

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

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GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1989

Cooper Air record is accident-free -- owner

A Sidney-based airline was incorrectly identified in last week's Driftwood in a story on float planes using facilities at Galiano's Montague Harbour.

The story stated that Cooper Air Inc. had been involved in accidents at the dock owned by Montague Harbour Marina. In fact, the airline was Cougar Air.

Richard Cooper of Cooper Air told Driftwood Friday that the company hadn't had a single accident in its five years of operation. In addition, Cooper said, he himself had never been in an accident in 15 years of flying.

The story in question reported that Montague Harbour Marina is no longer allowing float planes the use of its dock facilities. The marina owners stated that the planes were disturbing visitors.

Cooper said his aircraft are dropping passengers off on the beach or at the government wharf. The latter, however, is located between the marina and the B.C. Ferries wharf and is difficult for planes to get to.

Cooper Air flies in crews from B.C. Telephone Co., B.C. Hydro and the ministry of highways. That business represents 99 per cent of his company's activity. Cooper said he regretted any inconvenience caused by his planes but pointed out that his customers provide services to the island that benefit islanders in the end.

Richmond-based Harbour Air, which offers daily float plane service between the islands and Vancouver, is also affected by the marina's restriction on seaplanes.



Japanese drummers perform

Traditional Japanese drumming was performed for a full house at Ganges activity centre Sunday when Vancouver-based Katari Taiko staged a performance for the Festival of the Arts. Taiko music is rooted in the his-

tory of rural farming and fishing communities of Japan. The show was the second in the month-long, fourth annual arts festival. Vancouver band Pete and the Sneaks kicked off the event with a dance on Saturday evening.

Amalgamation of two boards soundly rejected at meeting

Members of the Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwoods societies have given a resounding "no" to the question of amalgamating the boards of the two health care facilities.

At an information meeting held prior to the two society meetings last Thursday, members expressed interest in establishing a health services society for the island, but said the proposal was too closely linked with amalgamation to receive approval at this time.

The proposed merger of the two boards, which would form the basis of a health services society, was given "approval in principle" by members of each society last September. A steering committee —

comprised of members from both boards, representatives of the Community Society, Meals on Wheels, Homemakers and the community at large — examined and approved the concept in a 6-3 vote.

At separate meetings of both the Hospital and Greenwoods boards held earlier this year, however, members defeated a motion to recommend approval of the merger.

Several residents at the information meeting Thursday said they approved the idea of an integrated health services society, but opposed the merging of the two boards.

As Mary Williamson pointed out, the facilities operated under

one board numerous years ago: "The joint board didn't work then," she said. "It was an uncomfortable situation because the aims and objectives of the hospital and Greenwoods are so different."

Society member Gary Lundy said each institution is unique. A merger could change Greenwoods from an intermediate care facility to an extended care wing of Lady Minto Hospital.

Williamson asked why two different issues were on the same ballot, and if it were possible to create a health services society without amalgamation.

Regional director Dr. Hugh Borsman, who has been involved

TURN TO PAGE A2

Cats lead pack in complaint numbers

And rabbits are not far behind

The rabbits are taking over. For many years dogs have plagued island sheep farmers, particularly during lambing season, when reports of dogs wreaking havoc with island flocks are often common.

But in the latest report from the Capital Region's animal control division, 17 rabbits were impounded on Salt Spring Island during the first quarter of the year.

The report didn't specify whether the rabbits had been chasing cats — which led the field in terms of complaints with 33 in all — or vice versa.

Meanwhile, Salt Spring showed the highest increase of complaints concerning animals. Seventy-four of the additional 113 complaints took place on Salt Spring.

The report also says the nature of the complaints has shifted, indicating problems of a less serious nature.

Cats comprised the largest group of offenders on Salt Spring and 40 were impounded. Thirty-four complaints referred to dogs running at large, and 32 were impounded.

Other Salt Spring statistics include: two complaints over livestock; four complaints directed at dogs harassing livestock; and three livestock impoundments (which includes the 17 rabbits).

Garbage transfer site 'as bad as Blackburn Road'

Plans to build a garbage transfer station and recycle depot at Fulford Harbour have drawn a protest from a Salt Spring Island island resident. The proposed site, on Isabella Point Road near Drummond Park, is "as bad if not worse than the Blackburn Road site," according to Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society spokesman Kathy Reimer.

"I am not opposed to the concept of a transfer station," Reimer said in an interview Monday. "But I was totally surprised at the site."

Reimer said run-off from that

area, which "pours down the hill" in winter time, runs directly into the estuary in Fulford Harbour — one of the most ecologically sensitive areas on the island.

On the other side, she said, it drains into Soul Creek, which supplies water to several community wells, and forms the basic water supply for the Fulford Inn. Soul Creek is also the site of an endangered run of coho salmon and cutthroat trout.

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INSIDE



Week 1:

Salt Spring Festival of the Arts is off and running this week—details B12.

Sea Capers:

It may be over but we had a few photos we thought you might like to see—R2, R3.

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Refugees from El Salvador are among Salt Spring Island's newest residents. They are Saul and Ana Alfaro, and their six

children, Saul, 17, Claudia, 16, Alonsa, 14, twins Arturo and Abdiel, 12, and Marino, 10. The Salvadoran family arrived on Salt

Spring Friday with virtually nothing, after eight years of "exile" from El Salvador.

Refugees find new home here

Salt Spring is paradise to the island's newest residents.

The arrival of Salvadorans Saul and Ana Alfaro and their six children on Salt Spring last weekend marks the conclusion of eight years of harsh living conditions.

Eight years ago, the Alfaros fled El Salvador, where having an activist relative could have been their death sentence. They travelled to the neighbouring country of Belize, and although living conditions were harsh, they were safe.

One year ago, that safety eluded them. Refugees, especially in huge

numbers, are not always welcomed. A change in the Belize government meant the Alfaros might be deported back to El Salvador. Six months ago, they fled again, becoming illegal aliens in Mexico.

In Mexico City, the family went to a refugee-aid house, where they met Salt Spring resident Sheila Reid, who is completing a year of service in that area. Reid arranged for Canadian sponsorship of the family.

The appearance of another islander — Lee Evans — who represents a local refugee assistance organization, shaped the eventual

destination of the family. With paper work completed, funds raised and a small house and farm donated, the Alfaros prepared to arrive on Salt Spring late this summer.

In fact, they had to come much sooner.

The Alfaros have arrived on Salt Spring with virtually nothing: they need furniture, dishes, utensils, towels, linens, and tools. Anyone wishing further information on how to donate items to the family should contact Lee Evans at 537-9885. A trust fund has also been set up at the Credit Union.

Task force to examine traffic, ferry problems

The recently appointed Islands Trust Task Force on Transportation will continue studying transportation issues on Salt Spring and present a list of short-term solutions to the B.C. Ferry Corporation. Those solutions will look at alleviating current traffic/ferry problems.

The task force has a mandate to continue work initiated by the Salt Spring Planning Association's Transportation Committee, which prepared a submission on the island's transportation needs and problems for the Regional Transportation Committee hearings held in April.

The submission, and most other submissions made by Gulf Islanders, highlighted the importance of addressing the transportation needs of the Southern Gulf Islands as a whole. The submission endorsed the transportation policies of the Islands Trust, and called for an independent study of transportation options to meet the needs of the Southern Gulf Islands.

The Regional Transportation Committee's report was presented to local MLAs last week.

In the meantime, the local task force is continuing to promote the study by preparing detailed terms of reference for it, and by maintaining dialogue with politicians and government officials.

The group plans to publish a preliminary draft of the terms of reference once developed, allowing for public comment and input prior to their being forwarded to government officials.

The task force is also drafting a

list of suggested short-term measures, which could be employed by the B.C. Ferry Corporation to alleviate current traffic problems and improve existing levels of service.

The list is based on suggestions made at two public meetings held on Salt Spring in April, on submissions made to the Regional Transportation Committee and on recommendations made to the Planning Association and Islands Trust by interested islanders. A draft of these submissions will also be submitted for publication.

The newly appointed task force, which includes Bob Andrew, Jules Atkin, Gord Calderhead, Dan Evanishen and Tom Toynbee, welcomes input from islanders.

Driftwood editor on leave

Driftwood publisher Tony Richards is back in the editor's chair on a temporary basis.

Editor Duncan MacDonnell has taken a leave of absence until the fall.

Richards was editor of the paper for more than six years until MacDonnell joined the staff in 1985.

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Meeting rejects amalgamation

FROM PAGE A1

with the issue since it was recommended more than a year ago by a Capital Region hospital and health planning study, said the current proposal for a health care society is too closely linked to amalgamation to proceed alone. He said, however, any group of five people or more could create a society.

Greenwoods board chairman Peter Vida said, "If a health services society is to be formed, it should come from the community, rather than an institution."

Of the 115 hospital society members present at the annual general meeting, 92 voted against the motion. Eighteen ballots favoured the move and five ballots were spoiled.

In the Greenwoods vote, 43 members opposed the motion, while five said "yes."

Hospital board chairman Sandy Gordon said that formation of a health services society would have to develop as a community initiative.

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to be frank

by richards



ENGLAND — Queen Victoria made the first move. The old queen put the royal imprint on Harrogate Spa when she arrived at the north Yorkshire city to take the waters. Then came the Heriot family to bring the Yorkshire brogue into every living room in the English-speaking world, and beyond.

The classic series of tales of a Yorkshire veterinary surgeon and his team are set outside this lovely town of Harrogate, but the glitter stays with it.

Like resorts classed as "spas," Harrogate enjoys mineral springs whose waters have medicinal value. A vast number of patrons have enjoyed the benefits of bathing in those waters. And a town on the dales of Yorkshire has enjoyed prosperity from the visitors. Success sits well on the shoulders of this community.

The Yorkshire dales are a great spread of fields and hills, farmed for a thousand years and still a treasure chest for the nation's larder. If ever you wonder that in so small a land with so great a population there could be space left for farming, take a trip to the dales where farm after farm, fat sheep after fat sheep, and cattle galore share the rolling hills to feed the nation. Drive across the dales and you won't see a building that is out of place on this essentially British rural canvas.

Brighten the foreground

The green valleys and the blue of sky are the backdrop. Vegetation to brighten the foreground and the ever-moving browsing animals to fill in the painting by Providence. Roads? Of course. But they are not the roads of British Columbia, a full 66 feet and everything scraped clean. You meet another car and you scrape your fenders getting clear. You meet a truck and you're in trouble — there just isn't enough room on the road for both of you!

The Heriot books describe it and the Heriot movies show it to you. The classic writers of Yorkshire have spelt it out and make a trip here and you can see it. There are few parts of the world to offer all those aesthetic values that are the Yorkshire dales.

The ubiquitous stone in home, cottage, public house or public place adds to the landscape so clearly painted by nature. The stone bridges perched on the banks of diminutive rivers show no human parentage. They have obviously grown there no less than the willows challenging them for rooting space.

