

By DAVID FRASER

**PENDER ISLAND** — On May 31, Bob Allison of Pender Island reluctantly hung up his B.C. Ferries uniform after 15 years as a ferry attendant.

Allison says that towards the end, people would occasionally ask him why he didn't retire early and let somebody younger take over. Allison's retort was always the same: "Because I like the people."

The well-liked Scot has a tolerant demeanour, definitely an asset when dealing with the public — especially the "bumptious and genial characters" who couldn't pass by without making a crack.

"I really enjoyed the people, even the few predictably miseries. I'd take them on as a challenge and tell them to have a nice day," Allison says.

During his career with B.C. Ferries Allison says there wasn't more than a dozen bad characters.

Two weeks ago, several of their colleague gathered at Galiano's Hummingbird Pub to honour Allison and Hughie England, another Pender Island ferry attendant, who is retiring July 10.

As he approached retirement Allison says he thought more and more of the late Wally Cunliffe, Pender Island's first ferry attendant, who recruited him in 1974 as a casual worker.

"I sort of slipped into the job. Wally was on duty and a log had floated under the dock and he asked me to come down with my chainsaw." Allison says Cunliffe insisted on putting in pay for him. Soon after, Cunliffe asked him to paint the waiting room.

Wally started work with B.C. Ferries while he and wife Eva were proprietors of the then-busy Port Washington General Store and the first ships began to arrive at Port Washington dock.

"Getting a vehicle on and off those early ferries was precarious, to say the least. Ask Merv, the always-genial mate on the *Queen of Tsawwassen* these days — he was there," Allison explains.

"Wally died in October, 1976 but is still remembered by many of us for his great service to the community — our first Island Trustee; founding member and first president of the Pender Islands Lion Club; for his work with Cubs and young people; and for the many ways he truly exemplified the Lions Club motto, *We serve*."

"How can anybody forget Wally being there at the dock to meet us, grinning hugely as always and admonishing the slow-pokes — 'Com'n fella, don't block the traffic; there's a whole mob to come off yet.'"

"Damn it, even after all these years we still miss him."

## Popular ferry attendant departs public service after 15-year career



Bob Allison

Allison says he is looking for meaningful volunteer work to do. "I don't want to just bury myself on the farm."

Twice, the genial Scot topped elections for North Pender's Advisory Planning Commission. He's refused to subdivide his quarter section of land on Razor Point Road. He preferred to farm it and preserve the rural nature of the island. Now he bucks up surplus timber into firewood and trucks it to needy islanders.

Ferry workers are easy targets for the odd irate driver, perhaps because they possess one of the few secure jobs on the Gulf Islands. Allison recalls at least one person throwing money at him.

Allison also recalls one incident while on duty on New Year's evening. He had to tell a big, rough, hardworking guy he knew

was a grouch that the ferry was an hour late. "At least you can go home," Allison told the man when he started to complain. "I'm stuck here. The power's gone off once tonight. I've eaten my lunch and I've got nothing left to read."

The man screamed off in his car and soon returned. "A big meaty arm was stuck out of the car window with a bottle of beer."

"It's all I have," he said.

He says he had a special affection for latecomers, "especially Leslie and Wilf." Wilf, you see, was a clockmaker. "If we said it's time to go, Wilf would check his armful of watches and say *no it's not*," says Allison's friend and fellow ferry worker John Ferguson.

Ferguson remembers two outstanding things about Allison from when he started

training under him in 1975. Allison would shut his engine off at the gravel pit and coast the couple miles or so down the hill in order to save gas. "When he got the bottom he'd put his finger in the coin slot of the pay phone to check for change. It was phenomenal how much money came out."

Allison says that although the faulty pay phone has long since been replaced he still forlornly sticks his finger in the slot.

Then there were the pit-lamping Italian hunters who reappeared every year, guzzling their home-made wine and firing wildly at deer. The ferry workers were unanimous in their dislike of them. Once, one of the hunters slammed a half-gallon bottle of wine on Allison's counter because he thought he was the only ferry attendant who liked them.

