

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

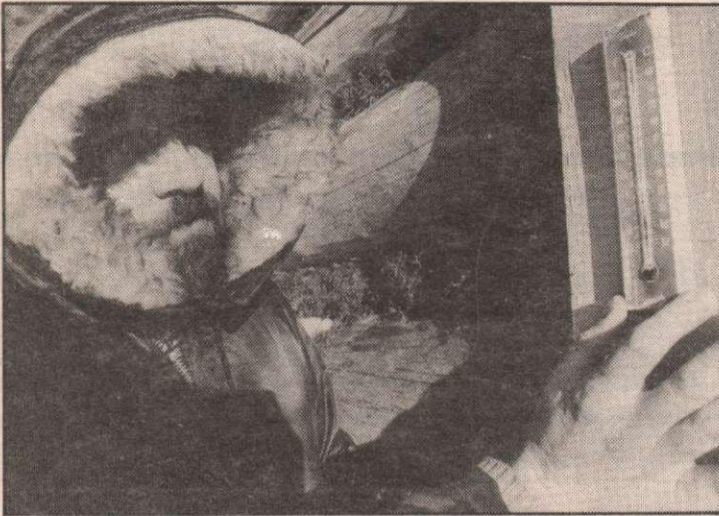
Your Community Newspaper

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GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1989



## Weather woes

Driftwood's Jim Black (above) checks mercury and finds sub-zero reading, which was norm on Salt Spring for much of last week. Winter storm arrived last Tuesday with sudden snowfall that clogged local roads. At Lee's Hill (right), vehicles had great difficulty negotiating grade; some, like truck on left, failed. Warmer conditions arrived later in week, however, holding promise that storms will soon be but a memory.



## Low temperatures, high winds strike islands

By JIM BLACK

How harsh were the weather conditions last week on Salt Spring? Harsh enough to keep highways crews working around the clock, to force Hydro employees to go flat out to keep pace with outages, and harsh enough to send plumbers and tow truck drivers scrambling to answer calls about frozen pipes and stalled cars.

Still, officials at the hospital, fire department, police station and Coast Guard say conditions were not as bad as they could have been.

Marg Pickard, head nurse at Lady Minto, said there were

no cases of hypothermia or frostbite at the hospital. "We really haven't had any problems because of the storm," she said. "I am quite surprised that we haven't, actually. Common sense seems to have prevailed — people are using their heads."

Salt Spring's Ambulance Service also reported normal times. "Things have been pretty average," said an ambulance service spokesman. "We haven't been any busier than normal. We didn't see any increase in calls because of the storm."

Margaret McKay, head administrator for Greenwoods,

said that while it was a little cool at the facility, everything was still functioning normally. "So far, so good," she said. "Our fire alarm system shorted out due to the cold, but we had that fixed quickly. The staff has been doing a terrific job, plugging drafts and making sure the residents are as comfortable as possible."

"But the apartments on the side of the building where the wind is coming from are a little cool, so we are picking up more space heaters today (Thursday), and giving the residents more blankets and sweaters. Otherwise everything is normal around here," she said. *Turn to Page A2*



## Ice flow

Freezing temperatures jammed ice along shoreline in Ganges Harbour's boat basin last week. Ice was also covering the shallows in Fulford Harbour.

## Ferry crews struggle through harsh weather

By SUSAN DICKER

B.C. Ferry crew members in the Gulf Islands became local heroes last week as they pushed vehicles up steep inclines, shoveled snow and braved fierce winds and stormy seas that kept other crews at home.

A frigid Arctic air mass whipped high winds and snow through the Gulf Islands Tuesday night, creating havoc at most Gulf Islands ports.

By 7 pm Tuesday night, the *Queen of Tsawwassen* was the only vessel sailing across Georgia Strait, where winds of up to 50 knots toppled garbage bins and a vending machine on board the ferry.

The *Queen of Tsawwassen* left Long Harbour on schedule at 4 pm Tuesday. The outside edge of the storm hit as the vessel approached Otter Bay on Pender Island; by the time the ship reached Sturdies Bay at Galiano Island, raging winds prevented docking.

The vessel backtracked to Mon-

tague Harbour, where it unloaded Galiano passengers.

The situation at Galiano was chaotic, according to ferry worker Connie Kennedy, who had to redirect Tsawwassen-bound passengers from Sturdies Bay to Montague Harbour.

Kennedy said there was just a dusting of snow on the road when she left Sturdies Bay; by the time she reached Montague Harbour, about three inches of powder had fallen.

The hill into Montague Harbour has a 16 per cent grade. Kennedy said her vehicle made two involuntary 360-degree turns before she reached the bottom of the hill. Another truck flipped over.

