

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

THIRTIETH YEAR, NO. 11

50¢

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989



Paddle power

Followed by his two retrievers, Ken Renaud pilots dory through Booth Canal waters near his Salt Spring home. Leisurously row, aided by clear skies

and bright sun, help bury memories of recent foul weather and herald imminent arrival of spring.

Patrol cracks down on diggers

The federal department of fisheries has joined forces with the Canadian Coast Guard to crack down on illegal clam digging.

Fisheries has employed the use of a Parksville-based Coast Guard hovercraft to patrol Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands beaches, and to swoop down on individuals illegally harvesting undersized and contaminated clams.

The hovercraft has recently visited two Salt Spring beaches: one at Burgoyne Bay, the other at Booth Canal.

Currently, all Salt Spring beaches are closed to commercial clam digging. Areas closed to commercial diggers, to allow clams time to grow to legal size, are still open to sports clam fishing and Indian food harvesting. Many Salt Spring beaches are closed to all harvesting, however, due to high fecal coliform counts.

Nanaimo fisheries officer Cindy Harlow says some people continue to harvest clams regardless of the potential contamination, especially now that clam prices are high. This, she says, can lead to

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High school conference debates communication

By SUSAN DICKER

According to the stories of King Arthur, the King's mentor Merlin appeared to him as an old man and as a youthful boy. When Merlin spoke as an elderly man, Arthur carefully listened to his "wise" words. When Merlin approached Arthur as a young boy, however, the king paid less mind to his words of hope and direction.

At the *Bridging Gaps* conference staged last Saturday at the high school on Salt Spring, participants gathered to listen to comments made by students, teachers and parents in an attempt to improve communication links between the three parties.

Facilitator Ron Jorgenson, who told the story of King Arthur and Merlin, said he was "fascinated" by the potential outcomes of the conference. "Life must be lived forward," he said, "and understood backwards." In order to live our lives forward, we must look at life in terms of our youth,

he added: it is the youth who will determine hope for the future.

Jorgenson compared the school unit to the family unit, with parents (the *mother* figure) providing the student with support and feeling; teachers (playing the role of *father*) setting down rules, and students (*children*) living in the balance.

He used the comparison to point out the dangers that can occur when communications are severed between any of those in the family.

Jorgenson congratulated those who attended the conference, indicating that everyone has a choice: we can be part of the problem or be part of the solution. He felt the *Bridging Gaps* conference would help spur solutions by bringing about change and offering directions.

After Jorgenson's comments, the group practised communication exercises. Participants then divided into approximately 15

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Heating up

Increase in Earth's temperature bodes ill for the future. Page A23.

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Tree-cutting prompts barge-bloc kade protest

By DAVE FRASER

PENDER ISLAND — Is it the thin end of the wedge that will ruin the island way of life? Or is it a developer trying to make a few bucks and, at the same time, provide affordable housing?

Those are the questions being asked after a noisy demonstration Wednesday afternoon which saw protesters temporarily halt a moving company trying to unload two houses from a barge and haul them up to Magic Lake Estates on North Pender Island.

The crowd started gathering at around 3 pm and swelled to 40 to 50 people, most of them curious onlookers. But a dozen or so protesters surrounded Vancouver developer Victor Dukowski. Some claimed he did not have the right to use the beach and criticized him for the way he clear-cut two of his four lots near Magic Lake.

During the furor Nickel Brothers house movers of New Westminster were becoming in-

creasingly frustrated as they raced against the tide to prepare a ramp to unload the barge.

At about 5 pm two members of the Pender Island RCMP detachment appeared on the scene and ordered owners of five vehicles to remove them from the path of a semi-trailer truck that was attempting to remove the houses.

Constable Brian Brown informed the protesters that they would be guilty of breaching the peace if they did not remove their vehicles. Brown said later it was the first demonstration he's seen in his four years of service on the island.

Protesters complained that during their transport the houses would block access to Magic Lake for emergency vehicles.

RCMP indicated highways ministry permits for the over-size loads were in order, adding that employees of B.C. Hydro and B.C. Telephone were on hand to

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Pender Islanders prevent unloading of barge

Residents stall arrival of homes to protest timber-cutting on lots

From Page A1

safeguard cables along the truck's route, with overtime costs to be paid by Dukowski.

North Pender Island trustee Doreen York said she was concerned about the choice of Medicine Beach to unload the barge. The Islands Trust is negotiating with the beach owner to protect it as a natural preserve. However, she said to her knowledge the beach was not harmed.

"I learned the rules, followed the rules and went about my business," Dukowski said.

"I was shocked that I touched on people's sensitivities like I did."

Louis Hammer hoped the protest put out the message that Penderites don't want to see more clear-cut practices in Magic Lake again.

"Pender Island is a place that's special and you don't turn around and treat it as if you're putting up a subdivision lot in Burnaby, Vancouver or Langley," he said.

Hammer, a contractor, remembers houses and heavy equipment were barged in to Thieves Bay in the early 1970s. "At least there they didn't knock out every tree in sight. These people come in and they have absolutely no sensitivity towards the natural growth of anything. Guys like this developer couldn't care less. He'll sell the properties at a profit and take off and do something else.

"But for us people who live there we have to look at this kind of stuff. It will be 35, 40, 50 years before you're going to get trees of the size that were taken down."

Hammer said he is a candidate in the April 1 elections for the North Pender Advisory Planning Council. "If I get in I'm going to really raise hell about what I see today."

He said a design panel could prevent further clear-cutting on the island.

Hammer expressed concerns that clear-cutting practices will harm wildlife in Magic Lake, where he has lived for 20 years. He said he buys firewood rather than felling trees on his three contiguous lots for a wood supply. Dukowski said rock outcropp-

ings on his lots required that his land be clear cut, basing his decision on advice from a local contractor, who he would not name.

But Hammer said large trees can be preserved around rock outcroppings and he pointed at the Broadmead subdivision off the Pat Bay Highway as an example.

"I have a great deal of respect for their position but it's very hard dealing with people who are very emotionally upset," Dukowski said.

"These people have a responsibility to deal with their elected representatives and establish laws which deal with their community. As an outsider I have to assume this has been done and follow the laws. If there's something wrong with the laws they should change them."

Dukowski said he applied for all the necessary permits in an open way. "I shouldn't have to face this type of protest."

Dukowski called the barging of his homes to Pender Island "an ecologically sound proposal." He noted that the houses were slated for demolition and represented five or more man-years of labour.

"Recycling good sound houses provides affordable housing for people with limited means."

Dukowski said it is inevitable that urban homeowners will sell

out their investments and move to Pender Island in large numbers, demanding bigger, more elaborate dwellings.

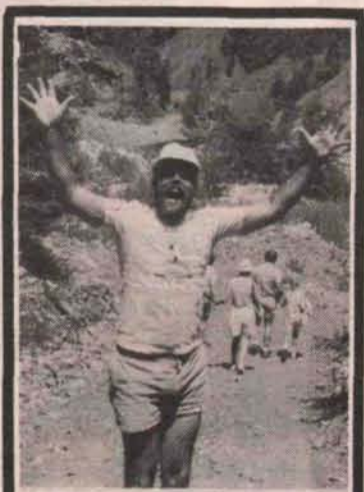
He noted that real estate values on Vancouver's West Side are as high as \$100 a square foot. "Are people on the Gulf Islands prepared to pay \$200,000 to \$250,000 for a home?"

Dukowski called Magic Lake Estates, the largest subdivision in Western Canada, a speculator's dream because of its idealic location.

He added that Magic Lake's inexpensive lots cost one-third their replacement value.

He said that not long ago a real estate company missed grabbing 100 Magic Lake lots of between one-third and one-half an acre for \$10,000 each. So, he explained, for an outlay of \$1 million the company could have effectively cornered the area's real estate.

Dukowski said he wants to stay on the good side of the Pender Island community. "I've offered to co-operate with people interested in developing a better community plan."



Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that."

Through the Looking Glass (1871), Lewis Carroll. And you have to be faster than me!

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Analysis

An analysis of treated water from St. Mary's Lake shows it contains an extremely low level of trihalomethanes.

The analysis was undertaken early last month for the benefit of those supplied with treated water from the Salt Spring lake, who expressed concern over the carcinogenic effect of trihalomethanes.

The accepted Canadian standard is 35 parts per million. In St. Mary's Lake, the level of trihalomethanes is 5.93 parts per billion.

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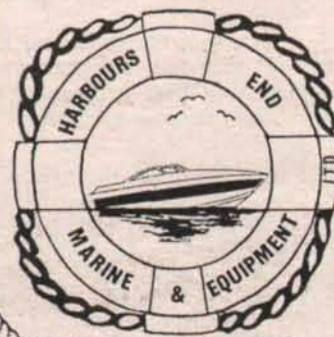
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	0625	9.7		0950	8.0
WE	0835	9.8	SA	1330	8.6
	1745	2.7		2040	3.4
16	0245	10.7	19	0420	10.5
	0855	9.2		1010	7.3
TH	0930	9.2	SU	1445	8.6
	1850	2.9		2120	3.7
17	0325	10.8	20	0440	10.3
	0925	8.6		1030	6.6
FR	1150	8.7	MO	1550	8.8
	1950	3.1		2155	4.2
			21	0455	10.0
				1055	5.9
			TU	1640	9.0
				2230	4.9
			22	0505	9.9
				1115	5.1
			WE	1735	9.1
				2305	5.6



537-4202

Harbours End, Ganges

Communication explored at GISS conference

From Page A1

groups according to their title (*parent, teacher or student*). From here, groups identified problems they felt were paramount to improving communications in the school district.

After a coffee break, participants divided into mixed groups in an attempt to find solutions.

Three major themes emerged from the conference: problematic areas of communications; a lack of school spirit and enthusiasm; and necessary facility improvements. Problems and solutions for each theme were identified

through the course of the morning.

In the area of communication, participants noted there were weak links between teachers and parents, and especially between students and the school system. Many people felt students should have more say in the administration and philosophy of the school. Others indicated a need to facilitate interaction between teachers and parents, allowing for immediate communication should a student begin behaving irregularly.

Some potential solutions included the creation of a permanent group involving representa-

tives of teachers, students and parents, teacher interaction on student councils and student involvement in staff meetings.

Periodical student-run assemblies were also suggested as a means of improving communication links.

Students attending the conference were most vocal about the second theme, calling for greater school spirit. They said they felt this could be encouraged through greater enthusiasm in teachers, more school activities and better facilities.

Parents and teachers also expressed a need for improved

school spirit, suggesting an improvement in school decor could help. They said the school needs more feeling, energy and enthusiasm, plus positive role modelling between older and younger students.

"There needs to be a sense of *community* within the school," came one response.

A buddy system between Grade 12 and Grade Eight students was offered as one solution. House teams that encouraged positive competition in areas not limited to sports (i.e., carrying house competitions into the aca-

demics and fine arts) was also suggested.

Many people felt improvement of the high school facility would lead to improved school spirit. One item needed immediately, everyone agreed, is a gathering place for students. At present, students have only the hallways to meet in during the winter months.

Parents, teachers and students also agreed on the importance of developing the individual's self worth, and aiming for personal excellence. This, they said, should be encouraged.

Fisheries, Coast Guard launch attack on illegal shellfish harvesting in region

From Page A1

serious health problems for those who consume the clams.

Among the diseases that can result from consumption of fecal coliform traces are hepatitis, typhoid, cholera and salmonosis.

A shortage of clams from clean beaches has pushed the price of the bivalve up, encouraging illegal harvesting, Harlow says. Other people justify digging in contaminated areas by insisting they have eaten clams from a particular beach for years and suffered no illnesses.

Harlow disagrees with this reasoning: "I like to use the analogy that you may see your toilet bowl as fairly clean, but you wouldn't dip your steak in it."

Increased fecal coliform counts can be caused by a number of

factors, such as upland seepage, a faulty septic tank or even increased bird activity on the beach. In the summer months, the problem can be intensified by people living aboard boats and pumping out their tanks.

Harlow says the department of fisheries has been working alongside local RCMP to identify illegal harvesters. In the past, clam diggers may have escaped the arm of the law by running down the beach and into wooded areas.

"The hovercraft can add an element of surprise," Harlow says. "It's difficult to outrun it."

The hovercraft can travel at approximately 40 miles per hour along the beach. With several officials on board the craft and others scouting beach, an in-

creased number of charges are being laid.