Allison says there were only a three or four cars lining up in those days and he would go up and down the line, box in hand, selling tickets. In those days a book of 10 commuter tickets to Swartz Bay cost \$11.50, while today it costs \$50.

Before cash registers, if a motorist didn't have the ferry fare, Allison would pay out of his pocket.

Allison says the Otter Bay terminal had a pretty relaxed system when he started working as an attendant. "We used to signal to boats by blinking our lights and if we had no traffic they'd keep right on going."

Allison took the ferry attendant's job in 1974, a year after he retired from the Royal Canadian Air Force as a squadron leader at the mandatory age of 49. Prior to that Allison had served in the Royal Air Force from 1942-1947.

"Now you can stay on until you're 60. I'm happy I didn't. If I'd stayed on until 55 the farm would have been too far gone."

He says it took a man working full tilt to get his 166 acres, with 560 feet of waterfront, into working order. "But we're beginning to see the fruits of our labours. We've got the big physical problems solved."

There was a serious side to a ferry attendant's job, that of reporting suspicious people to police. Because of their sharp eyes ferry workers have been responsible for arresting more than a few thieves. "It's like a funnel here," Ferguson about the ferry terminal. "Everything goes through here."

If unfamiliar youths showed up at the terminal, asking when the next ferry left but not caring where it went; or if someone was driving a car you knew didn't belong to them, "then you knew something was up."

Allison says before police were on the island he managed to handle every rowdy incident, even if that meant calling the local volunteer fire department for some added muscle.

## Your guide to Gulf Island properties

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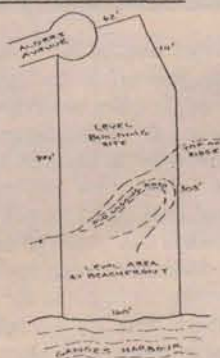
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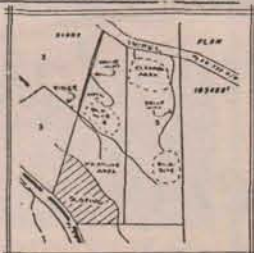
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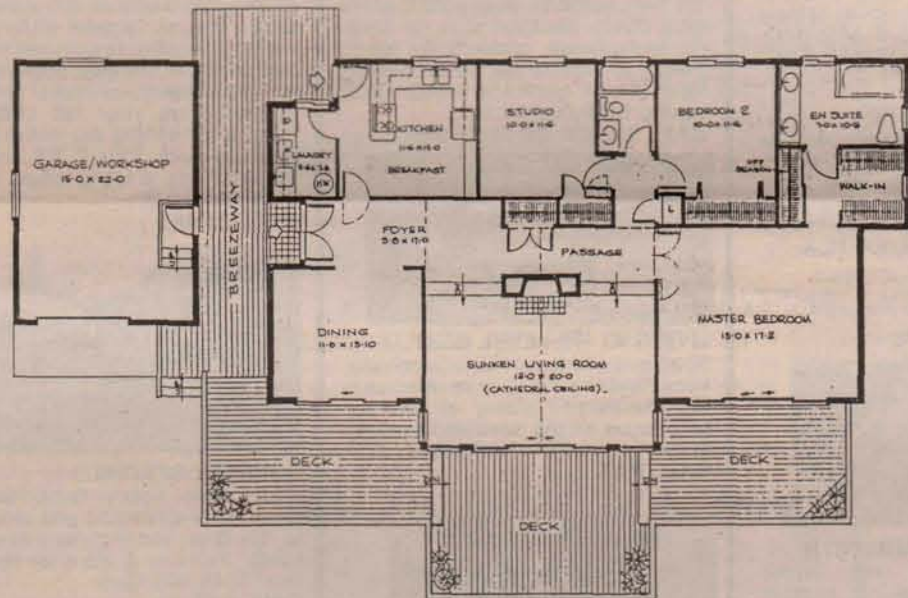
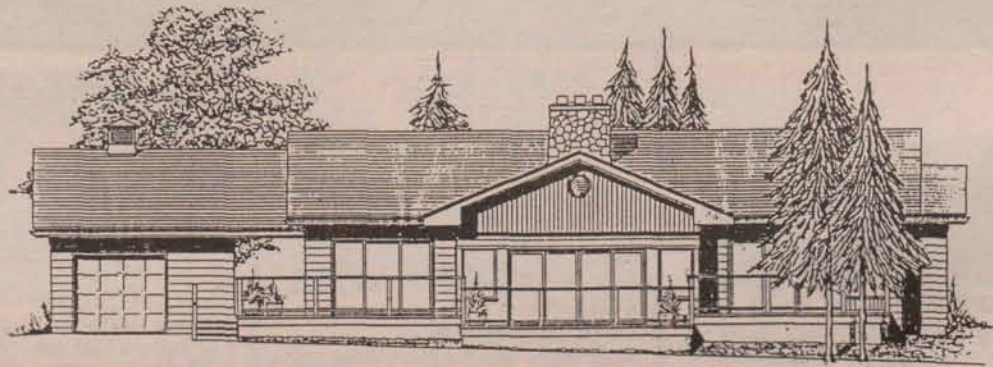
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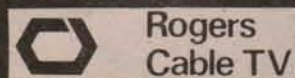
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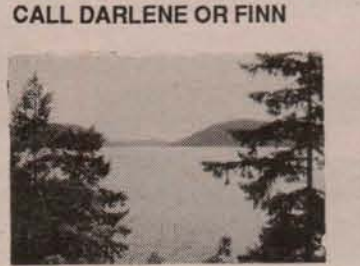
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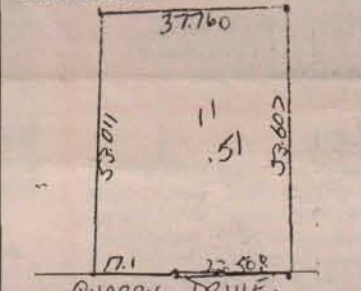
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Unique 3 bedroom cosy home at Scott Point. Workshop/carport, double garage/workshops, cottage, in parked-out setting. Watch the ferry and yachts go by. \$289,000.