"People just went careening off (the road)," Kennedy said.

When the *Queen of Tsawwassen* unloaded passengers and vehicles, Kennedy said, the intensity of snow and wind made it almost impossible to get chains on her vehicle. Most vehicles

*Turn to Page A3*

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### Graduates

Six island women complete business skills training course. Page B3.

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## Vessel aids response to emergency

B.C. Ferries employees and local ambulance crew members last week came to the rescue of a five-week-old infant who needed emergency transportation from Salt Spring to hospital in Victoria.

B.C. Ferries spokesman Pat Stevens said the corporation was called late last Monday night and asked if it could arrange transportation to Swartz Bay for an ambulance carrying the unidentified baby. Strong winds and heavy seas had grounded an emergency helicopter and ruled out the water taxi, Stevens said.

The crew of the *Queen of Tsawwassen* was still on shift at the Long Harbour terminal. They loaded the ambulance at about 11:30 pm and sailed for Swartz Bay, arriving at about 12:45 am.

To accommodate the arrival, a ship already docked at Swartz Bay had to be moved.

At last report, Stevens said, the baby was in stable condition in hospital.

# Week of winter weather caused some discomfort

From Page A1

Ganges RCMP reported nine accidents during the storm, most of them on Tuesday night. "We were busy most of Tuesday night and Wednesday morning," said Constable Chris Bomford. There was approximately \$14,000 damage done to the vehicles involved in the nine accidents, but no one was injured and there were no charges laid.

Salt Spring Island Fire Chief Les Wagg, said the fire department answered two calls for chimney fires during the week, and one call Tuesday afternoon for a minor house fire in Fulford.

The house fire was caused by the resident drying out firewood too closely to the wood stove. Damage to the house was minimal.

"We want to warn people not to try and dry out wood near the stove," said Wagg. "The stoves must be given adequate clearance from walls or combustibles. Please don't put wood or clothes to dry too close to the stoves."

The Coast Guard received one distress call — on Tuesday night, when an auxiliary boat from Oak Bay struck rocks near Discovery Island and went down. Fortunately, the three men on board were able to ground the boat and swim to shore, where they were picked up a short time later by helicopter.

"Most people are staying off the water," said Dave Howell of the Coast Guard. "We had problems with the boat icing up when we went out, the weather was awful. But that was the only call we had. The biggest problem we have had, fortunately, is with our plumbing here — it's frozen solid."

The Coast Guard wasn't the only place with frozen plumbing. All the plumbers on the island were kept busy throughout the week, answering calls from residents all over the island seeking help with frozen water lines.

"They are absolutely up to their ears with work," said Mrs. Roy Wheatley, whose husband was answering calls. "They have



Cold snap was severe enough to freeze water in bathroom sink in this Salt Spring Island home.

been very busy all week, mostly with frozen pipes and cracked water pumps."

Bruce Coulter, the tow truck operator for McColl's Shell Station in Ganges, also had a busy week. "I went out on one call Tuesday night and then decided to pack it in for the night," he said. "There wasn't really too much I could have done, anyway. I went out to Lee's Hill about 5 pm and the sanding truck and the RCMP couldn't even get down the hill so I knew right then that I wouldn't be able to do too much.

Coulter continued: "But from Wednesday through Friday we answered between 60 and 70 calls — nothing serious, either people had dead batteries or their cars had slid into the ditch. There were still some places on Friday where the driveways were really steep and there was no way I could pull the cars out."

On a sadder note, the wildlife on the island bear the brunt of storms like the one that struck Salt Spring last week. Chris Wooldridge of the SPCA said the deer population normally loses a substantial number of yearlings every winter, and storms don't help matters.

Wooldridge added that she counted nine dead or dying deer

in the first two days of the storm. But deer are not the only animals suffering; birds are also having a hard time.

"Most of the fruit the birds normally eat was frozen solid by the cold temperatures, or else it was buried under the snow," Wooldridge said.

B.C. Hydro employees were probably one of the busiest groups of people on the islands over the past week. John Langston, district manager for this area, told *Driftwood* that the crews worked steadily from January 30 right through until February 4, fixing power lines and restoring electricity to homes on the islands.

"It was a steady go the whole time," he said. "I would like to thank our customers for their patience during the storm. We had to bring 17 linemen and two truck drivers from off-island to help us deal with the situation and I think our men in the field and the office co-ordinators did a darn good job under some very adverse weather conditions," he said.

"It was a difficult time for everyone, both staff and customers. I hope we don't get too much more weather like that this year."