Salt Spring Island beaches in the following areas are closed to shellfish harvesting due to contamination of fecal coliforms: Booth Bay; a radius surrounding the unnamed creek running into Houston Passage; the tidal foreshore of Walker Hook; the tidal foreshore of Duck Bay waters; the areas surrounding the ferry slips at Vesuvius Bay and Long Harbour; the headland of Fulford Harbour; and areas in Ganges Harbour.

These beaches are closed to shellfish harvesting of any type. All other Salt Spring beaches are closed to any form of commercial harvesting.

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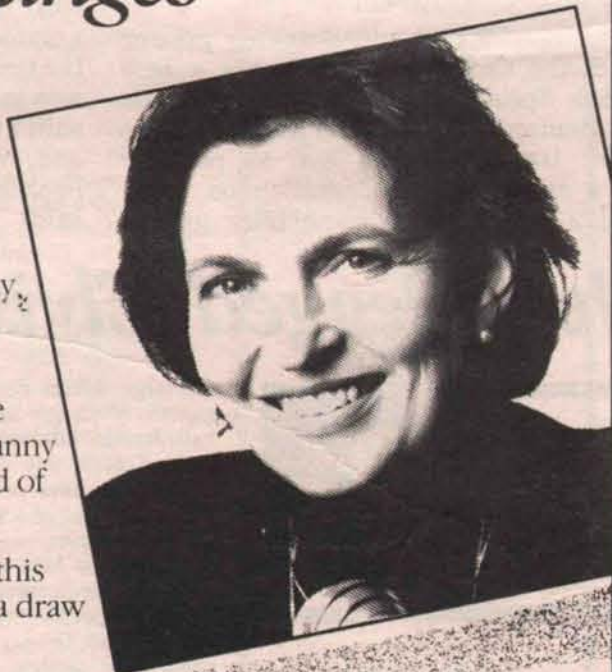
CBC Radio Comes to Ganges March 20

It's only natural! One of CBC Radio's hottest shows, *Almanac* will be broadcasting live Monday, March 20 from the Ganges Firehall.

From Noon to 2 pm enjoy all the action of live radio. Meet host Fanny Kiefer. Enjoy music, comedy and of course, news and interviews.

Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration of island life. Enter a draw for free books and records.

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Noon to 2 pm Monday March 20



 **CBC Radio
British Columbia**

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Give the public better access to wood supply

The provincial government has an opportunity to make giant strides in the management of B.C.'s timberland resources — if it listens to some of the more notable recommendations being made before its public hearings into expansion of the existing Tree Farm Licence (TFL) system.

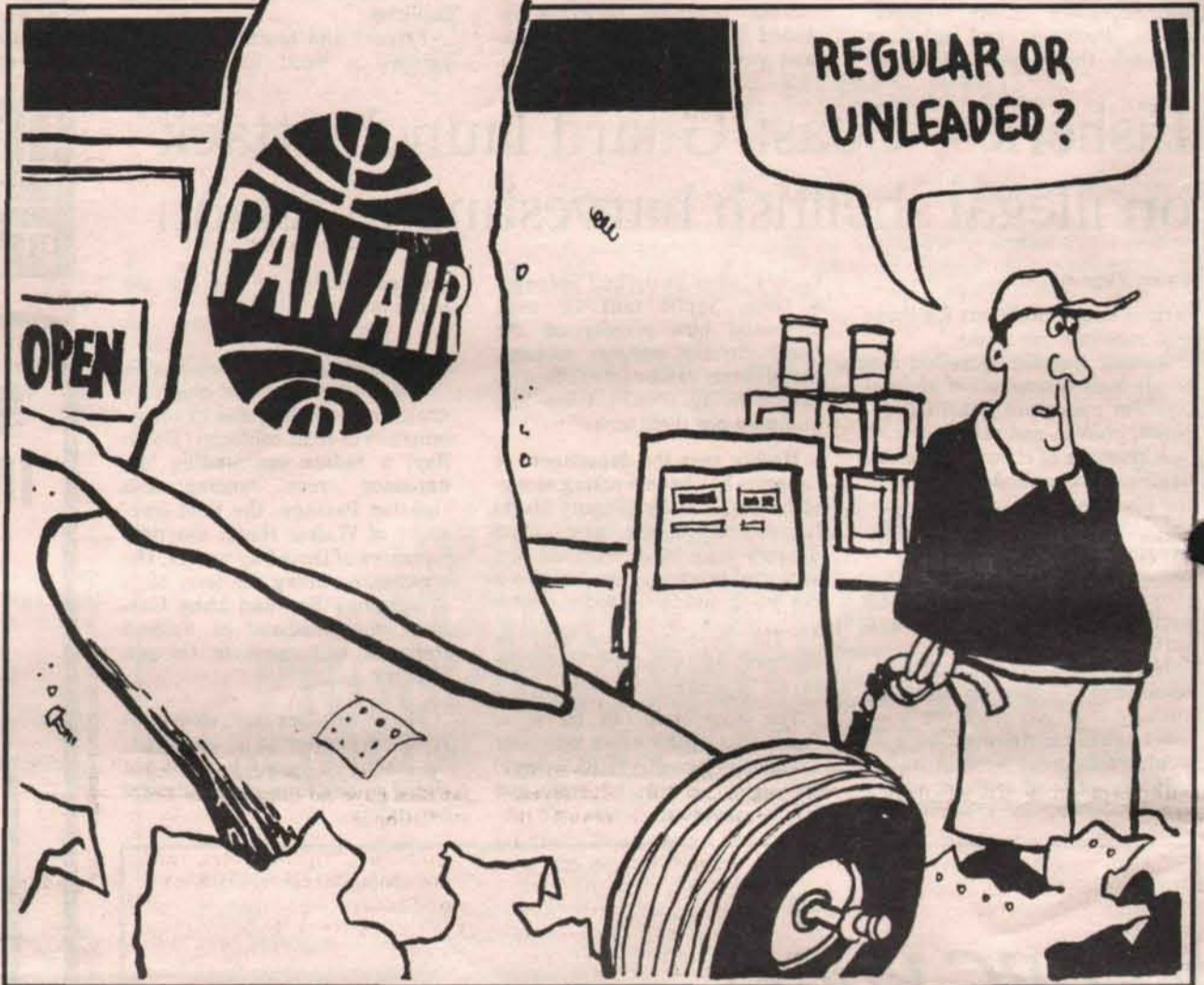
The recommendations which caught our eye were contained in a presentation made by Peter Sanders, a registered professional forester who doubles as president of the Federation of Woodlot Associations.

As befits his position, Sanders urged the province to give greater access to timberland supplies to small-woodlot operations instead of handing even more control of the resource to large corporations.

The arguments made by Sanders are not pure self-interest for his organization, however. Instead, they point out that encouragement of the small ownership concept will benefit everyone by giving the individual greater access to and responsibility for a public resource.

He notes: "It is relatively straight-forward to delegate responsibility, but difficult to make people accountable for their actions and decisions. One method of involvement where the active and vocal element of our society can be made accountable for their actions is through land ownership.

"The present Woodlot License program, although somewhat imperfect in application, is a step in the right direction. This program encourages individuals and groups to become



totally involved in forest land management, reaping both the benefits and dis-benefits of their decisions and labour. A major extension of this program is recommended."

Giving the individual or a local agency greater control over the Crown resource is not a new idea. On Salt Spring, for instance, the Islands Trust has attempted to gain some form of tenure over Crown lands, with an eye to possibly launching a small woodlot operation on those lands, and a collection of community groups

meeting under the Island Watch umbrella has come down strongly in favour of the concept.

The province should be prepared to accept local offers — made here and elsewhere — to assume rights and responsibilities over a share of the timber resource. There is no better time than now to make the move: the public is demanding a shift away from concentrations of resource access and, more important, appears willing to involve itself in the alternative. What else needs to be said?

Head-hunters stalk three-legged Elvis clone

"Elvis has been spotted working in car washes in small-town America or filling ketchup bottles in greasy spoons. One magazine ran a story about a fan who saw Elvis's image in a bowl of oatmeal."

—News item

The above paragraph was buried in a news story about a survey that asked Canadians if they believed Elvis is still alive. The headline said 10 per cent of us do, indeed, believe.

A headline like that is normally not enough to attract my attention. But it was dinner time and the newspaper was serving as a protective cover for the table, so I read.

And that's when I found the bit about the image in the porridge. And I wondered: why wasn't that mentioned in the headline? Something like *Elvis Found In Oatmeal*

my word

by duncan macdonnell

or *Dead Singer Turns Up For Breakfast* would have drawn my eyes like a magnet, and I would have read.

But no. In an apparent effort to distance themselves from the gutter press, which thrives on flashy headlines (anyone remember *Liver Lad*, about the boy waiting for a transplant?), the more serious newspapers send us to sleep with sedate titles like *Stairs Needed In Two-Storey Houses*.

It's too bad. Like most everyone else, I take a peek at the covers of the sleazy tabloids at the check-out stand. The headlines are works of art (*Monkey's Head Grafted Onto Man's*) and, in a way, entertainment in their own right. I wish we had more of them, but in a respectable newspaper.

Here at *Driftwood*, we don't normally run across the types of stories that lend themselves to *National Enquirer* treatment, but

the large dailies don't have that excuse. With the scores of odd-ball, human interest stories they receive each day on the news wires, they have ample material for the revival of a lost art. And yet they refuse.

I'll tell you how bad it is. The most famous headline in Canadian newspaper history concerned a man named Oliver, whose vital parts were slashed with a knife wielded by his wife.

It was Christmas Eve. The city editor wrote a headline that read: *You Should Have Seen Oliver Twist*. When that was rejected by his editor, he submitted the following, which made it all the way to the press, but not the street: *She Decked The Halls With Balls Of Ollie*.

That was a long time ago, and the respectable, big-city daily newspaper that published the headline has been defunct for

almost a decade. That should have been more than enough time to come up with something to equal or better the above, but it hasn't happened. Worse yet, none of the headline writers on today's "better" newspapers appear willing to try. The best we get is the odd, inadvertent gem like *34 Deaths Linked To Cheese*.

But it could be worse. I mean, if every newspaper — respectable and sleazy — consistently ran headlines like *Dwarf Rapes Nun*, *Flees In UFO*, the style and content would become pretty ho-hum after a few days. It would take more and more to titillate the readers. We would become even more jaded.

So maybe we're better off the way it is. I tell myself that each night before drifting off to sleep. To dream of bigger and better headlines. Something like *Elvis Is Not A Realtor*.

letters

Slaughter

With all the recent uproar regarding the Supreme Court of Canada's refusal to rule on the rights of the unborn in the Pro-Life versus Pro-Choice political scuffle, there has been an absolute disregard for the welfare and protection of another innocent and defenseless segment of our society. I'm talking here about the *unconceived*. Yes, every day millions of perfectly-formed, tiny ova are being flushed out of their mothers' wombs for the crime of not having been fertilized in time. This is not an exaggeration! This gruesome ritual, called menstruation, occurs on a regular basis and is being tolerated without so much as a peep of protest. Whose odious plan is this?

It doesn't stop here. Every day billions of cute, cuddly, genetically-coded sperm are being mercilessly sacrificed through the evil practice of male masturbation. More are being systematically eradicated through the use of spermicides and other birth-control methods and devices. Don't be misled by claims that these organisms are not alive. The unconceived are alive, and they have the potential to become active, healthy, contributing members of our society. Stop the senseless slaughter now!
PHILO ZYLBERGOLD,
 Fulford Harbour.

Dirty words

Congratulations, Messrs J. Bennett and N. Raeside. I wondered when they'd do it and you've done it — added environment to a list of dirty words. Environmentalists may now shamefully hang their heads along with bleeding hearts, activists and liberals (I think that one took over from pinkos). Now don't misunderstand — we don't want to be at logger-heads with you, because everyone does depend on products made from wood, even environmentalists. Please don't put them out on a limb as stupid ash(es) who would prefer to nurture a planet resource in lieu of plastic pursuits in Disneyland. Even the most wooden-headed environmentalist acknowledges the fact that logging is a necessary industry. It is the irresponsible practices used by some corporations that they find distasteful.

Fletcher Challenge, owned by a New Zealand firm (New Zealand being one country employing environmentally-sound logging practices), which is not allowed to rape the natural resources within their own country, has decided that with B.C.'s seductive Socred policies the guilt will be attributed to the province when their corporation brutally ravishes our virgin forests. If indiscriminate clear-cutting continues to be encouraged the future will find more than 425 people unemployed, since no one (not even breath-holding environmentalists) will have enough oxygen left to work in or to write letters filled with hot air to recyclable newspapers.
DAWNY SCARFE,
 Ganges.

