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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR., NO. 4

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

50¢

Bid for local highways contract must cover much larger region

By DUNCAN MacDONNELL

A private sector contract for road and bridge maintenance work in the Gulf Islands is expected to be one part of a larger contract covering most of southern Vancouver Island, local highways ministry roads foreman John Stepaniuk said last week.

Definition of the contract area follows the provincial government's announced intention to privatize all road and bridge maintenance work in B.C., beginning with the Vancouver Island region, which includes the Gulf Islands within its boundaries.

Stepaniuk, who is trying to

prepare an employee bid for the local contract, said Saturday the B.C. government has decided to divide Vancouver Island into three main highways contract zones. The Gulf Islands are included in a zone extending south from Chemainus but excluding the Greater Victoria area.

In effect, the provincial government decision means highways ministry employees cannot bid to secure a maintenance contract covering only the Gulf Islands. Stepaniuk said an employee bid would have to cover the full lower Vancouver Island zone.

However, he added that the

lower Vancouver Island zone could be sub-divided into three areas. Employees could bid for the full contract and, if successful, designate the Gulf Islands, the Duncan-Lake Cowichan-Cobble Hill area, and the Sooke-Langford areas as separate maintenance units.

"We could have three contracts within the one," Stepaniuk said. "These three areas are recognized as being unique."

To be considered by the province, an employee bid for the maintenance contract would have to fall within five per cent of any other bid entered. Also, Stepaniuk said, the province has since specified that a bid from highways ministry employees for the southern Vancouver Island zone must include at least 50 per cent of the membership in the affected area.

Towards that end, Stepaniuk and highways ministry employees in other southern Vancouver Island districts are now canvassing members in an attempt to put together one group to enter a bid. Complicating the exercise, he said, are attempts being made to form competing employee groups, bids being prepared by private sector companies, and a tight time limit imposed by the provincial government.

"We need 50 per cent of the employees committed before we

Twinning plan helped by ambassador's visit

Last weekend's visit to the Gulf Islands by the Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada should help firm up local efforts to twin with a community in the Central American country, one of the event organizers said Saturday.

Ron Pither, who launched the twinning initiative two weeks ago on returning to Canada from Nicaragua, said receptions and associated events held for the ambassador on Salt Spring, Galiano and Mayne will likely lead to

formation of a core group dedicated to furthering a proposed exchange and assistance program with the people of Nicaragua's Ometepe Island.

Ambassador Sergio Lacayo travelled to Salt Spring last Saturday with MP Jim Manly (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat-The-Islands) to tour local community facilities, accept a written statement of friendship, and attend both an

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Crofton-area sea life being tested for dioxin

Shellfish and bottom fish taken from waters near the Crofton pulp mill's outfall pipe are being examined for traces of dioxin.

The testing is proceeding in the wake of Sunday's announcement by federal Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon that dioxins have been detected in samples of shellfish taken near the Harmac pulp mill outside Nanaimo, and that testing is underway at other pulp mill sites on the B.C. coast.

Federal Fisheries technologist Mike Massichuk said Monday that sample bivalves and bottom fish were taken offshore from the Crofton mill last week and in the summer of 1987. They are now at an Ontario lab for testing, which should take about two months to complete, he added.

"Unfortunately, the analysis time is lengthy," he said. "It will be a couple of months before we have the results."

The samples from Harmac turned up "trace amounts" of dioxins, in levels ranging up to four parts per trillion. Twenty

parts per trillion is the federally-accepted safety limit.

Dioxins are produced both naturally and by man, with some of the man-made forms considered to be the most dangerous chemicals in existence. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last year confirmed a link between dioxins and the production of pulp and paper products.

The testing of shellfish and bottom fish from the vicinity of the Crofton mill follows last year's disclosure that no offspring were produced at a Great Blue Heron colony near the mill, and the discovery that traces of dioxins had been found in broken eggshells taken from the colony.

Massichuk said the federal fisheries department is testing shellfish and bottom fish samples taken from the waters near pulp mills up and down the B.C. coast. Included are areas near mills at Crofton, Powell River and Port Mellon.

At Crofton, samples were taken

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Taking part

Two Salt Spring Islanders carried the Olympic flame last week as it made its way down Vancouver Island and across to the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Sascha Williams (left) ran with the torch Friday in the Ladysmith area, while Bryon MacGregor (above) ran one leg of the Pat Bay Highway. Both confessed to an air of excitement, and admitted some nervousness. Said 15-year-old Williams: "It was great. It was just the high point of the past 10-15 years. I was incredibly nervous; my heart was pounding." Williams entered 110 times to become one of the thousands of Canadians randomly chosen as participants. Hundreds of spectators lined the highways as the torch progressed towards Swartz Bay. The torch was then carried on the *Queen of Saanich* to Tsawwassen, where it headed to Calgary for the opening of the Winter Olympics mid-February.

INSIDE



Finances

'Money Matters' returns this week to offer readers advice and information on financial affairs — and just in time for the taxman. Pages 14-15.

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For highways maintenance work

Gulf Islands included in regional contract zone

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are able to approach the provincial government, and we don't have any time to waste," Stepaniuk said. When contacted by *Driftwood*, the roads foreman was planning Sunday visits to each of the Outer Gulf Islands to explain the current situation to highways

ministry employees there, and had just fielded telephone calls from colleagues working to recruit employees in the Duncan and Langford areas.

"We have to accept this (the southern Vancouver Island zone) as a viable unit and explain the merit in it," Stepaniuk said of the

message he is delivering to employees.

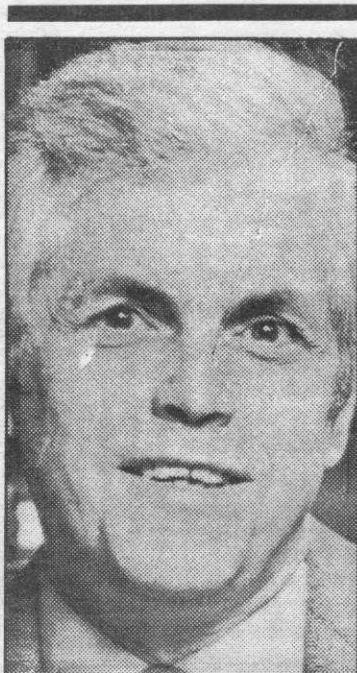
Stepaniuk said the scenario for an employee bid would see at least 50 per cent of the employees signed up as a negotiating unit, and a *pro tem* board of directors established to enter a bid for the area contract. If that bid was accepted, directors would then

use the contract as collateral for bank financing to purchase the maintenance operation.

"We don't have much time," Stepaniuk said. "I feel this will all have to be concluded by about February 15."

Between now and then, Stepaniuk will be in almost-constant

contact with the provincial government and with representatives of highways ministry employees in other districts in the region. To underline the sense of urgency, Stepaniuk noted that one provincial government official working on highways privatization plans has told him to expect telephone calls "every 24 to 36 hours."



Jim Manly

Pulp mill sites tested for evidence of dioxin

From Page 1

from the area near the mill's outfall, which lies just east of the Shoal Islands. Crabs, bivalves, sole, ling cod and rock cod were taken for testing.

"We attempted to take samples from sites under the influence of outfalls," Massichuk said. "If we anticipate dioxins, that's where they would show up."

Once test results are in, he continued, researchers will see if there is "a pattern or a problem."

MP Jim Manly (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat-The-Islands) said from Ottawa Monday that he was not surprised to hear that dioxins had been detected in the Harmac samples (see *'From Ottawa,'* page eight).

"This is something that has been percolating for some time," he said. "When dioxins were found in the eggs from the Heron colony in Crofton, it was obvious that something was wrong in the system. The issue is out there — it's not a problem of the current government, it's something that's been building for a number of years. Now that it's surfaced, however, it is up to this government to taken immediate action."

Manly said it was unfortunate that several months will pass before the samples taken locally are fully tested and the results known. "When a problem is indicated and there is cause for concern, people want assurances as soon as possible that everything is okay, or a warning that things are not okay."

Two meetings set to discuss tourism strategy for islands

Islanders will have two opportunities this week to discuss the development of tourism in ways most compatible with Salt Spring's resources.

Peter Maundrel, director of the ministry of tourism and culture, will discuss local tourism possibilities with Chamber of Commerce members this Thursday (January 28). The dinner meeting will get underway at 5:30 pm at the Harbour House Hotel.

The following morning, all members of the community interested in tourism and its effects on the economy are encouraged to meet with Maundrel at 11 am at Cusheon Lake Resort. A complimentary late lunch will follow the discussions.

The ministry of tourism is encouraging provincial regions and sub-regions to conduct tourist-related strategy studies. According to Brian Jewell, who is working to this end with the Salt Spring and Galiano Island Chambers of Commerce, Salt Spring lags behind in its tourist-related initiatives.

Galiano, Pender and Mayne

Islands, he says, "have already earmarked certain monies for economic study."

Because tourism is a major industry in the province, and because it affects the lives of everyone on the islands, Jewell urges residents to attend one of the two meetings. He hopes all segments of the community will be represented, and that a variety of ideas and opinions are proposed.

Among the topics to be discussed by Maundrel will be the importance and methods of identifying the island's tourist-related

resources. After targeting these resources, the next step is marketing: how should island tourism be marketed, and to whom?

Individuals can offer opinions on which aspects of tourism should be changed, and which should receive a higher focus.

The provincial government has introduced a funding program to finance tourism initiatives. Under the program, money raised by the private sector will be matched by government dollars. A branch of the Chamber of Commerce will co-ordinate a local fund-raising drive.

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Monthly Dinner Meeting
Harbour House Hotel, 5:30 pm Thurs., Jan. 28
\$8.50 per person
Featured speaker:
PETER MAUNDREL
MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CULTURE
Topic: Tourist development strategy for Salt Spring Island & the Gulf Islands
MEMBERS: WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES FOR 1988.

Wow, what great weather! Any bets on what the groundhog will do?

If this is a new trend, the boating season could last 12 months a year!

TIDE TABLES
at Fulford Harbour
(STANDARD TIME)

JAN.					
27	0130	9.3	31	0545	11.5
	0515	9.4	SU	1110	9.8
WE	1015	11.1		1255	9.9
	1840	3.0	FEB.	2135	1.8
28	0405	10.4	1	0610	11.4
	0645	10.1		1125	9.5
TH	1045	10.8	MO	1355	9.8
	1930	2.5		2210	1.8
29	0430	11.0	2	0645	11.2
	0900	10.3		1155	9.1
FR	1105	10.4	TU	1450	9.6
	2015	2.2		2245	2.0
30	0515	11.4	3	0655	11.0
	1025	10.0		1220	8.7
SA	1200	10.1	WE	1550	9.4
	2055	1.9		2320	2.4

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Whaddya mean? Then when would I get to take holidays?