## Temperatures drop below zero for most of week on Salt Spring

Last week's cold snap saw Salt Spring struck by sub-zero temperatures for at least five consecutive days.

Records kept by weather observer Robert Aston show the mercury dipped to an overnight low of minus 11.5 Centigrade last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, when the full force of the winter storm struck the island.

The high for the same 24-hour period was -9.5 C.

Highs and lows from last Wednesday until last Sunday were as follows: Thursday, low of -11.5 C,

high of -8.5 C; Friday, low of -12 C, high of -4 C; Saturday, low of -8 C, high of 0.5 C; Sunday, low of -8 C, high of 4.5 C.

Aston recorded a snowfall level of 2.5 inches last week at his station, which is 45 feet above sea level. Unofficial observations put the snowfall at about 4.5 inches at higher elevations.

In the month of January, Salt Spring Island received a total of 3.5 inches of snow and 3.68 inches of rainfall. The figures were recorded by weather observer Robert Aston.

### setting it straight

In last week's issue of *Driftwood*, a story about smoke detectors being sold at greatly reduced prices incorrectly reported that the campaign was being sponsored by local businesses.

In fact, all of the businesses — except for the Salt Spring Insurance Agency, fire department, *Driftwood* and Moutat's Trading Company — are off-island insurance firms.

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## Tractor flips, kills islander

An 84-year-old Salt Spring resident died last Saturday when the tractor he was driving hit a soft spot in his field and rolled over.

Dead is James Fletcher of Graham Road.

No other details were available. Funeral arrangements were being made as *Driftwood* went to press.

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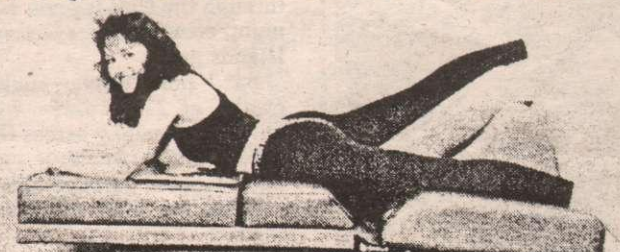
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**to be frank**

by richards



**Happy New Year!**

For probably the first time I had a happy new year. January is over and done with and I didn't sign a single cheque with last year's date on it.

Both my January cheques went through without a hitch.

**Never saw so much ice!**

Why did I put on snow tires? For a week I slipped and slithered around Ganges and I would have slipped and slithered around just about as much if I had kept my all-season tires. I've never seen so much ice outside of a glass!

To paraphrase a well-known Ganges character: "Terrible wet and cold it was!"

As the veteran of a tough winter I can report that the mercury fell to minus 11 at one point around home. What with freezing temperatures and nearly two inches of snow I figured that this was it. These cold winters are threatening us!

I spoke to my brother in Fort St. John. He was clearing snow while he could still see above the drifts. It's a funny thing but the people who live where the north wind blows seem to develop a perverse, foolish pride in the very fact of surviving intense cold. And by the manner in which he was able to debate the weather with me over the telephone I assumed that he had, in fact, survived.

The weather was distinctly warmer, he assured me. It was up to 35 degrees C. "Plus or minus?" I jeered.

This time of the year it is always minus, he informed me, frigidly.

Such unfriendly exchanges over weather data and climate were brought home to me again when I called another northerner. I was speaking to the daughter of a Salt Spring Island pioneer family. Sharon Whims lives in Frobisher Bay, NWT.

"So you're right in the middle of a cold spell," I said, chattily. She shot me down and quick.

"Cold spell? No! It's only 40 below!"

**Coincidences happen at home**

It is a couple of weeks since I wrote of a former colleague who had died in Sidney just after Christmas. I admitted that his name would be unfamiliar to most of my readers. It was very familiar to two readers.

Mrs. Pat Johnston called me to tell me that she read my tribute to her uncle, Jim Wakefield, with great pleasure. She and her husband, on holiday here from Winnipeg, read it with great surprise, as well.

Staying in the Vesuvius area, the couple will be returning to Manitoba when the temperature differential between the west and the middle is back to normal.

**A winter's hat**

It was cold and my brother had given me a Yukon cap. Last cap I had for frigid weather was grey-blue and was issued to me by the Royal Canadian Air Force. The newer one goes one better. Looks more like a Moscow issue than military.

But how do Yukoners and other northmen, or northwomen, keep the darned things on when they are driving? There just isn't enough room in my car for both of us.

**Ferries survived elements**

From Page A1  
were unable to negotiate the steep hill out of the harbour.

Chains were placed on a local fire truck which attempted to help people up the hill; however, most drivers opted to leave their vehicles and walk.

