

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

THIRTIETH YEAR, NO. 1

50¢

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1989



In the drink

Salt Spring tradition continued Sunday with annual Vesuvius polar bear swim to mark New Year's Day. Sixteen entrants braved chilly waters—including two (above) who swam from warmth of fire blazing on log raft. Following dip, free refreshments were provided by Vesuvius Inn, which sponsors event.



Planning process causing concern

By DUNCAN MacDONNELL

The public will apparently have only one opportunity to participate in a provincial government process established to draft a transportation plan for the region.

The planning process is set out in documents accompanying an 18-volume consultant's report suggesting long-term upgrading and integration of the province's existing air, sea, rail and road transportation systems. Work proposed in the report carries a \$7 billion price tag.

The report, released in early December, calls for changes to the Gulf Islands ferries service — including proposals to build a new terminal at Isabella Point on Salt Spring, close the island's Long Harbour terminal, link Mayne and Saturna islands with a bridge, and alter the routes followed by vessels.

Those proposals are to be reviewed during a 10-step planning process established by Victoria to upgrade systems in each region and co-ordinate the work province-wide. The first three steps of that process are:

- Appointment of regional transportation committees by regional development ministers. Saanich-Islands MLA Terry Huberts, de-

velopment minister for this region, has named Sidney mayor Norma Sealey to head his transportation committee. Neither Huberts nor Sealey were available for comment.

- Committees review the 18-volume consultant's report and consider regional issues in all modes of transportation.

- Public submissions invited.

The remaining seven steps in the process are: technical information from transportation agencies made available to committees; regional transportation plans developed, with projects ranked by priorities; presentation of plans to the transportation and highways minister for technical and budget review (by summer, 1989); assessment of all eight regional plans and development of an integrated plan for all of B.C.; presentation of an overall plan to the provincial cabinet; implementation of approved projects (by winter, 1989); and annual reassessment of issues and priorities by regional transportation committees.

It is not known when the regional transportation committees will issue a call for public submissions, or if the public will

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Health fair outlines healing alternatives

Some believed them wondrous wise,
And some believed them mad.
—Beattie's Minstrel.

By DAVE FRASER

Non-traditional methods of healing were showcased at the Alternate Healing Fair held at the Ganges Community Centre from December 28 to 30.

Nine healers from the region put on workshops and demonstrations for islanders searching for alternatives to mainstream medicine. Of equal importance, fair organizer Rosalie Miles said, was the way the event provided a first opportunity for naturopaths and new agers to network.

The healers came from all walks of life, but with a common purpose — to heal the body and spirit without surgery, chemicals or electrodes.

Miles says the Gulf Islands are home to many new age people who have developed their ideas on holistic medicine independent-

ly of each other. In comparison, new agers in larger centres like Vancouver and Calgary tend to be trendier and have higher marketing profiles.

Miles says this emerging new age consciousness is less anti-establishment than that held by predecessors in the 1960s and 1970s.

Miles says she would like to see better co-ordination of alternative and traditional services on Salt Spring, with the local community centre playing a part.

She says she first came up with the idea of the fair while counselling emotionally disturbed teenagers. She says childhood trauma is quite often the cause of physical and emotional problems.

Through trance-channelling Miles says she can tap into the past lives of troubled individuals. This new-found knowledge can then be used to overcome guilt, fear or even physical ailments.

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Winner

Islander earns notice in poetry competition. Page A11.

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Islanders prepare for Nicaragua visit

Two Gulf Islanders leave Canada later this month to begin work on a water supply project in Nicaragua.

Mayne Island's Ron Pither and Galiano Island's George Harris are headed for Ometepe Island on Lake Nicaragua, a community that forged bonds with the Gulf Islands in mid-1988.

Mutual interest caused a friendship society to be formed in the Gulf Islands to provide financial assistance and technical expertise for Ometepe. It has since raised \$25,000 for installation of improved water supplies for the community, a project Pither and Harris are eager to launch this year.

The two islanders had hoped to be able to begin work on a \$75,000 water system improvement project on Ometepe, but matching funds expected from the Canadian International Development Corporation (CIDA) have yet to be approved.

Pither explained that local

fund-raising for the Ometepe project was done under the wing of the Save The Children Fund of B.C., which then applied to CIDA for a two-to-one matching grant.

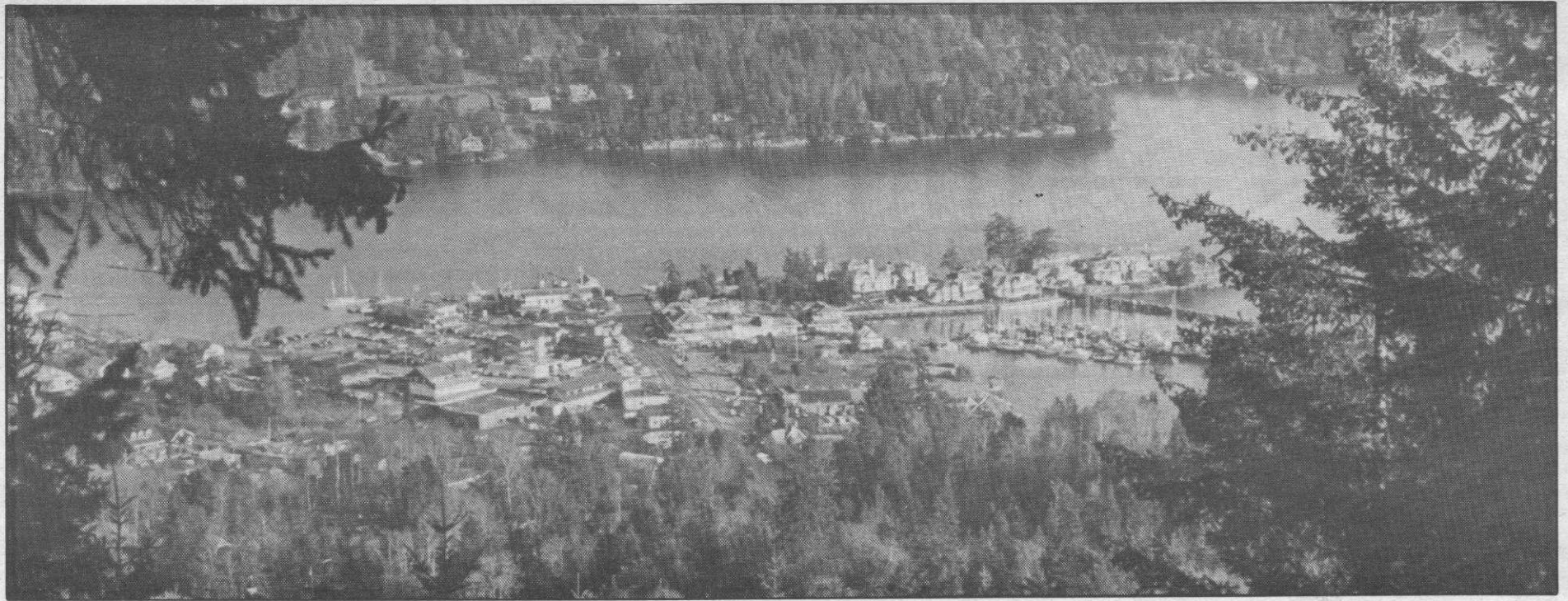
Initially, Pither said, the request appeared headed for quick approval, but it has since been stalled by federal government requests for comments from its Central American embassies and from the external affairs department.