**OVER ONE LEVEL ACRE WITH SEAVIEW**



Excavated with septic in, water to lot line, all ready to build. Priced right. \$39,500.

Call **MARION MARKS**  
537-2453

### THIS HOUSE:



### WITH THIS VIEW:



On 10 acres of land. \$265,000

### WATERFRONT



2.65 acres with beach and sheltered harbour. \$150,000

### HOBBY FARM



4.30 ac. in an excellent location, with southern exposure, all you could wish for on a small farm, barn, fenced and cross fenced, charming 2 bedroom cottage, orchard and much more. \$149,900.

**JIM SPENCER**  
537-2154

### UNIQUE OCEAN FRONTAGE



Two oceanfront lots in Fulford Harbour totalling 234.5 feet frontage and 1.63 acres of easy access land with very old partially renovated 1174 sq.ft. home. Extremely desirable location with westerly exposure. Close to marina, ferry, stores, and restaurant. Wonderful holding property. Offers to \$350,000.

### SUNNY "SUN EAGLE DRIVE"



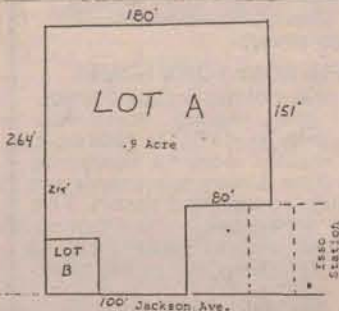
South-facing, sunny, seaview 9.95 ac. overlooking Sansum Narrows off Sunset Drive. Includes 1979 Travelair 23 ft. set amid magnificent arbutus and fir trees. 2 gpm drilled well. Driveway in. Generator (power at road). All furnished. Fire pit. Privacy! Just move in. \$80,000.