"It was just crazy," Kennedy said.

Ferry officials at the Village Bay terminal on Mayne Island also reported icy weather conditions and chaos during the Tuesday night storm.

On Pender, Tuesday's stormy weather saw ferry worker Diane Allison shovelling snow from the ferry ramp and using the corporation's four-wheel drive pick-up to push several vehicles from the Mayne Queen up the steep Otter Bay incline.

The Queen of Tsawwassen left the Lower Mainland for its return trip about one hour behind schedule. Chief Steward Ken Collins said the crossing was "extremely rough."

In the meantime, all ferry travel between Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen had been cancelled. The final run of the Mayne Queen was also cancelled.

"Coming back was the killer," Collins said.

According to passengers aboard the Long Harbour bound vessel, the trip through Georgia Strait was a harrowing experience, which saw a candy vending machine topple over and burst open. Garbage bins fell to the floor, and passengers had difficulty walking.

"One minute, you'd see the skyline," Collins said, "and the next minute, just water. I didn't see anybody get sick, though."

Collins noted that crew members had distributed sickness bags prior to the run.

The cafeteria was shut down due to "extreme weather conditions," as the vessel travelled across the Strait.

Collins said one couple told him they have registered a complaint about ferry service in the past, but felt they should now extend their thanks to Captain MacLean for a successful voyage.

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## Learn lesson from scenario

We should soon know if any lessons were learned from Salt Spring Island's recent experience with MacMillan Bloedel.

Galiano Islanders now stand at the point where Salt Spring was about two years ago. Representatives of its residents are poised to begin discussing MacMillan Bloedel's management policies and plans for the forest company's holdings on Galiano, which cover just over half of the island, with an eye turned towards reducing the impact logging has on those shores.

On Salt Spring, negotiations with MB were aimed at acquiring the bulk of its acreage for the community, in exchange for greater development densities on the remainder of the company's lands. Those talks failed and the parcels were sold to private buyers, with repercussions still being felt today.

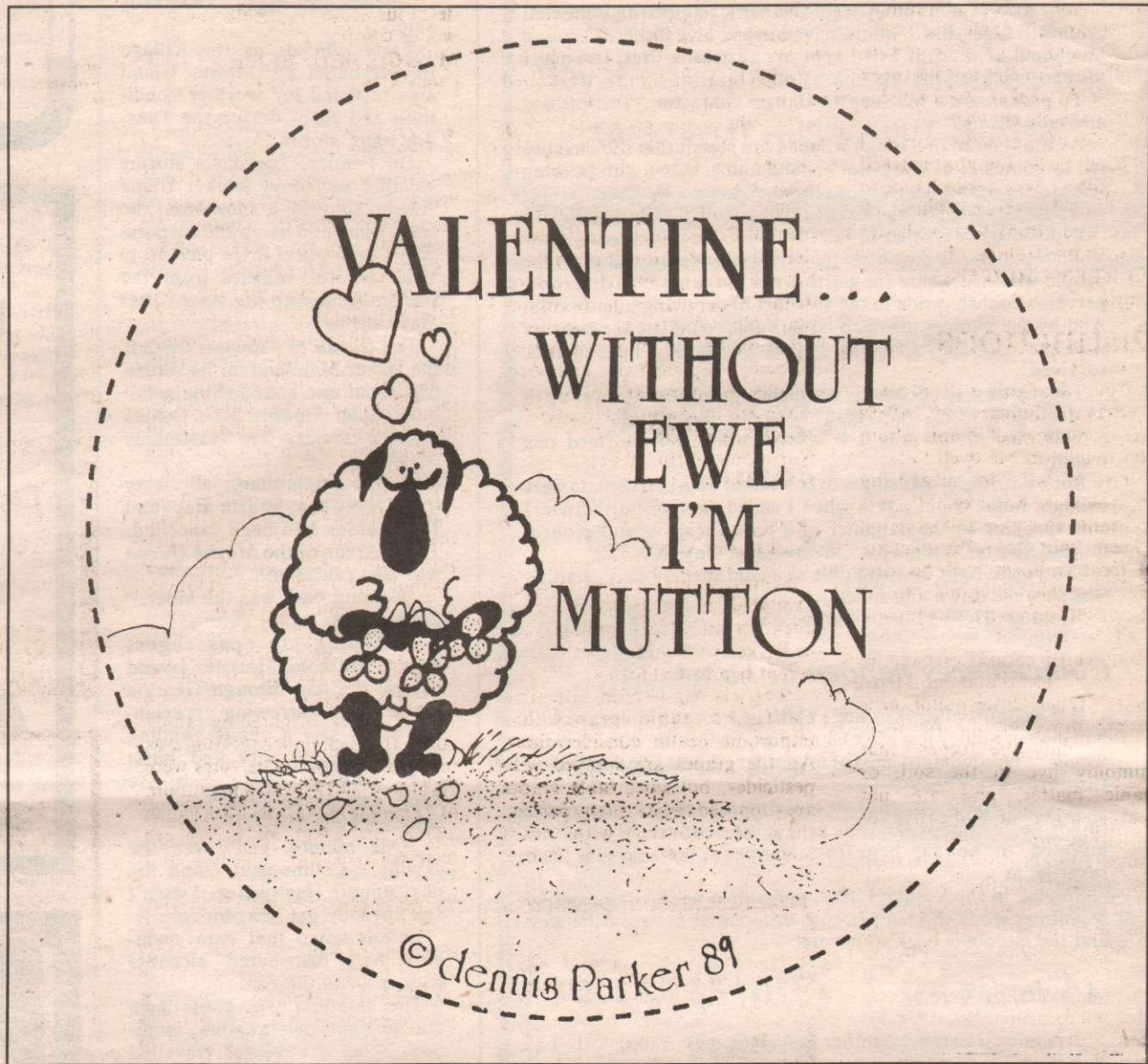
The lesson for Salt Spring was that MB is no pushover at the bargaining table; on the contrary, tremendous leverage must be applied before there is any hope of the forests company equating the interests of a community with its internal priorities.