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Seeing a light

I heard from a Fernwood resident last week that she was seeing things over the water. Near Fernwood Wharf she saw a light in the sky, she tells me. The light appeared to be that of an airplane at first, until it descended to the water and could be seen no more.

She kept her own counsel. No way was she going to be known as a UFO nut!

The watcher of the mysterious lights didn't say a word. A week or so later her daughter came to stay with her. The young lady was excited to see a light in the sky and to watch it descend to the water.

The original lightwatcher's daughter was not so reticent. She told it the way she saw it and her Mama then disclosed her own experience.

Anyone around Fernwood seen the same thing? Or anyone around the islands? We'd surely like to hear.

It's all beefs!

I was wandering around and in need of hair juice. Years ago there were lots of gooey greases that held the hair in some kind of position. Now they are all the product of a specialist process and things ain't so simple.

It said that this tube was for grey hair and I figured that probably meant white hair as well.

It was my granddaughter who started everybody off. I had blue hair, she insisted. I had prepared myself in a hurry and little blobs of blue goo punctuated the hair above me.

I couldn't throw the stuff away, it was too new and full, but I was happy to reach the end of that lot.

I'm one of the pin-ups!

And that's another beef!

You buy a shirt and what do you get? Pins, that's what.

I put on a new shirt just fearful that I've left a pin in. Even when people make a gift of a shirt, they never think of tearing the wrappers apart and taking out the pins for me.

One day I shall impale myself on one of the pins and probably die from stab wounds. I just wish they could pack and fold shirts without the hardware.

Thirsty cars

I seem to end up on the wrong end of the automobile. Everything that can happen, happens. I'm not arguing about it or about the comments made by my colleagues. All I know for sure is that my car may not be thirstier than another, but it always ends up pointing to the gas pumps.

It has the instincts of a well-trained pointer. And a thirsty one!

Good health!

I didn't think I did, but I must drink a lot. I've worn all my glasses out.

Last year I had two dozen tumblers in the kitchen; they're now down to about six. I never knew they wore out that quickly!

It's all gammon!

"What a world of gammon and spinnage it is, though, ain't it!" Thus said Miss Mowcher in David Copperfield.

Gammon was nonsense or exaggeration to the point of nonsense. It had a variety of meanings, the most common probably meaning the bottom of a fitch of bacon or a smoked ham.

When I complained about the lack of English bacon I was recommended to Don Harrison's home-cured gammon at the Trading Company in Ganges.

It is the next thing to the English style. Like all good things, however, it costs more than the more common styles.

And that's no gammon! It is, though!

Self-serving

I'm in a bad way: worse than usual. For a time I have been having difficulty in getting a clear focus on things. I have an appointment to see an eye engineer, but in the meantime I think I've cured myself, all by myself.

I have a pair of glasses manufactured from metal wire. Very elegant, they are guaranteed to give the user that air of *je ne sais quoi*. I got it! The frames bend in the middle and my two eyes are looking in different directions. I took them off and used an old pair the other day. Not a care in the world!

I'm just guessing, but so far my hunch has worked.

Mind you, I look after my glasses except when I sit on them, drop them, flick them off or lose them from the top of a ladder. That could have something to do with it.

Flashing lights

It's a windy world. I go to bed with the electric clock-radio telling me the exact time. I wake up to the same clock blinking and it's completely forgotten what time it is.

If I had to rely on that machine to get me up in the morning I'd still be in bed!

I know I can get another clock, but it's against every instinct to throw out a perfectly efficient machine just because the power keeps going off, because it keeps snowing or blowing or the trees just wear out like my glasses.

Vehicle crashes leave three persons injured

Three people were sent to hospital last week after two separate motor vehicle accidents on Salt Spring.

The first occurred January 18 when a Ganges man lost control of his vehicle on Vesuvius Bay Road. Andrew Clarke's vehicle left the road, striking the shoulder and a highways sign before becoming airborne and shearing a stump, striking a guy-wire and landing driver's side down on a fallen tree.

Passengers Debbie Wertman and Mary Piperno were admitted to Lady Minto Hospital with undetermined injuries. Wertman was later transferred to Victoria General Hospital, where she is in stable condition.

Police, who charged Clarke with driving too fast for road conditions, estimate the damage

to his vehicle at \$2,500. The accident remains under investigation.

Police are also investigating a January 22 collision at Central involving a motorcycle and a car.

Motorcyclist William Scott Stevenson sustained undetermined injuries when his bike collided head-on with a car.

Stevenson was driving down North End Road when he collided with a Mercedes as it turned onto Vesuvius Bay Road.

Const. Jim Harrison said Stevenson's helmet saved the man's life. The driver of the Mercedes, John Glascock, received minor facial injuries. Both the vehicle and motorcycle were damaged beyond repair.

Stevenson is listed in stable condition in Victoria General Hospital.

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COMPUTER WIZARDS!

In the 1987 INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE PROBLEM SOLVING CONTEST, run by the University of Wisconsin, more than 10,000 students from forty-five states of the U.S.A. and from twelve countries, (ranging from Ireland to Japan), competed—and two Canadian schools did especially well.

St. Michaels University School, Victoria, was the only school among 5000 to have teams ranked in the top 1% in all three age categories.



In the Elementary Division, SMU's Sean Puttergill (left), David Ha and Chris Wilson, all now in Grade 7, ranked FIRST in B.C., SECOND in Canada, (a fraction behind Zions Hts. School, Toronto) and FIFTH worldwide. They were taught by Mr. Stephen Bankes, (above), who holds a Master's Degree in Physics from UBC.

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Searchers seek missing Cessna

Canadian and U.S. waters are being searched this week for an airplane that went missing over the Gulf Islands on Sunday.

The Cessna 172 was carrying four officer cadets from Royal Roads Military College in Victoria. It left Victoria International Airport early Sunday for a sight-seeing tour of the Gulf Islands but failed to return.

Victoria's Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) said Monday that three Labrador helicopters and two fixed-wing Buffalo aircraft from Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Comox are involved in the search for the Cessna. Also taking part are Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and private aircraft, and two U.S. Coast Guard helicopters.

The area being searched covers the Strait of Georgia from Powell River in the north to Whidbey Island in U.S. waters to the south.

RCC said Monday a search headquarters was being established at Vancouver International Airport.

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Disclosure left fears to fester

Despite his obvious wish to do the opposite, federal Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon injected a mixture of fear and doubt into the minds of residents of coastal British Columbia with his Sunday announcement that traces of dioxin were found in fish and shellfish taken from the waters near a Nanaimo pulp mill.

The minister, in announcing that the levels of dioxin discovered near the Harmac mill fell well below the limits Ottawa considers prudent for safety's sake (a maximum of four parts per trillion were recorded, compared to the limit of 20 parts per trillion) was presumably trying to soothe any doubts the public may have had about the impact pulp mill effluent might have on the health of the public and the health of the environment.

While we could argue that the discovery of even a trace of dioxin is unsettling, we must admit it is somewhat reassuring to know that the maximum level found in the sea life tested near Harmac was one-fifth of the amount which marks the high end of the safety scale. Better one-fifth than a reading past the end of the scale, after all.

Which is likely what the minister hoped the public would weigh and somehow find comforting. And if the concerns about dioxins were limited to that locale only, Mr. Siddon's position would be defensible.

However, by noting that further testing is underway at other coastal sites that are home to pulp mills, the minister has now given rise to fears that those waters, too, may be contaminated by dioxins. Since the degree of dioxins which might be found there are unknown at this point, we can only speculate—and expect the worst.

The problem is that when the minister released his information about the Harmac findings—laudable though that action was, if viewed in isolation—without having results from testing done at other locations, he gave us no choice but to ponder and fear the unknown.



We have since been told that it will be several months before the results are in from tests conducted on samples of shellfish and bottom fish taken from waters near the Crofton mill. That's too long to live with unanswered questions.

We are not suggesting Mr. Siddon should have withheld the Harmac findings until samples from all of the areas in doubt could be checked, some months down the road. No—we believe all of the samples should have been tested all at once and by now, even if that meant farming the necessary laboratory work out to as many different research

centres as were needed to complete the task. One sample area has been done—why not the rest?

Certainly, a complete and thorough accounting of the state of all areas now under a cloud of suspicion was the only finding that could have been released to the public if Mr. Siddon had hoped his Sunday announcement would quell the uncertain feelings that have since arisen.

Because we have been given only a tiny part of the coastal region's dioxin contamination picture and told to wait for the federal government timetable to bring the rest into focus, we are anything but soothed.

Wish you were here to share the 'discomforts'

Editor's note: The following is a letter to my landlord, filed with this column to avoid Canada Post delays.

Terry and Elizabeth:
Your last letter arrived a while ago. I can't remember precisely when, since my visits to the corner green box are infrequent and less-than-memorable. But I think it was a Wednesday, which is two days after your copy of *Driftwood* arrives in Regina.

Sorry to hear the weather is so cold out there. It's bad here, too. Just last week, a terrific wind-storm came up and blew down the corn stalks. Maybe you should think again about coming out in August, the supplies for the barbecue being spoiled and all that.

The house and grounds are okay, except for the radioactivity. Fellow told me the other day that all this year-round sunshine exceeds nationally-approved limits for gamma rays, thereby increasing your chances of catching skin cancer. I'm just warning you.

The roads aren't too well, either. The warmth has left them dry and cracked, which makes for a bumpy ride, and the premier is selling off the repair crews, so it may be some time before the asphalt out front can be moistened down. I really envy you being able to do four-wheel drifts in the snowbank outside your house.

Nice to hear the vegetables survived that August frost, by the way, and entered the preserve jars in time for winter. I know I

my word

by
Duncan MacDonnell

enjoy pulling a can of peaches off the shelf at this time of year, instead of making a sudden trip to town and the store. It gets real dark here at 5 pm, which is about 7 pm your time, so you can imagine the difficulties we endure.

You live in this time zone, you pay the price. That and listening to *Morningside* on two-hour tape delay instead of three really

stacks the chips in favour of Regina, I'd say.