Please call **DICK TROY**  
537-2236



A new "LAFORTUNE" built home. Situated in a quality neighbourhood this home can be two or three bedrooms. Has one and one half baths, lots of decking (990 sq.ft.), fir floors in the dining/living rooms, separate utility room, finishing touches being done now. Don't be disappointed - phone for a viewing today. \$110,000.

### COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL



.90 of acre in two titles in the Ganges core area. Some seaviews, older wood frame house, four bedroom, presently rented. See listing salesman for more details. \$200,000.

### 5 ACRES - \$39,000

Secluded yet close to St. Mary Lake, Fernwood School and store. Solid driveway across the entire length. Rough driveway to high building site. Nicely treed and entirely useable. Vendor will drill well. EXCELLENT VALUE.

Committed to giving you the best service!  
**NORMAN ROTHWELL**  
537-5103

### BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT 200' CLAMSHELL BEACH



Located in prestigious Maracaibo Strata Development which offers superb sheltered moorage, recreation areas, beaches, swimming. This lovely 1.95 acres has 200' clamshell beach and excellent exposure. \$139,000.

### 5.14 ACRES \$37,900

Located on quiet dead end cul-de-sac, this wooded 5 acre lot offers excellent privacy, sea glimpses, roughed in driveway, 1 g.p.m. well. Try \$10,000 down and vendor financing.

### WATERFRONT COTTAGE WITH MOORAGE



Sunny .70 acre lot. 130 foot frontage. Foreshore lease. Deep water anchorage with mooring buoy. Fridge, stove, dishwasher. Pleasant grounds. Dormitory loft. Airtight. Only \$115,000.

BUYING OR SELLING  
CALL **PAUL GREENBAUM**  
537-5064, 24 hrs.

### ACREAGE

This beautiful 32+ view acreage bring nature to your door. Two building sites with views over Fulford Valley, sea and mainland mountains. Unlimited potential. Vendor will carry. Offers to asking price of \$129,000.

### PRIVATE LAKEVIEW BUNGALOW



Located close to golf, tennis, and St. Mary's Lake, this home offers 2 BR, large family room, L/R with F/P. Lots of decks, and private patio. Many added features. Priced at \$110,000.

### BEST BUY LOTS

Only \$25,000 each. These side x side 1/2 acre view lots are close to ocean, sunny, level and easy to build on. Call Maggie today for further information.

### BEST BUY



Older 2 BR home with seaview. Walking distance to Ganges. Features cozy L/R with F/P, large kitchen with a bright family room. Level sunny 1/2 acre lot. Unlimited potential and priced to sell at \$89,900 MLS.

**MAGGIE SMITH**  
537-2913

### NEW LISTING



Woodland Drive, southern exposure, 1350 sq.ft. home, 2 bed, dining rm, lge kitchen, 2 bathrooms. Shows very well, paved driveway, landscaped, very private, some sea views. Price \$125,000.

### NEW LISTING



VESUVIUS BAY - Large seaview lot, adjacent to 6 acre field, lge. 4 bdrm. home, 1300 sq. ft. up, lower floor 1200 sq. ft. Price \$145,000. Excellent bed & breakfast.

### SUBDIVIDABLE



35 acres, seaview, subdividable, good lumber, 1800 sq.ft. log home, guest cottage, several outbuildings, good value at \$279,000. Good farm potential.

Call **MEL TOPPING**  
eves 537-2426, days 537-5515

### NEW LISTING



FAMILY HOME: 2 bdrms up with ensuite, kit, eating area, covered decking, unfinished bsmt with additional bdrm potential; fully serviced level lot close to the salt water. List price \$105,000.

### PANORAMIC VIEW



An IDEAL retirement residence; 1 level home, 2 bdrms, level private lot; LOCATION, LOCATION. List price \$149,000.