Action urged

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to School Board chairman David Eyles, filed with this newspaper for publication.

The executive committee of the

Gulf Islands Teachers' Association wishes to express its concern over the fact that PCBs are being stored in the basement of Salt Spring Elementary School. We would request that these materials be removed as soon as possible.

While we are aware that there is a problem in locating an alternate storage area which is considered both appropriate and safe, we feel that not enough is being done to locate or prepare such a site.

Furthermore, we feel that there can be no *less* appropriate site for the storage of these potentially dangerous materials than the basement of one of our schools.

We urge you to act upon this matter without delay.
ELAINE JACOBSON,
 President.

No comparison

The comparison made in an advertisement in *Driftwood* recently, between an unborn eagle and an unborn child, was interesting; however, it was somewhat inaccurate.

For one thing, take a look at the human population of the world. Does it look like it's on the endangered list? Is over-population in control yet? Is there no problem of starving masses in over-populated countries?

As far as comparing an unborn eagle to an unborn human, this is hardly on the same level. How many eagles make unfit parents? How many suffer from alcohol and drug addiction? How many have mental problems that result in violent behaviour toward their young? How many eagles are sexually abused, resulting in unwanted pregnancies? How many baby eagles are born with severe birth defects that result in complete dependency and financial support for the rest of their lives? (In the eagles' case, nature usually eliminates these poor unfortunates). How many eagles are born to parents who hate them and never wanted to have them, and develop psychological problems and, as a result, have to be treated with extensive therapy? How many have to go through the problems of having to give up their babies for adoption because they're unable to raise and support them properly?

What kind of bird brains would put this to a comparison? Get off the nest and quit flapping your wings if you can't fly!

There's something else in this country that's rapidly becoming endangered — the freedom of choice (it's in the Charter of Rights — remember?)

ROBERT O'DARE,
 Ganges.

Cruelties

When I was young — I'm 66 years old now, mother of five and grandmother of seven — I had several abortions (we called them "miscarriages" then). Each time my doctor told me to save all the placental material, including the embryo, so I put them in Mason jars in the fridge 'til I could get into the doctor's office.

I was not emotionally scarred for life, just relieved to have the pregnancy ended, as my husband and I were working three to four jobs between us to feed and clothe the children we had. Birth control was even less dependable then than now, and there were zealots trying to prevent the spread of contraception information on the grounds that it was destroying life.

How strange that today's anti-choice zealots are not actively working against war or poverty or deadly environmental threats. How silent do they think the screams are of children tortured and beaten in South Africa, or stabbed to death by bayonets in Guatemala or El Salvador? Perhaps they prefer the quiet crying of five-year-olds who start cutting sugar cane with machetes in the Philippines because their families have no other choice but starvation.

Grow up, "right-to-lifers," and learn about the real cruelties in the world today.
VIRGINIA NEWMAN,
 Ganges.

more letters,
 pages A21, A22

S.S.I. MINOR BASEBALL REGISTRATION

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capital comment

by **hubert beyer**



VICTORIA — Highways Minister Neil Vant, me thinks, protesteth too much. No sooner does his closed blacktopped universe stop unfolding as it should, than he goes on the attack.

"Mr Hubert Beyer's recent column, *No Savings on Privatization*, contains major inaccuracies." So begins a letter to the editor the minister recently fired off under his signature, and published in this edition of *Driftwood*.

The column alleged that the privatization of highways and bridge maintenance wasn't turning out to be the deal of a lifetime for British Columbia taxpayers.

I wrote about a leaked document, according to which the highways ministry wanted another \$20 million from the treasury board to cover overruns incurred by the private sector, which is now handling all highways and bridge maintenance.

That, the ministry says, was a "major inaccuracy." It was only \$10 million, he says. Well, not really. The original figure was, indeed, 20 million. I still have a copy of the document. The \$10 million was all he could hope to get, so he adjusted his request.

The next "major inaccuracy," according to Vant, was my allegation that the money to cover overruns in the private sector's maintenance work was taken out of the ministry's capital construction budget, which would suffer as a result of that transfer of funds.

Doesn't deny transfers

Vant's letter doesn't deny the transfer. It just refers to it as standard government practice. I really don't care how standard the practice is — depleting a designated fund has an adverse effect on whatever you are supposed to do with that fund, in this case, the construction of new and repair of existing highways.

The last "major inaccuracy" the minister accused me of was the allegation that senior citizens in the north are charged a fee to have their driveways plowed.

"He must have received incorrect information. This service is being provided free of charge by the private contractor, just as it was in the past," he said. I'm not sure who received the incorrect information. Most of the private contractors do, indeed, charge seniors a fee for plowing their driveways, a service that was free of charge before the government unloaded the highways maintenance service. In Fort Nelson, for instance, the fee has been \$45. In Burns Lake, seniors have been charged a discount fee of \$29.

So much for the "major inaccuracies." Now back to the original topic that has the minister in a lather every time someone raises it. Will the private sector keep our highways and bridges in shape at a better price than the government did?

May do job cheaper

Eventually, the private sector may well do the job cheaper, although the initial signs point to the contrary. But before the minister gets all emotional over his semi-religious experience involving the "significant savings that will be generated for the taxpayers of British Columbia," let's not forget the original intent behind privatizing the maintenance of highways and bridges — to reward the friends of the government.

What's that, minister? That wasn't the intent? Begging your pardon, minister, but according to Earl Lund, executive director of operations in your ministry, that's exactly what prompted the government to get rid of highways maintenance. He said so in a speech last September to the annual conference in Halifax of the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada.

Lund called the exercise "a unique and radical initiative." He said the government had been receiving pressures from many sources to undertake a greater amount of maintenance work, using private sector services.

"Many of the pressures were directly related to the economic health of the province and voiced through MLAs and self-interest groups," Lund told his colleagues.

Applauding the loudest

"During the recession, the contracting community and the Consulting Engineers Association put heavy pressures on the government directly and through the political party system to allow them to do the work that was being done by public servants," he said.

"In late 1987, at a political party convention, it was announced that many specific government services would be privatized. As each project was announced, there was a jubilant reaction from the delegates, and the loudest reaction of acceptance was given to the privatization of road and bridge maintenance."

That's exactly how it happened, and the contractors who attended the convention as delegates were among those applauding the loudest.

Meanwhile, the promised savings have not yet materialized, seniors in the north are getting shafted by some of the private contractors, and the minister has retreated into his bunker, scribbling missives about "major inaccuracies."

Of course, Vant could easily verify his claims by making public the contracts and financial transactions that form the basis of the newly-privatized highways and bridge maintenance, but I'd advise you not to hold your breath for that to happen too quickly.

Progress wanted on cutting policies

PENDER ISLAND — Responding to a sense of urgency, the Islands Trust Council has approved a motion allowing its forest and land use committee to proceed with recommendations concerning logging, without first bringing them to the Trust as a whole.

"Enough is enough," said North Pender Trustee Steve Wright at the March 4 session. "Let's say what direction we are going to take . . . because soon there won't be any trees left."

Wright told the meeting it is time the Trust format a position on logging that can be taken up with the government. He said it has been two years since they first discussed clear-cut logging on the Gulf Islands, and it is now time they took a stand.

"We do have the authority to determine appropriate land use," he said. "If we are recognized by a special mandate . . . surely there is a strong argument for us to receive special consideration. Time grinds on slowly — as slowly as we are prepared to allow it."

Gabriola trustee Susan Yates agreed that logging is the most important land-use issue facing the Trust: "I will not quit this council until it has been dealt with," she said. "Even if we are turned down (by the ministry), we

can at least go after it."

The forest and land use committee had only recently received two reports it deemed necessary for study before it was prepared to make recommendations on the issue. The committee planned to bring those recommendations to the next council meeting in June.

Wright argued that the council should not wait another three months to consider these recommendations — not while trees continue to be cut.

"I have great respect for the CCA (Clear Cut Alternatives on Galiano Island) because it recognized the problem and jumped to it," Wright said. "Those people are doing more to generate interest than anyone else. I find it deplorable: we are the legitimate body that should be standing up to the issue."

"I'm losing faith in the Trust's willingness to take a stand," he added. "Let's start making some noise; if we keep putting it off, it's going to be too late."

The Trust agreed to give the forest and land use committee authority to formulate recommendations and advise the various governmental ministries of them, on behalf of the Trust as a whole.

The forest and land use committee is scheduled to meet sometime this week.

Parent advisory meeting to be held on board ship

A district-wide parent advisory meeting has been scheduled for April 4 aboard the morning run of the *MV Queen of Tsawwassen*.

The meeting, which will discuss issues pertinent to Gulf Islands school parents, will depart Salt Spring at 6:45 am and stop at Pender, Mayne and Galiano islands.

The meeting will begin upon departure from Sturdies Bay and conclude when the boat returns to Galiano Island. The meeting will

take place in the rear lounge of the boat and participants will remain aboard the ferry at the Tsawwassen terminal.

Among the topics to be discussed are: parent participation in the design process of school facilities; the effect of ferry proposals on school transportation; full-spectrum lighting; parent-teacher relationships throughout the district; the visiting artists program; field trips; recycling; and fund-raising ideas.

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Four-prong strategy used to highlight ferry concerns

PENDER ISLAND — In an attempt to "salvage what they can" from decisions being made by a provincial committee studying transportation, the Islands Trust Council will use several methods of influence to enlighten that committee about Gulf Islands needs.

The provincial committee, which is currently studying transportation needs throughout B.C., has made a number of proposals which directly affect the Gulf Islands. They include a new ferry terminal at Isabella Point on Salt Spring, and potential bridges connecting Saturna and Mayne Islands, and Gabriola and Vancouver Islands.

On the second day of a two-day general meeting held on Pender Island earlier this month, the 26 trustees from the 13 major Trust islands agreed to approach the transportation committee on four

different levels.

Hornby Island Trustee and Trust vice-chairman Carol Martin identified the following approaches: the Trust can speak together with one voice, forming a statement from its policy documents; the Southern Gulf Islands can address issues of particular concern to their area; single islands, such as Gabriola Island, can direct energy in their own problem areas; and individuals can lobby the committee regarding their concerns.

Trustees passed a motion obligating the Trust to approach the regional transportation committee "as a whole," using the Trust policy document as a basis.

Salt Spring Island trustee and Trust chairman Nick Gilbert told *Driftwood* the Southern Gulf Islands now have a procedure in place to prepare a document for the committee which reflects their

specific concerns. A consultant will be hired to complete this study, which must be undertaken immediately due to time constraints.

Both reports will be presented when the regional committee meets in Saanich on April 11.

North Pender Island trustee Bob George suggested to the council that local ferry committees and the Capital Regional District (CRD) directors be included in consultations and presentations, in order to give the Trust greater clout.

"Regional directors are there to go to bat for transportation programs," another trustee said.

Gilbert noted later that the ferry system is only one aspect of transportation in this province and the Trust is still waiting for "response at large" regarding highways issues.

Impaired charge nets conviction

Judge R. Metzger has withheld the sentencing of a Ganges woman who was found guilty of impaired driving.

The Judge will sentence Pauline Jane Beauvais, 41, who did not appear for her March 7 trial, at a later date.

A student lawyer representing Beauvais requested the court adjourn her trial. He indicated the accused was reluctant to travel to Salt Spring, for fear she might "fall in" with the wrong crowd.

Judge Metzger refused the request. He said Beauvais had "absconded" and ordered that the trial be conducted without her being present.

Crown witness RCMP Const. Gary Styles told the court he was driving west on Vesuvius Bay Road at 1 am on August 5 when he noted a van being driven in the opposite direction and without headlights on.

The vehicle, he continued, was driving at less than five kilometres per hour in a 60 km zone.

Styles told the court he activated the police vehicle's emergency equipment and followed the vehicle, which drove a short distance before stopping in the centre of the road.

When he approached the van, Styles said, he saw Beauvais sitting in the passenger seat. There was no one else in the vehicle. Styles detected a strong odour of alcohol and, after watching the accused walk erratically from the van to the police car, he determined her ability to drive a vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

Styles told the court Beauvais was argumentative and uncooperative. When he advised her he would be seeking a breath sample, she spat in his face, he said. Styles drove the accused to the RCMP detachment in Ganges, where she provided a breath sample.