Pither indicated he believes the wait for a decision by Ottawa is due in part to the delicate political nature of approving a project for a country whose government is opposed by the United States.

"Concern has been expressed about the sensitivity," Pither said.

"That other factor has put the \$50,000 (in possible CIDA funds) in the bureaucratic meat grinder," Pither said. "We're in the right place at the right time, but

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Clear winter day and Mt. Belcher vantage point combine to provide panoramic glimpse of downtown Ganges

Trust fund total reaches \$13,000 mark

Islanders have raised over \$13,000 to date for a fund established to care for the two children of a Salt Spring woman who perished in a December 11 house fire.

Wendy Sinclair, 36, left an eight-year-old son, Leon, and a 13-year-old daughter, Heron, who will split the contents of the fund when each reaches the age of majority.

The trust fund — organized by Betsy Dosco and Arvid Chalmers — had collected \$13,555.87 as of Tuesday, January 3. The total has been made up of straight cash donations to special bank accounts at the Island Savings Credit Union, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Bank of Montreal branches in Ganges, from collection jars set up in all of the pubs on the island, and from a combination dance and wake held in Sinclair's memory on December 19 at the Beaver Point Hall.

A breakdown of the totals shows \$2,000 was raised at the Beaver Point Hall, \$6,800 was collected at the Credit Union, \$1,400 was deposited at the Bank of Commerce and \$3,000 was given at the Bank of Montreal. The remainder has come from collection jars — including \$350 raised in one weekend by patrons of the Harbour House Hotel.

The fund's trustees note that the special bank accounts remain open to accept further donations — and will remain open year-round in hopes of increasing the amount of funds available for Sinclair's two children.

The financial and emotional success of the Beaver Point Hall event, meanwhile, has prompted trustees to consider holding an annual fund-raiser for the memorial fund.

"I don't see any reason why it won't happen," Chalmers said, noting that approximately 24 local

Campaign to continue year-round

musicians took to the hall stage at one point, and that the gathering of Sinclair's friends was a moving experience — so much so that the event will now be staged annually to honour Sinclair's memory and boost the assets of the fund.

Also being considered is a compilation of songs recorded by

Sinclair which would be produced on cassette tapes and sold, with proceeds being directed to the trust fund.

"Although we've done well to date," Chalmers said in reference to the amount raised so far, "it is a trust fund for the children. And there are immediate costs to

handle."

Both children lost all of their possessions in the fire, and \$2,000 has been ear-marked for replacement of clothing and other essentials. Another \$400 is being set aside to replace goods lost by a friend of the children, who was in the house at the time of the fire.

Money remaining in the fund is to be placed into term deposits and held until the children reach adulthood.

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Christmas program 'unqualified success'

The Christmas CounterAttack program against drinking drivers was an unqualified success, Ganges RCMP note.

Between December 8 and January 3 police checked 352 motor vehicles with no one arrested for impaired driving. Two 24-hour suspensions were issued for marginally impaired drivers. There were also 11 tickets written for motor vehicle infractions.

An estimated \$6,000 damage resulted from a two-vehicle acci-

dent near Lower Ganges Road and Booth Canal Road, December 23, which was attended by the police and fire department.

Jennifer Haas of Ganges and her two children, aged four and five years, were taken to hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the other vehicle, Derek Topping, also of Ganges, did not require medical attention.

As a result of the accident Haas was charged with failure to keep to the right of the roadway.

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	0825	10.3		1200	10.0
WE	1140	10.6	SU	1505	10.5
	2030	1.7		2315	.4
5	0550	11.1	9	0740	11.6
	0945	10.4		1240	9.5
TH	1220	10.6	MO	1605	10.2
	2110	1.0		2355	.9
6	0620	11.4	10	0810	11.6
	1040	10.4		1330	8.8
FR	1310	10.6	TU	1710	9.7
	2150	.5			
7	0645	11.5	11	0040	1.8
	1120	10.3		0835	11.7
SA	1410	10.6	WE	1425	7.8
	2235	.3		1830	9.0

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Influenza affecting islanders

By ADAM WALDIE, M.D.

Most of us suffer flu from time to time, particularly after a long trip or after a hectic period of overwork or after a prolonged family or personal crisis.

This isolated form of flu may well be an exhaustion-depletion phenomenon.

On the other hand, epidemic influenza — such as we now have on Salt Spring and the Lower Mainland — is much more of a contagious condition, and whether it strikes mostly those people whose resistance is down is debatable.

Certainly we know that there are various strains of the influenza virus and for whatever reason they seem to be named for South East Asia place names, often followed by a capital letter and a Roman numeral.

The first major epidemic I recall in practice was the Asian flu in the mid-1950s, the worst in my memory. Our parents and grandparents still speak of the "Spanish Flu" of 1919, a pandemic caused by the swine-flu virus, which left a toll of millions the world over.

We are all familiar with the symptoms of influenza — the onset is usually that of extreme fatigue, aching muscles, fever and chills and often, curiously, aching eyeballs.

We take to our beds and no amount of hot drinks and aspirin or Tylenol seems to help. If the cough, headache or fever becomes particularly severe (or if we need a medical certificate to stay off work) we may even call a physician.

Often we are disappointed that the doctor doesn't seem to have any magic treatment. Antibiotics do not help viral illnesses in the least, and it is only when there appears to be a secondary bacterial infection developing that the attending physician will feel it is wise to prescribe these drugs.

Each flu epidemic seems to carry its own particular set of variations. Some outbreaks are characterized largely by fever and chills, with aching bones and muscles; others may have headaches with or without stiff neck and others again may have more gastro-intestinal symptoms.

The current epidemic on the island, according to Dr. Peter Rowell, hits children with severe coughing and vomiting and adults with more dizziness and milder ear infections than usual.