Tribute to clever town planning

The town was planned with great care. If Harrogate is a tribute to clever town planning it must, equally, be a challenge to today's clever town planners. It has everything that could have been imagined a century ago. It has even more because the architects who planned its princely homes presented the world with a work of art, and no thanks to great piles of concrete.

The main street of the community must be the magnificent drive between parkland and palace. The palaces are hotels for the benefit of bathers and any other visitors. If the profusion of hotels and apartments served the early visitors well as they took the waters, they serve equally well the thousands who come today to attend the great variety of conventions constantly in session here, year in, year out. It is the great commercial companies who bring their personnel here to give a boost to their operation while adding a fillip to the town's bread-and-butter industry, tourism.

Sweeping terraces of Georgian fronts command the parks, everywhere blooming. There are no neglected and bedraggled wastelands of frustrated meadowland. The traffic islands are grassed and mowed with borders and insets of brilliant flowers.

As one charming protagonist told me, "There's no other place I would want to live!"

Plant in St. Mary Lake not milfoil, says Reimer

A leafy lake plant blooming in St. Mary Lake is not Eurasian Milfoil.

Salt Spring Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society spokesman Kathy Reimer said this week she has received numerous calls on the plant, which is currently in the bloom part of its cycle.

Reimer said she examined it and described it as a typical, leafy lake plant.

Eurasian Milfoil, which can be found in the majority of lakes in the Okanagan region of the province, is a "hairy plant with tendrils, rather than leaves," Reimer says.

Milfoil can be identified by a spiral pattern of hairy tendrils,

which grow in clumps of four up the plant stem.

Reimer said, however, she appreciated the call which prompted her to examine the bloom in St. Mary Lake.

"If people do see weird blooms, it's good to be notified so we can keep track of what's growing in the lake," she said.

Reimer said only one lake on Vancouver Island — a side channel of Lake Cowichan — has traces of Eurasian Milfoil, and it has not spread. She also noted the milfoil has not yet "taken over" Okanagan lakes, as scientists expected it would. She said so far it appears to have stabilized like any other weed.

Transfer station proposed at Fulford

FROM PAGE A1

Unlike the Blackburn site which sits on shale, she added, this area is composed of gravel, which run-off will seep through.

Unless the transfer station is manned 24 hours a day, Reimer said, she doubts individuals will obey signs and place their garbage in designated areas. Garbage is likely to be strewn on the ground, bags broken, and toxic refuse carried into these environmentally sensitive areas through run-off, she said.

Recycling and solid waste committee member Tom Gossett said there is an "unfortunate misconception" as to how the transfer station will be operated.

Gossett said the transfer station will be manned eight hours a day by a bonded operator, who will ensure garbage is not just dumped on the ground. He said the proposed station (which will not be established until the community approves it through referendum this fall) will use sealed bins.

A compacting bin will take the majority of refuse, and three additional sealed bins will hold overflow garbage. Once the bins are filled, they will be hauled off.

"All the bins will be sealed so birds can't get at the garbage," Gossett said. "There will be nothing lying on the ground."

The main recycling depot for the island will also be located at the proposed transfer station site. Those who have sorted garbage prior to dropping it off will have the opportunity to dispose of it, free of charge, at the recycling centre.

Gossett said the transfer site on Isabella Point Road is the best out of seven or eight sites considered by the committee. He said it is currently the location that contractors will base tenders on, but if the community comes up with a better alternative site, the committee will certainly consider it.



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It's a month to celebrate the arts

With Week One of the Salt Spring Festival of the Arts well under way, what better time to consider the influence of artistic endeavours on the lives of island residents.

The arts on Salt Spring are a uniting force. They bring together people from all walks of life to participate in activities as ambitious as the production of a show such as *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. They come together under the umbrella of Artcraft, where they leave visitors in awe at the quality of their wares.

The arts are an employer. Through Artcraft and many other outlets both on and off-island, local artists and craftspeople earn a living through the sale of their goods. It is an important contribution to the island economy.

The arts are a big draw to visitors too, offering yet another boost to the economy as the type of economic activity that blends well with island living. And they're an entertainer, with theatre and musical productions attracting audiences all year long.

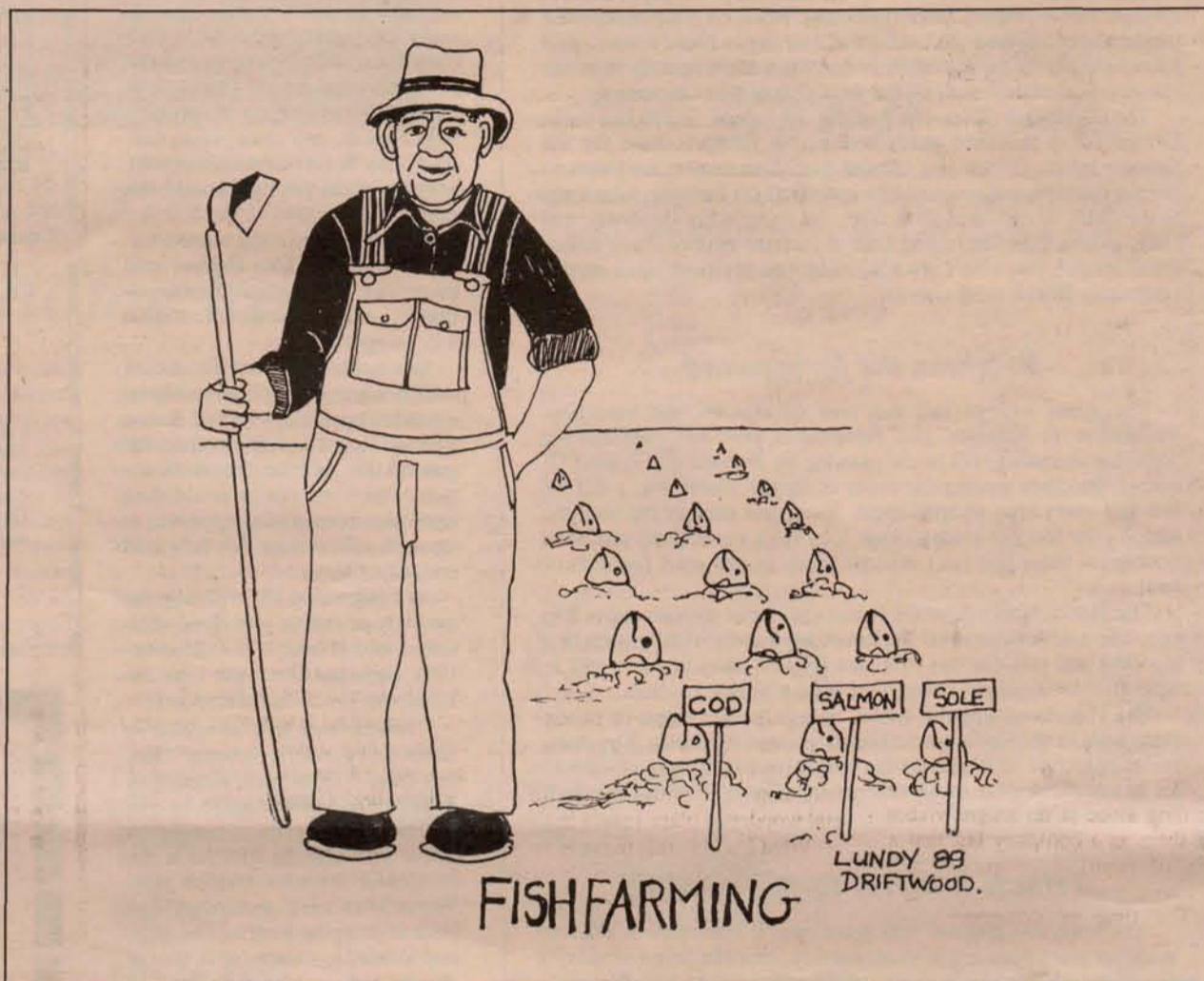
The arts on Salt Spring deserve celebrating for what they contribute to our lives.

The Festival of the Arts began four years ago as the dream of island artist Alan Edwards. Today, it is a reality thanks to Alan and many others who came to share his vision. But it is something more than an annual celebration.

It is a group of islanders who recognize that not only do the arts warrant an annual festival but a facility in which they may be celebrated. They see a facility that would provide gallery, exhibition and workshop space as well as a 250-seat theatre. They see an arts centre that would serve the community by offering space for cultural, recreational and other activities.

They see the arts being given full recognition on Salt Spring Island with a festival of international calibre and a facility to match.

Here's a project that deserves the full support of every one of us. And what better way to start than by taking in some of the performances during the coming weeks. Let's toast the arts on Salt Spring Island: the festival, its organizers and their vision.



We can bid adieu to the wiggly worm

We've come a long way from the wiggly worm. Newly-printed ferry schedules have been traditionally greeted with derision and ridicule, a reception that they have normally deserved. Obtaining information on Gulf Islands sailings was generally a trying exercise that strained to the limit one's mental faculties.

And even once you had determined just how you were going to proceed from A to B, a second opinion was almost mandatory if you were concerned about trouble-free travel.

Well, the days of following the "wiggly worm," which was one ill-fated and unsuccessful B.C. Ferries experiment in schedule printing, are now history.

We take our hats off to the ferry corporation for its new 20-page schedule, printed in booklet form, showing exactly how the traveller gets from any one island to another or the mainland. Planning island travel is now a piece of cake, thanks to a common-sense, simple approach to timetable graphics.

Let's hear it for B.C. Ferries.

Kelowna constable had better check those want ads

By SUSAN DICKER

As of July 1, Tony Richards and I can relax behind our car steering wheels, drive through town without fear of being arrested and let the paper go to press without conducting a mad perusal of the classified ads.

Ganges RCMP Constable Trevor Turner is Kelowna-bound.

For me, the palm-sweating fear of a Turner-driven blue and white began last fall. During a holiday in the States, I found a dog-eared "Wanted By FBI" list, face down on the pavement. It seemed only natural to bring it home and superimpose photographs of local RCMP members onto it.

Trevor's grinning mug graces one end of the list under the offence "fraud."

Retaliation was quick: Trevor marched into the coffee room at *Driftwood* one morning, happily

gathered all employees, and issued a warrant for my arrest. (Adding to the insult, I was "arrested" under the Young Offenders Act and summoned to youth court).

Various courses of reaction were discussed by me and my co-workers. However, all our devious ideas were discredited for one reason or another—usually for fear of really landing in the cells.

But sweet revenge did find its way to the *Driftwood* office—right into my computer terminal—when we discovered Trevor had done his time on Salt Spring and would be celebrating Canada Day in a far-away (far enough away) detachment.

Some of you may have seen a copy of this sweet revenge, disguised in the form of a *Driftwood* front page. Tony and I wrote a series of articles, breaking all rules of journalism (such as truth), cash-

ing in on the term "sensationalism," and generally making Trevor look silly. It was great fun. Especially the photo, where we took Trevor's beaming face and attached it to an exotic dancer's torso.