There were no witnesses or counsel defending Beauvais, and Judge Metzger found her guilty as charged.

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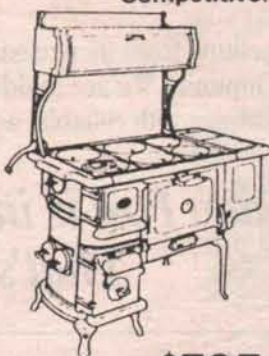
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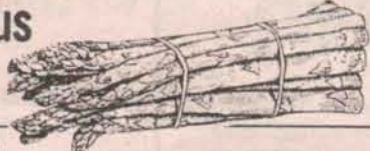


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Future generations need voice in forest debate

Editor's note: The following position paper, presented to Forests Minister Dave Parker, has been filed with this newspaper for publication.

By SHILO ZYLBERGOLD

The Island Watch Society wishes to voice its concern regarding the proposed increase of Tree Farm Licences (TFLs) in B.C.

We, the citizens of British Columbia, are extremely concerned about the state of our forests. Every day, it seems, we are accosted by reports of irresponsible actions perpetrated on our public-owned Crown lands by the corporate giants we have entrusted to manage our forests. Overcuts, wood wastage, erosion, spawning-ground damage, export of raw logs, industry layoffs as company profits skyrocket. The list goes on.

The large corporations have failed us. They are failing us now. And if we continue to allow them free reign of our forests, they will fail us in the future. It must surely be evident, by now, that the large logging corporations are answerable solely to their shareholders. Ultimately, the decisions which determine how our forests are to be managed are being made in a manner which ensures the best interests of these shareholders. In many cases, these decisions are being formulated outside this province, and even beyond the borders of Canada.

Our very home, Salt Spring Island, is still reeling from the effects of the disposition of forested land by MacMillan-Bloedel, one of these corporate giants. Indeed, the uproar and ensuing resistance to this obvious consolidation decision gave rise to the formation of the Island Watch Society.

Our sister island to the east, Galiano, is presently struggling to obtain any kind of small assurance that the well-being of that community will somehow enter into the parameters which affect the decisions of how, and to what extent that island is to be logged by the same MacMillan-Bloedel.

Although these examples differ from the issue at hand, in that they are occurring in forests not owned by the Crown, they do illustrate that corporate decisions are being made which are detrimental to the condition of our forests and to the communities which reside in and around these forests.

We strongly urge the Minister of Forests to not only deny the increase of TFLs, but to cut back the existing grants. We ask that woodlot licences be increased and promoted so that communities which live amongst our forests can make the decisions on how these forests are to be managed. Certainly, the results of the experiments in Mission and Duncan can only encourage the further support of community-managed woodlots.

We ask the ministry to promote and increase the use of its forest service personnel and services to consult with and help develop strategies for the management of these community forests. It seems a waste that so many of our young men and women, who are trained at great expense to administer good forest policy and beneficial forest practices, never get the opportunity to use this training because they seldom penetrate the circles where these decisions are being made.

In closing, we appeal to the more humane aspect of this question. Many of you in this room are parents. Some of you are grand-

parents. Should we be making the decisions which will have such possible drastic effects on our children and grandchildren? If all the fears which we have presented

guest column

here, all the fears which have been outlined and described in these two days of hearings — if they are unwarranted, if they are just the

doomsday ravings of the environmentally squeamish, then what do we lose if we pay them heed?

Nothing. The forests we don't cut today can be cut tomorrow by our children and grandchildren, if it turns out that the large corporations were right and that they are managing our forests well

and that our forests are truly renewable.

But if they are wrong, and we are destroying our forests, what are we then saying to our children and grandchildren? What decisions are we leaving for them to make? How will we answer when some day in the future they ask us why we didn't act sooner.

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"The response from the customers has been fantastic. It's working out well."
— Harry McKeever, Operator, Retail Outlet, McKeever's General Store

In Rose Bay, Nova Scotia. We have another link in Canada Post Corporation's growing network of postal outlets. This time in a community where for two years, retail service was not provided through a corporate outlet. Retail postal service is now provided in partnership with a local business.

"I feel that the postal outlet here is a great step in the right direction to service the people in the area."
— Sam Emmons, President, Rose Bay area Board of Trade

In Ste-Félicité-de-l'Islet, Québec. A retail postal outlet is now offering postal services and products in a community where no post office existed before.

"In addition to the services provided by a retail postal outlet established in a local business, we now have the benefit of our own postal code."
— Jean-Paul Pellerin, Mayor, Municipality of Ste-Félicité-de-l'Islet

In Lewvan, Saskatchewan. A retail postal outlet is now open to serve customers. The outlet provides customers with access to postal products and services. These services have not been available locally for four years.

"The retail postal outlet in the Co-op convenience store is a good arrangement — they support each other and it provides all the necessary postal services."
— Larry Davis, Councillor, Rural Municipality of Wellington, Saskatchewan

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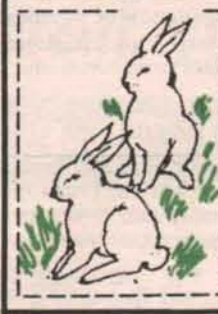
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Long ago, when I was just a little guppy in the fishbowl of life, my mother dragged me off to see a Gypsy fortuneteller. Madame Zapotnik, decked out in greasy turban and rumpled bathrobe, read my pudgy palm, poked a gnarled forefinger through the dregs in the bottom of my teacup, gazed soulfully into a glass bowling ball on the card table between us, closed her eyes and announced in an accent thicker than Hungarian goulash:

"I see for thees boy . . . ivy-covaired walls . . . many scholars . . . Hee ces professair . . . ov mat ee mateeks."

It's not often you'll run into a gypsy fortuneteller who's that far off the mark. Closest I ever got to university was when I worked as a sheet metal labourer one summer tearing the duct work out of the old botany building on the campus of the University of Toronto. (Yes, I'm the one who knocked over that display of tropical monocotyledons — God, it's good to get that off my chest!)

As for a professorship in mathematics — Hah! I've got a better shot at getting on the board of directors of *Ms.* magazine that I have of landing any job that involves the manipulation of numbers.

You know how a lot of folks are illiterate? I am innumerate — which is to say, congenitally unable to relate to numbers and their meaning, if any.

Overstating the case

Well, that's overstating the case. I can add. And subtract. I can even do simple multiplication and division if you don't rush me. But as for the higher realms of mathematical endeavour — square root, cosines, logarithms and a balanced cheque book — you'll have to talk to my accountant.

Or one of my kids.

Truth is, I've been an arithmetical also-ran since 'way back in the primary grades. One day I was sitting at my desk, easily keeping up with the rest of the kids as we followed the Mrs. Jones saga ("If Mrs. Jones had six apples and she gave two of them to Johnny, how many . . .") when suddenly I felt a painful constriction in my throat. "I feel sick" I told the teacher. I was. Tonsillitis. When I got back to the classroom six weeks later, Mrs. Jones and her stash of apples had disappeared and my pint-size colleagues were chatting nonchalantly about the multiplication tables.

By the time I figured out that that was not where you went to make babies, the other kids had moved on to something equally baffling called decimalization.

That's when I fell behind, and 35 years later, I still haven't caught up.

A confidential affair

To tell you the truth, it hasn't mattered all that much. So what if I went through life thinking that calculus was a confidential affair between me and my dentist? Who cares if I taught my kids that Algebra was a painful disease of the joints — or that for years I believed trigonometry was a cult philosophy devoted to the worship of Roy Roger's horse? Oh, sure . . . there were some embarrassing moments at the K-Mart checkout counter and the teller's wicket, but on the whole, I didn't miss mathematics and mathematics didn't miss me.

But then I discovered I had made one fatal — you will pardon the irony — miscalculation.

I had always believed that mathematics, like Latin and Etruscan pottery appreciation, was a dead issue. That it had been buried with Einstein, Euclid, Pythagoras, Archimedes and all those other enumerating busybodies.

Not so. *Mathematics lives.* One of its latest offspring is fractal geometry — a theory that you can assign a numerical value to anything irregular — cloud formations, the Dow Jones average, the spread of AIDS — and then measure and simulate that irregular object by computer. They claim fractal geometry can be used "to find hidden order in the apparent chaos of nature."

Well, we've been down that road before. I used to know someone who tried to find hidden order in the apparent chaos of nature — but she didn't use computers and she didn't wear a white lab coat.

She wore a rumpled bathrobe. Her name was Madame Zapotnik.

Extortion charge laid by RCMP

A Ganges man has been charged with extortion, following an incident which occurred at his home on March 8.

Edward John Oldfield, 61, was arrested by Ganges RCMP last week. He will appear in Ganges provincial court April 11.

Between the combined effort of Ganges RCMP and the Duncan highway patrol, over 100 traffic violation tickets were issued last weekend.

The highway patrol issued 40 tickets on Salt Spring Friday and Saturday, and a further 20 on each of Galiano and Pender Islands. Local RCMP also issued a number of tickets.

According to Ganges RCMP Sergeant Larry Wendel, the weekend crackdown on vehicle infractions saw three Salt Spring vehicles taken off the road. A number of tickets were handed out for vehicle defects, as well as for speeding and seatbelt infractions.

Road checks were set up in various Salt Spring locations, including the Ganges RCMP detachment parking lot, where Motor Vehicle Inspector Don Chaplin inspected vehicles directed to him.

Wendel said Salt Spring will continue to have periodic road checks.

Ganges RCMP, who have found a bundle of traveller's cheques, also received a report of lost or stolen traveller's cheques. The two do not match up, however.

Anyone who has lost his or her traveller's cheques should contact the RCMP detachment for identification, and anyone who has found traveller's cheques is requested to report it.

Ganges RCMP report four liquor seizures from minors last weekend.

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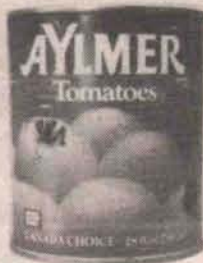
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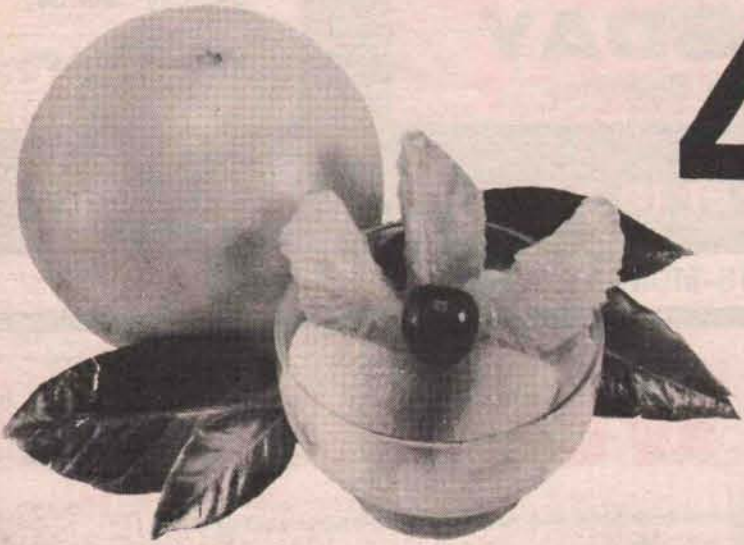
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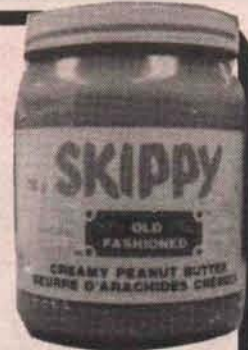
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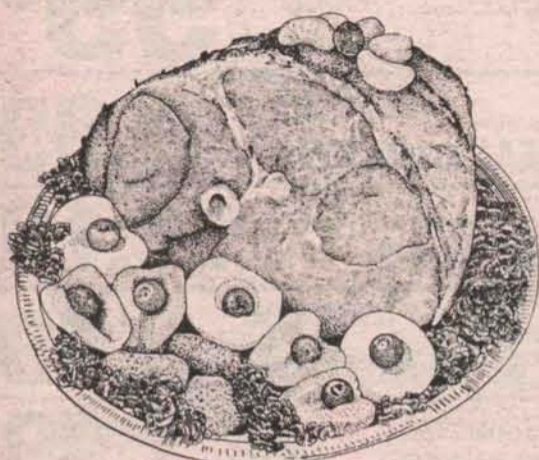
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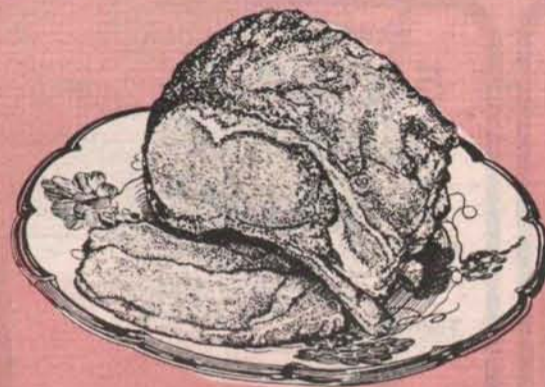
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your garden

by chris schmah



It's a sunny day, and with all of the rainfall we've had, I think it's fairly safe to write the final installment on the subject of *xeriscaping*, as my writing about drought can't get me into much trouble with the weather.