What about flu shots? I personally have never been an enthusiast for them, particularly since my bones and joints ached for weeks after taking a flu vaccine injection once many years ago.

There is no doubt whatever that people at risk—the frail, elderly and the patients with lung disorders — fare much better during epidemics if they have received their immunization early in the fall when it first becomes available.

Both residents and care givers in facilities are entitled to and should receive the free vaccine.

Whether "not at risk" people should take flu vaccine is a personal decision. It is available at modest cost for one's physician to administer.

Dr. Waldie is the chief of staff at Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges.

to be frank

by richards



Bold statements in the raw

There's something in the air these days that brings out the naked truth. I heard two tales this week about gentlemen running around as naked as they came into the world. One skinny-dipper went through the ordeal with no problems. The other went to jail for his sins.

A charming lady of my acquaintance went to a laundromat to accomplish the cleaning process that her own water supply denies. She completed the task without event, but as she prepared to gather her goods and chattels she observed a young gentleman loading his linen into a tub. The loading near its end, he removed his shirt and threw it in after the rest of his garments. Then off came his undervest and, likewise, into the machine.

But stay! That was not the end of the soap opera. His pants were less than spotless and off they came to be cast into the cleaning vat. Obviously, no man who makes a fetish of cleanliness would hesitate to wash his underpants and that was the end of a soapy tale of a detergent trail.

My informant left the premises, a little startled and the laundromat took over.

The other tale had a sad ending.

A man who is related to me went to Mexico. I won't disclose his name because he is bigger than I am. With a happy group of friends he went to the warm south and disported himself in the bars and on the beach. It was very hot and he was very dry and the water was very cool. The thought was the deed and in no time at all his slight garments lay on the beach while he swam mightily against the tide.

Enjoying the sensuous pleasures of cool water and hot sun, he scarcely heard the sirens and the shrieking tires. The law was on the scene.

I'm not sure, yet, whether the law spoke English to local visitors or whether he made signs, but he was whisked off to jail for the heinous offence of skinny-dipping. The jail may well have been a perfect cell-out. I don't know because I haven't seen him since his imprisonment. He was incarcerated, in the buff, until his friends bailed him out. The moral is obvious: don't go skinny-dipping in Mexico. The rest of the tale is just coincidence.

Pretty poor plagiarism

I have never resolved in my own mind the mystery of a composition by one of my children while in school.

She was called upon to write something, its exact nature eludes me, but the submission was written and handed in. The homework was the beginning of a great storm.

The teacher examined the submission and promptly accused her of cribbing it from a book. The matter went to the principal and once again, she was asked where she found the piece.

For several days she attended school armed with papers from her early childhood demonstrating her fondness for writing verse and something of her skills in that direction.

It was somewhat grudgingly accepted that the writing was, indeed, hers and original and that should have been the end of the matter. It was almost the end. Came the time for marking the homeworks, she was given a "C".

If the submission was worth no more than a "C" mark, why would any literary mind suspect it was stolen from an accomplished writer?

I didn't pursue the matter and neither did she, but it has always been a puzzle, for the past many years.

Colour blind?

I have been plagued by three generations of my womenfolk over the matching of colours. It seems that I have socks, pants, shirts and ties that "don't go."

But they sure go with me!

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Determined reply needed

If local residents are to be given but one chance to influence the thrust of a transportation plan for the Gulf Islands region, we had better make the most of the opportunity.

The prospect of firing only one shot in the decision-making process is outlined in documents released in mid-December with an 18-volume consultant's report suggesting \$7 billion worth of long-range changes to B.C.'s existing transportation network. The 10-step process calls for public submissions to be solicited in the early stages of planning; after that, formulation of both the regional and B.C.-wide plans is to be handled from within provincial government ministries.

There is no mistaking the complexity of the challenge the provincial government has set for itself, or the need to identify and launch suitable projects as soon as possible if upgradings are to produce an efficient, integrated transportation system by the year 2000. Given those considerations, it is no surprise that the planning process outlined by consultants should seem so heavily weighted towards speed.

The concern arises, however, that the public interest — particularly the opportunity for extensive public comment at significant steps in the process — could be sacrificed in the interest of expediency.

There should, for instance, be a chance for public rebuttal, especially since our regional transportation planning committee might endorse the proposals for a new ferry terminal at Isabella Point or a bridge linking Mayne and Saturna islands. Both suggestions are sure to arouse



controversy and emotions (not to mention change the way we live), and as such are deserving of long looks and sober second thoughts.

As it is now structured, the planning process looks to provide islanders with only one opportunity to offer comment or criticism on the

suggested changes. If that means residents must colour their submissions with a measure of anticipation about what the committee may eventually recommend, so be it. At least we know that, given but one kick at the can, we must speak loudly and forcefully.

Keeping resolutions not as difficult as we think

If you've somehow managed to make it this far without breaking your New Year's resolution, take heart: there are only 361 days left to test the strength of your commitment.


And bear in mind that the odds of success are not quite as dismal or difficult as they might seem. One year ago, regular readers might recall, I used this space to pledge that professional baseball would not be among the 52 topics it would pursue in 1988.

As of today, I've kept that resolution. Not that it was easy, given hot summer subjects like the joy of tuning in a night game on the car radio, the revival of public interest in the Black Sox scandal of 1919, and the idiotic insistence of the Mets to play Lenny Dykstra when he wasn't fit to carry Mookie's jock strap.

my word

.....

by duncan macdonnell



However, today's effort is not meant to let me catch up on the highlights I would have liked to analyze during the 1988 season, or to crow about the fact that I was able to curb my baseball fanaticism (in this space, anyway) for the past 12 months. Rather, it was to share with you the recently-gained knowledge that keeping New Year's resolutions are a piece of cake, statistically speaking.
 The information crossed my desk last week, in the form of a

financial investment company's analysis of New Year's resolutions. I quote:
 "Resolutions are something we think of as being made January first and forgotten by February first. Not true, says a recent survey. In fact, most people make resolutions and most keep them.
 "An international survey . . . found that 75 per cent of the 500 (people) asked made some kind of New Year's resolutions or goals. Among those who made resolu-

tions, 88 per cent kept at least some of them."
 Sounds like your pledge has a pretty good chance of surviving the next 361 days, right? Not so fast — according to the same survey, everything depends on what you promised to do or avoid in the coming 12 months.
 It turns out that the typical resolution has little or nothing to do with the really difficult things in life, like ignoring baseball news or losing weight or quitting the tobacco habit.
 The number one resolution topic in 1988 and 1989, the survey tells us, is to make more money. Number two is to save more money. Quitting smoking doesn't even make the top 10.
 Now, I find that disquieting. To me, it implies there is a widely-held belief that more money is the

only ticket to significant improvements in life or lifestyle. Following that line of thought to its logical end suggests we should alter our paths or habits only when the price is right. It means there is no point just wanting to be a better person, without fear or favour.
 However, I'm not about to get pessimistic about this. The survey I quote above covers only two years found in the midst of a hard-driving cash-conscious decade. Ten years ago, the top 10 resolutions were probably quite different, and they will likely be quite different still in 1999.
 At least I hope so. If not, it means resolutions about baseball just won't cut it anymore. Unless I pledge to play the baseball pool for money only. And that's sacrilege.