Speaking of poker, I'm alarmed to read that you intend to gamble with your lives by travelling around the islands this August in a rented car. Don't you know that our roads are too narrow and too crowded to allow safe passage in summer? Give me that wide-open prairie any day.

As for news, there's isn't much. Considering the socio-economic delights of Saskatchewan (a province which I've truly and always meant to visit), I can't see why you persist in mentioning a move to Salt Spring. Your Regina perspective on this thrilling grain-wars dispute is bound to be much more electric — or is that eclectic? — than the detached view you'll find here, for

instance.

Not that we don't care. People on this island talk about wheat all the time, in fact. *Wheat you drinking?* is a common local phrase, right up there with *Wheat boat are you taking?* and the somewhat misleading *Wheat time is it?* You wouldn't want to deal with that on a daily basis, I'm sure.

But I'm still looking forward to your visit in August. The dogs were washed last week and should be ripe by the time you arrive, and the shingles that were knocked off the roof should be replaced by July or so (we'll talk about the tree later), so there'll be no shortage of pleasant surprises when you arrive. Or empty hours to fill, for that matter.

Wish you were here.

Series of monkey tantrums sealed Jacko's fate

By ANDREW GIBSON

PART TWO: Jacko, having not only survived but prospered from the climate and culture shock of exchanging Saigon for a Britain-bound tramp ship, has now reached his full three-pound weight. Is this enough to turn the vessel upside down? Read on.

Jacko's skid into moral turpitude began when the S. S. Yorkmoor was discharging in the Clyde.

I blame myself for allowing him to go ashore with our sailors, who made him a member of their Sons of Scotland pub club. He was a big hit with the carousers, and this, together with the Guinness he consumed, went to his head, and gave him delusions of grandeur, followed by hangovers. As any TV evangelist will confirm, at such times the Devil is waiting to charge, horns first. In this case he made short work of Jacko, who immediately sold his simian soul.

My first clue to the takeover was when, in a highly excited state, he tugged and led me to the gangway, at the bottom of which prowled a cat which has chased him back aboard from his quayside promenade. His chattering and gesticulations were clearly a demand that I go down and avenge this lese majesty by murdering the cat.

I refused. He was furious. I thought such purposeful vindictiveness rather ominous — it was almost human.

For the next year, while we criss-crossed the North Atlantic, he contributed comic relief to an otherwise grim existence. It was almost impossible to follow through on punishment for his compulsive mischief; when, at last, he was caught, held up by his stump of a tail and threatened with token taps, he would sob like a truly penitent child, quite melting Nemesis' heart.

Released, he would dance out of

reach, grimacing revenge. He even learned how to blackmail by jumping, when retribution threatened, from the deck to the anti-magnetic belt which girdled the hull outboard. There, with the waves reaching for him, he would cavort until amnesty was promised.

My thesis is that this monkey was a true genius; at six months, an age when humans are brandishing rattles, he was operating with the cunning of a (delinquent) juvenile. As proof, herewith a partial list of his crimes:

ITEM: He became a favourite of even our dour captain, visiting him every day for a tidbit. One morning, enraged because the treat didn't appear, he seized the captain's only pair of glasses and hurled them over the side. Although this severely restricted the masterly operations for the rest of the passage, Jacko was forgiven within days.

ITEM: I have mentioned that his

only enemy was the gunner, who made the mistake of chasing him from the gun deck. One day I saw Jacko climb stealthily through the open porthole of the gunner's quarters, reappearing moments later with a large bunch of keys, which he forthwith threw over the side.

They were the keys to the various ammunition magazines, so for many days the gunner was either searching for them or hacksawing the boxes. My lips were sealed.

ITEM: After the next caper, I could no longer doubt. The gunner, a spit and polish type, was forever painting the gun deck and polishing his armaments. While on a break one day, he left an open pot of camouflage paint near the four-inch gun; Jacko jumped into it up to his armpits, then crawled through the gun barrel from one end to the other, coating the hundreds of feet of rifling, and putting our U-boat defense out.

The gunner, apoplectic, put on sidearms and traced the paint trail to our cabin, where we were washing Jacko in turpentine. Murder was averted, but Jacko was sufficiently alarmed to avoid the gunner thereafter.

ITEM: In New York we were moored alongside another cargo ship, the S.S. Maria de Larrinaga. One day a squad of police visited both ships, seeking a lunatic who had gone into the cabin of the adjacent chief engineer, had torn up the log books, and poured ink over them. The voyage records were destroyed.

We cleaned up the ink-covered Jacko, and let him languish in the chain locker until we sailed, lest the chief engineer recall that he had chased a monkey away the day before.

ITEM: One night we came aboard to find our cabin trashed, and Jacko gone. He had been furious at not being taken ashore with us,

Turn to Page 6

letters

Ethics

Sir,
The only ethical way to run a government for the people and by the people is through democratic processes — democratic both economically and politically.

Gambling, crime, alcoholism, family abuse and other social ills creep in as the disadvantaged become more and more hopeless and angry. Fair taxation is the answer to raising government revenues, not gambling and lotteries — the so-called tax on the poor, who are encouraged to try to "strike it rich" when they are denied the opportunity to earn a decent living.

Where is the brotherly love or the social responsibility in our elected officials? Have they considered the devastating effects on our beautiful province if casino gambling is introduced?
VIRGINIA NEWMAN,
Ganges.

Recollections

Sir,
I am in the process of gathering information from Canadians for a book regarding their experiences, recollections and opinions concerning the 1960s era in Canada. In the period framed roughly by the advent of Beatlemania on this continent and the end of the Vietnam war on another, Canada experienced immense social change. I am interested in compiling a grassroots history defining the role Canada and Canadians played during this era.

If any of your newspaper's

readers would care to participate in this project I would appreciate receiving their taped or written stories and anecdotes for consideration. All materials will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope. Any work chosen for inclusion will remain anonymous unless otherwise specified.

TIMOTHY SHAY,
R. R. 3, Wightwick Rd.,
Nelson, B. C. V1L 5P6.

Adrift

Sir,
Tony Richards' recent account of the visit he and other journalists made to NATO headquarters in Brussels is a reflection of, not advocacy for, the current NATO viewpoint. In this respect, at least, his effort is reportorial.

Apparently our External Affairs Department believes that the not inconsiderable expense was warranted. It makes one wonder why the hoi polloi now needs such a media drenching. Is NATO unsteady on its pilings, or is the piece meant to render us acquiescent, more comfortable with the idea that millions will be spent on nuclear submarines and other weaponry?

For some reason, I am reminded of the generosity shown to Canadian broadcasters and journalists by the South African government some years ago: Soweto, by way of Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg. These media specialists were also expected to carry back the intended message that justice was not only being done, but with good reason.

I know for a fact that, in many

instances, the expected reports did not get published or broadcast. Although, some were. Massive propaganda sometimes succeeds.

Granted, the main issues are fundamentally dissimilar. What is disturbingly similar is that *Driftwood* has been used for political purposes; its obligation has been met. Surely, Canadian journalistic standards demand something more, some evaluation of the issues; reportage, not merely the mouthing of military media material.

Tony Richards' NATO article serves to perpetuate the fear that Canadians have a brutal enemy to the north. It enhances the view that Canadians must spend more on weaponry. Many Canadians do not agree with this scenario.

At this time, given the incapacity of the Mulroney government, I am more concerned about the imminent loss of Canadian sovereignty to our neighbours to the south.

In my view, NATO's scenario is old-fashioned and out-of-date. The "Terry and the Pirates" approach is obsolete, and contemporary journalists should know that abusing the press in this way demeans their profession. *Driftwood* is out of its depth, in this case, adrift in unfamiliar waters.

LOWELL HICKS,
Ganges.

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Jacko finally posed threat to national security

From Page 5

had broken his chain and after his depredations had escaped through the transom. We cleaned up the debris, wondering idly what had happened to most of the glass from the lamps he had smashed.

When I jumped to a sitting position on my upper bunk, I felt something in the bed, although it looked undisturbed. Lethal shards of glass had been carefully placed between the sheets.

ITEMS: In Manchester our cargo was being discharged by a large gang of stevedores, all of whom

had surrendered their all-important union cards to the foreman. He put them in his wallet. At lunchtime, when he hung his jacket up, Jacko extracted the wallet, took it to the bridge, and showered the stevedores below with the fragments of their cards and the foreman's £5 notes.

On deck to check out a perceived riot, we found Jacko on the anti-magnetic cable, being pelted with hardwood hatch wedges. He escaped to the stern counter, where they couldn't see him. Once again he had to cool his heels in the chain

locker.

ITEM: His final caper was a few days later in Liverpool. Among the minor engine work done was the cleaning of our condenser feed pipe, which was disconnected at the upper screen. Sailing to rendezvous our convoy, we broke down after a couple of hours, and had to be towed back. The trouble? The feed water pipe was totally blocked with peanuts; we had wondered, a few days before, why Jacko had eagerly accepted a big bag of shelled peanuts, which he disliked.

We lost two weeks, and I am still haunted by the memory of the marine superintendent who, bursting into our cabin with the evidence, saw the monkey. Speechless, all he could do for minutes was roll his eyes, clench his fists, and turn an ever deeper puce shade.

When he recovered his roar, he demanded that we get rid of the saboteur. The captain concurred, rather sadly, pointing out that beleaguered Britain couldn't have monkeys scuttling her war effort.

We sold him for £1 to a publican, whose tavern he no doubt enlivened. But the ship was duller without him, and when my term was up at the end of the voyage, I wasn't sorry to leave. As for Jacko, I doubt if he lasted very long. If he didn't succumb to cirrhosis, an enraged patron would have got him. On the other hand, had he stayed on the ship he would have gone down with her.

He was a rascal, but surely the laughter that he caused outweighed the mischief. I hope he is in some leafy monkey heaven.

more letters

Killer

Sir,

A campaign against Canada's number one killer will be carried out during the month of February — "Heart Month."

In one year 44 per cent of all the deaths suffered in Canada were the result of heart and blood disease. Cancer was the number two killer at 28 per cent.

The B.C. Heart Foundation, in its contribution to the fight against heart and blood disease, has set \$4.1 million as its fundraising goal for 1988.

On Salt Spring, a Heart Fund Committee has been formed to help meet this goal. Our objective, based on achievements in previous years, is \$5,000. However, we hope to exceed this amount through special events and through donation boxes to be placed in various central locations.