Tony was the first to experience Trevor's wrathful vengeance. It appeared in the classifieds: the ad requested a female, mud-wrestling bodyguard for a frightened newspaper publisher. Tony's number was provided and several women answered the ad (prompted by a certain chuckling constable).

I figured I was next. On the following production day, I checked the classifieds, found Trevor's ad, hurried to my computer, whipped up an ad for an out-of-work exotic dancer, and neatly (I should say "gleefully") inserted it over the original.

I guess Trevor didn't find it as amusing as I did.

Anyway, between that time and the time he left, I became a bag of nerves, forever looking over my shoulder and wondering just when I was going to be ordered through a vehicle check, handcuffed in the middle of town, or cut off in the bar.

There was the occasion I ran out of gas at the stop sign, just seconds away from the PetroCan. Less concerned was I about irate drivers leaning on their vehicle horns, than I was about Trevor appearing in a p-c, and issuing me some sort of totally degrading ticket.

Then there was Sea Capers. For the fourth consecutive year, I hurried downtown with my camera and prepared to shoot the parade. Leading the road-full of paraders was Trevor—on horseback. Figuring it was a great opportunity to snap more "useful" photos, I aimed and focused the camera. Somehow, the

focus kept distorting as the horse and rider got closer and closer . . . and closer and closer.

I imagine a hush came over the cheering crowd of spectators, who must have wondered why this Mountie was trying to run down this reporter. No question about the colour of my face.

The way I see it, this column could be my opportunity to finalize this amusing volley of pranks.

I could drop a line to the world that Trevor was actually transferred to Kelowna to participate in a newly created cherry-picking force.

Or, better yet, maybe I'll just send a warning to Trevor, encouraging him to check the *Kelowna Courier* classified ads as part of a dedicated, daily routine.

letters

No co-operation

The following is a quote by Timothy Kenny of Noranda Forest from the May 12, 1989 report of Noranda's annual general meeting: "There has been a good more constructive environmental activity undertaken in the forest products industry than we have received due credit for. However, clearly, our industry has not done a very good job of telling our side of the story."

The Friends of Galiano (FOG) feels that we must look at other islands in the Trust group that have ended up being sold by Mac-Millan Bloedel Ltd. (MB) and developed by other parties: Bowen Island, 1985, 315 acres clear-cut and subdivided, no more public access to land; Gabriola Island, 1985, 360/400 acres clear-cut and left undeveloped by Landrich Resources; Salt Spring Island, 1987, clear-cut, subdivided, no more public access to land.

History shows that because of a lack of co-operation with MB and a spirit of mistrust that the islands mentioned above have forfeited their chance to an accessible forested future and have lost future access to "those private lands presently accessible to the public." (FOG constitution).

We are hoping that by developing a spirit of trust and communication with our large neighbour, MB, we can avoid the problems that have befallen these other islands.

MB has made it clear that tree farming alone is no longer viable for them as a company but that a mix of resort development and tree farm is acceptable.

The time of compromise is here. We have a choice: To thwart MB at every turn and end up with complete subdivision of forest lands into residential property; or to co-operate and trust and end up with a resort hotel complex and a large portion of accessible tree farm, thus continuing the historical, economic, environmental condition of Galiano Island.

We feel that this first option will lead to the end of life as we know it on Galiano.

MB as a large company can finance services and amenities that will help the community with future growth problems, i.e., water preservation, fire protection,

woodcutting privileges, hospital and service related opportunities, job creation, garbage dump and gravel facilities and accessibility to maintained forests by the public.

I believe we are fooling ourselves if we think that "we" as residents can "keep the island the same" if we realistically consider the pressures from a rapidly growing outside world. I believe our large neighbours, in developing resorts here, will then be forced to keep our island green and beautiful or they will be cutting their own throats.

Please consider all of this carefully. Feel free to come to us with your ideas and concerns. Remember MB owns their land in fee simple. And please, for all of our futures, keep an open mind. **NANCY QUIST, President, FOG, Box 40, Galiano Island**

Sustainable

I would like to correct an important misunderstanding in what was otherwise a very good article about my book (*After the Crash: The Emergence of the Rainbow Economy*) in last week's *Driftwood*.

I never meant to imply that these islands should seek to become "100 per cent self-sufficient." That is not just impossible, but positively undesirable, since it is by the trading and exchanging of our goods and services that we help make the world such a rich and wonderful place to live in.

What I said is that these islands (along with the rest of British Columbia) must seek to become "100 per cent sustainable," environmentally. What this means is that we must find a way to live, work and run our economies in a manner that is in complete harmony with Nature. The urgency of the crisis that we are facing simply cannot be over-estimated. The oil spills, deforestation and chemical pollution of everyday life are just the tip of the iceberg.

The Gulf Islands can make a really significant contribution to the search for a better way of living. Everyone is talking about "sustainable development," but no one is doing very much yet. Life here on the islands is so attractive that the development invasion is

bound to continue, threatening the very qualities that people come here to find. The challenge facing the islands is to come up with a clear plan of action that will set the path for sustainable development. There is an urgent need for such plans — and no better time than now to begin. **GUY DAUNCEY, Ganges.**

Unqualified

I would like to respond to Bob Hassell's "who's in bed with who" letters and his recent article in your paper. I don't know who Bob "is in bed with" but it definitely does not include Mother Nature.

His recent plans for Ganges Creek along McPhillips Avenue have it changed from a natural, overgrown swampy floodplain to a practically treeless, artificially landscaped, steep-banked ditch, crammed up as close to the path in the Linear Park as he can get it. And, at a time when all other wiser communities are scrambling to reclaim their urban creeks (Burnaby, Oak Bay), he gets the full approval of the Advisory Design Panel.

And speaking of filling in land, the two lots on McPhillips will be raised with two yards of fill and turned into buildings and parking spots — exactly what he is criticizing the harbour developers for doing. And last but not least he is designing the Arts Centre and parking lot in Mouat Park and "improving" Ganges creek in that area as well.

His plans are to undermine all the years of hard work that volunteers such as Jack Cherry and I have done to try to keep this area as green and natural as possible. So I really don't think Bob is qualified to criticize any harbour development from an environmental point of view.

I will agree with him on one point though and that is Ganges needs an elected Harbour Commission to deal with the rapid marina development. It would fit in well with the Trust and the recently formed Fisheries Committee (to run the wharves) and would ensure that future harbour development is environmentally acceptable.

KATHY REIMER, Ganges.



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capital comment

by **hubert beyer**



VICTORIA — "That was a stupid article you wrote on the weekend. You're getting more stupid every week, but I think people know where you're coming from." That was our environment minister, Bruce Strachan, dressing down yours truly in the legislature corridor last week.

Seems the honourable minister was a little irate over a column I had done that weekend. The column dealt with sustainable development and the two major parties' stand on it.

One thing about people telling me off: I come up with incredibly good replies an hour later. That's why I'm a columnist, not a politician. I'd get slaughtered in the House.

So I said on the way home in the car that it's a pity not everybody can be as smart as Bruce and, anyway, come the next election, it mattered less where I'm coming from than where the honourable minister is coming from. As for calling me stupid, well, you know what they say about not being able to take the heat. I've got that much in common with politicians.

A couple of days later I found out why Strachan might have been particularly upset about the column. Among other things, I had referred to the "laughable" maximum fines of \$50,000 for polluters, adding that the NDP platform called for increases fines to \$1 million.

The following Monday, Strachan introduced legislation in the House that will empower courts to levy fines of \$3 million and more on intentional polluters.

If passed, Bill 58, the Waste Management Amendment Act, will apply to businesses that haul garbage or special wastes and handle the material improperly to increase their profits.

NDP response predictable

"We will not only fine them for the damage they have done — up to \$3 million — (but) we are asking the courts to take into consideration the profit the company has made," Strachan said.

Bill 58 also calls for regional districts to devise plans to deal with biomedical waste by 1992. Other fines are also to be increased. Fines for littering are to go up to \$2,000 from the present \$500, and will apply to boaters littering the marine environment.

The NDP response to the proposed measures was predictable. Environment critic John Cashore said the bills were "rather underwhelming." Well, that's politics. You can hardly expect the opposition to jump with enthusiasm over a government initiative.

But Cashore had one valid point. He said the best legislation won't do any good unless it's enforced. Pollution fines in the 1987-88 fiscal year, Cashore observed, totalled less than \$20,000.

Still, the legislation is good and long overdue. In the past, even if the government had strictly enforced existing legislation, it would have been more profitable for a lot of companies to pay the maximum fines rather than go to the expense of preventing pollution.

I have no doubt that Strachan means business. It cannot have escaped his attention that the public is fed up to the teeth with polluters. Strachan has, for instance, been reading the Riot Act to pulp mills whose industrial effluent has been poisoning fish, although some critics are still saying the government isn't moving fast enough.

The government, on the other hand, says that a cleaner environment may sometimes be obtained only at the cost of jobs, and no government really wants to shut down factories and throw hundreds of people out of work.

Take profit out of pollution

That whole question of economic growth at the least possible risk to the environment is, of course, what sustainable development is all about.

The government will never satisfy the dyed-in-the-wool environmentalists who would have society go back to the paradisaical ways of yesteryear. No matter what economic activity you care to mention, it will always be carried out at some potential risk to the environment, but the risks must be minimized.

Potential profit must be taken out of pollution, and that's where the new fines will do their job, provided the legislation is enforced. Plants and factories must be forced to use the most modern and up-to-date pollution equipment. Claims by the industry that it cannot afford to install such equipment are not always true and should be carefully scrutinized by government.

And while we're at it, isn't it about time to get tough with municipalities that still deposit their sewage into the ocean untreated? Five beaches in the Greater Victoria area are currently out of bounds because they are poisoned by residential sewage.

A lot of so-called environmentalists, who are screaming for industry to stop polluting, should be prepared to pay higher property taxes to clean up the mess in the ocean to which they contribute.

Getting back to the proposed new maximum fines, good show, minister. Even I, stupid as I may be, more stupid as I may get by the week, can recognize that.

Services held for Pender's Jack Finnie

PENDER ISLAND — Jack Finnie, a well-liked Pender Islander and lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 239), died June 27 at the age of 81.

Finnie was admitted to Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria June 26, and died the next day of cancer.

Finnie, an air force veteran, served on the Legion executive for a number of years and was president for one year. He also was a member of the Pender Power and Sail Squadron and Yacht Club.

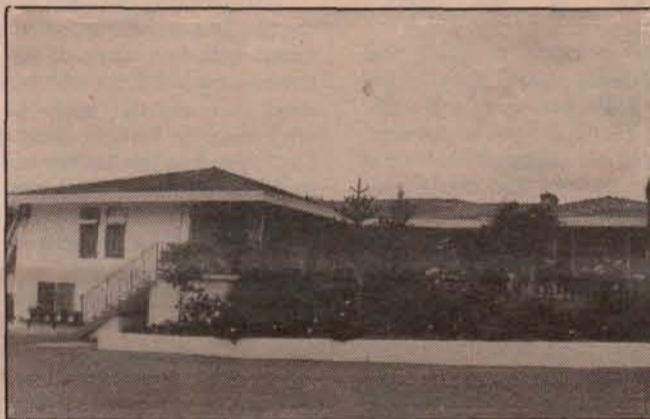
A service was held at the Pender Legion last Tuesday. The service was conducted by George Taylor in his capacity as padre for Legion branch 239. A ceremony will be held July 6 with Finnie's ashes scattered over Swanson Channel.