Previous articles covered the reasoning and considerations when planning a garden for life with less water, and also furnished a rundown of shrubs and vines which will work well in such situations. This time around, we can jump right in and start listing the trees, annuals, perennials and bulbs which are drought-resistant.

When it comes to bulbs, those which bloom in spring are generally considered to be more drought-tolerant than those which grow and flower during the summer. The abundant spring rainfall sees the spring bulbs safely through their flowering and growing season, and then as they go dormant during the summer drought, they don't need the water anyway.

For this reason, narcissi, daffodils, tulips, dwarf iris, snowdrops, scilla, anemones, camassia, crocus and the alliums will all do quite well in a reasonable soil with little or no water provided.

For summer and fall bloomers, the fall crocus, colchicums and monobretias are the only choices. The real beauty of established plantings of drought-tolerant bulbs is that they naturalize well, don't need much maintenance, and they put on a fabulous showing when your garden is lacking colour.

Well-suited to dry situations

For perennials, you have lots of choices, and while some are drought proof, a little water during blooming will usually prolong their flowering period.

Achillea and Armeria species are well-suited to dry situations and fast-draining soils. Anacyclus and anagallis do great in rock gardens, Baptista works well in rough border plantings, and Coreopsis displays some welcome summer colour despite dry soil.

All of the Artemisias do well in dry gardens, as do the agapanthus, dwarf plumbago (*Ceratostigma*), and ground morning glory (*Convolvulus mauritanical*).

Oddly enough, several of the ferns will tolerate dry soils — among them sword fern, holly fern and autumn fern (*Dryopteris*).

Naturally, most ornamental grasses will tolerate drought and are becoming more popular for their fine, flowing textures and low maintenance requirements. The richly-coloured Gaillardia does quite well in dry situations, as will the bearded irises and red hot poker (*Kniphofia*).

Ground covers such as St. John's wort (*Hypericum*), periwinkle (*Vinca*) and ivy all take drought once established.

The intense blue blooms of Lithospermum "Grace Ward" look great in rockeries, as do the rosemary varieties, Dusty Miller, gayfeather (*Liatris*), Marguerite daisies, sun rose (*Helianthemum*), daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), lavenders of all types, blue flax (*Linum perenne*), the statice or sea lavenders (*Limonium*), and the beautiful Alstroemeria all add to the lengthening list.

The evening primrose (*Oenothera*) with its golden yellow blooms, border penstemons, the New Zealand flax (*Phormium*), creeping phlox, perennial Salvias, succulent sedums, Romneya coulteri, Sisyrrinchium, Oriental poppies, leopard's bane (*Doronicum*), the tall growing Campanulas, globe artichokes, cupid's dart (*Catanache*), Cerastium (snow-in-winter), the crown pink (*Lychnis coronaria*) and, last but not least, all of the thymes.

Reduce stress on wells

The list of annuals is somewhat shorter, consisting of succulents such as ice plants, portulaca and Mesembryanthemum, as well as tropical delights such as Gerberas, verbenas, Gazania and lantana, all of which are perennials in more tropical climates. California and shirley poppies, and Cleome spinosa, complete the short list of suitable annuals, but here we should also tag on the useful biennials foxglove (*Digitalis*) and Echium, appropriately called tower of jewels.

The rundown of drought-tolerant trees starts with the beautiful silk tree, Albizzia, Arbutus of course, leylandii cypress, all Eucalyptus, russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*) and all of the ash trees (*Fraxinus sp.*).

Fig trees, honey locust, black locust and ginkgo will all tolerate little or no water and lots of sun, without flagging. Holly trees, golden rain trees (*Koelreuteria*), Laburnum, Hawthorn trees, pines of all species, sumacs, all oaks, Japanese flowering plums, the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus*), loquats, Katsura tree (*Cercidium*) and Cedrus deodara complete the list of trees which will do quite well on dry soils.

This article and the previous four which dealt with *xeriscaping* will hopefully help to reduce stresses on wells, water meters and water tables, while making drought-gardening more rewarding and fruitful.

Open house to celebrate hall birthday

Central Hall will be 94 years old on March 19.

To celebrate the birthday, the directors of Central Hall have scheduled an open house for Sunday, March 19, beginning at 2:30 pm. It will include tea and coffee and an opportunity to tour the facilities.

"At 94, the hall is surprisingly well-preserved and in sparkling condition," says Bevis Walters, chairman of the committee which oversees the facility.

In the past year, more than \$10,000 has been spent on an extensive renovation program at the hall. The work will conclude with an asphalt coating being applied to the parking lot, and the planting of a bulb garden. The latter is a joint project of the Girl Guides, Brownies and Foxglove.

Several islanders have strong connections to the hall. Salt Spring resident Margaret Cunningham served as secretary for the hall committee for over 40 years before retiring in 1987, and Joyce Parsons and her son David have been on the management committee for 40-plus years.

"Many other well-known persons have been on the committee for long periods," Walters said, "but with the passing years, the numbers of people willing to serve has dwindled."

Members of the management committee include Walters, Tom Holtby (secretary) and Cedric Barker (treasurer).

"As a committee of at least 12 persons is needed, a recruitment program is in progress," Walters continued. "It is hoped that more offers of help will be made at the annual general meeting."

That meeting will take place during the open house on March 19.

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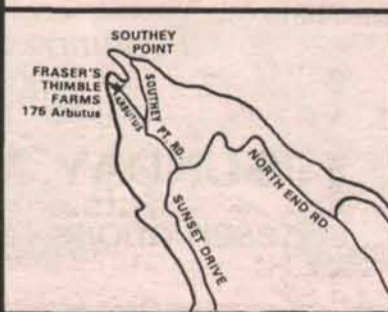
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Nancy Holt-Stefancsik, Sandy Scott

Bistro's owners plan for future

Fine dining, a comfortable atmosphere and a great view of the Ganges Harbour are just three of the many things you will discover on your first visit to the newly-opened Waterside Bistro, located in Gasoline Alley in Ganges.

The new restaurant, complete with new owners, new staff and a new management, is a dream come true for its proprietors, Sandy and Del Scott, and Nancy and Mike Holt-Stefancsik.

"We have both been in the restaurant business for quite some time, and it got to the point where we wanted to start our own restaurant," said Sandy. "When the opportunity came along to buy this place with its fabulous view and facilities, we couldn't turn it down."

They said they hope to develop a restaurant with a late-night atmosphere, where couples can dine and dance in comfortable

surroundings.

"We feel the island is ready for something like this," Sandy said.

But evening dinners are not the only thing the Waterside Bistro is all about. The restaurant is also open for the lunch time trade, with vegetarian meals on the menu as well as the express lunch — a quick business lunch for those people on the move.

Although the restaurant is just opening, the new owners are already planning for the future. Plans are in the works for the installation of a glassed-in enclosure on the end of the restaurant, where customers will be able to dine while practically sitting on the edge of the sea. If all goes well, work should be completed on that by the end of May.

Along with an international cuisine, the restaurant also serves wine, beer and liquor.

Head chef Jim Bradford — who has 25 years experience in the

business, including stints at the Dorchester Hotel and The Savoy in London, England — said he is optimistic for the future of the restaurant.

"We have developed a setting where couples can go out for a quiet candlelit dinner, in a really cosy atmosphere and romantic music," he said.

The Waterside Bistro, which is open daily from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm for lunch and from 5 pm to 9 pm for dinner (evening hours will be extended for the summer months), offers customers a refreshing change for their dining pleasure, where every table has a view.

For lunch you can enjoy either hot lunches or the fresh salad bar. In the evening you can gaze at the moonlight dappling across the water while enjoying a steak, seafood or rack of lamb, or one of the other many selections from the dinner menu.



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Comedy-drama well-written, full of honest fun

★ Poor
 ★★ Good
 ★★★ Very Good
 ★★★★ Excellent

BAGDHAD CAFE

★★★
 Director: Percy Adlon
 Cast: Marianne Sagebrecht, H.C. Pounder, Jack Palance
 1988, PG

This is caffeine addiction like no one's seen it before. In this movie characters take it black, real black, from a yellow thermos found on a desert highway. In this movie babies are roped to high chairs (it's funny, really), a drifter throws a boomerang through stunning skies, and hotel guest Jasmine (Sagebrecht), a German tourist, turns the decrepit Bagdad Gas and Oil into a magic stage.

Jasmine's husband has stranded her in the California desert; she rents a room at Bagdad and stays, first clashing with owner Brenda (Pounder), then befriending Brenda's children and other guests — especially Rudy Cox (Palance) — and finally the crusty Brenda herself.

This comedy-drama is fun and

video views

well written. The photography by Bernd Hehl is surreal and visually effective, though some cutaway segments are over-long and artsy. Performances by Sagebrecht, Pounder and Palance help a viewer overlook such minor failings. Recommended: a feel-good film.

WHOOPI LIVE

★★★★
 Director: Thomas Schlamme
 Cast: Whoopi Goldberg
 1985, not rated, adult

Whoopi Goldberg has starred in some real flops. Take *The Telephone*. But this is her stage show from Broadway; just Whoopi and her five brilliant characters: a junkie with a PhD, a Valley Girl, a Jamaican maid, a little girl and a disabled woman. Her marginal characters come hilariously to life.

THROW MAMMA FROM THE TRAIN

★★★
 Director: Danny DeVito

Cast: Danny DeVito, Billy Crystal, Anne Ramsey
 1987, PG

I did not expect to like this

by jena hamilton

movie. Consider the madcap premise: budding writers DeVito and Crystal, ala Hitchcock's *Stranger on a Train* decide to trade murders. Crystal wants his wife out of the way and DeVito longs to get rid of his mother (Ramsey).

Sound misogynist? It is. The movie is often implausible, possibly offensive and frequently silly, but it's easy to forgive most of its failures because of its energetic highjinks. Recommended.



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artseen

by gary cherneff



News-Flash: Hot off the presses:

Windborne—the exhibition to kick off the fund-raising drive to support a Salt Spring Centre for the Arts — needs you, meaning everybody who has an artistic bone in their body.

The conventional wisdom is that in three years Mahon Hall will no longer be available for major arts events, including Art-Craft and the Guilds' pre-Christmas sale.

So, if you like to have fun and care about the future of the arts on Salt Spring, it is not too late. The Community Arts Council has softened its deadline for submissions on the theme of kites, whirligigs, balloons, vanes, clouds, or objects borne or propelled by the wind. I expect to see painted faces on balloons, cloud mobiles made from photographs, buzzing whirlwind propulsion devices made from electric motors, and odds and ends.

A breezy exhibition of imaginative paraphernalia extracted from the depths of your basements or recesses of your attic, or even your kitchen cupboard: come on Mom, let your guard down and let the kids big and small run rampant over the house in a frenzied attempt to improvise a flying machine. How about needlepoint flying cows, or tin metal kites from dad's subterranean workshop full of wonderful things such as tin snips, hacksaws, hammers and screws?

Not picky about artistic merit

A little day-glow paint or trem-clad enamel from the hardware store and some brass wire or mesh or flexible scrap tubing are the makings of a whimsical model of mechanical genius. Take an evening and take a day with the family to create contraptions, and fantasies, but whatever you do don't take 80 days to go round the world.

Yes, this is no time to be picky about artistic merit. Everything and anything remotely related to the theme is needed for the grand life auction of all your generous contributions. This is no time to be selfish (sailfish) and it's no time for self-appraisal.

Throw caution to the wind, one and all, and launch yourself over the precipice on wings of desire (am I going too far? After all, this is a family show.)