A mail-in canvass for the residential sector will also be conducted.

Special events will take place during the weekend of February 12, 13 and 14 (Valentine's Day).

They will include a free blood pressure clinic to be located at our Heart Fund Centre in the Ganges Fire Hall on February 12 and 13, and an aerobics competition at the Activity Centre. A tag day will be carried out on February 13 in Ganges by the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Of all donations received by the Heart Foundation, 63 per cent goes to research for the development of pacemakers, heart bypass operations, coronary care units, human heart valve replacements, etc. Another 23 per cent goes to education, public information, and community programs. The remainder goes to

cover miscellaneous operating expenses.

I hope the "Heart Month" campaign receives community-wide support, to bring a check to Canada's number one killer. **JOHN CROFTON**, Chairman, SSI Heart Fund Committee.

Information

Sir,

I am an historian of education at UBC trying to find out as much as possible about teachers in 19th Century British Columbia — that is, before 1901, when the province opened its first teachers' training college.

While I have been able to put together a list of teachers' names, it is difficult to determine who they actually were — their separate backgrounds, why each decided to become a teacher, and how they lived their lives and carried out their responsibilities within local communities.

I would be very grateful to receive any information. Letters, diaries, written recollections or other descriptions of local schools and teachers will all help to fill in the puzzle of 19th Century teachers' lives. I would particularly like to hear from individuals who remember hearing about a family member — a great aunt, perhaps — who once worked as a teacher. All assistance will be acknowledged in any publications that result, and I will reimburse costs for photocopying relevant materials. My address is: Dr. Jean Barman, Dept. of Social and Educational Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z5.

DR. JEAN BARMAN, Vancouver.

Terrible

Sir,

The Zionist occupation of Palestine and continuous terrorism against Arabs are terrible injustices which the Canadian government should condemn and oppose.

The seizure of most Palestine by Zionist Jews and expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from their homeland in 1948 was a crime against humanity which no civilized country should have tolerated.

A fundamental concept which Canada seems to be unwilling to acknowledge is that the Zionists have no legitimate, justifiable right to live in Palestine instead of the Palestinians.

After 40 years of occupation, the Zionists have no motivation to return any land to its rightful owners because Israel enjoys overwhelmingly superior killing power compared to its Arab opponents. The military pressure which could force the Zionists to make just concessions does not appear likely in the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately, Canada is more friendly to the criminals than to the victims. The least Canada should do is sever diplomatic, economic and cultural relationships with the evil Zionist entity.

Friendship with barbarians is not something to be proud of. **CHRIS LITTLER**, Ganges.

Phillip Swift

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Unrealistic here

Fixed-link euphoria should bypass B.C.

VICTORIA — Prince Edward Islanders have just voted, by a 59 per cent margin, for a fixed link with the rest of Canada. At the same time, Britain and France are preparing for the engineering feat of the century — a \$6 billion tunnel project that will link the two nations.

Fixed links are in, except in British Columbia, where for several years now politicians haven't breathed a word about linking Vancouver Island with the Lower Mainland by way of a bridge or tunnel.

The closest British Columbians have come to discussing any fixed link for some time is a plan by Economic Development Minister Grace McCarthy to have B.C. businesses share some of the spoils of the British-French channel tunnel project.

"British Columbia companies are among the best in the world and deserve a piece of what will be the greatest engineering endeavour of the century," McCarthy said recently.

Deserve is one thing; get is another. It's doubtful that either Britain or France will be eager to let even a small part of the \$6 billion expenditure slip from their economic spheres. It will be British and French interests first, and anything they can't accommodate will be shopped for in the remaining European Common Market countries. Commonwealth ties don't count for much anymore.

But Gracie isn't easily discouraged. She has already instructed the gregarious Garde Gardom, our agent general at B.C. House in London, to examine the potential benefits British Columbia businesses might derive from the tunnel project. She also plans to hold a seminar at which the major contractors for the project would brief B.C. entrepreneurs on opportunities for tendering.

McCarthy believes that B.C. might have a chance to be a player in a number of categories, including provision of electrical equipment, conveyors, signalling and control equipment, site investigations, environmental studies and communications.

For the above-stated reasons, I doubt very much whether such efforts will be crowned with success, but if you don't try, you'll never succeed, right? McCarthy certainly can't be faulted for trying.

The really fascinating aspect of McCarthy's plan is the total silence on our own fixed-link project, which only a few years ago had half of the population on Vancouver Island in ecstasy and the other half up in arms.

As the deadline for Prince Edward Island's referendum drew nearer, I expected the government to exhume the old

capital comment

hubert beyer

fixed-link skeleton and start promoting it again. Premier Vander Zalm had a feeble go at it when he launched into one of his favourite subjects — fed-bashing — at a Victoria Chamber of Commerce meeting last week.

If only one-tenth of the money Ottawa was going to sink into the PEI link were to come to B.C., the premier said, the government could, at long last, build that gas pipeline to Vancouver Island.

Wrong project. He isn't going to excite anyone with that chestnut. The Vancouver Island gas pipeline has served successive governments as an election promise since the early days of W.A.C. Bennett. By now, the mere mention of that project makes even ardent Socred supporters break into hysterical laughter.

Never mind the pipeline. What about the fixed link? When will we hear about that again?

The last home-grown fixed-link fanatic was Pat McGeer, the former minister of universities, science and communications. He bit the dust in the last election and so, it seems, did his fixed-link fixation.

McGeer brought up the subject of linking Vancouver Island with the Mainland by way of bridge or tunnel right in the middle of the restraint battle. He had studies done, charts drawn, cost analyses made. He held press conferences and appeared on talk shows, living and breathing the message of the fixed link.

The only concrete result at the time was that Vancouver Islanders forgot all about restraint and poured all their energy into fighting McGeer's fixed-link phantom which, according to quite a number of observers, was the object of the exercise to start with. Ever since then, the government has studiously avoided any mention of the fixed link.

All of which is just as well. Vancouver Island will, no doubt, survive without a bridge to the Lower Mainland, and taxpayers will be relieved that, for the time being at least, the age of mega-projects has passed.

Meanwhile, there's always hope that British Columbia may be able to cash in on the benefits of someone else's fixed link without taking the risk of building one.

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Fisheries minister pressed

Dioxin warning signs need immediate attention

Editor's note: The following column was filed 10 days ago by Jim Manly, before last Sunday's announcement by federal Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon regarding confirmation of dioxins in shellfish sampled near the Harmac pulp mill.

In days gone by, coal miners would often take a canary down into the mines with them. The little bird provided an early warning system: if the gas level in the mine affected the bird, the miner knew there was trouble and that he, too, would be affected before too long.

Today, when we use thousands of industrial chemicals and often do not know what effect they can have on our health, we need to pay more attention to our warning systems.

We received a serious warning last year when not a single egg was hatched from a 52-nest colony of Great Blue Herons at Crofton. When a government laboratory analyzed fragments of eggs they found traces of 2,3,7,8-TCDD, a dioxin which is second only to using chlorine for one bleaching process. What has not been established is the presence of dioxins in significant amounts in shellfish near either Harmac or Crofton.

Last fall when I read the story of the failure of the Crofton Blue Heron colony to hatch any eggs I wrote to Tom Siddon, the minister plutonium as a poison.

Now we have received a second warning, this time from a Greenpeace analyst showing a higher-than-expected level of dioxin in sediment near the Harmac pulp mill. Again, 2,3,7,8-TCDD was among the dioxins found.

Even trace elements of this chemical can be fatal to laboratory animals, as well as to birds and fish. For example, 50 per cent of rainbow trout died within three weeks of being exposed for four days to water containing 100 parts per trillion. We do not yet know the long-term effects of 2,3,7,8-TCDD on humans but short term impacts include digestive disorders, effects on essential enzyme systems, aches and pains of muscles and joints, chloracne, nervous system disorders and psychiatric problems.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has confirmed the relationship between dioxins and the waste from pulp mills

of fisheries, and to Tom McMillan, minister of the environment, asking what their departments were doing to monitor the presence of dioxins in local shellfish. I received answers from both ministers in December but neither reassured me that the government is on top of the situation or is taking it as seriously as conditions warrant. The minister of the environment said:

"... The presence of dioxins, specifically 2,3,7,8-TCDD in pulp and paper releases, is currently being studied in Canada, the United States and Sweden. Once the scope and nature of the problem has been identified, Environment Canada will initiate measures on a national scale to address the situation.

"The department has no information on dioxin levels in shellfish from the Crofton area. In 1983, however, tissue samples

from ottawa

by jim manly

from a few fish of that region were analyzed for dioxin. At that time, concentrations in edible fish tissue were well below the acceptable levels established by Health and Welfare Canada. Environment Canada has recently undertaken a monitoring program for dioxins near several wood treatment facilities in British Columbia. Samples, including shellfish, have been collected in the Crofton area but results will not be available for some time, as the analytical process is very complex."

In addition, there have been

reports of traces of PCBs and heavy metals in Fraser River salmon. Recently Canadians had a real scare as a result of the presence of unknown toxins in Atlantic mussels.

Isn't it time to begin taking seriously the damage we do to our environment and how that damage will in turn come back upon our own heads? When the canaries stop singing, it's almost too late.

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ONE MAN'S DIARY ...



"Charlie," I said, "it's a real catch' 22 situation."

"How come?" he replied. When it comes to words, Charlie is a natural born conservationist.

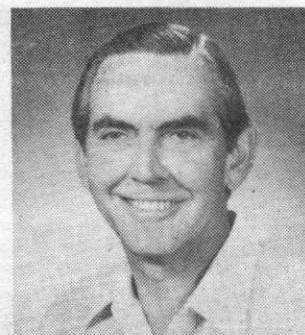
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Charlie sucked on his pipe. "Sounds more like an opportunity than a problem," he answered. "You need to advertise and get that message out."

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'Co-operation still sought from forest companies'

The January 20 *Driftwood* editorial ("Wholesale logging warnings inappropriate") deals with an appropriate subject, but is premised on a rather generous interpretation of remarks attributed to me in the January 6 article about the MB lands sale. Knowing how deep public concern runs for the preservation of Salt Spring's forested lands, I believe it is entirely appropriate to open discussion on the logging practices on large parcels of land, and my attempt to "caution the new owners to be careful" was indeed friendly advice.