Thank you

To the 67 wise people who chose to take advantage of the free bus service offered by Azure Transport Ltd., on Salt Spring New Year's Eve, a special Happy New Year and thank you for supporting the island's new alternative mode of transportation.

I was very glad to have been a part of making your New Year's safer, more enjoyable and more memorable than it might have otherwise have been.

Also, special thanks to Dallas Brown, who sponsored me, for propane fuel and for breaking up his New Year's Eve to come down and fuel up the bus.

Thank you, too, to the Harbour House and the Legion crew for their continued support, the Vesuvius Inn gang for their support, and the much-appreciated bottle of champagne for my New Year's Day corn flakes. And thanks to the Fulford Inn for offers of coffee to keep me going through the night.

One last special thanks to my copilot, Alec, who rode shot gun with me until 5:00 a.m.

JUDY KELLY,
Ganges.

Hold meetings

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society has been very interested in the ongoing controversy over the quality of water supplied to the community from Maxwell Lake. As you know, the securing of this valuable watershed has been a major priority for the Water Preservation Society for a number of years, as part of our commitment to preserve and protect the potable water lakes on the Island. In particular, the serious consideration being given to the chlorination of Maxwell Lake water as a quick-fix solution to fluctuating coliform counts is of great concern to us.

In our view, the most appropriate course of action is always to look to preserving the quality of water at source before considering various forms of purification. And, where treatment is found to be necessary, chlorine should not automatically be the process of choice. In this regard, the issues of odour and taste take a back seat to the possible long term health effects of chloring and chlorine by-products in our water.

The Water Preservation Society would ask, therefore, in the strongest possible terms, that the North Salt Spring Water District hold public meetings to discuss this important issue before any decision to chlorinate Maxwell Lake water is made. The Water District can count on our full cooperation in the sharing of expertise and information on this important subject. Our resources are at its disposal.

We look forward to a wide public debate before any final decision is made. Please let us know what we can do to facilitate this important public process.

MIKE HAYES,
President,
Salt Spring Island Water
Preservation Society.

Practical joke?

To the editor,

I wish to share with you and your readers a perfectly marvellous practical joke to play on anyone.

First of all, you have to find some family who has just lost a close relative. The day after the demise, you mail a letter of job acceptance to a younger member of the bereaved family, asking him

letters

to report for a medical exam on the day before the funeral.

The result will be fantastic! The younger member will miss an extra day of school, the father will have to drop everything to do with funeral arrangements to provide transportation, and there will be a lot of added expenses.

The joy and appreciation of being "hoodwinked" will be treasured for years. We know! We were the victims! HO! HO!

Merry Christmas.
DAVID NEW,
JOHN NEW,
(Joke victims),
Galiano Island.

Good work

As a friend and support to Sue Hiscocks I wish to negate the recent condemnation in *Driftwood* of her efforts to bring important issues to the forefront in the Yukon. My, you get around Soozie.

We all take our knocks as they are dished out. Keep up the good work. You are a shining light in trying to pursue the difficult task of furthering awareness of many issues in this community and afar.

Keep up the good work in 1989.
GLADYS HILLS,
Ganges.

Say 'no'

Editor's note: The following is a letter to the provincial ministry of Crown lands, filed with this newspaper for publication.

I was very pleased with the unanimous decision of the Islands Trust to say no to fish farming — I hope *No* to any more fish farming around Salt Spring.

I would urge you, please, to support and uphold the Islands Trust decision.

JOCELYN HOCKING,
Fulford Harbour.

Take note

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to the residents of Salt Spring Island, filed with this newspaper for publication.

The Lions Club 1989 Salt Spring Directory is now being assembled. Will you be in it? How can you tell? How can you get in it if you weren't last year and you want to be?

• If you are a new resident and were not in the Lions Directory last year, check the new B.C. Tel book. If you are in that, you will automatically be in our book exactly as you appear in the B.C. Tel book. If you would like your listing to be different than that in the B.C. Tel book, go to any bank or post office on Salt Spring (Ganges or Fulford), and find the black box on the counter — fill out one of the yellow forms and put it in the black box.

• If you were in our book last year but for whatever reason you do not appear in the B.C. Tel book (the phone is not in your name; you like to be listed in your maiden name while the phone is in your married name), please fill out a form — it will save us many hours of cross-checking and phoning to see if the number is still in use.

• If you are a new resident and keep getting calls from someone who is no longer here but used to have your number, please fill out a form telling us to cancel the old listing — just the name and number are sufficient, with a request to cancel.

• Are you a business and did not know that we were compiling the book but you would like to be listed? Call us at 537-2000 as soon as possible.

• Are you in the B.C. Tel book and in our book and would like your listing in our book to be the same this year a last? Do nothing!

The black boxes will remain in the banks and post offices until January 13. Please act now to ensure you are "in the book."
CAROL SIMPSON,
LIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Waters rising

Following an eight-year circumnavigation of the Pacific Ocean, I have sailed my small boat home only to find myself in yet another Third World nation owned and exploited by a few ruling families acting through their corporate cartels.

I have returned to the province and island I love to find the land being ripped asunder; the coastal beaches, air and waters dangerously toxic to every creature who partakes in their diminishing bounty. I attend public meetings only to hear politicians argue over numbers with all the fervor of bankrupt aristocrats squabbling over deck chairs on the *Titanic*.

Our planet is dying! In recent years, bluewater sailors have seen the oceanic Tradewinds — the most consistent wind patterns on earth — turn fickle and even reverse, while here at 49 North summer tourists remark on how the sun sears skin with tropical intensity as our atmosphere unravels.

There are encouraging signs of awareness, but so far little action on the personal level. When a trip to the store reverberates with an oil slick in mid-Atlantic and drought in the Sudan, every mile we drive, every item so frantically consumed and discarded must be weighed on a global scale. The hour grows late. The poisoned waters are literally rising. Like it or not, we are all environmentalists now.
RANDY THOMAS,
Master S.V. *Celerity II,*
Ganges.

Snowfall

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the town
Not a creature was stirring
In the snow coming down.

The children were nestled
All snug in their beds
While visions of sugar plums
Danced in their heads.