According to close friend Dave Hambly, Finnie owned property on Pender for some 20 years before moving to the island in the mid-1970s.

Finnie is survived by wife Hazel, two daughters — Roberta of Vancouver and Marlene of San Diego, as well as two grandsons, John and Sean, and granddaughter Laura.

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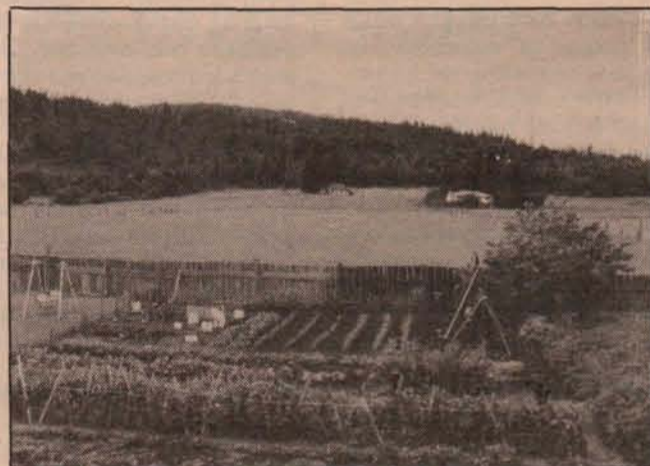


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THE DEAL This property is currently listed for sale for \$349,000, the vendor will accept property on Salt Spring in partial trade for it. If you have been considering a move to Saanich Peninsula, this would be an ideal arrangement for you.

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New recycling depot to open at Salt Spring this weekend

A recycling depot on Salt Spring Island will be the focus of a new solid waste plan for the island.

The Salt Spring Island Recycling and Solid Waste Committee says the new depot — currently located across from the school grounds on Rainbow Road — will officially open July 8. It will replace the former facility situated behind the Upper Ganges Centre.

The committee says the enlarged recycling depot, designed and constructed by Rick Laing, will facilitate a growing need on the island. The depot was built with funds granted to the Community

Society by the Capital Regional District (CRD), as part of its commitment to recycling.

The main thrust of the island's new solid waste plan will combine recycling with the establishment of a transfer station for non-recyclables, which will be taken off-island to the Hartland Road landfill near Victoria.

Wooden bins placed outside the recycle depot will be the depository for all recyclable materials such as glass, tin and newspapers. Plastic and cardboard will be accepted when market arrangements are made. There will also be a special

bin for ledger and computer paper.

Once full, the wooden bins will be wheeled into the Recycle Depot, and processed by members of the Achievement Centre, working under a provincial grant obtained by the Community Society.

Members of the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee say the new solid waste plan has resulted from a long and thorough study, undertaken at the request of the regional district and local CRD director Hugh Borsman.

Recycling will be the primary focus of the new plan. Blue boxes will be provided to every household on the island, with several drop-off locations.

Residents will collect recyclables in their homes and then elect to deposit them at drop-off points or at the main processing depot at the new transfer station.

New questionnaire may confuse residents--FOG

Friends of Galiano (FOG) are concerned that a recent questionnaire appearing in *The Active Page* may confuse island residents.

FOG president Nancy Quist says her organization was not consulted about the second questionnaire, which appeared last month in the monthly Galiano publication. Quist says the second questionnaire was more political than FOG's.

The purpose of the FOG questionnaire, distributed to Galiano households in June, was to define the group's position with regard to the future of MacMillan Bloedel's holdings on Galiano Island.

FOG, a registered society, was formed this spring as a reaction to Clear Cut Alternatives (CCA), the two-year-old group which has consistently opposed MB's logging policies on Galiano.

FOG's constitution has since been widely circulated on Galiano and, shortly after its election in May, FOG's executive met with CCA members to discuss common ground.

Those questioned by FOG were asked whether they favored Mac-

Millan Bloedel retaining, as tree farm, much of the 7,800 acres the company owns in fee simple; whether they supported a resort type development on Galiano or a residential development; and whether they favoured MB selling out completely.

Respondents were asked whether they supported proper forest management, as prescribed by the ministry of forests; whether they are concerned about forest fires; and whether they favoured MB assisting in the development of a medical centre or small hospital for the island.

"The questionnaire was part of the process whereby the constitution can be fulfilled. We want to get a consensus about what the community wants.

"We're not into opposing the political system. We're here to work with them in a spirit of open-mindedness," Quist says.

Quist could not say what would be done when consensus is reached. "We're not at the stage of talking politics. We're taking it a day at a time."

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Stepaniuks see opportunity for growth in production

Salt Spring sheep farmers experiment with new breed

By DAVID FRASER

SALT SPRING ISLAND — A Salt Spring Island couple say buying a flock of experimental "supersheep" is a gamble well worth taking if it will improve their industry.

John and Mary Stepaniuk of Shepherd Hills Farm are currently raising 40 Canadian Arcott sheep, one of three registered breeds developed by Agriculture Canada at their Animal Research Centre in Ottawa.

The Outaouais Arcott, Rideau Arcott and Canadian Arcott breeds are part of the centre's 20-year breeding and selection program to combine the best traits of domestic and imported sheep.

Under an agreement with the Canadian Sheepbreeders' Association (CSBA), nucleus flocks of each breed have been established on farms in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The first shipments of Arcott sheep went out in December 1988.

The Stepaniuks raise sheep on 60 acres of their 170-acre property — the remainder being tree farm — located on Mount Maxwell Road in the Cranberry Valley. The 34 adult ewes, six yearlings and three rams range in age from this spring's lambs to five and a half years old.

The Stepaniuk farm was one of only two farms in B.C. judged suitable by Agriculture Canada to raise the nucleus flocks. Twenty-one farmers across Canada qualified to raise the top-bred sheep for five years. During that time they must document their development and submit regular reports to Agriculture Canada.

Stepaniuk says their main focus will be on breeding and selection, although a few lambs will be sold next year, as well as a few introduced to the local 4-H Club.

The Stepaniuks receive no subsidy for raising the sheep. They paid \$200 per adult and \$150 for each lamb up to a year old, a pretty hefty outlay for an unproven breed. "It's gambling. Anything could happen," says John Stepaniuk, Salt Spring trustee on the Islands Trust.

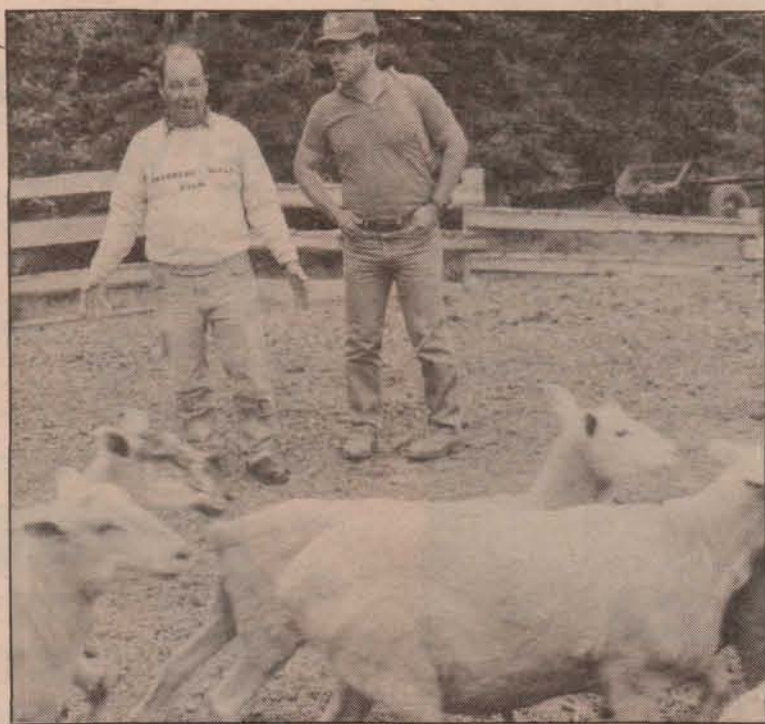
Bringing the farm up to Agriculture Canada standards took some capital outlay and considerable effort. Additional fencing and pens had to be built. A foot bath was installed at the entrance to the barns for sheep and visitors — particularly other sheep farmers — to prevent the spread of disease.

A scale was needed to weigh lambs at birth and for every two weeks for 90 days thereafter in order to measure gain. Sheep must be inoculated against lambing diseases and parasites as well as registered and tagged at birth.

Stepaniuk is excited about the new breed of sheep, the only Canadian breed developed in Canada. "We're going to try our darnedest to make it successful. It's an exciting challenge," he says.

"The (Canadian) sheep industry is lacking. We produce one-seventh of the lambs we consume domestically. We could support millions more.

"If we are to have a future on these islands and really want the Islands Trust and other governments to protect our quality of life



Salt Spring Island farmer John Stepaniuk discusses his new flock of Canadian Arcott sheep with District Agriculturist Peter Fofonoff who was visiting farm in

the Cranberry Friday. Stepaniuk's farm was only one of two chosen in B.C. to raise the "superbreed" developed by Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

"We've reached the point where we have to be more forceful about marketing our product." The Stepaniuks, for instance, have been targeting restaurants to buy their lamb, with considerable success.

"Canadian sheep farmers are a modest lot. We're too apologetic." In comparison, he adds, Americans brag their hearts out about their farming successes.

Stepaniuk says there isn't a great deal of sheep research in Canada. "We're willing to encourage and promote but we've got to have a competitive product. And the only way is through research."

More lamb producers must make their product available at fairs and exhibitions "to demonstrate all aspects of management and preparation," says Peter Fofonoff, district agriculturist from Duncan who was examining the Stepaniuks' new flock last week.

Fofonoff says sheep farmers must follow the consumer preference for leaner meat, as do pork and beef producers. He says some consumers have the notion that lamb is fat and greasy.

He notes that the biggest return in the sheep industry is in direct marketing of their product — 95 per cent of sheep farmers on Vancouver Island use this technique.

The Gulf Islands and Southern Vancouver Island currently have the highest population of sheep in B.C. Islands have distinct advantages for sheep farming. There are no major diseases because conditions are easier to control — there is no great influx of breeding stock.

But costs are accelerating for sheep farmers. For instance, the Stepaniuks would have to sell one lamb to cover the cost of inoculating 79.

Minerals and vitamins are another expense. But the price of lamb has not risen accordingly, remaining at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per pound for a number of years.

As well, sheep require good forage, clean water, a parasite-free environment and, in Stepaniuk's words, lots of good management.