### ACREAGE WITH RENTAL

Fulford-Ganges Rd., main bldg 1 bdrm up with open style living & kit. area; wrkshp. down which is multi-purpose; free standing self contained studio with 200 amp service; present rentals total \$850 p.m.; List price \$109,000 MLS.

### AFFORDABLE HOME



Can't find a home to rent? Invest in this very affordable home. Nicely kept and close to town. For more information contact Phyllis Fetherston.

### AFFORDABLE LOT



This nicely treed and level lot is priced to sell. Close to the water. For more information contact **PHYLLIS FETHERSTON**  
537-5515, 537-2095

### JUST LISTED



St. Mary's lakefront, over an acre with a comfortable home with room for expansion. Sauna and dock, very secluded. Asking \$225,000.

### OPERATING HOBBY FARM



14.90 acres fenced and cross-fenced, trout creek, barn with hay loft and other outbuildings. Close to Ganges and Fulford, piped water. Build your own home to suit the property. Asking \$135,000.

### SEA VIEW

Elizabeth Drive, south west facing, area of new homes, piped water. Reasonably priced at \$37,500 with a 10% downpayment and 12% on the balance.

### ARABLE ACREAGE

Whims Road, 2.30 acres, piped water. Asking \$37,500.

### ARABLE ACREAGE

Stewart Road, 3 acres, drilled well, 10% downpayment, 12% on balance. Asking \$39,500.

**BOB TARA**  
653-4435

### \*\*\*\*VIEW, VIEW, VIEW\*\*\*\*



Of the VIEW properties presently on the market, this has got to be **AMONG THE BEST**. Priced at \$65,000 and **BEST OF ALL - 2 TO CHOOSE FROM**. MLS

**GIL MOUAT**  
537-9272

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**537-5692 or 537-5568**

PEMBERTON, HOLMES LTD., P.O. BOX 929, GANGES, B.C.  
V0S 1E0

**MAJOR REDUCTION — WAS \$155,000 \$149,000  
NOW \$139,900  
ST. MARY'S LAKE AND  
OCEAN VIEW HOME**



**OWNERS HAVE BOUGHT — ANXIOUS**

Spacious 2000 sq. ft. plus home with great views, private, nicely treed with arbutus and firs, sunny with garden area and rockeries, many features too numerous to mention. For more information, call:

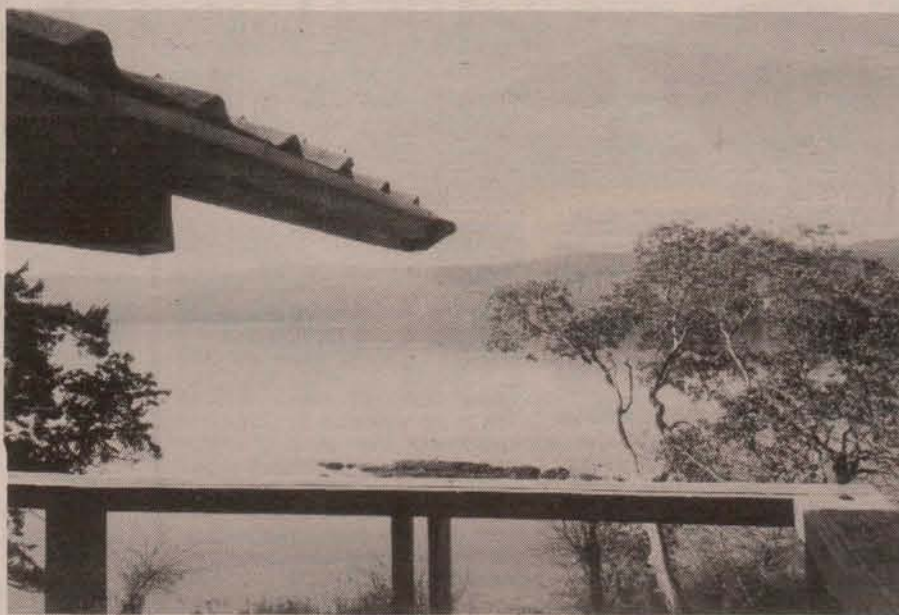
**SANTY G. FUOCO - 537-2773**

**GULF ISLANDS REALTY LTD.**

P.O. Box 750, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0

537-5577

**RARE OCEANFRONT PROPERTY**



We offer you the best in island living — A south facing waterfront home on Old Scott Road where you are close to a rich variety of sea and bird life. The privacy and tranquility here are the reasons most people come to Salt Spring.