Mama in her kerchief
And I in my cap
Were just settling down
For a long winter nap.

When out on our porch
There arose such a clatter
I ran to the door to see
What was the matter.

And there stood old Santa
With his trusty elf Don
But no sled and no reindeers
Now where have they gone?

Then Santa explained
As our stockings he'd fill
His reindeers were stuck
On our very steep hill.

He had left them asleep
Curled up in the snow
But now he was finished
And home they would go.

And we heard him exclaim
As they trudged out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all"
This has been quite a night.

With apologies to the author
and Trevor Turner and Don
Harrison.
**MARGARET AND LARRY
RITZA,**
Ganges.



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Ometepe project ready

From Page A1

not with the right people. It's hung up the \$50,000."

With \$75,000 in hand, the Mayne Islander said, the Ometepe project would be able to look at long-term planning for a water supply system. As it is, much can be accomplished — but not as much as might have been possi-

ble.

"We can do quite a bit down there with \$25,000," he said. "It's a drop in the bucket, but we'll take it one drop at a time."

The main order of business in Ometepe, he continued, will be to determine the materials needed for the water supply system and to arrange delivery of those materials through CARE.

Pither said the path he and Harris take to Nicaragua may be a slow one. Harris and his three children leave in about one week for Mexico, where they will later be joined by Pither. The group will then travel through Guatemala and Honduras before reaching Nicaragua and Ometepe.

Along the way, Harris intends to collect film footage for a

documentary he hopes to make about children in Central America, as seen through the eyes of his children.

Pither said discussions are underway with various agencies — including the National Film Board and the B.C. Teachers' Federation — about possible sponsorship and assistance for the film project.

Transportation planning process offers public one chance to reply

From Page A1

be given an opportunity to comment on the regional plans submitted to the transportation and highways ministry.

Uncertainty over the answers to those questions is already causing concern on the Gulf Islands. Privately, some residents interested in transportation issues say the planning process should provide more than one opportunity for public comment, and that there appears to be little chance for islanders to become directly involved in the process.

One observer, who has discussed the issue with both Sealey and Huberts, said that given the financial and social impacts of the

'We don't want to act prematurely. But if we don't react, it will be too late.'

suggested ferry system changes, it is alarming that the Gulf Islands' 10,000-plus residents "will not be given a direct say in what happens in their own backyard."

Because there are no islanders represented on the regional transportation committee, the observer added, residents are faced with

the prospect of "having to go through the mayor of Sidney (Sealey) to determine how the islands will develop."

Local concern about the regional planning process is muted at present, however. Islanders following the initial steps in the plan say they do not want to make local representation and the opportunity for public comment a major issue at this point, given that the process has just been launched and some changes might be possible if quiet diplomacy is used.

Said one: "We don't want to act prematurely. But if we don't react, it will be too late. And who's going to represent our concerns and interests then?"

Snow removal crews logged additional hours

Salt Spring maintenance crews worked extra hours over the holiday period to clear a sudden snowfall from island roads.

Snow began falling over parts of the island early on December 24 and became heavier in late afternoon and early evening. Little or no snow was reported at sea level or on the west side of the island, while higher elevations received as much as an estimated seven inches of white powder.

John Charlton, local roads foreman with the recently-privatized service, said the bulk of snow-clearing work was concentrated on Fulford-Ganges Road, which was under about four inches of snow on Christmas Eve.

Areas receiving the deepest snowfalls were the Cranberry area, Shepherd Hills, Dukes Road, Mt. Belcher and Blackburn Road.

In a quarter-mile stretch between Blackburn and Cusheon Lake, Charlton said, his crews came across five vehicles that left the road because of heavy snow. No accidents or injuries were reported by police.

Road crews concentrated on clearing the main road, then dealt with other areas under heavy snow, Charlton said. A grader operated by Dale Johnson worked until midnight on Christmas Eve, and employee Jim Buckley worked on patrol through Christmas and Boxing days, he added.

"From the Friday to the Friday, everyone had a considerable

number of hours in — it was a real team effort," Charlton said. "It was the first time we were tested by snow, and everything turned out fine."

The roads foreman added that a turn in the weather on Christmas Day meant most of the snow washed away in a few days. It meant that after plowing on Christmas Eve, employees spent the next several days in repeated sanding and salting of local roads.

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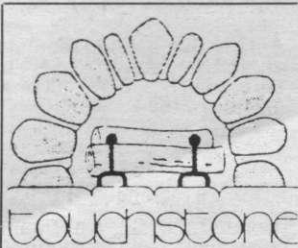
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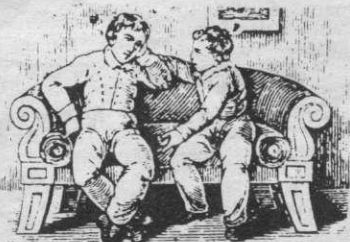
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Production scheduled

Rehearsals have been underway for a new one-act play written by Jeremy Davis, entitled *Dancing with the Wildebeest*.

Davis is familiar to Salt Spring audiences both as a writer and actor. His 1987 play *Giving Peace a Chance* involved the Grade Eight class at Gulf Islands Senior Secondary, where Davis taught theatre arts.

Cathi Gay, who appeared in the 1987 production (which toured the Gulf Islands and was produced in Vancouver), plays Tina in *Wildebeest*, a play about a teenage girl with no place to sleep and a man who's missed the last train.

"It's just a story, a moment in time," says Davis. "The girl Tina and the man from the suburbs, Peter. They don't know what they want or want to say but their mutual presence in the skid row coffee house gives them some free time to try to find out.

"Human interaction is like an iceberg. Nine-tenths of what's really there is hidden from view. Maybe the play is the other tenth."

Yvonne Adalian is the director of this "Salt of the Earth" production. She describes the process of working with the script and the writer as actor as a metamorphosis.

Early rehearsals involved an unfolding of the characters through the workshop process. "This is indigenous theatre," she adds. "It will stand up to Toronto in my experience.

"The issue of homeless youth is seldom addressed. Street kids are an embarrassment. Nihilistic and lost, rejecting what they so clearly see as hollow and meaningless in a materialistic society, they remain, nevertheless, our responsibility.

"Bewildered, hurt and helpless, the parents are equally apathetic. This play poses no answers — it merely presents a meeting of two individuals who live in two different worlds."

The idea and the characters in the play first started to crystallize when Davis was in Morocco last winter. "I was shocked to find that child labour is simply an accepted fact of life there. No one seems bothered by it, probably due to a combination of tradition, religion and economic necessity. Massive unemployment there means that it is pointless for many children to start on a career path so their parents have them working for the family as soon as possible.