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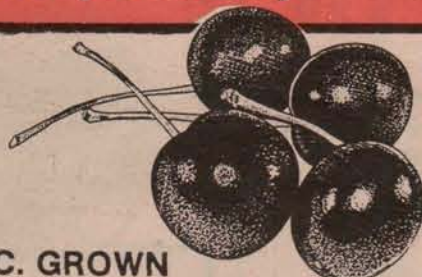
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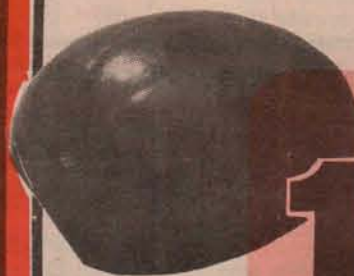
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MONTEREY JACK With Dill

1.32 100 g

Clues baffle 14 treasure hunt teams

Of 14 teams of Salt Spring sleuths, only one group made it to the treasure in the annual Sea Capers Treasure Hunt June 25.

Creators of the 10 baffling clues have submitted the following list, which had treasure hunters scurrying all over the island. Those who didn't attempt the hunt now have the opportunity to see how well they would have done:

1) Where he pitches pots/Merry

On assault charge Sentence suspended following rehabilitation

A former Ganges woman who has "turned things around for herself" has received a suspended sentence and a term of probation after pleading guilty to assaulting a police officer.

Judge A.E. Filmer said two weeks ago in Ganges provincial court that 41-year-old Victoria resident Pauline Beauvais has taken matters into her own hands and undergone rehabilitation to deal with her drinking problem.

Judge Filmer also noted the seriousness of the offence, indicating to the court a period of incarceration is frequently delivered for this type of crime.

The Crown's evidence said Beauvais was cut off from the bar at the Harbour House Hotel early last January. When she refused to leave the premises and began overturning tables, local RCMP were called to the scene.

Crown Counsel Derek Lister said RCMP Const. Brian Brack arrested the accused for being drunk in a public place. When she continued to protest, she was handcuffed and placed in the police car. Before Brack could close the door, Lister said, Beauvais kicked him in the chest area. Once in the vehicle, she kicked the dashboard and attempted to kick him in the head.

The Crown's evidence indicated Beauvais was highly intoxicated at the time the offence occurred.

Lister said Beauvais was well-known in the community for her drinking problems. He noted, however, that she has taken "dramatic steps towards rehabilitation," and therefore he was not seeking a jail sentence.

Defence counsel Tony Borzoni said his client had no recollection of the events which led to the laying of charges. He said she has made a decision to change her life, and with the help of several residential treatment programs in Victoria, she has not touched alcohol since January 30.

Borzoni said Beauvais has attended a total of 203 meetings since the end of January. He said she does not plan on returning to Salt Spring.

Judge Filmer described Beauvais' conduct as "outrageous," but said her case is unique in that she has "turned things around." He handed her a suspended sentence and ordered 18 months probation. Included in the terms of probation is continued alcohol counselling.

marks the spot.

2) Go past the farm/and on past the meadow./If you're looking for clues/you'll find it at last.

3) A pot-luck supper/at home is great./You'll find your next clue/under the plate.

4) This spot is now private/when it snows/we're all irate./Sand and

salt/the inland beach.

5) Go along long/go along long/Shood you yoo poss o cock/Ond o flock/your clue won't go wrong.

6) Me thinks this snake/never laid so straight/but have no fear/from this iron spear.

7) Don't take it for granted/if you're still going strong./The main thing to remember/is it's all in your head.

8) You'll find the next clue/if you divine/where the sun always shines/where the sun doesn't shine.

9) A one dollar bill.

10) A Graham cracker.

Answers are as follows: 1) Mark Meredith; 2) farm court meadow Last Lane; 3) baseball diamond at

Central, under home plate; 4) highways building at Central, behind sandpile; 5) Lang Road, Rich Flock, clues up in air on clothes line; 6) Fer-de-Lance Road; 7) Grantville Street, Main Street and Head Street; 8) the nudist beach at Walker Hook; 9) Elizabeth Drive; 10) Graham Drive.

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<p>BONELESS BEEF CROSS RIB STEAKS 4.83 kg 2.19 lb.</p>	<p>FIRST OF THE SEASON—LOCAL LAMB SALE!</p> <p>• FRESH LEG OF LAMB 7.25 kg 3.29 lb.</p>	<p>FLETCHER'S SMOKEHOUSE SLICED SIDE BACON 500 g 1.69 pkg.</p>
<p>FRESH FAMILY PACK LEAN GROUND BEEF 3.64 kg 1.65 lb.</p>	<p>• FRESH RACK OF LAMB 9.90 kg 4.49 lb.</p>	<p>PREV. FROZEN HALIBUT STEAKS 6.35 kg 2.88 lb.</p>
<p>FRESH BEEF BBQ BRISKET RIBS 2.18 kg 99¢ lb.</p>	<p>• LAMB SHOULDER CHOPS OR ROASTS 5.05 kg 2.29 lb.</p>	<p>FROZEN I.Q.F. BUTTON SCALLOPS 11.00 kg 4.99 lb.</p>
<p>LOCALLY CURED WHOLE SMOKED PICNIC 1.96 kg 89¢ lb.</p>	<p>• FRESH LAMB SHANKS 4.39 kg 1.99 lb.</p>	<p>— FRESH PORK —</p> <p>• LEG OF PORK ROASTS 3.73 kg 169 lb.</p> <p>• BONELESS LEG OF PORK CUTLETS 5.05 kg 229 lb.</p>
<p>BONELESS FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS 8.58 kg 389 lb.</p>	<p>• BONELESS LAMB STEW 4.39 kg 1.99 lb.</p>	
	<p>• FRESH BREAST OF LAMB 3.73 kg 1.69 lb.</p>	

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<p>SAVE MORE</p> <p>HILLS BROS. INSTANT COFFEE 200 g jar 357</p>	<p>COMPARE & SAVE</p> <p>BEST FOODS MAYONNAISE 1 litre jar 347</p>	<p>SAVE MORE</p> <p>SEA HAUL BROKEN or COCKTAIL SHRIMP 113 g 119</p>
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Wilderness park could resolve debate over best use of MB lands

The local print media are to be commended for the space allocated over the past several months to the ongoing debate concerning the future of MacMillan Bloedel's holdings on Galiano Island. Your editorial in the June 21 edition was an interesting summary of the issue, and the lead story by David Fraser brought us up to date.

At the heart of the debate is Islands Trust bylaw 128, which was originally enacted as a bylaw of the Capital Regional District and received approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on January 17, 1974.

This bylaw, which is the Galiano Island Community Plan, is unique in that it was not formulated by legislators or lawyers or bureaucratic civil service planners who lived ferry rides away from the island for which the plan was designed. It was drafted by ordinary people, who lived and worked on the island. It was unique in that every word and punctuation mark was debated and approved by consensus in the best Athenian tradition.

MacMillan Bloedel was invited to every meeting, was sent copies of all minutes and copies of the dozen different drafts through which the document went as it received its step-by-step approval by the citizens. Apart from two meetings during the early stage of this procedure between representatives of the Citizens Planning Committee and executives of MB in 1972, there was no comment, critical or otherwise, from MB.

Section four of the plan (paragraph three) provides for changes in the plan in accordance with the Municipal Act.

I believe MB has a responsibility to inform the Galiano Island Advisory Planning Council of the details of changes it wishes to make to the Community Plan — immediately, so public discussion can get under way.

To help one and all get their minds in gear for this debate, I would like to quote a few extracts from bylaw 128:

The preamble: "The people of Galiano Island, being mindful of the pressures from a growing West Coast population, and a demonstrated desire of many to find relief from urban congestion and associated tension through a rural atmosphere, and being aware of the physical limitations of

guest column

By WOODY COWARD

Galiano Island to accept uncontrolled population increase without degradation of the rural way of life and damage to the ecological system, deem it desirable to create a community plan to deal with these issues."

Paragraph four of the preamble starts off with the simple statement: "The rural character of the planning area must be preserved." It then goes on in some detail to explain what is meant by that with respect to waterfront, beaches, etc.

Paragraph five of the preamble reads as follows: "As the present generation inherited these islands in a relatively preserved state, so this plan attempts to perpetuate this state and preserve the unique environment for all future generations."

Section four, paragraph four states: "Advantage should be taken of suitable senior government programs for the preservation in perpetuity of selected areas for green belt, wilderness park and ecological or wildlife reserves. The feasibility of setting aside or returning to the public domain portions of the planning area through Heritage Canada, or similar programs which come into being should be examined."

As I have followed the Galiano debate over the past two years, concerning clear-cutting and MB's development plans, which seem to be moving from rumour to reality, I attempted to identify the uniqueness of the geology, topography and ecology of Galiano. I concluded that I had inadequate knowledge to make such a judgment, but if indeed it was unique, then it must be unique, not just for the residents of Galiano, or even of B.C., but unique in all of Canada. This led me to contact the director general of the National Parks Directorate at Environment Canada.

I was informed that Galiano Island "is located within the Strait of Georgia Lowlands (Natural Region No. 2), which is currently unrepresented in the national parks system. Although the creation of a national park to represent the Lowlands is of long-term interest to

the Canadian Parks Service, it has been recognized for some time that the high degree of private ownership and development may make it difficult to achieve this goal."

I have informed Mr. Ian D. Rutherford that my suggestion was that only the MB holdings on Galiano Island be made into a wilderness park (approximately 7,700 acres), and that this would require a simple land transfer for cash, and that the lands had not been developed. The land would continue to be available to the public to the same extent and in the same manner which MB has permitted for many years.

This should meet most of the requirements of FOG (Friends of Galiano), would eliminate clear-cutting, which would meet the requirements of Clear Cut Alternatives and the Galiano Conservation Association, and the shareholders of MB would get a return on their investment. Funds for the purchase would come from provincial and federal coffers (all our taxes), and MB might even be able to negotiate a corporate tax benefit in the deal.

Most of the opposition to such a notion stems from the image of national parks which most people have . . . huge campgrounds and controls. A wilderness park permits camping only under carefully controlled conditions: indeed the controls would be better than what Coon Bay now experiences.

National parks only are created with provincial and federal government co-operation and broad public support. If your readers believe this idea has merit, they should contact GCA (Galiano Conservation Association), Friends of Galiano, Galiano Advisory Planning Council, the islands Trust Trustees or their MLAs. I would be pleased to make my correspondence and copy of Parks Canada policy available to any interested person or group.

Woody W. Coward is a retired Armed Forces major-general living on Galiano Island.



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Stocks reported in good shape

Higher proportion of sockeye expected in salmon fishery

Salmon stocks in most areas of the B.C. coast are in "good shape" for the 1989 fishing season, according to the department of fisheries and oceans (DFO), which expects the coast-wide commercial catch to be in the area of 76,000 metric tonnes.

While this figure is slightly below last year's catch, the ministry expects a much higher proportion of valuable sockeye.

"Overall, I am optimistic there will be good fishing opportunities for all sectors of the commercial fleet," Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon said in a prepared statement issued last week.