Well, I am having my fun today, aren't I? But the seriousness of the issue is indisputable. The community needs to plan for the future if the arts are going to continue to be a vital part of the island economy. We are going to need another facility in the near future, and this exhibition's intention is to begin to rally the troops behind the issue.

Throw caution to the wind

This is how the exhibition will work. Every item submitted will be accepted and every item will be auctioned. Fifty items will be sold at a live auction on April 1. The remainder will be sold through a silent auction process. Artists will receive one-third the auction price but have the option of making this their contribution to the cause. The proceeds will be deposited in a trust fund dedicated to the construction of a centre for the arts.

If you haven't started or finished your submission, get an entry form and submit your proposal as soon as you read this column. This will be your notice of intent. Then get busy, because you've made a commitment and taken the first step.

Your idea will not be perceived to be written in stone; you can still change your mind as far as content goes.

Entry forms are available at Pegasus, Waterfront, Orcas, Gulf Jewels, and Morningside Galleries as well as *et cetera* and Volume II bookstore. Items must be delivered to Mahon Hall on March 22. Phone Illyd Perkins at 653-9392 for more information.

Alternate realities examined by book

A former resident of Mayne Island has written a book detailing his experiences with alternate levels of reality.

Glasgow-born Charles Ferris, who retired to Mayne Island for three and a half years before he and his wife moved on to Qualicum Beach, has just seen his book, *Twelve Dimensions* produced by Melville Publications.

The book is the first of 10 Ferris plans to publish in what he calls his "inner computer series" — a series based on the alternate levels of reality he says occurred on his trip beyond "now."

Twelve Dimensions describes "a guided tour" Ferris received while lying unconscious after driving off a cliff in Africa in 1952.

After recovering from the near-fatal auto accident, Ferris began a search for answers. He became almost obsessed with questions about the meaning of life, his role in it, and God's role.

The answers the islander received are found in his recently-

released book. Ferris believes that in his near-death state following the accident, he transcended time and was taken on a tour of what may be one of "several possibilities beyond death."

The experience allowed him to discover his inner biological computer, he says. It convinced him that every experience of life is securely stowed in a memory mechanism within human cells.



Charles Ferris

金島

Golden Island

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Fri., Sat. & Sun., March 17, 18 & 19

Our Fireside Pub Menu is available
as well as 5 delicious dinner specials including
Prime Rib & Yorkshire Pudding for 10.95.

We will be open Thursday, Mar. 23 and through the Easter
Break — watch next week's paper for more specials!

Daily Menu
11:30 am-9:30 pm

PUB

Daily Specials
Hamburger Paradise

Minto meeting hears reports

Some 42 members attended the regular monthly meeting of the Auxiliary to Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital, held February 27 in the upper hall of Ganges United Church.

Various reports were read at the meeting, which began at 2 pm.

Those at the meeting learned that 18 chairs have been purchased for the hospital's acute

wing. Funding for the tuck shop at Greenwoods intermediate care home was discussed, and an announcement regarding an open house at the hospital on May 12 was made.

The meeting was adjourned and tea served.

Because Easter Monday falls on March 27 this year, the next monthly meeting will be held on March 20.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 92

Friday Supper

MARCH 17:
ROAST PORK

6 pm — Members & Guests Welcome — \$7

MEAT DRAWS EVERY SAT. FROM 3-5:30 PM

St. Patrick's Day DINE & DANCE

Friday, March 17

featuring the music of the
GARY LUNDY TRIO

The Kanaka Restaurant

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2 seatings — for reservations call
537-4633



Fine art

Renee Woodsend views examples of Gulf Islands Secondary School students' artwork. The student art was created under the guidance of teacher Sandra Locke, and is part of a March focus on fine arts in the School District. This display was offered for viewing at the Bridging Gaps conference at the secondary school on Saturday.

Course to promote safe food handling

A course in safe and proper handling of food is being offered next week through the Continuing Education office on Salt Spring Island.

Foodsafe, a new sanitation program for food handlers in B.C., was developed for hospitality industry members who want to improve their employees' knowledge of sanitation and food-borne diseases.

All people who pass the course receive certificates and are registered with the provincial health ministry.

Continuing Education is offering the course on March 22-23 in the Harbour House Hotel banquet room. Sheri Nielson will be the instructor.

"This new program is for all people who handle food for public consumption," Nielson said. "This includes dishwashers, sales staff, cooks — everyone in the restaurant industry, as well as grocers, butchers and bakers in retail food sales, and hospital and care facility staff."

The course has two levels, basic and advanced. The basic level is for all employees and covers:

- microbiology;
- food-borne illnesses;
- personal hygiene and health;
- serving and dispensing;
- food protection and preparation;
- receiving and storing food safely; and
- dishwashing methods.

The advanced level is for managers and preparation staff and covers:

- food poisoning and food protection;
- facilities and equipment;
- housekeeping and pest control; and
- managing sanitary practices in a food-service operation.

Anyone interested in taking the course can call Continuing Education at 537-2822.

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† British Columbia Lung Association

Cancer data now available

The Canadian Cancer Society is reminding communities of its toll-free Cancer Information Line.

People wishing to discover what services are available to cancer patients and their families are encouraged to call the society's information line at 1-800-663-4242.

Calling that number also puts people in touch with trained volunteers who can help them deal with cancer and provide emotional support.

Volunteers operate the line on behalf of the B.C. and Yukon division of the Canadian Cancer Society. Their information is based on current data supplied by the Cancer Control Agency of B.C. and the B.C. Medical Association.

Callers are assured of confidential, helpful counsel.

We are still busy renovating at

Booth Bay Resort & The Bay Window Restaurant

Watch for details of our
EASTER WEEKEND REOPENING.

Five Roosters Restaurant
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Village Bay Rd., Mayne Island, B.C.

BREAKFAST 7:30-11:30 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM-2 PM
DINNER 5:30-9 PM
(except Tuesdays. Please reserve.)

We offer fresh West Coast cuisine and provide our customers with quality & variety in the food we serve.

DINNER March 15-20

New York Steak grilled and served with a Burgundy Mushroom Sauce 12.95
Grilled Pork Tenderloin served with a Robert Sauce 11.95
BBQ Ribs in our own Sauce 8.95
Roast Duck a l'Orange Traditional Style 11.95
Sautéed Snapper Fillet topped with Shrimp and a White Wine Sauce 8.95
Steamed Mussels or Clams in White Wine and Garlic Butter 10.95

We look forward to serving you!

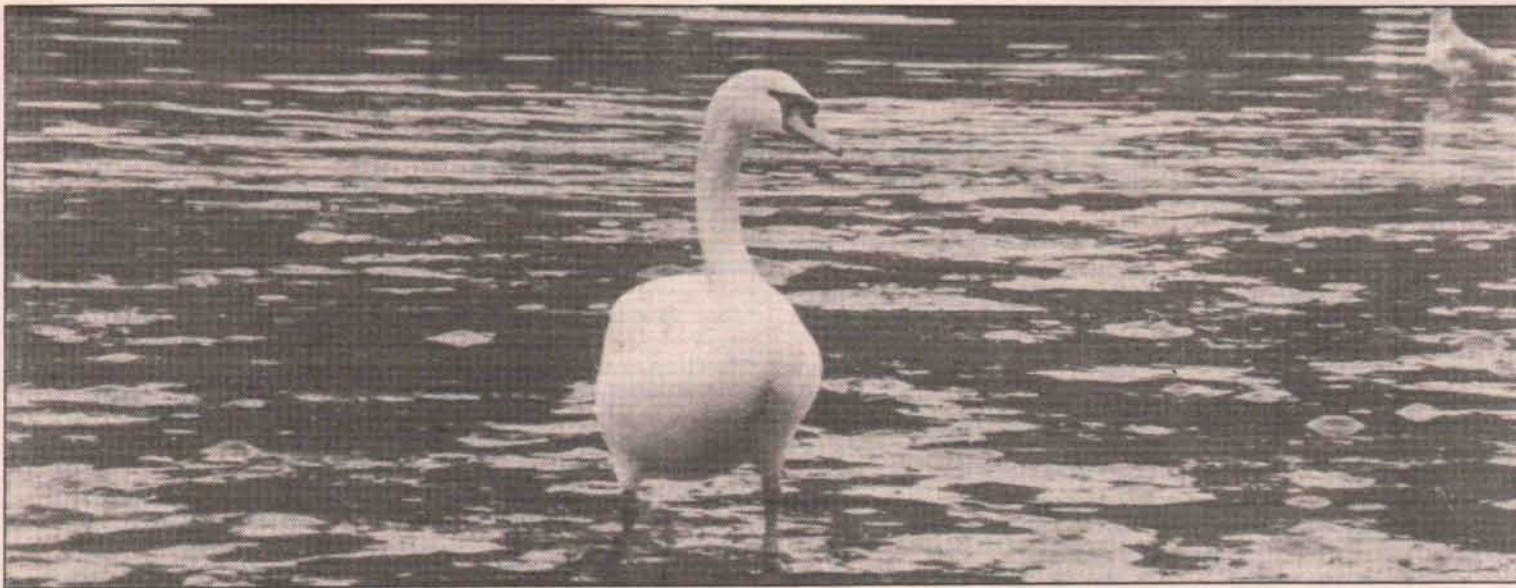
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Not a duck

Familiar Fulford Harbour resident takes break from afternoon swim.

Parents requesting assistance for arts

Parents of Fernwood Elementary School students are asking the Gulf Islands board of school trustees to upgrade the fine arts program at that school.

The written request, made during fine arts month throughout the school district, says the Fernwood program is "dismally underfunded."

Four specific requests were outlined in a letter to the board from the parents' group:

- Hire two additional full-time teachers for Fernwood.
- Ensure those two are specialized elementary teachers trained in art and music.
- Allow these staff members to co-ordinate and run art and music program at each of the three elementary schools on the island, operating in addition to the visiting artists' program, "which at present relies on the commitment of otherwise employed and already over-extended teachers and parents."

(The parents' group noted that a district computer teacher has been hired, and that the same idea should be applied "to remedy the fact that our children have no one teaching them to sing, a seemingly elementary skill.")

• Allow a room at Fernwood to be set aside for the sole use of art and music classes when planning the physical renovations for the facility.

In backing up their request, the parents said there is at present no class time designated exclusively or regularly for art or music instruction, and that there are no specially-trained teachers responsible for those areas.

"This situation is allowed to continue because these areas are seen as a lower priority than academics," the parents said. "We beg to differ. As our society continues to become more and more specialized, a percentage of our students will have little need in their adult lives to use science, math, history or geography to make a living. Instead, they will be our artists or musicians."

The parents said those students have a right to have access, "at this point in their development, to the rudiments of their future profession."

They added that other students — those who will not make their livings in the arts — will, as adults, "benefit greatly from the regular experience and habit of communicating through the expressive media available in arts and music."

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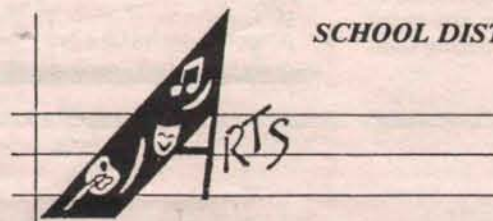
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SCHOOL DISTRICT #64—FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



in the
Gulf Islands Schools

MAHON HALL DISPLAYS & CONCERTS

From March 16-18, Mahon Hall will be alive with children's art and music. All island schools will be featuring art and music from their Fine Arts programs. The public is welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

- 10 am-2 pm Art Displays
- 10 am Fulford Elementary School - Choir & other performances
- 10:30 am Fulford & Salt Spring Elementary Schools - Mass choir performance
- 11 am Salt Spring Elementary School Choir
- 12:30 pm Gulf Islands Secondary School Bands

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- 10 am-2 pm Art Displays
- 10 am Fulford Elementary School - Band performances
- 11 am Salt Spring Elementary School - Band performances
- 1 pm Fernwood Elementary School - Band performances
- 1:30 pm Salt Spring Elementary School - Ukulele group

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- 10 am-2 pm Art Displays

GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2 PM - Dwayne Prosk will perform "Windborne", a demonstration of electronic music generated by wind instruments.

MARCH 21-APRIL 3 - Art display at Off Centre Stage.

SALT SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 10 AM - A performance by North Saanich Middle School Choir & Band.

FULFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2:20 PM - A performance by North Saanich Middle School Choir & Band.