**\$299,000 M.L.S.**

**FLASH:** - Vendor wishes to sell by the end of June. All offers on this exceptional property will be given consideration until then. Generous financing terms are available.



**PEMBERTON  
HOLMES LTD.**

156 FULFORD-GANGES ROAD  
P.O. BOX 929, GANGES  
SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C.  
V0S 1E0

**DAVID WILLIAMS**

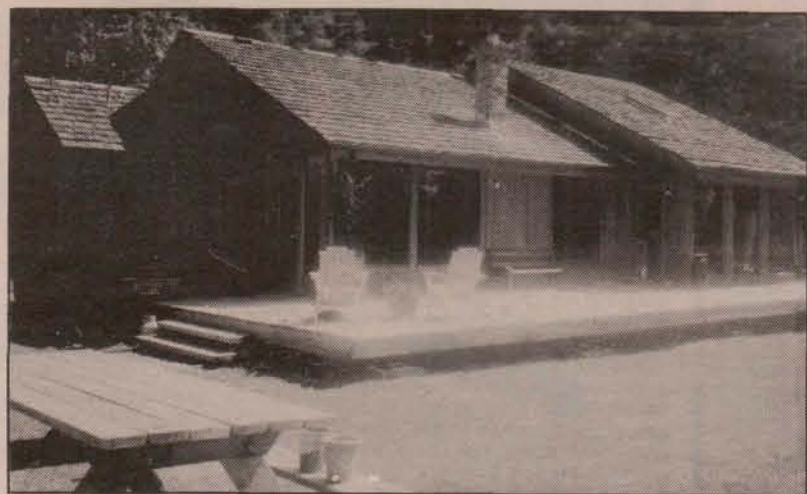
**537-5568 / 537-9510**

**384-0230**



Support Your Lung Association

**THE ESSENCE OF SALT SPRING**



Beautifully handcrafted home situated on a private south facing acreage. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, oodles of windows and doors all add up to a very charming island home. All within easy walking distance of a nice beach and good moorage.

**Asking \$147,000 MLS**

**For a private viewing, please call Henri Procter  
at**

**GULF ISLANDS REALTY LTD.**

P.O. Box 750, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0

PHONE (604) 537-5577 (O), 537-4273 (H)



**GRACE  
POINT**

**SALT SPRING'S  
Only  
WATERFRONT  
TOWNHOMES**

Grace Point's incomparable oceanfront setting, unique custom-designed residences and quality detailing have made it the Gulf Islands' most desirable new address. Three exceptional south-facing townhomes are now available for viewing, priced from \$219,500. For superb waterfront living on British Columbia's south coast, Grace Point is in a class by itself.

**OPEN HOUSE DAILY 2-5**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
ARTHUR GALE, SYLVIA GALE,  
TOM HOOVER  
1101 GRACE POINT SQUARE  
GANGES  
(604) 537-9981



# GULF ISLANDS REALTY LTD.

P.O. Box 750, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0 — PHONE (604) 537-5577

## THETIS ISLAND WATERFRONT OPPORTUNITY



Approx. 1200' frontage on Telegraph Harbour opposite marina. The property is well treed and from the home sites sea views to the east and west should be possible. Strata lot subdivision may be possible. \$137,500 MLS

## SATURNA ISLAND

### TWO SIDE BY SIDE LOTS

Just a short walk from the ferry, store, pub and government dock are these two nicely level treed lots, each just under 1/2 acre, both having a valley view and one having a glimpsing view of Boot Cove from a rocky knoll. On piped water. \$17,000 each MLS.