Siddon made the prediction as the DFO announced salmon fishery allocations.

The minister also said measures to support conservation of chinook in Georgia Strait include maintaining the 20 per cent harvest rate reduction on chinook taken in net fisheries in Johnstone Strait, plus the introduction of a chinook log-book for all commercial fishermen.

Trollers in Georgia Strait will have an allocation of 31,000 chinook this season — the same as last year — but their catch of pink and sockeye will increase considerably, Siddon said.

Catches of pink salmon returning to the Fraser River and other southern B.C. rivers are estimated at about 10 million fish.

The sockeye catch in the Fraser River is estimated at seven million, while moderate returns of sockeye have been forecast in Rivers Inlet and Smith Inlet. An above-average sockeye return is expected in the Skeena River.

Although the subject of commercial salmon allocations for

1989 was deliberated extensively by the Commercial Fishing Industry Council (CFIC), no consensus on a fair division of the salmon resource was reached. In 1988, the CFIC assumed responsibility for making recommendations to the DFO on allocations providing for an equitable share of the harvest by different commercial gear sectors.

Because no consensus was reached by CFIC, Siddon asked the DFO to develop allocation recommendations. Considerations were to include the views of industry representatives, historic cycle year allocations and catches, and economic performance of each gear type.

Allocation important because it directly affects earnings

Allocation in the salmon fishery is of particular importance because it directly affects the earnings of fishermen. Allocation also provides some certainty to fishermen in a somewhat "uncertain environment," and allows for business planning (without fear that the catch and therefore expected incomes will be radically altered).

With this in mind, the DFO established several objectives to be considered while determining allocation decisions. These include maintenance of industry stability by "using cycle year historic allocations as the basis for allocation;" maintenance of a viable gulf troll fishery without encouraging more trollers to enter that fishery; main-

tenance of average troll earnings; and improvement of the relative position of gillnet vessels.

An overview for troll fishing plans in Georgia Strait — open between July 1 and September 30 with a chum-only fishery in the fall — is as follows:

- the minimum size limit for troll-caught chinook is 62 cm (the same size limit as last year);
- the chinook catch allocation is 31,000;
- the sockeye allocation is two per cent of the Canadian Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and therefore the expected "inside troll" share is 142,000;
- the pink allocation is four per cent of the Canadian catch of southern-bound stocks, and therefore the expected "inside troll" share is 416,000;
- the allocation of fall chums will be capped by a ceiling, not to exceed one per cent of the TAC — a troll catch of 50,000 to 60,000 is expected;
- after respective species quotas are taken, the retention and possession of these species will be prohibited.

The DFO has also established a set of guidelines for management of the 1989 net fisheries, including: management in accordance with the Canada/U.S. treaty and the Commercial Salmon Allocation Plan; minimization of incidental harvesting of chinook; direction of fishing to surplus stocks and minimization of harvesting depressed or weak stocks; and reduction of interception fisheries.

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Michael Murray (recently retired) wishes to thank everyone for their support. Best wishes to Dan Pippin.

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A pity

In reply to the letter by Henry C. Sweatman alleging mistreatment of the H.M.S. Ganges gig back in Centennial Park, it's a pity that Mr. Sweatman was so critical about the care of the plaque without at least a social call to the IODE to inquire about it.

Joyce Parsons and a group of her sister members of IODE, with preservation of the historical artifact in mind (yet wishing to continue sharing it with the public), contacted me last winter. After examining the plaque it was decided to remove it for restoration this summer, and replace it for the enjoyment of everyone.

A plastic cover is ruled out, as this hastens ultra-violet deterioration, causes condensation, and creates an ideal situation for rot to develop within a closed, humid environment.

The wood will restore quite well. It is teak, a very enduring wood which lasts well in the weather, which is why it is so preferred for marine use.

A weather shelter is being considered for the artifact.

Mr. Sweatman owes the IODE an apology, they deserve appreciation rather than criticism for their freely-given efforts on our behalf.

My services are completely voluntary for the restoration.

SHAUN ADAMS,
Ganges.

Thank you

On behalf of everyone at Fernwood School I would like to express our appreciation for all the generous donations made by: Volume II, Salt Spring Natureworks, Gulf Island Trading Company, Sooz, Fernwood Store, Video Visions, Colour King, et cetera, Ewes Three Studio, Parcels Unlimited, Rainbow Crafts, Waterfront Gallery, Gulf Jewels Inc., Foxglove, Harlan's, Hastings House, Kanaka Restaurant, Harbour House Hotel, Vesuvius Inn, Booth Bay Resort, Golden Island Restaurant, Luigi's, Topsy's, Embe Bakery, Glad's, Brown's Petro-Canada, Gulfstream Pro-Hardware, Island Spoke Folk Ltd., Mouat's McColl's Shell, Salt Spring Esso, Gulf Island Sports, Village Cobbler, Pharmasave, Flowers and Wine, Mobile Market and the Hoopers. A big thank you to GVM for their generous donations of money, gift certificate, and great food prices.

I would also like to thank Patrick Byron and his karate crew for their excellent presentation, the Volunteer-Fire Department, Constable Brian Brack, Anne Miller and Gordon Sloan for the fabulous food, Mike Stacey for his take-away service, and Nicki Cameron for organizing the whole event. Thank you also to everyone

who supported us by coming to the fair. We were able to raise \$1,300 for the school.

SANDRA BRAINERD,
Fernwood Parents Group.

Fleshing out

I felt that what was touched upon needed more fleshing out. Please be assured this is the end of it and not a series.

I was saying that convictions are shared by so many that something is fundamentally wrong and there are feelings of unrest. "We've got to do something." The inclination has been to lay blame for that unrest on circumstances and people — mostly people. Blame is a way of avoiding being fully present and facing the fact that our individual experience originates with us.

Simply stated, we are creators, and whatever we express day by day shows up in the world around us. What I express impacts my world. We each must say and comprehend this basic truth.

In his new book, *Peace, Love and Healing*, Dr. Bernie Siegel makes these comments:

"I have known many men and women who have actually healed themselves of what they had been told were 'incurable' illnesses ...

"Almost all these patients have told me that somehow, at some point, they began to see their disease not as a burden but as a gift, not a death sentence but as an opportunity for a new beginning."

"There is now a growing body of evidence that the mind and body, the brain and the immune system are not separate but bound together. We now know, for example, that certain substances produced by the brain transform thoughts and emotions into chemicals, and that these chemicals, in turn, affect the body — either positively or negatively. In short, feelings are chemical and can kill or cure ...

"People like these men and women who choose to take on their diseases and live as fully as possible in the face of them, give a gift to all of us whose lives they touch.

"Physicians are too often unaware of the healing power of pur-

pose and meaning, so many times they don't realize it's a cause for the dramatic improvements they may see in their patient's conditions."

Dr. Siegel says: "Your purpose here on earth is not to escape dying, but to create and live a life that is enjoyable. It may be a long life or a short one. But it will be your life.

The main point for sharing this message from science is the influence and power of the individual who emotes feelings that heal their world or feelings that tear apart their world (and themselves). A community consists of individuals doing either one or the other.

GARY LUNDY,
Ganges.

Worthwhile

On behalf of the Salt Spring Preschool, I would like to thank all the parents who volunteered their time in helping with the Lark in the Park for Sea Capers.

The fun and enjoyment of the children make all the planning and hard work worthwhile.

A special thank you to Windsor Plywood, Mike Antonik, Russell Hardy and John Miller for the supply of wood. Also to Amanda Bettiss, Trevor Haddow and Ed Bettiss on their tremendous help in cleaning up.

EVELYN HARKER,
Salt Spring Preschool.

Too far

I read with amusement John Edwards' description of me in his *Country Gourmet* article, "Wrapped Burgers Were Diverted En Route."

It's always interesting to see what one's character becomes in the eyes of another, but for the sake of my reputation among those who know me on Salt Spring, I must point out to John that at no time has Wake Golby ever lived in a trailer, or been seen drinking such a thing as Old Style beer. Now that's going too far.

WAKE GOLBY,
Ganges.

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I don't know Mister Taj Kassam of Edmonton from Mister Adam of Eden but we share a vision, Taj and I.

We both see a future full of purse-carrying men. Mind you, Mister Kassam has a vested interest in the vision — he's owner of an Edmonton store called The Leather Place. One of his main product lines is a small leather carry-all with a shoulder strap designed to do the job of a wallet and pockets and suitable for either sex. It's a purse, but Mister Kassam doesn't call it that because most men would not feel comfortable walking into a store and saying, "I'd like to buy a purse, please." Men would never buy perfume for themselves either — but they line up to buy "men's fragrances" by the barrel. Ditto with the "man's purse" concept. Solution: Don't call it a purse, call it a "unisex bag."

Mister Kassam admits that so far, the male demand for his unisex bags in the macho burg of Edmonton has been distinctly underwhelming, but he wasn't expecting doorcrashers anyway. "In Alberta, you don't see men carrying them around much," he says. "It's a real no-no here."

But Taj Kassam has the patience of a philosopher. He's willing to wait because he thinks the tide is about to turn.

Carrying a bag is reasonable

What's going to make men more amenable to the idea of carrying a pu— all right, a unisex bag? Simple, according to Mister Kassam.

The Loonie. Taj Kassam thinks the brassy, 11-sided dollar coins now popping up in cash registers across the country are eventually going to convince men that carrying a bag is a reasonable idea.

He has a point. Good old greenbacks, even as I type these words, are being sucked out of circulation all over Canada. Every dollar bill that returns to Ottawa is snagged, shredded and replaced by a Loonie. Pretty soon the change that comes back from just about anything you purchase is going to include one or two dollar coins.

Pretty soon you're going to have very lumpy pockets. Well, you can see Taj Kassam's theory, can't you? He figures men aren't going to want to walk around with their pants pockets looking like squirrel cheeks. They're going to cast around looking for some new fashionable method of toting about their disposable income.

Taj Kassam hopes they're walking by his store at that moment so that he can sell them a unisex bag. "It won't be dramatic, it'll be gradual," he says. And he thinks it'll start with young executives between 25 and 30. "They're more adapted to change than other age groups."

Carrying one for years

Well, true confession time, folks. I'm no young executive and I'm on the far side of 30, but I've been carrying a bag for years. I carry it because I don't like sitting on my wallet, patting pockets for my car keys or jingling when I walk. I also like to carry things like notebooks, sketch pads and novels that I haven't quite finished reading.

Do I ever get razzed about carrying a bag? Nah. I've got a beard, broad shoulders and I weigh about 200 pounds. I don't look exactly limp of wrist. Besides, let me give you an inventory of what I'm carrying in my bag right now:

- * a ring full of keys
- * a calendar/date book
- * a pen knife
- * a "lucky" rock (approximate weight 8 oz.)
- * three ballpoint pens
- * a couple of months' worth of gas receipts
- * one Elmore Leonard murder mystery
- * sunglasses
- * a wallet

You don't want to razz me. If I hit you with my purse you might never get off the floor.