It is not unusual to have a parcel of forested land clear-cut, and then to have the owner approach the Trust and argue that the land isn't good for anything but high density residential use. The MB lands are almost exclusively zoned as "Upland and Forest," which allows a 20-acre average lot size. Should an owner indulge in "wholesale tree-cutting" and then approach the Trust for a rezoning to a higher density of use, my earlier remarks are significant. A rezoning requires a public hearing, and at this point concerned citizens will have their say.

Our Community Plan does not anticipate an increase in density beyond that presently zoned, but there is a provision that Upland and Forest parcels should be subject to a development proposal before rezoning is considered. A good proposal — protecting watersheds, streams, trail corridors and sensitive areas — might win Trust approval for a small increase in density. However, if these values are destroyed by careless logging practices, there is obviously little left with which to negotiate.

Before any damage is done, I want the public and the owners of these large forested parcels to know where I stand. If enlightened development is to take place, we must understand one another early in the process, and proceed in a co-operative mode. Confrontation is nearly always the result of an attempt to bypass due process and consultation, and there are seldom any winners. Let's start off on the right foot.

FORESTRY PRACTICES

Good forestry is possible on the islands. The productivity of the land can be maintained, and a true sustained yield can be achieved, providing jobs and logs for many generations to come. We all know the results of poor logging, or the cutting of too much, too fast.

The people of Galiano Island are all too aware of the results. The soil is exposed to rain and sun. It is compressed by heavy machinery, burned, and often washed out to sea or into catchment ponds, swamps and lakes. Its ability to grow trees is seriously impaired. Without the tree cover it no longer

absorbs water for groundwater recharge, and it can no longer support many kinds of plants, animals and birds. Visually, heavily logged lands look like a battleground or, at best, a graveyard.

A visitor to the "forest," instead of experiencing a multitude of life forms ascending from the ground to the canopy over 100 feet overhead, experiences the sense of loss that goes with wanton destruction and death.

Most Islanders, I believe, care deeply about the forest, but even those who might limit their concerns to the economic value of trees must realize the damage that will be done in terms of tourism and the sale of properties on the island. Long-term employment

trust report

by nick gilbert

opportunities are being destroyed with the forest.

A clear-cut forest, if it's ever to regenerate, requires years of intensive management. Most attempts to replant are frustrated by the appetites of deer and sheep, by summer drought, and by waterlogged winter soils. Initially, weeds and brush outgrow the young trees and choke them. What developer is willing to take on a long-term commitment to assure a new forest survives?

There are appropriate ways to manage the forest, and to log it. The Trust will be working to accumulate any related information and will be happy to share it with all interested parties. The Gulf Island Woodland Owners Association offers valuable assistance to private land foresters. I am optimistic that we can move quickly toward enlightened use of our forest resource.

From both a global and local perspective, the time has passed when individuals or companies can continue to profit at the expense of the land, the environment and the community. We all share the responsibility of seeing that our islands are treated with respect, and a caring attitude must be a

requirement of both developers and elected officials.

THE LOST SCENARIO

During the past two years the Islands Trust has made every possible attempt to work out a good development proposal with MacMillan-Bloedel-Noranda. I use the larger corporate name, because in retrospect I realize that we were dealing with a corporate giant that may have lost its sensitivity to local community needs.

We dealt in good faith in and good humour with their B.C. Lands branch. We spent many hours of staff and politician time and energy, trying to meet the corporation half way. We hired

Turn to Page 12

more letters

Sentient

Sir,

Trees are living things and are sentient. I would ask people not to nail anything into them if they can possibly avoid doing so.

The bird feeding suggestions in *Driftwood* of January 13 were informative and well-intentioned, but why hurt Flora to be nice to Fauna?

Thank you on behalf of our Cambium-clad Sisters and Bark-Robed Brothers.

FRANCOIS JAUBERT,
Beaver Point.

Thanks

Sir,

I may be out of line in writing this letter as I work with the man involved ... but here goes anyway.

I am talking about the near completion of our library addition. There has been lots of coverage of Grace Point, Legion et al, but next to nothing of our 'new' library.

I believe that we should all give our thanks to Tony Burrige, for a job well done. Not to mention Hank Schubart (architect), our local sub-contractors and the volunteer help from the library association.

RON SAYER,
Ganges.

Project

Sir,

I am writing this as one of the new officers of Croftonbrook Golden Hands Ladies.

The ladies are grateful to all who have supported them, and we look forward to the continued help.

The scraps of donated material and bits of wool are turned into all the special items that are offered for sale at our mini tea-bazaars at Easter and Christmas.

We are pleased our sales have done well financially. It gives us such satisfaction to know that in our small way, we are able to help the service clubs on the island, the ALERT-LINE System, and the Santa Claus Ship, to name a few.

For those who do not know the

group, most of us belong to the Old Age Pension Organization (Salt Spring Island Branch 32). We meet Thursday morning at Croftonbrook and realize how fortunate we are to have such comfortable workspace. Over coffee, our projects are worked on. We usually close about 11:30 am, after an hour and a half of friendly chatter and companionship.

In closing, I look forward to a happy and prosperous new year for us all.

B. HALFNIGHTS,
Ganges.

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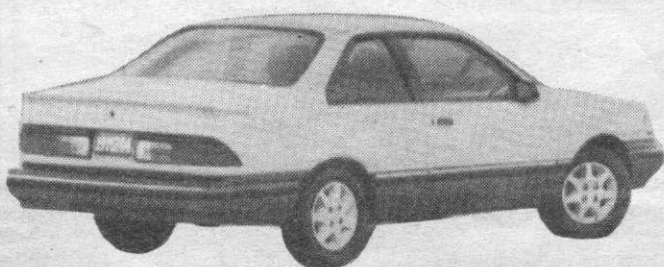
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Interest grows for island-to-island twinning plan

From Page 1

afternoon reception and an evening dinner. On Sunday, the ambassador visited Galiano and Mayne islands to attend receptions and tour community facilities.

Also featured on the weekend was a Saturday visit to Salt Spring by a delegation from the San Juan Islands. The Bainbridge Island group presented a video about Ometepe Island and discussed the steps it took to twin the two communities.

Ambassador Lacayo, meanwhile, found a question-and-answer session at Saturday afternoon's reception at Ganges United Church. To an audience of about 100 people, he explained his country's position on the ongoing border conflicts with Contra forces. Particular attention was paid to the February 3 vote in the U.S. Congress for \$50 million in aid for those forces.

Later, Ambassador Lacayo told *Driftwood* he appreciated the question-and-answer session because it gave him a rare opportunity to put across to Canadians the Nicaraguan point of view. He said he also enjoyed the willingness of the audience to listen to his words.

"There was a desire here by people to clarify doubts, to ask questions," he said. "I tried to answer the questions as candidly as I could. I am not here to convince anyone, but just to answer questions."

As for the twinning initiative with Ometepe, Ambassador Lacayo said Nicaragua's central government would not — and should not — play much of a role in the bid by Gulf Islanders to initiate an exchange.

"Anything that stimulates good will beyond geographic boundaries is good, but the central government will have little to do with it," he said. "The twinning is to be community-based — community to community."

The ambassador observed that while twinning ventures involving Nicaraguan communities with those in the U.S. or Europe have been city-to-city, Canada has been unique in launching sector-to-sector twinings — i.e., Cana-



Ambassador Lacayo

dian teachers or commercial fishermen offering aid to their counterparts in the Central American country.

Ron Pither hopes that tradition

will continue with the forging of links between Ometepe and the Gulf Islands. He envisions cultural, educational and aid exchanges co-ordinated by a local society and carried out on a sector-to-sector basis.

"But I see it as more like people-to-people," he said.

The weekend's activities appeared ready to produce a core group of islanders who could launch the twinning effort, Pither added.

"This has a lot of possibilities for durability," he said. "There are a number of people now who want to do something, to see an organization willing to do the work. People have indicated in-

terest in forming a society to get into hands-on aid for Ometepe. We'll get a core group from this to gather ideas, to hold fundraisers for material aid projects, and to just carry the load locally."

Luckily, there will be expertise available from the Bainbridge Island group, he said. "We accomplished an exchange of hard information here — we saw how it was done elsewhere, so we won't have to re-invent the wheel to go after these goals."

In that sense, Pither observed, the twinning project could evolve into a three-pronged exchange involving the Gulf Islands, Ometepe Island and Bainbridge Island.

"It's inter-island already — even here," he continued, explaining that the efforts of residents of Salt Spring, Galiano and Mayne islands were involved in last weekend's activities. As one example, he noted that the presentation of a signed Robert Bateman print to Ambassador Lacayo represented the work of a Salt Spring resident being donated for the occasion by a group of Galiano residents and arranged by a Mayne Islander.

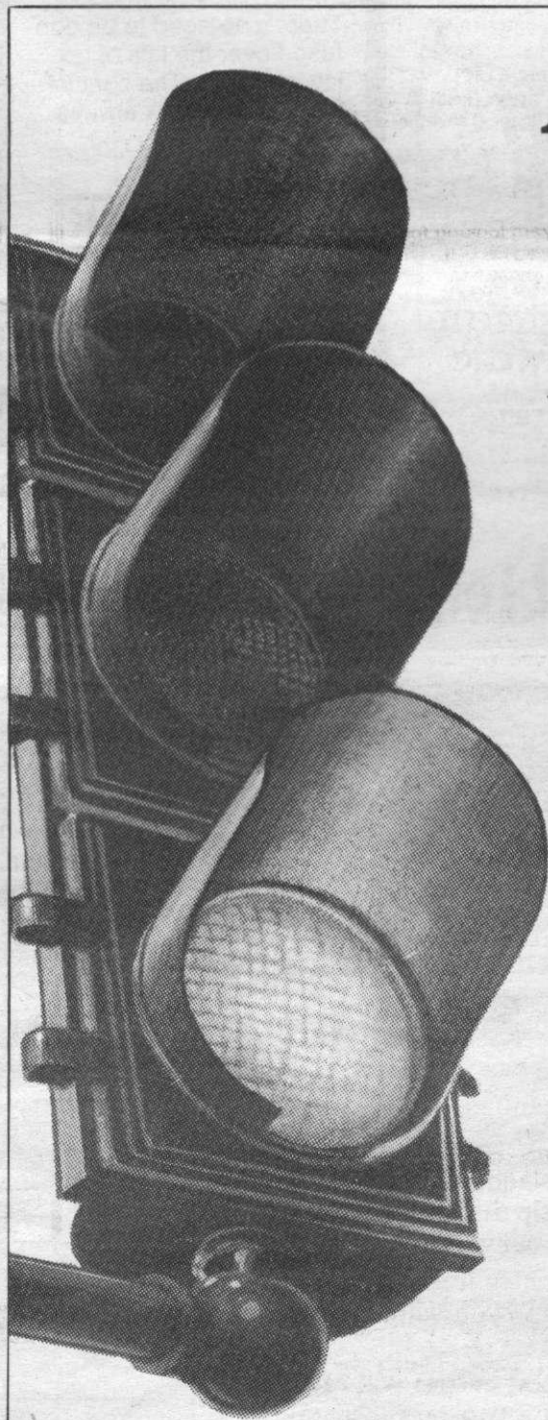
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Other 1988 Autoplan Changes

Premium Costs

All drivers will pay higher premiums in 1988. Average increase: \$90. The reason for this is the steadily increasing number and costs of vehicle insurance claims. The cost of injury-related claims increased by 24 per cent for the first 10 months of 1987 over 1986. Everyone contributes to the insurance pool to pay for the misfortunes of a few.