## LARGE HOME

### LOOKING FOR FAMILY!



Total 2475 sq. ft. on two levels, 4 bdrms, 3 bathrms, rec. rm. south facing deck, near public beach and moorage. \$120,000 MLS.

## PIERS ISLAND WATERFRONT



This is the view from this 1/2 acre west facing, level, treed lot where the sunsets have to be seen to be believed. Approx. 112' frontage on Satellite Channel, Piers Island has hydro, phone and water, plus docks, and boat storage facilities at Swartz Bay. \$48,000-MLS. NOW \$42,900.

### CALL DAVID DUKE

653-4538

MLS GOLD AWARD WINNER

## OCEANFRONT FARM



- \* 1000 Ft. Oceanfront
  - \* 22+ Acres, Pasture & Woodlot
  - \* Large Gracious Residence
  - \* 12 x 20 Barn
  - \* Fenced Sunny Garden (Cantaloupes actually grow!)
  - \* Orchard (Fruit, Nuts, Figs)
  - \* Abundant Water
  - \* Modest Cabin
  - \* Brook, Pond, Wildflowers
- By Appt. Only, \$395,000 mls.

## INDULGE YOURSELF



In this superb west facing waterfront property. There is approximately 232 ft. of beach, with seasonal moorage attached to the beautifully kept grounds. The home views over Idol Island to Vancouver Island, and absolutely superb sunsets! All this and privacy too. Asking \$425,000 MLS.

For details, please call

Henri Procter

537-5577 (O), 537-4273 (H)  
Silver MLS Award Winner

## LARGE VESUVIUS BUILDING LOT

Beautiful 1.16 acre lot facing S.W. with building site parked out. On piped water. \$52,500 MLS.

## SOUTH END VIEW AND CABIN

Small rustic cabin with power, water, phone, on private 3.15 acres that rise in mossy rock tiers to a glorious building site facing south and a distant oceanview. \$65,000. Reduced to \$58,500.

DONNA REGEN, CGA

MLS GOLD AWARD WINNER

537-2845

## 2 BEDROOM VIEW HOME \$89,000 MLS



Not often do you find a neat compact home that offers easy care garden, views of St. Mary's Lake and farm scene, plus the option of expanding if needed for very little; extra 25' x 17' room mostly finished and many other features.

## MARACAIBO

Those who have heard of the Maracaibo area are aware of its appeal and exclusivity. This 1.66 acre parcel is outside the strata titled region, yet in Phase 1 of the Maracaibo development. It is serviced by Hydro and telephone, has a driveway and an easement to a 10 gallon per minute well. A beach access is across the road, providing an easy approach to Long Harbour. Well priced at \$31,500.

CALL

FRANCES EIDE

537-5577 (o), 537-9350 (h)

## HOUSE & COTTAGE ON 2 PRIVATE ACRES



Vesuvius area close to store and beach, 1300 sq.ft. plus, energy efficient home, 576 sq.ft. cottage, all on 2.10 acres in very much its natural state. \$149,500 MLS

## GANGES VILLAGE - \$115,000



Peaceful and secluded, yet walk to all downtown shops and offices. 1300 sq. ft. of completely renovated living. Ideal for the professional requiring an office in the village with separate entrance. For more information, call Santy.

CONTACT

SANTY FUOCO 537-2773

"MLS GOLD AWARD WINNER"



# PEMBERTON, HOLMES LTD.

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156 Fulford-Ganges Road

Victoria Direct Line 652-9225 Fax 652-9225

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102 years

as your

good neighbour!

1887 - 1989

## SWIM WITH THE OTTER ON THE BEACH

All you have to do is cross the road that separates this sunny acre from the sea. Very private, with unsurpassed views over Wallace and Galiano Islands. The older but renovated 1255 sq. ft. home would make perfect weekender or summer home. Present owner lives there year-round, enjoying the new kitchen and the great new deck facing the ocean. Let's have a look! (Excellent vendor financing may be available.) Great value at \$115,000.