On Thursday, March 23, Fine Arts Month draws to an end. The students and staff of the Gulf Islands Schools thank the public for their continued support of the Fine Arts in our schools.

A Celebration of Fine Arts in Education on the Gulf Islands

Come one, come all
to the first annual
S.S.I. Chamber of Commerce

Spring Lamb Barbecue!

WHEN: Saturday, May 20, 11 am - 7 pm

WHERE: Harbour House Hotel grounds

FEATURING:

- \$7 Lamb BBQ plate
- Free entertainment
- Displays and much, much more.

Make your plans now to attend
BBQ tickets sold on event day only

more letters

Peace thoughts

I love my world we call planet Earth.

I love all the different seasons, too.

Just because we are all different colours to each other's race, that does not mean we should hate.

In my world there is no room for war, nor fighting, nor bloodshed.

But peace, oh, if only we could have peace, in every corner of the world.

Universal love to me is helping other nations, not hindering them, and not being greedy, for that is the core of war.

We were put on this planet to live and be peaceful.

But now we have all got to pull together, if we are all to live together on this beautiful planet we call Earth.

Peace be with you.
ROSEMARY BARTON,
Ganges.

Please attend

Do you use our library? Would you like to make some changes? Would you prefer longer hours, some "Quiet" signs, or even affiliation with the Regional Library? Could you be a volunteer?

At the 1988 annual meeting, there was barely a quorum, out of about 1,500 members. Come to the 1989 meeting on March 15 at 3:30 pm in the United Church Lower Hall.

See you there.
BESS STAFFORD,
Ganges.

Join us

This is an exciting time for those of us interested in Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Following close on the heels of the music spectacular of March 3 and 4 and the *Bridging Gaps* conference of March 11, the Parents Advisory Meeting on Monday, March 20, promises to provide some provocative discussion on the high school now and into the future.

What should be the guiding principles for action at the high school? What should the school stand for? What are the roles of students, teachers, parents and the community in education? What are some goals and objectives you'd like to see the high school pursue? These are questions the high school philosophy committee is asking as it tries to form a new philosophy for GISS. Members are making a concerted effort to reach as many people as possible with these questions. Their efforts to have a philosophy that reflects community concerns and aspirations is to be commended.

If you have not yet participated in one of their discussions, or even if you have, join us on March 20 at 7:30 in the high school library. Everyone welcome.

ANNE HOHMANN,
GISS Parents Advisory.

Get together

I guess I'm what people would call an environmentalist, but I sure hope some day we'll all be able to drop the dichotomy of positions this term has come to evoke — that is, pro-this/anti-that — and just get down to seeing the environment and the proper management and conservation of such as the business of all of us.

Am I happy about the Fletcher Challenge layoffs? No. Who likes to see anybody's livelihood swept

away by some non-caring multinational? Perhaps, though, this action will help others to see what some environmentalists have seen and have been trying to say for some time now: that the problems we perceive are not with the caring individual, the logger trying to make a living, but with a non-caring, large-scale multinational and bureaucratic system misdirecting individuals into destroying their own land and their own futures for the short-term avarice of a few.

I believe loggers (not the large logging companies) will some day be held in the highest esteem as strong people doing their damndest to help build their country, their families, their futures. They are fine people, and I respect them. I don't have a great deal of choice, do I? I'm a woodworker.

But now I believe, and I see loggers are beginning to believe, that a new style of logging is necessary — for the survival of all of us. This means logging practices that pay attention to the conservation of the forest.

Let me look at Nick Raeside's environmentalist rules: I buy newspapers, paper, etc, and now I recycle any newspaper and I write on recycled paper (I only wish this newspaper were printed on recycled paper). Does it make a difference? Well Statistics Canada says that every tonne of paper recycled saves 17 trees; I wonder what Fletcher Challenge would do with these trees.

- I agree (reluctantly, for I grew up in the happiest of Christmas traditions) that we shouldn't go around "exhibiting a dead tree" once a year to satisfy some obscure twist of faith many have developed.

- As for "scaling the amount of timber in construction of (environmentalist's) homes ... and planting a corresponding number of seedlings, what can I say? I live in a bus. But just so you don't think I'm being the smart ass that I am, as I said before, I am a woodworker and the massive amount of wood used in this industry leaves me stunned.

I hope some day we all recognize this fact and build more to our needs rather than to our wants. Perhaps until then every wood user should do his or her bit and draft themselves into a tree planting program as you suggest. This would give us more of a feeling of responsibility to the forest and a greater understanding of where our livelihood, truly stems from (pardon the pun) — not from those who pay us but from the mother earth, the place where we all earn our living.

- "Plant seedlings as replacements for all the trees cut down to clear the house sites and driveways" — a terrific idea.

- "Buy firewood (that only comes from) trees that expired from natural causes." Well, actually, a new age forester will argue that a "dead" tree supports and leads to more life that a live tree holds (talk about the ultimate in recycling!). I believe firewood should come from well managed woodlots.

- "Trees need CO2 so only exhale." I know you're trying to be funny here — but look, if there's one thing we've got plenty of (too much, apparently) — it's CO2, and where does it come from? Mostly from burning slash from clear cuts — bad logging practices again, thanks to Fletcher Challenge.

- "What percentage of school age children would like to spend a week on Moresby Island admiring trees, if the alternative was a week in

Disneyland?" A good question, I know several children who would opt for the former. To quote one kid I took to Meare's Island "Holy (bleep) man, that's a BIG tree," and another: "Hey, look, this hollow in this tree is so big a bear could live in here."

"One does."
"Yikes!"

Believe me, Nick, roller coasters and Mickey Mouse ain't got nothing over a 1,200-year-old cedar.

One of Disney's great dreams was to use his fantasy land to help children understand nature — you know, *Sword in the Stone*, *Bambi*, that sort of thing, and it works, too. But once children see and understand the real thing they always come back to it as far into their adult life as can be managed. The trees and the earth and all that goes with it are the real rush of life — not just for a week, but forever.

There are better ways of logging, I'm convinced of it. Let's work toward a time when we can all sit down together and discuss how we're going to work with our forests and not worry about who we're going to blame out there, because there really is no one "out there" — there's only you and me and the earth.

To quote a favourite character of mine: "We has seen the enemy, and the enemy is us" (Pogo). The only way we're going to win this one, Nick, is when we get together.
ROBERT ANDREW,
Fulford Harbour.

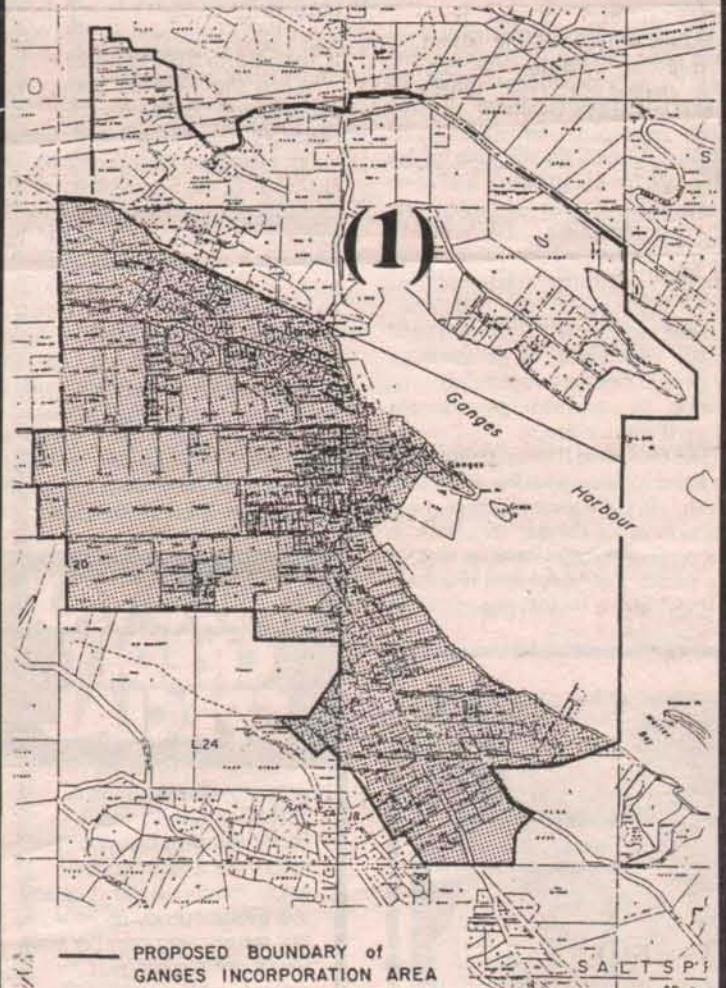
\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

is presented annually to a student at Gulf Islands Secondary School by the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island.



Application forms available at Gulf Islands Secondary or the Driftwood office. Deadline: March 31st

Ganges Incorporation INFORMATION MEETINGS



(1) For residents, businesses and tenants who live north of Lower Ganges Road (the outlined clear area at the top of the map).

Tuesday, Mar. 28
7:30 pm — School Board office

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AUTHORIZED SALES CENTRE

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20% OFF all CB radios & accessories

In Grace Point Mall

Play ball

After a very successful first season, the Salt Spring Minor Baseball Association wishes to remind you that baseball registration is upon us again.

Place: Ganges Village Market.

Date: March 18, 1989.

Time: 10 to 1:00.

Photocopy of birth certificate is required.

The fees for this year are:

T-Ball (ages 5-6) — \$15

Coach Pitch (ages 7-8) — \$15

Little League (ages 9-10) — \$23

Little League (ages 11-12) — \$23

Prep League (13 yrs only)

off island \$35

Babe Ruth (ages 14-15) off island

\$35.

All of the above ages are as of August 1, 1989. The number of players on team rosters will be limited, so please register early.

Umpires are needed. A clinic will be held at Portlock Park on March 19, 1989, from 10 to 2.

For more information please contact Bob Cecil at 537-9473. Anyone interested in coaching please contact Roger Chernenkoff at 537-9598 for more information.

Also, as a reminder to the parents, there will be a fund-raising dance for Minor Baseball in April or May, so please watch *Driftwood* for more information.

We need your support. Spring is coming, register early, play ball.

ROGER CHERNENKOFF,

Salt Spring Minor

Baseball.

Gone too far

The meetings I attended this weekend in Parksville were, by general consensus, the most boisterous and emotionally charged of all the B.C. meetings held on the subject of conversion of tree-cutting licenses to tree farm licenses.

It appears the government may have gone too far. In stating to me that "it is government policy to convert cutting licenses to tree farm licenses," the minister is putting himself in the role of an advocate for big industry and in so doing has drawn together the environmentalists, IWA, pulp unions, truck loggers and many ancillary forestry businesses as well as legions of concerned private citizens who are outraged at the conversion of government by people, for the people and of the people, to corporate government by civil service proxy.

The tree farm license policy is to go hand in hand with the reduction of the B.C. Forest Service to a fraction of its former self, both in the responsibilities held as well as the number of personnel retained.

In addition to my presentation



Lordy Lordy
He's twenty-nine
Happy birthday, spud—
I'm so glad you're mine.

Love, Laurie

on behalf of the Sierra Club, I also read a statement by Shylo Zybergold for the forestry task force of the Island Watch Society. Some of the other participants were Merv Wilkinson, Cyril Shelford, the mayors of Zeballos, Tahsis and Gold River, Edo Nyland, a retired forester, and Sidney Haskell, a founding director of the Carmanah Forest Society.

Several Indian chiefs also made very cogent and well-reasoned cases against the conversions because these make their position vis-a-vis the government in land claims cases even more difficult than it already is.

The feeling of the meeting was that everybody had done their homework exceedingly well and the minister, Dave Parker, now feels that instead of April, it will be June before he will have fully assessed the submissions.

The minister might reflect on the Webster pocket dictionary definition of conversion: namely, that the term can also mean "illegal seizure and use of property of another person" — in this case, the property of the people of B.C.

DIETRICH LUTH,
 Ganges.

Inaccuracies

Mr. Hubert Beyer's recent column, "No savings on privatization," contains major inaccuracies.

The supposed Treasury Board submission to transfer \$20 million from the Highways Capital Program to Highways Maintenance was, in reality, an internal working document that is constantly under revision. In the most up to date report, this figure is reduced to \$10 million.

When the 1988/89 budget was announced last Spring, my Ministry staff could not foresee wage increases negotiated by the B.C.G.E.U. in September; or the fact that the service supplied by the private contractor should be expanded to include seal coating and stabilization, previously performed by the Capital Maintenance Program. Funds must be transferred to the appropriate financial account to accurately reflect these changes.