Which is understandable, and to be expected, given the principles of property ownership rights at stake on Galiano, as they were here.

If Galiano Islanders have an advantage—and we hope they do—it is that they witnessed the Salt Spring scenario and are seeing what we must cope with as a result.

The island's negotiators likely realize that a too-rigid position will not work. Likewise, they must be aware that something more than community sentiment will be needed when they sit down at the bargaining table.

We are not suggesting that Galiano Islanders consider backing away from their chosen stance, only that they should be prepared to encounter



proposals that fall short of their mark, and have the flexibility to weigh the alternatives.

Another advantage for our neighbours to the east is that their negotiations will be conducted through a tripartite commission involving representatives of islanders, MB and the provincial government.

The framework suggests mediation possibilities denied to Salt Spring, and the prospect of some political pressure being brought to bear should MB prove too intransigent for any meaningful movement to take place.

We wish Galiano Islanders success. The alternative is to follow Salt Spring's path.

## Choice is whether to reinforce stereotype image

The voice at the end of the telephone announced the call was coming to me by way of southern California.

"We mailed a demonstration disk of that computer program to you in mid-January," the salesman said. "We're wondering what you think."

I looked out the front window. Bare trees were dancing hard in a wind that whipped the snow on the lawn into small cyclones and sent it skipping across the yard. Beyond, the road wore a layer of hard-packed ice that extended around the corner and down the hill to the mailbox. I hadn't been out in two days.

"Well," I said to the telephone, "I haven't seen the disk yet. It might be in the mailbox by now, but I haven't been to the mailbox since Monday. See, it's been snowing pretty hard here for

**my word**

by duncan macdonnell



awhile and we're shut in and I have to keep the fire going, so..."

The voice replied in a *Say What?* tone, somewhere between lost and dumbfounded. "I'll call back in a week or two. Is that long enough?" I mumbled a reply and we both hung up.

It was taxing enough trying to live through last week's sudden arrival of weather conditions more appropriate to snowbelt centres in the north; attempting to explain the significance of ice

and snow to someone from an alien world was a different matter entirely.

But as I placed the telephone receiver back on its cradle, I realized the words sent humming over the wires to southern California could have tremendous repercussions. The stereotypical image of Canada — the land of ice and snow, peopled by hewers of wood — had just been reinforced in the mind of someone quite capable of spreading the lie far and wide.

Good thing I didn't tell him I was a Mountie.

And it's a good thing the conversation didn't continue. He might have suggested I drive to the mailbox. I would have had to beg off, explaining that the block heater for the truck had just been plugged in and it would be an hour or two before I'd be willing to crank over the engine.

Well, you could walk.

No, I won't, because I can't find my gloves or touque and I'd freeze my digits inside of 10 paces. Besides, it's more like skiing weather out there.

Ski down.

No way. I'd have to get back, and trying to pack boards, poles and an arm-load of mail up the mountain is suicide on that ice. Plus I'd have to take the dogs down in case I had to be pulled from a snowbank, and they'd

been refusing to go outdoors all day.

Dogs? Do you have a sled? How about snowshoes?