## A GIANT DOUGLAS FIR...

... grows at the centre of this .65 acre lot. Mature maples and cedars also grace this beautiful lot just steps away from the big ferry. The building site is cleared, the driveway is in, hydro and telephone are at the lot line. One of the few that are left. \$25,900 takes it!

## OCEANFRONT FOR \$30,000?

On Salt Spring these waterfront lots would sell for \$150,000 - but this is Wise Island, just minutes north of Montague Harbour. These beautiful lots are serviced with piped water!

For more information on the above, please call

WILF BANGERT

537-5568

537-5692

## ATTRACTIVE SEAVIEW LOT

Perfect site for your dream home! Quiet road close to Ganges. Drilled well (2 gpm), perc tested, roughed in driveway. Surrounded by large rural acreages. Lots of sun! Only \$43,000. MLS.

## SEMI-WATERFRONT ESTATE



Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living in this custom-built home in Fernwood area. 3 BR's, 3 baths, family room & many extras including 2 large sun-decks. Exceptional setting on 4.36 acres of delightful semi-waterfront with sweeping views of passing boat traffic, and ramp to beach. Bonus - a 1 BR self-contained cottage and super garden (separate water supply). Try your offer on asking price of \$285,000. MLS.

## VERY SCARCE

## WEST SIDE WATERFRONT



Over half an acre of low-bank waterfront near Vesuvius - 120 feet on the sea edge which provides warm swimming and excellent seasonal moorage. Piped water, hydro and cable to lot line. Act quickly on this one! \$120,000 MLS.

ANN FOERSTER

537-5568 or 537-5156

## REAL ESTATE NEWS



LISA BUTLER-COLE

can't be a realtor because she's rolling in dough at Breadwinners.



## OCEAN VIEW TRIM & TIDY

2 bedroom rancher on sunny level 0.64 acre lot with fenced garden and many fruit and ornamental trees. Close to beach access. A delight to show.

ASKING \$134,900

WYNNE DAVIES 537-5568 or 537-9484

## WANTED: A FAMILY WITH SEVERAL SCHOOL CHILDREN



Take advantage of the view from over 800 sq. ft. of new deck or admire your low maintenance lot with 12 fruit trees and paved driveway. The 3 car carport could be used as a workshop. A built-in vacuum system and oil/water furnace add to this well-priced 5 bedroom and full basement ready to finish off home. Make an appointment today! \$112,000. M.L.S.

## WHY NOT BUILD?

### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE !!!

- Acreage on Salt Spring in natural state - from 4.9 acres to 7.5 acres. Peaceful and private and vendor may carry with as little as 20% down and balance at current rates. Priced to sell from \$22,900 to \$35,000. MLS. Call today!
- Acreage with lots of sun and timber! This 3-plus acres has view potential and is easily accessible from road. Close to town and ferries. \$28,500 mls.

## PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE!

Established picture framing business with lease in place. Shows very good return. \$10,000 MLS

## SPARKLING, SUNNY LAKEVIEW HOME



This 2 bedroom plus den beauty has been recently refurbished and has new wiring and plumbing. Beautiful views of St. Mary Lake can be enjoyed, or stroll in your private park-like acreage behind the home. There is a full, partially finished, basement too! Located close to tennis, track, golf course, salt and freshwater swimming and fishing... what more could you want? \$144,900 MLS

## NEW ON MARKET!

Mobile home in excellent condition. Spacious, well maintained and for sale below replacement cost. Must be moved from property. \$29,900. MLS.

## PICTURE PERFECT GARDENER'S PARADISE

Hundreds of flowers and bushes bloom around this 3-bedroom cedar home on 1.09 sunny, private acres. Backbone of the family... the large kitchen adjoins a cosy family room. Super ocean view with fenced garden area and greenhouse and the garage at end of paved drive has an upstairs. Close to the lake for swimming and fishing. Get your family settled now! \$135,000. MLS

Multiple Listing Service  
Gold & Silver Award winners"  
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