"Then there was that case of the teenaged hooker in Vancouver who was kidnapped by her mother. I started thinking that young people in our society are just as 'pegged' as those in Morocco.

"Circumstances, expectations and peer attitudes force them to into a role that becomes them and then are viewed as only that. Their individual identity is taken away from them and a label applied even though it is often far from the truth.

"Then I started thinking about men my own age and how the same thing can apply to us."

The play, sponsored by the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council, opens January 11 and runs to January 14 at Off Centre Stage. Show-time is 8 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for students and are available at *et cetera* and at the door.

Stage manager is GISS student Paula Marcotte is director and production manager.



Jeremy Davis, Cathi Gay



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- For Pender Island — 8:45 am
- For Mayne, Galiano Islands — 10:25 am

In addition, 11:00 am Saturna Island traffic will transfer at Village Bay to Swartz Bay bound vessel for arrival at 1:30 pm.

Special Note:

This first regular morning departure on Monday, January 9th, from Swartz Bay to the Gulf Islands is altered so that propane can be transported.



(Schedule subject to change without notice.)

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School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) invites applications for the vacant position of Tradesman Plumber. This is a regular full time position within the district's Maintenance Department. Applicants must possess a valid B.C.T.Q. or Interprovincial Trade Certificate. Ideally the successful candidate will hold a B.C. gas ticket and be proficient in the servicing of oil and gas fired heating systems including boilers, heat pumps and HVAC equipment. The rate of pay for this position is in accordance with the current C.U.P.E. Collective Agreement. School District No. 85 serves 10 communities at the northern end of Vancouver Island. Residents enjoy excellent indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities. Resumes including a detailed work history and references are to be submitted by the closing date of Tuesday, January 31, 1989 to the attention of Mr. J.R. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North), P.O. Box 90, Port Hardy, B.C. V0N 2P0. For further information contact Mr. Cam Allan at 949-6618.

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country gourmet

by john edwards



Take the fresh oysters out of a bucket and set them in a circle on the beach. Sit in the middle with your favourite glass. Have a drink. Now open the latest issue of the Provincial Report and read it aloud until the molluscs show interest. When their mouths fall open in amazement at a politician's claims, dig the oysters out of their shells and rush them off to the kitchen.

Oysters, even suspicious ones, lead precarious lives before they lie, vanquished and edible, on our plate. Out of a legion of eggs come the free-swimming oyster spat. For a fortnight their vast numbers dwindle as they wander in a sea crammed with hungry fish. The tiny survivors have now grown a foot, but only the fortunate are able to glue it to a clean surface. The remainder of their existence is spent immobile, like devoted anchorites in damp, lonely caves, drinking huge quantities of sea water and filtering food through their gills.

The safety of the shells is an illusion. On the principle that something worth hiding is worth having, the oyster's enemies wait, above and below the water. Starfish, sponges and oyster drills live off them. Compared to these predators mussels are innocent, but just as lethal. They camp in ugly clusters on the oyster beds and slowly starve the molluscs underneath, to death.

When the tide goes out a new set of dangers walks the beach. Gulls, ravens, crows, ducks, oyster-catchers. The last foe, and the most resented by these creatures, must be people. We help the oyster spat to settle on sheltered beaches or on tethered rafts. We look after the unsuspecting shellfish for years, until their plump, gray-white bodies are bursting with flavour and life.

Happiness at high tide

The richness of creation overwhelms them. Nothing could match the happiness of a mature rock oyster at high tide. They exult.

Then, at the supreme moment, we pry them loose, open their shells, and eat them. And the worst thing of all us that some of us don't even bother to cook them first.

We have loved oysters since the beginning. Consider the middens that rise from every sheltered bay on the Gulf Islands. Or the words of the Roman, Pliny, who named as the prize delicacy of his table a dozen raw oysters served on ice, oysters buried in snow to wed distant mountain tops to the bottom of the sea.

Another classical gourmet raved about the flavours of oysters gathered from different Mediterranean regions. The connoisseur Mucianus rhapsodized that the oysters from Cyzicus were larger than those in the Lucrine lake, sweeter than the Medullans, sharper tasting than the Ephesians and whiter even than the Circencians.

These last oysters, by the way, were first made famous by the beautiful enchantress Circe, who seduced Ulysses with oyster suppers for an entire year.

I felt the same way about Cortes Island Pacifics and I stayed three extra years. Without an enchantress!

The natural abundance of oysters has in the past inspired gluttony, sometimes regrettably combined with the belief that these blameless bivalves are aphrodisiac. Henry IV of France, for example, ate hundreds at a time, and Casanova consumed 50 each night before retiring. People in those days went to great lengths to ensure performance.

The ultimate in oyster-eating stories is told by the French gastronome, Brillat-Savarin, in his book The Psychology Of Taste. An acquaintance of his who worked for the Napoleonic government complained that he could never get enough. Accordingly Brillat-Savarin decided to satisfy this longing and invited the fellow to dinner the next day. He came and they began a first course of oysters.

No signs of tiring

"I kept him company through the third dozen, and then let him go on alone. He managed very well without me, and by the end of the next hour was in his thirty-second dozen, eating slowly because the maid who opened them for him was not particularly skilful."

At last the famous connoisseur lost patience with this true lover of oysters, even though he showed no signs of tiring. Brillat-Savarin interrupted the endless procession of molluscs and dismissed his exhausted maid. He suggested that they go on with the rest of the meal. To his amazement the guest enjoyed his remaining dishes with all the panache of someone who had just emerged from a long fast!

Contemporary attitudes towards oysters are more restrained, due to their growing price and scarcity and to the peculiarly Twentieth Century phenomenon of lean cuisine. On the other hand the rich history of the oyster in our cookery continues.

This way of using oysters is, to my certain knowledge, over 2,000 years old in Europe and China; yet every North American will know the recipe whenever he or she thinks of roasting a game bird.

OYSTER STUFFING

Take equal quantities of whole, raw oysters and breadcrumbs lightly fried in butter. Moisten with oyster liquor. Mix. Season with salt and pepper, lemon juice and a few sticks of celery, cut finely. Stuff.

Alternatively, you may wish to alternate layers of buttered toast and whole, seasoned oysters inside the bird.

Salt Spring bird count tally exceeds total noted in 1987

This year's Christmas bird count on Salt Spring Island was an unqualified success, recording the highest total of birds spotted in 12 years.

On December 18, a group of 138 local bird spotters ventured into the woods and along the seashore to record 27,283 birds, representing 96 different species.

Event organizer Christine Wooldridge says the sheer number of birds spotted is always a surprise, even on poor days.