Whether the conversation would have taken that tack is immaterial. What counts is I could easily imagine it happening and contributing to the spread of a false notion of the Canadian reality — or of the Gulf Islands reality, most of the time.

But then I reflected that with Canada reportedly being for sale at any price in the wake of the Free Trade Agreement, maybe that wasn't such a bad idea. Maybe, in the interests of protecting my turf, I should spread a few lies down south.

The man calls back sometime this week. In the meantime, I'm searching for a recording of the sounds of an Arctic blizzard to serve as background noise.

## Masked man

It's twice now my neck has been saved by those heroic ferry workers travelling the high seas to Fulford. It's reassuring to know when you drive on the ferry that they'll come to your rescue when your Volkswagen is shrouded under a cloud of smoke from its overheated exhaust and then invite you up for a nice cup of coffee in the wheelhouse.

The second time was with the newly-acquired Ford sedan I subsequently purchased. I was confidently awaiting my successful crossing when I realized I'd made it onto the ferry but was definitely having difficulty getting off.

Once again, with great amounts of mechanical dexterity, split-second timing and a few well-placed blows to the carburetor, a gallant ferry worker saved my day and sent me on my way.

Driving off into the sunset I wondered, "who was that masked man, I didn't even get a chance to thank him." Next time I come back I could, and I think I'll have better luck with my Honda...

**MAUREEN GROGAN,**  
Victoria.

## Distinctions

Hugh Borsman's report (*Driftwood*, January 25, 1989) raises a number of points about water quality in Maxwell Lake.

First of all, in measuring bacteriological water quality, it is important to make a distinction between total coliform bacteria and fecal coliform bacteria, and understand what each means.

Total coliform is a measurement of all bacteria of the coliform group, which comprises bacteria from both fecal and non-fecal sources. Where little pollution is present, most or all of these bacteria may be types that commonly live in the soil, or organic matter, and are not disease-causing or indicative of fecal pollution.

Maxwell Lake does have a total coliform periodically, which the evidence to date would suggest is from non-fecal sources, and therefore not indicative of a health risk.

The total coliform count is most useful as a measurement of treated water, since it indicates a treatment system failure.

Fecal coliform bacteria are present in the intestinal system of warm-blooded animals, and therefore a fecal coliform count is an indicator of recent fecal pollution. It does not distinguish between fecal pollution from animals or man, the latter being considered more serious from the point of view of disease transmission.

Very rarely, a very low fecal count is detected in Maxwell Lake water, undoubtedly due to deer or other wild animals.

It should be emphasized that a fecal count is an indicator of potential disease, with only a small percentage of the human or animal population normally being actual disease carriers.

Maxwell Lake is isolated from sources of gross pollution and has no public access, and therefore one can be reasonably confident as to the consistency of bacteriological quality.

Contrary to Dr. Borsman's assertion, there are a number of choices for disinfection, if it becomes necessary.

Commonly used methods are chlorination, chloramination, chlorine dioxide disinfection, ozonation and ultra violet light disinfection. Each has its advantages and disadvantages in terms of effectiveness, speed of disinfection, cost, compatibility with Maxwell Lake water, taste and odour considerations, residual disinfection ability and possible

## letters

adverse health effects.

A further complication is the possible need for filtration in conjunction with the disinfection system, since disinfection alone may not be satisfactory.

So what is the Waterworks District doing?

First of all, we are sampling Maxwell Lake to determine bacterial levels and turbidity in the lake itself. This will help show whether or not the occasional low coliform count in the system originates from the lake or from the distribution system, and whether water quality is consistent within the lake itself.

We are also researching the disinfection methods mentioned above, and we are trying to determine if the provincial water quality standards are likely to change in the near future, and in what way.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that "the production of potentially hazardous chemicals during disinfection makes it necessary that all aspects of the local situation be carefully considered before adopting or changing disinfection process."

We are following their advice.

**MIKE LARMOUR,**  
North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

## Choices

Seeing table grapes readily available in local stores gives added urgency to something I read at Berkeley's Ecology Center on a recent trip to California.

Refraining from buying California table grapes has important health considerations. All the grapes are sprayed with pesticides, but since table grapes are supposed to be visually perfect, they are doused with extra quantities of these poisons. Hence,

they present a greater potential health problem for both the workers who handle them and the consumers who eat them. Incidentally, the Farmworkers' Union is having a continuing struggle about this matter and others in contract negotiations with the growers.

Are Chilean grapes a good alternative? Not as long as the Pinochet dictatorship remains in power in that country. Maybe New Zealand could supply poison-free and politically-acceptable grapes. In any case, there are many other delicious fruits available for our winter composites.