Taj Kassam thinks Loonies will make other men take up shoulder bags, but that creates another problem for me. I don't have room for Loonies — my bag's full. I think the Loonie deluge is going to bunt me towards my next fashion accessory: a monogrammed shopping cart.

Some of us are simply destined to be slightly ahead of our time.

Developer would fill regardless of walkway

A Ganges Harbour landfill project is not going ahead due to any special consideration for the developers, said two principals of the company involved this week.

Jonathan Oldroyd and Arvid Chalmers of Gulf of Georgia Land and Timber Ltd. said this week that contributing to the harbour seawalk has not been the reason why they are able to fill some of their foreshore. They said they could have applied for — and likely received — approval for filling in the foreshore regardless of the plans for the waterfront walkway.

The two Ganges businessmen were responding to objections raised to their plans by local architectural designer Bob Hassell. Hassell has said in recent issues of *Driftwood* that there have been some irregularities in the way the landfill proposal has been handled.

Gulf of Georgia Land and Timber plans to enlarge its property — currently the location of the Mobile Market at the foot of Rainbow Road — by 25 to 50 per cent by filling in a portion of the harbour.

Oldroyd said his company is putting up \$30,000 to construct the portion of the waterfront walkway that will front their property. None of this money will be applied to the cost of fill, an expense which will be borne by the company, he said.

He also said the fill will bury a sludge-covered portion of the waterfront where sewage used to drain from the Ganges schools complex.

Responding to a charge that his company had already filled in some foreshore last year, Oldroyd said a licence of occupation on the foreshore permitted the filling. It was being used as a log dump at the time and additional fill was required to facilitate log dumping activities, he said.

The company has long-range plans for a retail development on the property.

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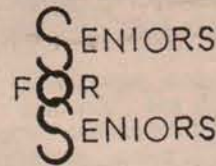
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by gary cherneft



The little honey I live with is addicted to a magazine called *Metropolitan Home*. Now admit it, there are a lot more of you out there who thumb through the same pages, salivating over interior designs that have the flavour of everything from Etruscan rustic to post-modern whimsy.

The covers of these magazines advertise "The New Traditional" — history updated; "Eurostyle" — contemporary luxury; "California Country" — rustic comfort; "Japan Style" — minimalism you can love; and "New Wave" — retro-chic.

Headings like these are the interior designers' equivalent of "Eat More," "Juicy Fruit," "Mars Bar," and "Smarties." Magazines like these are the bibles of style for consumers. They bring the New York Furniture Fair to our doorstep; propose choices which are years ahead of our time and they encourage us to be more adventurous in the way we involve ourselves daily in aesthetic concerns.

It's not that all the ideas originate in New York. It just seems that way because that city has a strangle-hold on the information trade.

Old ideas are updated

The ideas come from all over, from Italy, Germany, Japan, Santa Fe, California, from primitive cultures and from recorded history. A new idea is not often an old idea, updated to reflect contemporary aesthetic or functional concerns.

In real life many of the objects we see on these pages are just a hop, skip and a jump away. Our own Artcraft at Mahon Hall is the obvious first step, even though poor display skills often obscure and camouflage the identity and potential context of special pieces wrought from glass, clay, fibre and metal.

Further afield, Granville Island in Vancouver offers some exceptional opportunities to find special works of craft and design. The Craft House, the B.C. Potters Guild Gallery, Circle Craft Co-operative and the Grace Gallery often have intriguing shows, some of which occasionally feature Salt Spring Island artists.

In Gastown, the design gallery Inform is the temple of modern European style but just down the way at 52 Water Street and up a flight of stairs is a young home-grown upstart called Protozoan, the public persona for a flexible collection of artists who are turning their design skills toward the fabrication of tables, chairs and sundry artifacts of original living room landscapes.

Tinsmith's art to make a chair

New materials such as compressed plywood chip material called paralam are combined with structural aluminum to create an armchair which relies on the forms of aerodynamics as a source of inspiration, wing cross-sections forming the seat, with pontoons as arm rests. Galvanized sheet steel gives us a new look at an old idea, the traditional overstuffed armchair has utilized the tinsmith's art to create a surprisingly comfortable solution.

We are reminded that this material was once a staple for the fabrication of everything from bread bins to camp kettles. The ideas come fast and furious here, brushed steel legs support an amoebic aluminum table encircling a pond formed by a synthetic, translucent membrane. Heavy ornate fabrics recall historical precedents and poke fun at the serious decorator. One of the principal artists and former island resident Ellen Box explains that Protozoan evolved out of a design project at Emily Carr College of Art and Design, then just kept on going.

In the near future Protozoan hopes to launch some production runs of some of its innovative designs. In the meantime, the burgeoning movie industry in Vancouver is showing a lot of interest in utilizing the pieces in their set design.

Forest company prepared for fires

MacMillan Bloedel says its fire control program on Galiano Island is second to none.

B.W. Francis, manager of MB's Cowichan Woodlands Division, says Galiano's two fire departments have access to MB equipment no matter where the fire may occur on the island. Francis notes there is a real concern by islanders about water supply. He says that the ministry of forests aerial tankers reload at airports and MB water bombers reload with sea water.

"You should be aware that the greatest risk of fire is from the public. As a result, we do not permit open fires on our Galiano Island properties."

Anyone spotting a fire on MB or other forest lands should immediately contact the ministry of forests at Zenith 5555.

"In the meantime, the ministry will contact us and we will commence implementation of our action plan," Francis says.

"We can have a helicopter with a monsoon bucket on site in 25 minutes and the large *Martin Mars* water bombers on site in 55 minutes."

Francis says from June to September a full-time fire protection officer is on hand to look after the highly-used Dionisio Point area.

When the fire hazard is in the "high" range, aerial patrols are conducted at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. In addition, several patrols are also flown following lightning storms to ensure undetected fires do not break out, he adds.

"We have a wide variety of equipment and supplies stored at several sites on the island. In the event of a fire while logging is not taking place on Galiano, we can quickly transport a trained fire fighting crew from Chemainus and utilize this equipment.

"If warranted, we can transfer any number of water tankers, tractors and crew from our Chemainus area by barge and aircraft."



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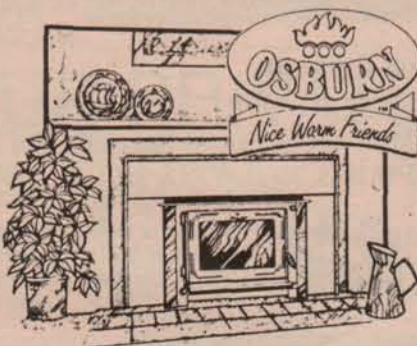
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Great for a weekend getaway

San Juan Islands offer pleasant holiday

By TONY RICHARDS

The best place to have a summer drink, said the book, was on the patio at Roche Harbour Resort. It being close enough to summer that we were stripped down to shorts and t-shirts, we followed the book's advice. And yes, the information was right on.

We were on San Juan Island, the largest of the American gulf islands, en route to Orcas Island for a short break from the bustle of Ganges. We welcomed the opportunity to stop in at Friday Harbour for a few hours while we waited for the connecting ferry.

We hadn't been there for a few years and it has always been interesting to make comparisons between San Juan and Salt Spring Islands.

The town of Friday Harbour had certainly grown some, but it hasn't been keeping pace with Salt

Spring's capital. They've got their airstrip finished and now they're working on a community arts centre. Here's an island of less than 5,000 people and they're building an arts centre-theatre.

And Orcas Island, with only 3,100 people, already has one.

San Juan has had the benefit of considerable financial assistance for the airstrip and the arts centre from a wealthy and generous island resident. And on top of that, the islands have their own system of local government in San Juan County. Both the county and the town of Friday Harbour, therefore, have the authority to levy taxes to help with projects such as these.

There are two significant factors that make San Juan and Salt Spring different. The former only has one ferry landing and that's at Friday Harbour. And most of the island's population lives at Friday Harbour.

The rest of the island, then, is very rural, very quiet. You don't see a lot of cars on San Juan Island roads.

The second difference is in the island's distance from a major city. Seattle is a few hours away and ferries are not as frequent as they are on Salt Spring. The island has been slower to develop as a result.

We do have a lot in common though. Retirees, artists, craftspeople, musicians are found in similar proportions in the American islands. Islanders share similar concerns about transportation, development and retention of the rural character of the area.

And either Salt Spring sign painter Warren Langley has been doing a lot of work down there or he's taught someone else his trade. The Langley style of signs are everywhere.

Having finished our drink on the Roche Harbour patio, and left some Canadian cash in a few local stores, we boarded the ferry for Orcas, where we'd booked into Rosario Resort. We had heard a lot about Rosario and were looking forward to a weekend in an older, beachfront hotel.

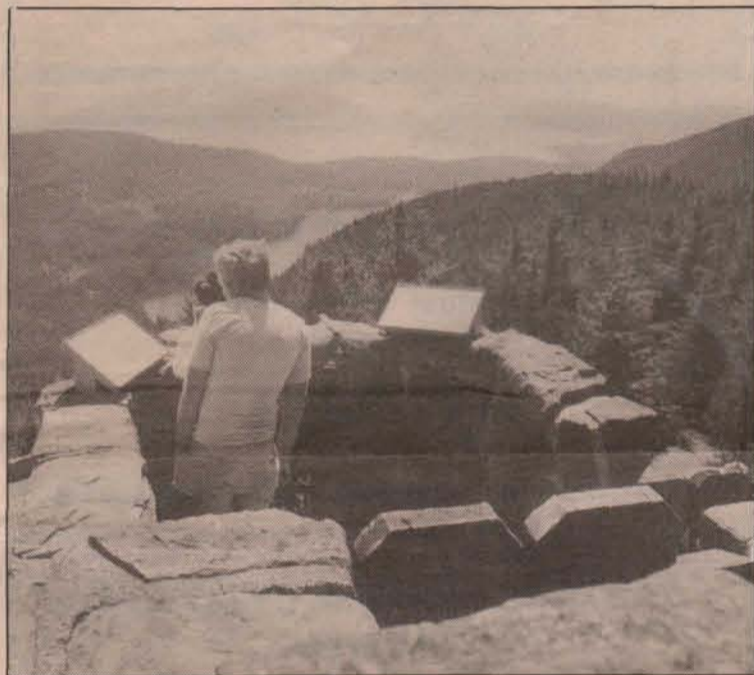
So we were disappointed to find ourselves in a modern-style hotel room up on the side of the hill, a healthy walk away from the dining room, pool and other facilities.

The best thing about Rosario was the food, although the rum-based drinks at poolside were pretty good too. The resort isn't far from Mt. Constitution, a 2,400-foot peak with a 360-degree view of 500 Canadian and American islands. The mountain is located within the 4,000-acre Moran State Park, which was donated to the state by Robert Moran in 1920. Moran, a Seattle shipbuilder, built what is now Rosario as his home in 1909.

The park boasts miles and miles of hiking trails, and note that they are indeed miles. While we were at



60-year-old lookout tower atop Mt. Constitution



View from tower towards Puget Sound

the top of Mt. Constitution we noted a sign directing us to a lake via a hiking trail. Upon the urging of one of the members of our party, we confidently set out to find the lake.

