The maximum amount paid to a person becoming eligible for a disability pension in 1988 will be \$660.94 a month, while benefits for children of disabled contributors and orphans of deceased contributors will be \$98.96 per month per child.

Canada Pension Plan benefits are based on a person's actual earnings and contributions for the period during which that person could have contributed to the plan.

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9 pm to ?
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Potluck

LIVE MUSIC

New Year's Day Levee
begins at 11:30 am.

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HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT THE VESUVIUS INN

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NEW YEAR'S EVE

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The Inn Kitchen

WILL BE CLOSED
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1st.
Bar sandwiches will be available.

The 9th Annual
POLAR BEAR SWIM
11 am Friday, Jan. 1st.
With M.C. Bill Webster

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