**MAGGIE SCHUBART,**  
Ganges.

## Giant step

When it comes to health care, "small is beautiful." There is every reason not to create a giant. Yet, sometime very soon, there will be another meeting of the Greenwood's society and the Lady Minto Hospital society, in order to fuse, finally and irretrievably, these two bodies into a new giant.

In September last, a meeting of the two groups was addressed by five well-fed bureaucrats, all of whom argued in favour of fusion of our two societies. Three—the CRD representatives—even made threats about forcing such fusion; the two from the health ministry showed more sense and said they did not favour shotgun weddings.

The motion for fusion was finally passed, but in amended form — the amendment including a 120-day moratorium, or cooling-off period.

The really frightening thing about the September meeting was the small turnout. The votes were 29-11 and 29-12 — so a maximum of 41 people make a decision which affects the 9,600 souls who are recipients of the hospital and

Greenwoods services. This is under one-half a percentage point and, among other things, it shows that there is a crying need for more islanders to show interest in what is going on.

Since the September meeting, a steering committee has been barreling ahead with plans for fusion. The new boss person will no longer be called executive director, but chief executive officer (folksily shortened to CEO, just as at Mac-Blo or any multinational). This employee will not be among the lower-priced help, I can assure you. By the time he or she has a few secretaries and assistants, the total addition to the salary bill will be another \$200,000 annually — which would be better used in hiring more nurses.

No study published so far has attempted to estimate what, if any, economies in manning or money could from fusion. Even the 170-page report by the CRD dodges the issue. The emphasis has all been on "budget flexibility."

Now, the aim of a "global budget" means a complete denial of the whole basis of budgeting — which means a given project or department is accompanied by a

dollar figure, and that sum then belongs to that heading and no other. If you allow some hot-shot to play fast and loose with the funds, you have lost control of the operation and have also lost all the advantages that budgeting provides. The last such hot-shot was a very lowly person who nevertheless made nearly \$40,000 disappear before they caught her — and we never did find the money. Just think what a clever CEO could do.

Islanders are urged to watch for the next step—and to turn out in force; (and in plenty of time — to join both societies before the meeting, which takes a few minutes). They should then use their vote to block this backward step.

I must add this: The proposed bylaws of the new giant forbid employees of either institution to be members of the society. Surely nurses should be able to be members. The Juan de Fuca hospital society has a seat on its board reserved for an RNABC member, and Mrs. Gloria Parker has sat on that board for nine years. If nursing professionals cannot be members of the society, then I suggest we should keep doctors off the list as well.

**COLIN NICHOLSON,**  
Ganges.

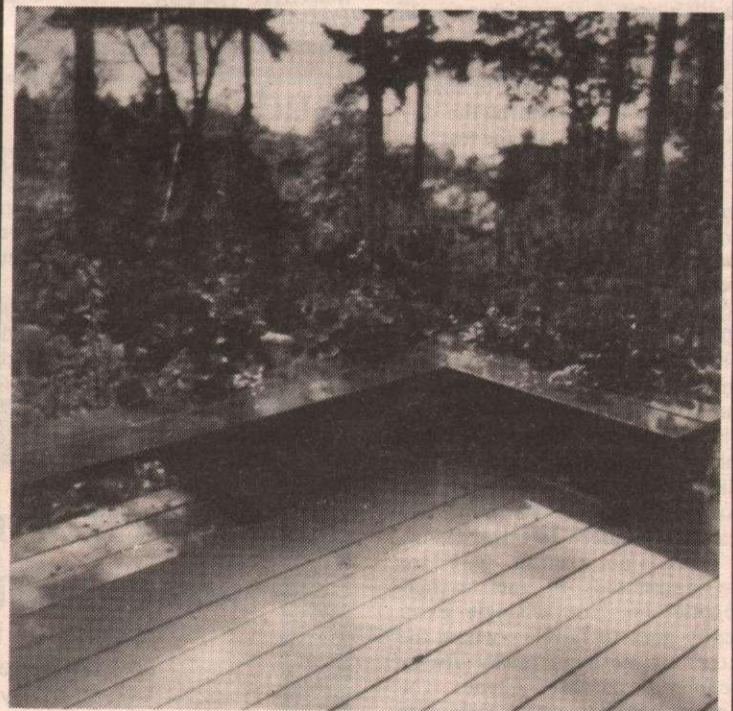
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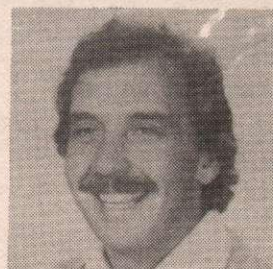
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## Better balance

I turned on CBC radio last week and was startled to hear the familiar voices of Elsie McMurphy, president of the BC Teachers Federation, and Salt Spring's own Charles Hingston, president of the BC School Trustees' Association, in eminently civilized discussion of school board negotiations around the province.