Driver Point Premiums

Beginning in 1988, drivers with penalty points against their licences will pay Driver Point Premiums based on points accumulated in one year only. This new, simplified system will affect those drivers with five or more points. A table showing the premiums for different points levels is provided on page 2 of the 1988 Autoplan Motorist Kit.

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Negotiations with MacMillan-Bloedel

Tree-cutting issue highlighted on Galiano Island

From Page 10

consultants to study the land, and shared all our information with MB's consultants.

We encouraged a good development proposal in every way we could, and guess what? All the company wanted at the end of these extensive negotiations was a huge increase in density, potentially of added value in the millions of dollars.

It seems that our concerns for watershed, recreation and the environment were simply perceived as a weakness in our bargaining strategy, that justified an attempt to squeeze large concessions from the Trust and the community.

I may be over-reacting, in which case I challenge MacMillan-Bloedel to demonstrate their good will in their dealings with the

Galiano residents. In my mind there is no need for the company to clear-cut every inch of their extensive Galiano holdings. They could easily leave significant forest patches, and contribute to the visual aesthetics, plant communities and recreation values on the island. The financial loss to the company would be insignificant, and the gain in public relations enormous.

How about working with the

Clear Cut Alternatives Group to set up a demonstration forest? So many private woodland owners on the island would benefit from such a project, and the new-age concept of corporations and communities working together for mutual benefit would be underway. I believe MacMillan-Bloedel has before it an opportunity — an opportunity that, if ignored, will give way to an escalation in the present conflict.

TRUST MEETING

The Salt Spring Island Trust Committee will be holding its public meeting and hearing at the Harbour House Hotel this Friday at 1:30 pm.

Islands Trust meeting will feature public hearings on proposed bylaws

Public hearings on six proposed Islands Trust bylaws will be held this Friday in Ganges.

The regularly-scheduled Trust meeting, set for 1:30 pm at the Harbour House Hotel, will open with a call for submissions from the public on the following bylaws:

- Amendments are proposed to the land-use contract signed by the Trust and the Blackburn Farm Society, which operates the Salt Spring Centre.

Proposed changes include expanding current permitted uses to cover construction of new buildings to house people taking programs offered by the centre, restrictions on septic tank absorption fields and deletion of golf courses as a sanctioned recreational use of the property.

One island resident expected to speak against the bylaw is Rick Rockcliffe, owner of the Blue Gables Resort on St. Mary Lake. Rockcliffe told *Driftwood* he does not believe commercial expansion should be permitted for the centre, which lies within the Blackburn Lake watershed, when no such expansion is permitted within the St. Mary Lake watershed.

Trust chairman Nick Gilbert said Friday the proposed bylaw was worked out with the Water Preservation Society and the

Blackburn Farm Society, and contains assurances that the Blackburn Lake watershed "will not be adversely affected."

He added: "There is an extensive environmental statement as part of the bylaw, describing the practices to be used — like 200-foot setbacks from streams for septic fields"

- The official Salt Spring Island community plan is to be re-named and re-numbered, a process that would remove the name of the Capital Regional District from the title and give the plan a 1988 date.

Concern has been expressed to *Driftwood* that the proposed bylaw, if adopted, would give the 15-year-old community plan the appearance of a revised document which could be held up as a current statement.

Gilbert, meanwhile, pointed out that the plan has been amended several times over the years. "This is just one more revision, this time to the title," he said. "I see nothing significant or controversial in it."

However, the chairman conceded that he had given no thought to how the revised date on the plan might be interpreted.

- Amendments are proposed to the rezoning bylaw governing the Channel Ridge development

north of Vesuvius and west of St. Mary Lake. Changes include re-definition of boundaries and average parcel area requirements for the subdivision districts, but not to the overall development density.

- A rezoning is proposed for a small parcel of land bordering China Cove, on the east coast of Salt Spring Island and south of Cusheon Creek.

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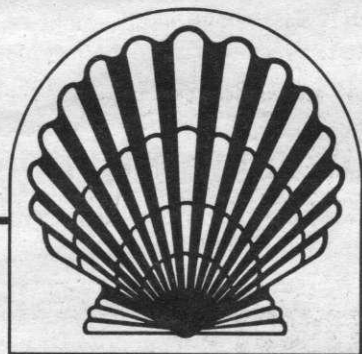
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New calendar year brings pension, tax changes

By TONY SOUTHWELL

The turning of the calendar signals planning time in the world of personal finances. Changes for 1988 include Old Age Security pension payments increased to \$310.66 a month, and the maximum Canada Pension Plan payable at age 65 increased to \$543.06 a month.

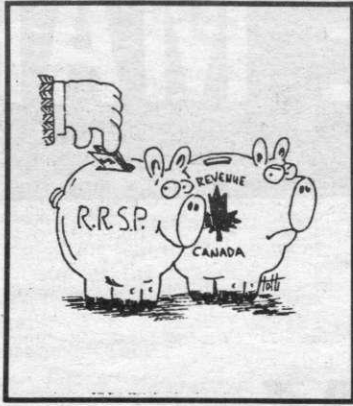
If you qualify for early receipt of Canada Pension Plan payments and you apply at age 60, the maximum monthly pension is \$380.14 (70 per cent of \$543.06).

It may be financially advantageous for you to apply for an early CPP pension. You should consult your financial advisor for advice in this regard.

Also, bear in mind that if you are under 71 years of age, your OAS and CPP payments qualify for tax deferral by transferring them to your RRSP. This financially-rewarding benefit will disappear after 1989.

WHAT'S GONE IS GONE

The \$1,000 dividend and interest income deduction has been



completely eliminated for 1988. One way to reduce the amount of taxable interest you receive is to make your 1988 RRSP

contribution early in calendar 1988. This will allow interest to accumulate tax-free within the tax shelter.

The income-splitting benefits of the Family Trust (using interest-free loans) has been eliminated. However, there are still a number of ways to take advantage of income splitting in 1988. One of

the best but least used methods is the (RESP) Registered Education Savings Plan (see Gulf Islands Driftwood, September 30, 1987). This "noble" tax shelter remains untouched by tax reform, and in fact maximum contribution limits will increase in 1988.

Other tax saving income splitting options include: the spousal RSP; funds loaned to a

spouse (produce income on income, which is not subject to income tax attribution rules); gifts or loans made to family member 18 years of age or older; segregating Family Allowance payments in your child's name (tax savings can be enormous over an 18 year

period); investing for capital gains in child's name; and interest compounding in an investment such as Canada Savings Bonds in the name of a child 15 years of age or older, until the child turns 18.

DON'T OVERLOOK THESE:

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The three-year accrual rule applicable to the "C" bonds of this issue has been extended beyond 1987. Income need not be included until the bond matures in 1988.

- Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) — dividends, tax shelters and capital gains could trigger this tax.

- The income tax "disability" tax credit can be claimed by those with a prolonged and severe impairment. Prior to tax year 1987, the deduction could only be used for people who were blind or confined to a wheelchair or bed. The deduction for 1987 is \$2,890. In 1988, it ceases to be a deduction and becomes a tax credit of \$550.

The new tax measures which became effective January 1 will affect our tax and investment planning for 1988 and beyond. However, the cardinal rule when

looking at investment options continues to be that regardless of the tax benefits or implications, the investment must first make sense on its own. If it needs the incentive of a tax benefit to make it worthwhile, it should probably be avoided.

Remember, it's your money.

Tony Southwell is a financial planner with Regal Capital Planners Ltd. in Victoria.

Other tax breaks eliminated

Tax reform increases importance of RRSPs as planning instruments

By BILL CALLIN

With the advent of tax reform in Canada, the importance of the Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) as a tax planning tool has increased dramatically.

The tax reform legislation introduced in June, 1987, eliminated or reduced many investment deductions — i.e., the \$1,000 investment income deduction, the dividend tax credit, and the capital gains exemption.

In light of these changes, the RSP is the only tax planning tool which most working Canadians can use to reduce taxes. Tax reform left the taxation mechanism for RSP contributions relatively intact, in that contributions will still be deductible from taxable income rather than being converted to credits, as is happening with many other deductions.

Increases in contribution limits that were proposed in 1986 have been deferred until 1989 and will be phased in over a six-year period.

Basic contribution limits for the 1987 tax year are as follows:

- Individuals who are self-employed or employed by a company but not in a company pension or deferred profit sharing plan, can contribute 20 per cent of earned income per year up to a maximum of \$7,500 for the 1987 tax year. It is expected that the same limits will apply for the 1988 tax year.
- Individuals who belong to a company registered pension plan or deferred profit sharing plan to which the employer or employee made a contribution in the year, may contribute the lesser of \$3,500 minus their contribution to a registered pension plan in that year, or 20 per cent of earned income.

Many pension plans possess basic inadequacies. You receive no tax advantage from company

contributions to your pension plan and your ability to contribute to an RSP is diminished. However, you can deduct every dollar you contribute to your RSP from taxable income.

Long-term tax savings can be obtained by registering a plan in the name of your spouse. The main advantage of contributing to a spousal plan is that the spouse with the higher income gets a deduction from taxable income but funds coming out of the plan at retirement are taxed in the hands

of the spouse in the lower tax bracket, provided no deductible contributions have been made to any spousal plan in the year or the two preceding years.

And since income received from RSPs after maturity is normally eligible for the \$1,000 Pension Income Deduction, a spousal plan may allow a married couple to double up on this deduction.