Savings in the Capital Construction Program, achieved when actual costs of construction are lower than estimates, are

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transferred to other programs as well. Capital projects in this year's budget will not suffer with this transfer.

The reallocation of program savings in one area to offset additional costs in another is standard Government practice.

Mr. Beyer claims that senior citizens in the north are charged a fee to have their driveways plowed. He must have received incorrect information. This service is being

provided free of charge, by the private contractor, just as it was in the past.

Finally, let me say that 88 per cent of Ministry employees involved in maintenance have elected to transfer to the private


company and continue in their same equipment they used last winter (the remaining 12 per cent will be redeployed throughout Government). Little has changed except the name on the side of the vehicle and significant savings will be generated for the taxpayers of British Columbia.

Honourable NEIL VANT
 Minister.

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of \$1,000 each to a student or graduate of the Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The applicant must be continuing his or her studies in the medical field.

Application forms may be obtained from Bea Carr, Box 804, Ganges, B.C., or Miss M. Sitton, G.I. Secondary School; and must be received by May 13, 1989.

9-3

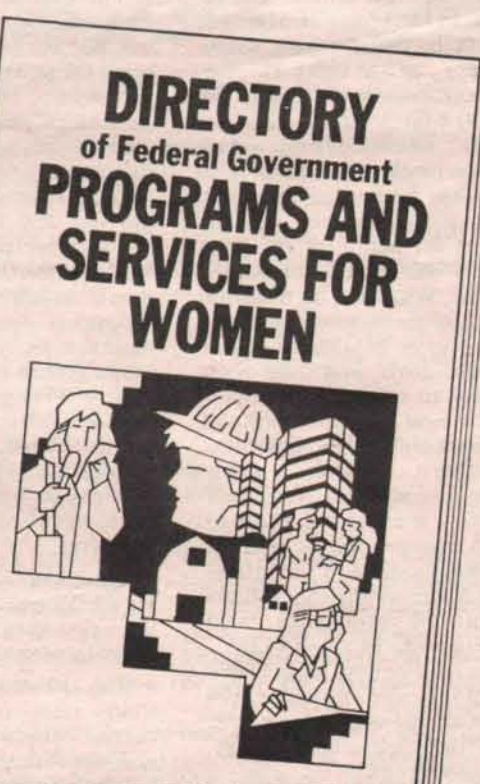
NOW AVAILABLE... WOMEN'S GUIDE TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The Government of Canada is committed to helping women achieve full equality and provides many programs and services to help them reach this goal.

A new Directory providing information about those Government Programs and Services for Women is now available through the Status of Women Canada.

The directory includes such programs as employment training and retraining, educational assistance and research grants, social services, child care, health promotion, human rights and family violence protection and cultural programs as well as help for community-based organizations. Special attention is given to the needs of native women and women in the many multicultural communities across Canada.

This directory is available to you free of charge. To obtain a copy, complete the coupon below.



return to: The Honourable Barbara McDougall
 Minister Responsible for the
 Status of Women
 151 Sparks Street
 RM. 1005
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1C3

STATUS-OF-WOMEN-CANADA

Partners in Action




CONDITION-FEMININE-CANADA

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 Status of Women
 Canada
 The Hon. Barbara McDougall
 Minister

Condition féminine
 Canada
 L'Hon. Barbara McDougall
 Ministre

Canada

Dire consequences posed by global warming trends

By PETER PENTZ
Second of five parts

There is now general agreement among scientists that the world is getting slightly but steadily hotter — our recent freeze-up notwithstanding.

The global rise in average temperature has been nearly a degree Celsius over the last century; and this fits what they predict would be the effect of the measured increase in the proportion of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and certain other gases in the atmosphere.

Less than one degree C may seem negligible, but the warming trend is accelerating, and if we don't reverse it soon, experts say, the consequences could be catastrophic.

A global average rise of 1.5 degrees C would expand ocean waters enough to obliterate Bangladesh; floods could wipe Charlottetown and countless other coastal population centres (including downtown Ganges) off the map. A change of two degrees C would kill our northern evergreen forests. Three degrees would make it impossible to grow wheat in Saskatchewan.

These are somewhat parochial views of the global damage ahead — if we do nothing to stop it.

The over-heating is a natural process only to the extent that the species we flatter with the name "homo sapiens" is part of nature. We alone are responsible for the immense danger ahead.

Our industrial activities, with a little help from farmers on our over-populated planet, produce the net out-flow of the gases that float above us as an invisible blanket. It is this that acts like the glass over plants in a greenhouse, allowing the heat of the sun to get through but preventing it from escaping by night in the form of low-frequency radiation.

About 80 per cent of our problem comes from excessive CO₂. This gas in the right concentration is as essential to life as oxygen and water: all the plants that form the bottom of the food chain grow literally out of the sky, using CO₂ with water and U-V light as their building-blocks — and in the process releasing the oxygen we need to breathe.

The danger we now face is the result of gross imbalance: by burning organo-carbons (coal, oil, methane, wood, etc.) we release CO₂ into the atmosphere much faster than land plants (mainly trees) and marine phyto-plankton can absorb it.

To make bad worse, we are busily cutting down and burning tropical rain-forests at a rate which currently causes some 20 per cent of the greenhouse effect. In the semi-desert areas of Africa what trees or even bushes used to grow and help absorb our problem-gas are being burned for firewood by the destitute and starving population.

It was the Industrial Revolution in Europe that started the over-heating, and the "civilized" nations are still the worst offenders; but it is important to remember that the problem is now truly global.

'We alone are responsible for the immense danger ahead.'

To get a measure of size, consider these figures: of the global output of CO₂, now 5.5 billion tonnes yearly, the US contributes 20 per cent, USSR 18 per cent, China 7.5 per cent, Canada 1.8 per cent. Between them, the top 10 culprits contribute about 60 per cent. Add 20 per cent from burning rain-forests and you get the output-picture.

Now how much can plants absorb? At present levels of tree-slaughter, less than half, on some estimates.

But there are other gases that matter, too. The CFCs that damage the ozone layer and let too much U-V light reach us (see part one of this series) are also very effective greenhouse gases: each CFC molecule is said to trap 20,000 times as much heat as a molecule of CO₂. Nitrous oxide and methane (the latter 20 times as efficient as CO₂) add more insulation that we don't need.

Together these gases account for some 10 per cent of our predicament, half as much as the burning of forests.

So, in the old phrase, what must we do to be saved? Clearly we need a two-sided program that reduces emissions of the troublesome gases and at the same time not only stops destruction of rain-forests but massively increases plant growth for absorption of CO₂. A 50 per cent cut in emission (which will need an enormous effort) is not enough to arrest the over-heating.



Our salvation is likely to need the following steps:

- Reduce rapidly and ultimately eliminate the production of CO₂ from burning of fossil fuels — coal, oil, natural gas methane — for the dwindling stores of which we have better uses than incineration.
- Stop release of CFCs, of nitrogen oxides, and of methane from farm wastes and anaerobic decay in land-fills, two renewable sources of methane we could well use for synthesizing much-needed chemicals.
- Stop, then reverse de-forestation.
- Promote energy conservation: we now waste at least 50 per cent.
- Provide funds for R&D that will eventually give us, from eco-friendly renewable sources, the energy we actually need.
- Introduce bio-efficient farming, for more and better food with lower fuel input.
- Urgently transfer resources from rich to poor countries, to enable them to take global preservation measures also.
- Since exploding world population adds greatly to our common danger, give Third World countries all possible aid with their programs of education, family planning, and the elimination of abject poverty without which no reduction in birth-rates can be expected.
- Stop exporting the weapons that now take 60 per cent of the wealth of those nations, and embroil them in wars that both destroy them and endanger the rest of the world.

The salesmen for the moribund nuclear industry are doing their best to pretend that power from uranium (or plutonium) fission would solve our problem, since it generates no greenhouse gases. They expect us to ignore the other long-term hazards of the nuclear cycle, from mining to final burial, and the fact that nuclear power projects need five times as much capital as conservation measures that reduce greenhouse gas emission by the same amount, and far sooner.

There is a final absurdity: it would be necessary to build a new nuclear power plant every other day (which is obviously impossible) to reduce CO₂ emissions by 10 per cent — and we need to cut out more than 50 per cent very soon . . .

The benefits of energy conservation are startling. In the US, insisting on car engines giving at least 45 miles per (US) gallon would save eight billion barrels of oil; using efficient lighting equipment would save 75 per cent of electricity now used for lighting, and cut coal burning by more than a third. In Canada our own Energy Probe Research Foundation calculate that conservation would let us get rid of all our nuclear and half our coal-burning power plants.

Can we trust the experts? They admit they cannot be certain of the precise effects on climate of the perturbations all agree we are causing. Certainty will arrive only when the damage is obvious — and perhaps irreversible. We would be mad to risk what we can almost painlessly avoid.

Peter Pentz is a retired industrial chemist now living on Salt Spring.

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Transportation task force endorses Trust policy

An April 3 public meeting in Ganges will seek public support for the position a task force is taking towards provincial government proposals for changes to the regional transportation system.

The meeting has been called by a task force of islanders formed by the Community Planning Association (CPA). When it met last Friday, the task force agreed that its response to the provincial government's proposals would be to back the Islands Trust mandate

and the policies on transportation the Trust adopted in 1983. (See *adjoining article*.)

The most important policy statement, says task force member Kathy Scarfo, is that changes to ferry service should follow — not anticipate — demand.

"We will also be recommending that no major changes occur without a social impact study, not just a feasibility study, and that the Islands Trust be involved in discussions of any major changes."

Defined as "major changes" are the possibility of a new ferry terminal at Isabella Point and the related closure of the Long Harbour ferry terminal — both of which are among the provincial government's proposals for ferry system changes in the region.

A consultant's report to the province said changes were needed to help stem the annual \$16 million deficit run up by ferry service in the region.

Scarfo said the task force will not be delivering "an in-depth, point-by-point" report on each transportation system component in the region (i.e., roads and airlines) because it has neither the time nor the resources. The group must meet an April 15 deadline for submissions to public hearings on the suggested changes.

"By putting these recommendations forward," Scarfo said, "we are asking for more time. We

want public backing for that." The April 3 public meeting that will ask islanders to support the task force stand — in principle — is set for 7:30 pm in the Activity Centre of Salt Spring Elementary School.

At present, the stand taken by the task force has been endorsed by at least one community group — the South Salt Spring Residents' Association. Scarfo was recently elected president of that group.

'Increased service should follow demands placed on ferry system'

The position on transportation taken by the Islands Trust is outlined in a general policy bylaw adopted in August, 1983. The contents of that bylaw were printed, in turn, in a manual.

Policies specific to ferry transportation include:

- Expansion of service should follow, not anticipate, demand.
- (The stated rationale for the province's proposed ferry system changes is to ensure it can handle demand anticipated through the year 2000.)
- The ideal service capacity should be of marginal adequacy.
- Peak demands should not be considered in defining ideal capacity.
- Movement of pedestrians,

rather than vehicles, should be encouraged.

- Parking should be provided at terminals.
- Travellers should be encouraged to avoid peak travel times.
- Car ferry service should not be extended to islands not now served.
- Pedestrian Only service should be provided direct to island parks, if demand exists.
- Consideration should be given to meeting additional demand for ferry service with passenger ferries.
- Schedules should not be amended to encourage off-island commuting.
- A fare structure should be

maintained to avoid hardship, which would be caused by high fares, and excessive use, which would be caused by low fares.

The policy document adds that ferry terminal alteration or expansion should be in keeping with the environment of the islands.

The document also registers opposition to any proposals to connect islands to Vancouver Island, the mainland or to one another by bridge or tunnel, "whether or not access to the islands is provided by the bridge or tunnel."

(The province's ferry system proposals include calls to link Mayne and Saturna islands, and Gabriola and Vancouver islands.)

Driver fined for 'donuts'

A Ganges man was fined \$100 after pleading guilty to driving without consideration for others using the highway.

Stephen James Sinclair, 23, of Fulford-Ganges Road was charged after his vehicle conducted a 360-degree "donut" in Ganges.

The Crown said the offence took place outside the Bank of Commerce building last July 1. The particulars indicated four or five pedestrians were in the area at the time of the offence, as well as eight parked vehicles.

Sinclair had no previous record.

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