Although last year's bird count day was dark and rainy, an impressive 15,656 birds — representing 92 species — were sighted by 144 counters.

This year the day was mild and clear until mid-morning, when rain set in.

"It was a very high turnout," Wooldridge said of the public response. She added that participation in the local bird watch far exceeds that found in Comox, Courtenay and Pender Island.

"We're grateful to all the people who helped."

The most unusual birds sighted

were a group of greater yellow legs along beaches at Isabella Point, six terns at Welbury Bay and five ring neck ducks at St. Mary Lake.

Wooldridge says it is unusual for these birds to break from their winter migrations and settle on Salt Spring at this time of year.

Also unusual was the sighting of 63 bald eagles. The birds of prey do not normally come back to Salt Spring to renovate their nests until early January.

Quail were also in abundance this year. In fact, the total of 558 was the highest ever spotted on Salt Spring. Wooldridge says this adds to Salt Spring's reputation for having the most quail spotted in the whole of B.C.

Wooldridge says Salt Spring lacks the heavy snowfall which covers the bird's main source of food — broom seeds.

The 66 herons spotted was the highest ever: interesting, says Wooldridge, in light of the recent publicity about PCB pollution.

In past years the total has ranged between 30 and 40 herons.

Because of its small size, Salt Spring does not take part in the official National Audubon Society bird count, which includes 1,500 communities across North America. But Salt Spring's bird count figures are submitted to the Royal Provincial Museum in Victoria to be compiled into the institution's bird atlas.

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Emergency preparation group eyed

An emergency preparedness program for Salt Spring Island is to be discussed at a meeting tentatively set for sometime in mid-January.

Ian Fraser, who is pursuing a launch of the program through his position as a school board trustee and as a member of the Island Watch, said last week that a firm time and place for discussing the proposal would be set once all interested parties are contacted.

The meeting would bring together the co-ordinator of B.C.'s Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and representatives of local organizations which would respond to emergencies — i.e., the police, fire department, Coast Guard and hospital.

The intent of the first meeting is to have the PEP co-ordinator outline what assistance — financial and otherwise — is available from Victoria and explain how the local program would function. If enough interest is expressed by the Salt Spring representatives, a steering committee would be formed to organize the local group. Once a group is formed, it would select a co-ordinator and put in place all necessary arrangements for dealing with emergencies — i.e., securing permission to use buses and schools in the event of a disaster.

Fraser explained that while local agencies like the Coast Guard and the hospital have plans for dealing with emergencies, there is at present no provision for organizing or co-ordinating any civilian assistance that might be required.

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THIS WEEK IN RECREATION VOLLEYBALL: Tuesday nights at the High School, 7:30 pm. Coed, everyone welcome.

Healing Fair demonstrates alternatives

From Page A1

Bio-kinesiology is what Corrine Greenbaum calls her process of helping clients free the body, mind and spirit of old patterns. The treatment, similar to Chinese acupuncture — but without the needles — involves muscle testing to determine how life-force energy is flowing through meridians in the body.

Negative and positive emotional states can correspond to different meridians — or chakras — in the body, she says.

Vitthale Clair uses a combination of yoga, foot reflexology, diet, polarity and self-hypnosis in his natural healing process called "spheres beyond stress."

Foot reflexology is an advanced technique of massage that traces specific bodily functions and organs.

"I've never had an adequate explanation why the feet react the way they do and why the rest of the body reacts to pressure on the feet," says Clair.

Clair says he can promote mucus and wastes to drain from the body by rubbing the end of the big toe. Hepatitis, colon blockages, sinus headaches and menstrual cramps can also be treated by foot massage, he adds.

Other healing tools at the fair were dream analysis, I Ching, tarot, astrology and crystals.

Just as they can amplify radio signals, crystals amplify the intention of the user, says Diana Seward of Denman Island.

Sitting behind a colorful array of stones of every shape and hue, Seward explains that each crystal has a specific purpose. For low self-esteem choose rose quartz — a "heart chakra stone"; clear quartz helps overcome food cravings; purple amethyst is a "third eye chakra stone" for meditation; while the dark stones — obsidian, turmeline and smokey quartz — are good grounders that absorb negative energy, according to Seward.

Another curiosity was the magnetic field array stimulator, or Magna-Frame, a grid of magnets, crystals, and pyramids which allegedly harmonizes the body's energy field.

The device was invented by Linde Lindsay of South Lake Tahoe, California. She had a car accident in her early 20s and lost her eyesight. Through the use of crystals Lindsay discovered she could see auras, by which she eventually regained her vision.

By using the chair Lindsay found she could expand auras by up to 30 different layers.

The maker cites scientific evidence showing the beneficial effects of magnetism on the body. They say the immune system is stimulated, there is enhanced cell regeneration and higher oxygen levels are seen in cells. There is also a rise in enzyme activity and decreased levels of cholesterol.

The user supposedly experiences higher levels of spiritual and mental awareness.

Research has shown that the earth's magnetic field is at its lowest ebb in geological history, Lindsay notes. Since most of human evolution has taken place under much stronger magnetic fields, one researcher believes human beings are undergoing a cellular level crisis.

It was also noted that human beings are subjecting themselves to higher levels of electromagnetic interference through high technology radio waves, television emissions, microwave trans-

'I felt calmer, more relaxed. I felt like I wanted to meditate.'



Clair in Magna-Frame

missions and higher levels of radiations from computer readout terminals.

The belief that magnets can cure what ails you is not new. In *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*, 19th Century author Charles Mackay lists a host of characters through history who attributed occult and miraculous powers to magnets.

The 16th Century alchemist and Rosicrucian, Paracelsus, was considered by MacKay to be the first "magnetizer."