Bill Callin is a financial planner with McLeod Young Weir of Victoria.

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RRSP decisions hinge on large number of factors

By CAROL GAY

It's that time of year again when attention in the financial planning world turns towards the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP).

If you are wondering whether you should start a plan or where you should place this year's contribution, or if you just need a little information regarding RRSPs, there are a number of factors worthy of consideration.

An RRSP is probably the best long-term savings vehicle available to the average Canadian. No other program allows men and women to put aside funds now to build for worry-free retirement years, while allowing them to claim the deposits they make as a deduction on their income tax returns.

There are two basic reasons why people should invest in RRSPs: to defer income tax (not to be confused with a tax write-off), and

to build up a personal retirement plan.

There are many different plans to choose from, each offered by a variety of financial institutions and related businesses like stock brokers, life insurance companies and financial management firms.

Each issuer of RRSPs offers one or more ways to invest your money. Growth rates, terms, conditions and fees vary.

The type of plan you choose should depend primarily upon the personal objectives you establish, and the priority of those

objectives.

When shopping for an RRSP, a number of questions should be asked to determine the right plan for you. This might not always be the plan the investment counsellor is trying to persuade you to buy, but it is important that the quality of the investment meets your standards.

Rates of interest and rates of return attract the most attention, and you should be prepared to quickly analyze whether the return is guaranteed or is based on past performance projected for the

future.

If the rate of return is guaranteed, check the frequency of interest payments, the basis of interest calculations, whether the interest compounds and the issuer's policy respecting withdrawal prior to maturity if a fixed term option is selected.

If the rate of return is based on past performance, check the value of the units and their fluctuation in the marketplace.

If you are looking at a self-directed plan, it is recommended that you have considerable investment experience and the time to manage your funds.

Remember that if you invest your RRSP contribution in equities, the capital gains earned do not qualify for capital gains exemption.

Probably the next most commonly asked question about

RRSPs is, *What do they cost?* Not all issuers charge fees but many do and you should be aware of what they are in order to determine your annual rate of return. Common charges include a front end load, which is a commission charged against your contribution, an administration fee usually processed on an annual basis and a close-out charge, if and when you close or transfer your plan.

The security of your funds is important, also. When looking for a plan, be sure that you understand where the funds are being invested, whether they are covered by deposit insurance, and the risk to your capital investment.

Other considerations when shopping for an RRSP are convenience, instant tax receipts, frequency of statements, whether the staff is informative, ease with which transfers and/or withdrawals can be made, and whether you can borrow to maximize your contribution.

RRSPs may sound complicated but with the right approach, and by contacting the right people who can provide you with the right plan to help you make the right choice, we believe the process can be both simplified and rewarding.

Carol Gay is an investment officer at Island Savings Credit Union in Ganges.



Mortgage backed securities 'sound investment'

By BARBARA LANG

National Housing Authority (NHA) Mortgage Backed Securities are an investment in a pool of residential first mortgages insured by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), a Canadian government agency.

CMHC plays a key role in providing existing and new housing for Canadians by insuring both principal and interest payments on housing mortgages. These residential mortgages are issued by leading Canadian financial institutions and usually pay substantially higher interest rates than government bonds.

For investors requiring a reliable monthly income flow CMHC guarantees the payment, which assures the highest level of safety.

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- Yield, 10.16 per cent;

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• Principal at maturity, \$4,753.58.

In summary NHA Mortgage-Backed Securities feature an

attractive rate of return, monthly payments of principal and interest, guaranteed on-time payment each month, insured mortgages, and liquidity.

Barbara Lang is an account executive with Nesbitt Thomson, with an office in Ganges.

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Society offers habitat improvement suggestions

Weirs on St. Mary and Cusheon lakes would generate enough water for fish and irrigation, and improve water quality on the island, the Salt Spring Island Salmon Enhancement Society agreed at its annual meeting last week.

The society agreed to work with the department of the environment and North Salt Spring Waterworks to have weirs — small dams — built on St. Mary and Cusheon lakes.

Weirs would keep the water higher in the summer months, but would not affect winter levels. According to society spokesman Kathy Reimer, water quality in both the lakes would improve,

and Duck and Cusheon creeks would have better summer flows. This, Reimer said, would save the society having to rescue 2,000 to 3,000 cutthroat fry each summer.

Fishing would improve with the installation of weirs, and the lakes would no longer need constant restoration, she said, adding that the project would end the "water shortage" on Salt Spring since one extra foot of water on St. Mary Lake would provide approximately 120,000,000 gallons of water.

"There would be enough water for the fish, farmers' irrigation and everyone else."

Other items dealt with at the annual Salmon Enhancement Society meeting included a call for

members to ask the Islands Trust to install some form of protection at the upper part of Cusheon Creek.

The land previously belonged to MacMillan-Bloedel, and is the most important section of the creek, Reimer said. It has the best spawning beds, and the springs found on the land are responsible for most of the creek's summer flow.

The society will also ask the department of environment and federal fisheries to provide an enforcement officer on Fulford Creek.

The officer would provide overnight enforcement during spawning periods. This coincides with

low tides and could put clam digging in check as well.

The society also resolved to continue its efforts on Ganges Creek.

According to Reimer, the creek is a valuable location for school children to release fish. Thanks to Job-Trac and the Chamber of Commerce, she noted, the creek now has several large and deep pools.

Meanwhile, "Salmon in the Classroom" projects will continue as the society renewed its mandate to continue public education and the purchasing of reference books for school children.

The meeting also saw election of an additional four directors of

the society, bringing the total to 12. The new directors include Kathy Stack, John Fuller, Marina Scott and Gilles Carriere.

The other directors are: Jonathan Oldroyd, Kathy Reimer, Deb Nostal, Dave Waldie, Gordon Oldroyd, Al Hoskins, John Elliot and Arnie Hengstler.

Park use as car lot draws ire of islanders

Several islanders expressed indignation last weekend when a Colwood car company used Centennial Park as a site to display and sell its cars.

Saunders Subaru parked five vehicles on the Gasoline Alley side of Centennial Park all day Saturday, and much of Sunday.

The cars sat on the newly-installed surface of Centennial Park, which is presently undergoing beautification work by a Job-Trac program crew working under the direction of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber president Jack Cherry approached the dealers Saturday afternoon to express his concern over their use of the park.

Under a Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw, vendors must obtain written permission to obtain a stall and sell goods in the park. A fee paid towards upkeep of the park is also required.

Once the beautification project is complete, no vehicles of any sort will be permitted in the park.

Bob Saunders, the owner of the car dealership, said he had verbal permission to park the Subarus there. He did not, however, have a written permit to vend in the park. Saunders also said: "somebody else put the cars there."

Dr. Hugh Borsman, Salt Spring's representative to the Capital Regional District (CRD) board, approached the dealer Sunday to ask if they realized they were breaking the law.

Borsman said he was told that the dealer had permission, but suggested he knew of no such authority being given.

Borsman said the dealership would have to obtain permission to vend in the Gasoline Alley parking lot, as well as in the park.

Commerce is permitted in that area during Farmer's Market hours only.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has declined comment on the issue until it has all of the details in hand.

In the meantime, a heavy chain will be installed to block the entrance to the park, to prevent a similar incident from occurring.

Hiking Club sets activities

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club has released its schedule of activities for February. Unless otherwise indicated, all events begin at 10 am and meet at the Bin and Barrel parking lot on Lower Ganges Road.

FEBRUARY 2

- Regular walk, Beaver Point area, with Tony Pedersen.
- Hike, Snag Hill, with Ruby Alton.

Both meet at Drummond Park at 10:15 am.

FEBRUARY 9

- Regular walk, Cranberry area, with Doreen Braggins.
- Hike, Mt. Erskine (from Collins Road), with Bob Kertland.

FEBRUARY 16

- Regular walk, leader's choice, with Margaret Pragnell.
- Hike, Coppermine Trail, with Loes Holland.

FEBRUARY 23

- Regular walk, Ruckle Park, with Jean King. Meet at Drummond Park at 10:15 am.
- Hike, Maple Bay area, with Bob Ball. Depart from Vesuvius at 9 am; arrange own car pool.

Dr. Charles Alsberg, N.D.

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Patterson's Store
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LANGFORD

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PART 4 OF 26

To the Peoples of the World

A BAHÁ'Í STATEMENT ON

Peace

WHATEVER SUFFERING and turmoil the years immediately ahead may hold, however dark the immediate circumstances, the Baha'i community believes that humanity can confront this supreme trial with confidence in its ultimate outcome. Far from signaling the end of civilization, the convulsive changes towards which humanity is being ever more rapidly impelled will serve to release the "potentialities inherent in the station of man" and reveal "the full measure of his destiny on earth, the innate excellence of his reality".

I

The endowments which distinguish the human race from all other forms of life are summed up in what is known as the human spirit; the mind is its essential quality. These endowments have enabled humanity to build civilizations and to prosper materially. But such accomplishments alone have never satisfied the human spirit, whose mysterious nature inclines it towards transcendence, a reaching towards an invisible realm, towards the ultimate reality, that unknowable essence of essences called God. The religions brought to mankind by a succession of spiritual luminaries have been the primary link between humanity and that ultimate reality, and have galvanized and refined mankind's capacity to achieve spiritual success together with social progress.

For a free copy of the complete statement "TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD" or information about the Baha'i Faith and local activities, please write or call 537-5383 or 537-4588, Box 772, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0.



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CPR class for Ship's Anchor staff included (clockwise from bottom left) Vivienne Rasmussen, Cindy Styles, Tina Rockwell, Natalie Mills, Bill Simpkin and Vonnie Simpkin.

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation

Instructors needed for classes

A "desperate shot in the arm" is needed by the volunteer group offering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training on Salt Spring Island.

Since 1983, the group has provided over 600 islanders with training in CPR — a life-saving method used to re-start failed hearts. Now, it's running out of instructors for the program.

Sonia Townsend said last week that the volunteer group currently operates with but six instructors, which is too few to keep up with course demands.

"We always have the same people doing the instruction, and everyone is running out of steam," she said. "It's like pulling teeth to get the same people to instruct a course again and again. We need new bodies, and badly."

Townsend estimates the group needs a minimum of 10 instruc-

tors to meet course demands. Courses are operated over two evenings, and a bank of 10 instructors would allow each one to preside over one course a month, she said.

To become a CPR instructor, a candidate must take a weekend course which costs \$70. However, that charge can be recovered after the successful student goes on to instruct four courses, Townsend said.