After a good, brisk 10-minute walk we realized that the sign had given the distance in miles, not metres.

Both Orcas and San Juan are a little smaller than Salt Spring, 57 and 55 square miles respectively, compared to Salt Spring's 69. But they look bigger, probably because residential development, unlike Salt Spring, is concentrated in towns and villages. The result is many long country roads through farmland and forest.

We spent the first of our two evenings on Orcas at the hotel, enjoying an excellent seafood buffet. On the second evening we ate Mexican food at Bilbo's in Eastsound, fare that was almost as good as that of Rodrigo's in Fulford Harbour.

Following dinner we took in a presentation by a local drama group at the local theatre, an excellent facility that's only a couple of years old.

Fears of what rapid growth may bring are not only to be found in our Gulf Islands. On Orcas land values are skyrocketing as a result of the steady demand for real estate. Many buyers are coming from California, we learned.

If you don't mind paying a small premium for the American dollar, the San Juans make a great destination for a long weekend. And getting there is easy. There's at least one sailing a day out of Sidney.

Most of the islands have small hotels, resorts and countless bed and breakfast operations and, like their Canadian counterparts, many outlets offering locally made goods and crafts. And don't forget that drink on the patio at Roche Harbour.

Attitudes must change to avoid tragedies

"When a boat leaves the dock, it's like a space vehicle," says an official in the Canadian Coast Guard's Search and Rescue section.

"It's a life support system. If what you need to solve a situation isn't already aboard the boat, you're out of luck."

Charlie Page says that if the Canadian public thought of boats that way, perhaps it would have some impact on the tragic statistics that show more than 200 Canadians will drown in pleasure boat accidents before 1989 is over.

The Coast Guard, which last year responded to almost 8,000 requests for help, says most such deaths are preventable.

Page has a special interest, aside from his humanitarian concerns. He is chief of the prevention program which the Coast Guard has put in place to build public awareness of safe boating practices, and also acts as the Coast Guard's contact with the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary, a volunteer organization of boaters who assist in search and rescue operations.

The Coast Guard works with 12 other government and civilian agencies at making the public aware of dangers afloat, so that accidents can be reduced.

It's been a tough battle. There were 216 Canadians drowned in pleasure boating accidents in 1985; another 246 in 1986; and 203 in 1987. The national total for 1988 hasn't been compiled, but according to the Coast Guard, expectations are that it will once again prove to be in the range of 200.

The problem is largely one of public attitudes toward boating, says Page.

"Too many people think of going out in a boat as if they were getting into a car to go for a drive," he says. "But there are some very major differences."

"People who drive cars have to be licensed and they've been through some training. People often step into a boat with very little knowledge and don't even give it a second thought."

"What they overlook is that when you get into trouble with a boat, you can't get out and walk."

Incidents where the Coast Guard is asked to respond most frequently involve powerboats between 5.6 and eight metres long, and open boats.

These are the most common types of boats in Canada, but also the kind where the operator is least likely to have taken a safe boating course such as those offered by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons or the Canadian Yachting Association.

Yet small boats are less stable, and more vulnerable to the same wind and weather that all boats have to contend with. They are much less forgiving, but these are the boats most often used by people with the least training and experience.

Only a small percentage of boaters involved in accidents have had some boating education

Most drownings happen when a passenger or operator falls overboard, or the boat capsizes in waves or because of such factors as overloading. And, according to statistics 89 per cent of those who drowned in 1987 weren't wearing lifejackets.

Unfortunately, many boats leave the dock without any

Most boating accidents are the fault of the operator, and statistics show that only a small

percentage of boaters involved in accidents have had some boating education.

Most drownings happen when a passenger or operator falls overboard, or the boat capsizes in waves or because of such factors as overloading. And, according to statistics 89 per cent of those who drowned in 1987 weren't wearing lifejackets.

Unfortunately, many boats leave the dock without any

Similarly, they're often not carrying required equipment like anchors, paddles, and bailers that can often mean the difference between mere inconvenience and survival. Many do not carry fire extinguishers, nor do they have a basic tool kit.

Inexperienced operators often set out without sufficient fuel to last their intended cruise. Solving that one is not as simple as hitchhiking a ride to the nearest service station, and could mean anything from a few hours adrift to tragedy.

Avoiding that situation is a matter of planning ahead, and the lack of that planning gets people into trouble in other ways. Surprisingly, many skippers will leave the dock for the day with no idea of what's in the weather forecast. Too often, they've made no provision for the afternoon storm or high winds that might have been predicted in the morning.

The message in all of this is not to keep people away from the water, says Charlie Page.

If they recognize that once they set out from shore, they are dependent on their own resources, and those in the boat, half of the education battle will have been won.

STRAIT TALK

Dave Fraser

"The first word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?'... To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."
— Aldo Leopold

By Sunday morning, after a day and a half in Victoria fighting traffic and crowds and spending money like confetti, I fled back to Salt Spring. With some time to spare I drove to the end of Isabella Point Road where, much to my delight, I discovered an ecological reserve.

On the eastern slopes of Mt. Tuam are 627 acres of second-growth Douglas fir, red alder, bigleaf maple and some of the finest stands of arbutus anywhere. The reserve has a kilometre-long beach, festooned with brilliantly-hued intertidal life, and its own little creek.

Only a stone's throw away, B.C. Ferries motor in and out of Swartz Bay along Satellite Channel. This is the only free Crown land in the southern Gulf Islands area with a sea frontage.

The reserve, established in 1971, has 160 species of higher plants, of which 21 are rated as rare in the province. It is home to a large variety of birds, including turkey vulture, bald eagle, blue grouse, California quail, brown creeper, woodpeckers and Bewick's wren. Land mammals include black-tailed deer, red squirrel, wandering shrew, racoon, mink and deer mouse.

It was with great shock, then, that I learned that last year a local developer applied for an easement so he could drive his logging trucks across the reserve. Thankfully, he didn't get his way.

Conserving natural environments is imperative for the survival and maintenance of large heterogenous natural gene pools of different organisms. "This is particularly necessary in a world whose current tendencies are to simplify, modify and destroy all that is not immediately useful to man," notes the ministry of environment.

Casual, non-consumptive, non-motorized use of all ecological reserves is permitted by the public without a permit. Should significant damage to a reserve likely result from casual public use, the reserve will be closed to the public.

There are over 100 ecological reserves in B.C., established by orders-in-council, and applications for hundreds more. The Gulf Islands are fortunate to have reserves on Saturna, on islets in Trincomali Channel (next to Thetis Island) and next to Valdez Island, and on Salt Spring — on the west side of Mount Maxwell Provincial Park and near Mt. Tuam.

Meanwhile, the world needs more guys like Jim St. Clair, who was profiled on CBC Radio this week. St. Clair donated 600 acres of his land to the Nova Scotia Museum. He donated the 600-acre McFarlane Wood, named after his ancestors, because he was afraid his heirs may sell or develop the land for profit.

This beautiful woodland, like the ones on Salt Spring, are now living museums — for students, for scientists looking to see how nature deals with environmental stress, for anyone who values the magic and rehabilitative qualities of an unblemished natural setting.

Helpful

I was always proud to say I was from Salt Spring Island. The best part of Salt Spring has always been the people, willing to help neighbours or strangers alike.

A couple of weeks ago my 77-year-old mother had car trouble at Fernwood Store and asked to use their phone book (not their phone) to get the number of the repairman. They refused the phone book. She walked to Bill and Doris DeLong's home. Bill telephoned the repairman and they drove her to Ganges for an appointment. She had rolled her car off the road as much as possible, the car wouldn't start and she couldn't push it. The people at the store phoned the police to have the car removed.

I would like to thank the DeLongs for the kindness they showed my mother. I would like to think that the new people moving to Salt Spring have the same willingness to help as they did when I was growing up.
ALLYSON FOULIS,
Chemainus, B.C.

No changes

In your June 21 issue you refer to MacMillan Bloedel's (MB) allegation that they are altering their plans for their Galiano Island holdings, from tree farming to development. They claim this has come about as a result of the protests they have encountered regarding their logging practices.

I find it doubtful that MB would be genuinely influenced and intimidated by local residents in such a major business decision involving a large holding of properties.

I think we must become perfectly clear that almost all logging in B.C. is still done in the cut and run mode, as it has been from the earliest pioneer days. The development of clear cutting and tree planting is simply a cost factor. It is based on the development of contemporary logging machinery that rules out selective logging. But as a tree farming method it is worse even than the crudest form of selective logging as has been practiced during pioneer days. Here are two reasons:

* A well-managed tree farm can produce a crop off a parcel of land every five years. Clear cutting reduces the commercial wood production to a very low volume for many years following logging.

* Trees planted in a clear-cut area do not develop into proper commercial trees for lumber. The trees fail to "stretch" for sunlight early in their growth. This results in side branches that become too thick to prune off naturally by wind when they die off during the later stages of the tree's life. The result is large and often loose knots in the lumber.

There is no doubt MB is aware of their failure to produce commercial trees. I think they also realize that the suggestion that there could be tree farming on the Gulf Islands in the future is almost equivalent to suggesting that Stanley Park or the UBC Endowment Lands should be made into tree farms.

During the pioneer logging days a logger would purchase a parcel of land solely for the purpose of getting the timber. After

more letters

completing logging the land became a kind of dead asset for him; that is, an asset that served no immediate function in his economic activities. The realities of his personal financial situation would lead him to default on the taxes on the land and it would go back to the Crown.

The fact that it is unthinkable that this should happen nowadays is, in my opinion, an indication of the erosion of our democratic process. Let me explain:

The purpose of a political regime (such as democracy) is justified primarily on its role in regulating and controlling the economic process.

But our democratic process has degenerated to the point where we frequently elect those very people that the democratic process is supposed to regulate and control. I'm sure I do not need to give examples.

One of the paramount functions of a successful political system is the sufficiently heavy taxation of dead assets. In the cut and run mode of tree harvesting, the land is a dead asset from the moment that it has been logged to

the time something is again done with the land.

Or let us look at it this way: Those who control the dead assets in a country possess the reins of political power. MB is not only the major economic force on Galiano Island, it is also the major political or regulating force.

Their public claim that plans to change from logging to development are based on public protest is the classic divide and conquer tactic.

Here on Galiano we have the CCA, the Islands Trust, the Chamber of Commerce, GIVA, now also FOG and GCA. What can be a better tactic than a statement to fuel their petty squabbles, thereby rendering them harmless.

MB is altering nothing in their plans. They will log the remainder of their timber on Galiano Island as they proceed in investigating and pursuing any other way of capitalizing on their holdings. Some of the land will be developed, I'm sure. The

remainder will continue to be a dead asset which will remain in the tree farm classification to keep down the taxes. They will plant the clear-cut areas in order to recover the scenic integrity of the island.

Tree farming is still out. Nothing has changed.
NORBERT DUERICHEN,
Galiano Island.

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