Massage therapy gains acceptance —although some wariness still exists

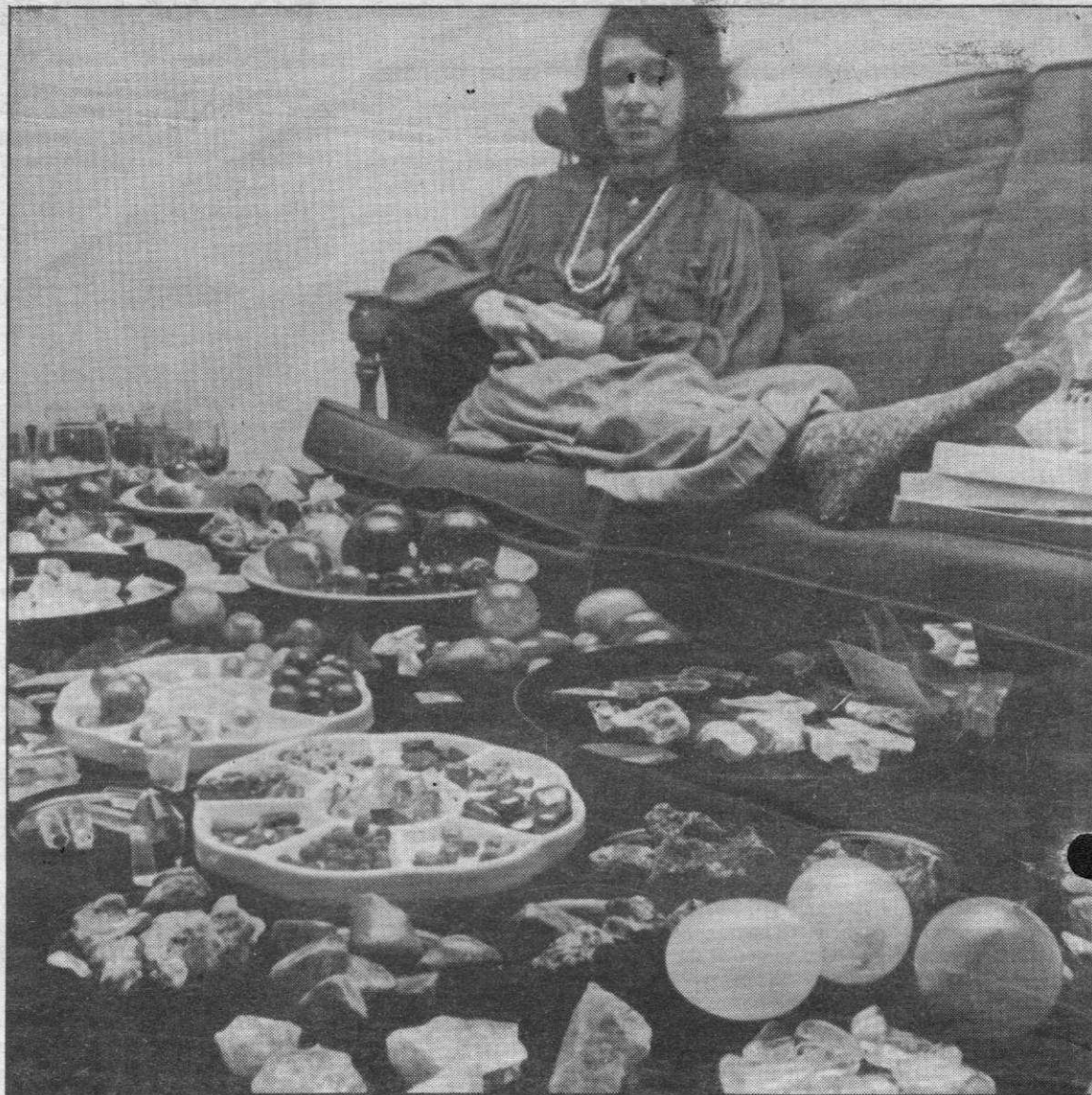
It takes about a half hour for masseur Adrian Loney to knead, chop and massage tight back and neck muscles. The knots and kinks melt away like butter and before long the workaday stress evaporates.

It's hard to believe you could have lived without this kind of relaxation for so long.

Massage, as part of a holistic approach to healing, is certainly not new. Hippocrates, the fifth century B.C. Greek who formulated the Hippocratic oath, which all modern physicians must swear, made massage a requirement for physical treatment.

Loney says that in the past 10 years, massage has become more accepted by mainstream health professionals but adds there's still a wariness by some that massage poses a threat to their livelihoods.

"The medical plan people don't



Diana Seward extolled virtues of crystals

"Animated apparently by a sincere conviction that the magnet was the philosopher's stone (which) could soothe all human suffering and arrest the process of decay, he travelled for many years in Persia and Arabia."

"When he practised as a physician at Basle he (used) a stone of crystal, which, he said, contained magnetic properties and cured epilepsy, hysteria and spasmodic affections."

It seems Paracelsus soon found many imitators. Kircher the Jesuit was a firm believer in the

efficacy of the magnet. He directed a patient afflicted with a hernia to swallow a small magnet reduced to powder while he applied at the same time to the external swelling a poultice made of filings of iron.

"He expected that by this means the magnet, when it got to the corresponding place inside, would draw in the iron, and with it the tumour; which would thus, he said, be safely and expeditiously reduced."

In England many magnets were sold to the public to cure rheuma-

tism, palsy — in fact, almost every disease the human frame was subject to, writes Mackay.

One exponent of the powers of the Magna-Frame was Vitthale Clair of Salt Spring Island. Sitting in the chair during last week's Alternate Healing Fair, Clair said it took only a few minutes before he felt its soothing effects.

He says his body tingled, he felt a ringing in his right ear, and his breathing was deeper. "I felt calmer, more relaxed. I felt like I wanted to meditate."

believe in holistic medicine. They only treat symptoms."

Loney's Swedish massage workshops at the recent Alternate Healing Fair in Ganges represented what was probably the most traditional healing art at the event, which included the use of crystals, pyramids, magnets, dream analysis and astrology as healing tools.

Loney, who is working from his home until he can set up a practice in Ganges, says elderly people can benefit the most from massage therapy but are the most conservative about going to a therapist.

"They must overcome inhibitions but once over the initial hurdle they're really committed."

One bonus for pensioners is they may have extended health benefits which cover the \$5 drop-in fee.

Loney says that although massage therapy is included under

the provincial health plan many masseurs and masseuses, particularly in Victoria, are dropping out because they feel they can't give an adequate massage for the \$7 per visit the government pays the massage therapist.

Loney says some doctors think it's frivolous if their patients want massages.

"They think the way they've been trained to think," he says. "Look how long it took for acupuncture to be accepted."

Loney says other types of therapy (chiropractic, physiotherapy, foot massage) are good for specific aches and pains. He's even heard of some people using WD 40 lubricant on arthritic knees.

But sometimes, he says, the choice may be "between a set of electrodes and a pair of caring hands."

Loney says massage achieves

two things: "It's a great boon to circulation and promotes healing."

He says stimulating the muscles relieves the congestion of toxins in the body. Lactic acid, for instance, can build up through vigorous exercise, which is why athletes and race horses are massaged after a race, he says.

Massages can either soothe or stimulate nervous conditions. There is reduced stress when circulation is increased. A body massage, Loney adds, is equivalent to a brisk three-mile walk.

Loney's training included 14 months at the Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy in Sutton, Ontario, where he took 30 health-related courses. He says he learned as much about anatomy and physiology as is required by a registered nurse.

An equivalent course, now being offered in Vancouver, lasts two years.