Complicating the need for additional instructors on Salt Spring Island is a change in officially-approved CPR techniques, Townsend added. Effective January 1, 1987, the training course has been shortened and simplified, meaning that anyone who took the older course should now renew.

"You should renew once a year anyway," she said.

The local group is also aiming

to expand the amount of training it provides. Townsend said it would like to provide instruction to the staff of local businesses and to students and staff in local schools. Again, however, the success of that goal will depend on convincing more people to serve as CPR instructors.

For further information about CPR courses, contact Townsend at 537-5279, or Cindy Styles at 537-4326.

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Ethiopian relief funds sought on Salt Spring

A drive to assist provision of famine relief for Ethiopia will be held this Friday (January 29) in Ganges.

Sponsored by the local chapter of the *Save the Children Fund*, the drive will see donations for famine relief accepted at the two banks and one credit union in Ganges, and at the Continuing Education office in Mouat's Mall.

Organizers note the fund-raising effort will take place from 10 am to 3 pm, and that receipts for income tax purposes will be mailed to all donors.

The *Save the Children Fund* is one of five major agencies in Canada operating under the auspices of the Disaster Emergency Committee to launch a joint appeal to raise money for Ethiopian relief. The other four are Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD and the Red Cross.

Jean Knight, *Save the Children Fund* representative on Salt Spring, said the relief effort needs funds to meet the cost of food purchases and delivery, the transport of vehicles and fuel, and extra staff to manage the program.

Knight said Ethiopia is facing a severe food shortage brought on by poor rainfall in most northern and eastern regions, and damage caused by locusts and other pests. Crop loss in some areas is reported to be between 50 and 100 per cent.

"The problem now is to distribute enough food to affected areas in time to ensure that people are not forced to abandon their homes, even if they have to

travel regularly to distribution centres to collect rations," Knight said. "Above all, the aim must be to prevent the formation of famine relief camps, where disease poses an even greater threat to life than starvation."

The *Save the Children Fund* has one of the largest long-term operations of any relief agency in northern Ethiopia, Knight said, and is providing a nutrition surveillance program covering many of the most badly-affected regions of the country.

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'Oriental artists understood'

Glow of early-morning light points out geometry form

It is no secret to most of you out there in reader land that this column is written mostly for the pleasure of it, and most certainly not for the mucho dinero. Making pots is my living for most of each day and, occasionally, into the night as well.

At the end of last week I found myself in the familiar circumstance of firing my gas kiln through the night in order to finish the firing in daylight hours. Sparing most of the details, it takes 18 to 20 hours start to finish, to complete the ritual, meaning you either start in daylight and finish in blackness or the other way around.

The other way around involves starting at 10 pm, babying the kiln through the slow initial four hours, and then "cranking it up" for the next four to seven hours until it is time for "reduction" — a critical manipulation of the internal atmosphere of the kiln which can make a success or failure of the effort.

Needless to say a reliable alarm clock is an essential aid in making adjustments to the kiln at precisely the right time and temperature.

Now, the advantages of starting in the evening are moot. But it might have a little to do with a personal aversion I have to periodically checking the progress of the firing on a black cold winter's night, when all I want to do is go to bed 'cause I'm sick of waiting for this stupid kiln to reach finishing temperature. If you finish in daylight, you expect to be awake for a while yet. If it is late at night you expect to be in bed — long ago. Of course if it's a warm summer night — who cares?

For all this drudgery, I discovered an unexpected source of inspiration when, after being "alarmed" at 6:30 am after 4 hours of sleep, I witnessed the gradual lighting of the day through the living room window.

The extraordinary sight wasn't a blazing sunrise but a silhouette of a large arbutus which revealed the stabbed and stippled pattern of leaves against the flat five per cent grey backlight of the morning.

artseen

by gary cherneff

This tree projected each individual leaf as a little triangle — thousands of them darkened by the backlight so that in unison with the twisted dark trunks and branches, the sight resembled Chinese ink painting landscapes — black on white.

The critical issue here is that if the leaves on the trees looked like triangles, it is but one short mental step to the understanding that triangles can represent these leaves symbolically. Triangle equals arbutus leaf.

'Besides the many textural gymnastics, the shapes can also be in outline or solid form. Each species of plant can be assigned a shape of blob of ink or style of line which becomes like its impersonator.'

Of course, symbols representing real things is nothing new to the Chinese or Japanese. Much of their script has been derived in this way. And, indeed, their landscape painting styles have become codified in treatises such as *The Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting*.

In the section on leaves in this book, we see that the Chinese use black ink and Sumi brush to make abstract textural marks which, in their sum, impersonate a tree's foliage. We see leaves made by

"dotting in sharp points, dotting in blobs, like a whirlpool, and dotting in groups of three or five strokes."

Besides the many textural gymnastics, the shapes can also be in outline or solid form. Each species of plant can be assigned a shaped blob of ink or style of line which becomes its impersonator.

Once one adopts a method of painting like this, the opportunity exists to be free of the compulsion to create the botanically-accurate visual record. One can become a child again, just having fun.

Once the content of the image has been resolved in this way, one can concentrate on the pure harmony of form and line in the composition. The next time you look at a painting, try to notice how the artist has used symbolic devices to create his image.

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Concert, dance set for evening

An evening of South African music, scheduled for this Saturday in Ganges, will be a combination concert-dance, organizers said Monday.

The event, set for the Salt Spring Elementary School Activity Centre on January 30, will feature South African singer-songwriter Tony Bird and Zulu Spear, an 11-piece South African "township band."

Promotor Rick Nuefeld said plans call for the evening to open with Bird in concert, beginning at 8:30 pm. By the time Zulu Spear appears on stage at 10 pm, he continued, chairs will have been pushed back to allow for dancing.

Doors will open at 8 pm, and a food and juice bar will be set up.

About the music, Nuefeld said it should prove to be "an interesting combination," since the Ganges event will mark the only time both acts will share a bill during their current west coast tour.

Zulu Spear, founded in the U.S. in 1985, features four dancers and seven musicians performing "authentic South African township music." The group has performed with Paul Simon, King Sunny Ade and Manu Dibango.

Tony Bird, a veteran of the 1960s folk music circuit in England, now lives in New York City and tours throughout Canada and the U.S. He appeared on Salt Spring last July, when he was a featured performer at the Summer Festival of the Arts.

Sea Capers planning underway for '88

Organization of the 1988 version of Sea Capers is about to begin.

Sea Capers Society secretary Bevis Walters said last week that the committee struck to organize the annual Salt Spring Island event has called a late-February meeting to begin planning the 1988 schedule.

The meeting is set for February 25 at the school board office in Ganges, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The organizing committee will need a healthy supply of volunteers and helpers, Walters said. He noted that the Sea Capers Society is a self-supporting, non-profit body which has no paid officials or workers, does not apply for government grants or donations, and charges no dues or membership fees.

"Sea Capers is a loosely-knit organization, but it works, as

Society slates organizational meeting

shown by its record in past years," Walters said.

Any funds raised by the June event are turned back to the community. Since its founding in 1977, the event has generated enough funds to allow contributions to various local work projects or organizations. Recipients have included the Mahon Hall restoration fund, the Farmers' Institute scholarship fund, the Centennial Park boardwalk and bandstand projects, and a \$3,000 contribution to the Job-Trac program.

Sea Capers raises funds by organizing dances, barbecues, a beer garden and other events,

and by the sale of advertising space in a printed events program.

Walters said this year's version of Sea Capers will be held on a Saturday in June, and that he expects it will feature changes from the format used in previous years.

For example, concession stands are to be operated this year on a share basis with other island organizations, the events schedule will feature no overlap, the aquatic events and the treasure hunt are to be expanded, and the sand-building contest is expected to include a "build-off" with the

winners of a similar contest elsewhere.

The management committee overseeing Sea Capers changes each year, Walters said. It usually consists of 10 to 12 members who are assigned specific duties. Anyone may join the society, he continued, provided the person is willing to be an active helper.

"There are no passengers or non-workers," he said.

For further information on organizational work underway for Sea Capers, or about the February 25 meeting, contact Walters at 537-9487.

Theatre joins exchange lineup

Off Centre Stage has expanded its weekly skills exchange nights.

The dance and music skills exchange nights launched by Off Centre Stage proved to be so successful, it says, that a theatre skills exchange night has been added.

"Actors, writers, directors and iconoclasts have an open invitation to drop in Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm" for the sessions, Off Centre Stage said last week.

The ongoing exchange nights are designed to "aid and abet original ideas, and to create as much havoc as possible," it adds.

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HUNT'S Thick'n'Rich Sauce Big 28 oz. tins Reg. 2.19 1 49	GOLDEN GROVE Apple Juice 1 litre ctns. Reg. 1.25 ea. 2 1 39	KLEENEX Facial Tissue Chubby pkgs. 100's Reg. 95¢ 59¢
CASA FIESTA Taco Dinners 276 g pkgs. Reg. 4.09 ea. 1 99	TAIPAN Miniature Corn Cobs 14 oz. tins Reg. 1.29 79¢	HEINZ Beans with Pork 14 oz. tins Reg. 1.29 89¢
CLOVER LEAF Smoked Salmon 3 oz. tins Reg. 1.19 69¢	PUREX Toilet Tissue 4-roll pkgs. Reg. 2.15 ea. 1 49	Reg. 79¢ ea. Ichiban Noodles 2 100 gram pkgs. 99¢

PRODUCE SPECIALS — JAN. 27-30

TEXAS Pink Grapefruit  5 for 99¢	Russet Potatoes  1 29 10 lb. cello bag	B.C. GROWN Anjou Pears  3 99¢ lbs.
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MEAT SPECIALS — JAN. 27-30

PURE PORK, PRESERVATIVE-FREE Sausage Meat 3.06 kg 1 39 lb.	Turkey Thighs 3.73 kg 1 69 lb.	LEAN Ground Beef 4.17 kg 1 89 lb.
BONELESS TOP & BOTTOM ROUND STEAK AND ROASTS Barons of Beef 6.15 kg 2 79 lb.	COLBY, FARMERS or NIPPY Cheese 7.59 kg 3 79 lb.	FRESH WHOLE Chicken Breasts 4.39 kg 1 99 lb.
	MAPLE LEAF READY TO EAT SMOKED Cottage Roll 5.93 kg 2 69 lb.	

GULF ISLAND TRADING CO., GANGES