The fact that teachers are now on strike in parts of B.C. is of intense concern to us all, but I think that the curious process by which some boards and teacher organizations try to come to agreement is also significant. A number of school boards, for example, have hired lawyers to act on their behalf while teachers can afford no such luxury. This is the case in School District 64.

The district superintendent and the secretary-treasurer of our district sit at bargaining sessions with their legal counsel, Stuart Clyne, who is costing them (actually the taxpayers) in the neighbourhood of \$1,000 a day plus expenses to work out a contract with a group of teachers who have volunteered their time to sit at the same table. These sessions have taken place during school hours (local teacher association paying most of the salaries of classroom substitutes), and in the evening to 10 pm or later, and on weekends.

In sporting defence of this inequitable situation, I heard Mr. Hingston announce that he "would put the teacher-negotiator in my district up against any lawyer in the province." Well, it's a compliment, I guess, but it doesn't butter any parsnips in my house.

Now, if I were Mrs. Clyne, I would also be coping with my spouse being away from the family for extended periods, dealing with the business of Gulf Islands education. Mr. Clyne is not available much of the time to make a salad, help the kids with homework, throw laundry into the machine, play *Scrabble*, or share a pot of tea at the end of the day. Neither, of course, are the teachers who meet with him regularly.

Ah, but if I were Mrs. Clyne, I would know as I singlehandedly got on with daily responsibilities during these times, that Mr. Clyne was going to come home to me eventually with 30, 40, maybe even 50 thousand dollars in his pockets. The Clyne family could buy vans and hot tubs and fly anywhere in the world to reconnect as a family. They could pay someone to clean the oven, rototill the garden, make dinner, and wash the dog: a few possible "perks," warming and reassuring indeed to think about.

There is not a single "perk" for the households of the teacher-negotiators. Not a single extra penny goes to families where the father or mother is away just as frequently as Mr. Clyne. The families just carry on, absorbing as best they can the additional stresses and work created by the absence of one partner.

The question for me, someone who, though cranky about it, usually "just carries on," is: why does the game have to be played this way? Why does the school board with its well-paid and experienced administrators feel it can't talk directly to its counterpart negotiators? Because they have access to BCTF legal opinions and advice? Doesn't the school board have equivalent access to BCSTA legal opinions and advice? The bargaining table should be more evenly balanced: local people working out a local contract of mutual advantage, as quickly as possible, so everyone can get back to the business of looking after the District's children.

Hiring a lawyer at \$1,000 a day

seems unnecessarily to prolong and complicate the process, as well as make it exceedingly expensive. How many library books could \$30,000-plus buy? How many field trips? A number of B.C. school districts who have negotiated without benefit of outside intervention have settled more readily, to the satisfaction of all parties, and considerably less disruption in personal lives.

I don't think even the members of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association know how much time their colleagues expend on their behalf: that there are, over the months, hundreds of hours of frustrating meetings, repeated interruptions of family routine and expectations ("no, I can't go to the play Friday night/drive for the soccer team Saturday/pick up anyone from the ferry or a piano lesson; I'm bargaining"), and that even when they are not physically gathering to talk with the board, there is a mountain of related paperwork, a smaller mountain of telephone messages to return, a list of contract items to research, a pronounced and continuing depletion of energy and morale. The family unit usually goes on somehow, but there is a high price it pays.

Jeez, it would be nice, I think to myself, to be Mrs. Clyne, under these same circumstances but with the comforting knowledge that family coffers were being enhanced to the cheerful tune of \$1,000 a day. I would gaze serenely at travel brochures during all the time on my own, and be tempted to whisper: "About those negotiations on Salt Spring, dear — take your time, take your time."  
**MAGGIE HAYES,**  
Ganges.

## Ludicrous

I wrote to Brian Mulroney (I wonder if anyone knows his whereabouts?) in regard to articles in January 25 *Driftwood* asking for volunteers to clean up West Coast beaches.

The reaction from our two levels of government is just not good enough, and I cannot understand

why it is necessary for pleas like this to go out to ordinary citizens.

When money and manpower is what is needed, how ludicrous and typical for Vander Zalm to send "certificates of appreciation." Only goes to prove he has been living in fantasy land too long.

**B.E. ARISS,**  
Ganges.

## Can you help?

I would appreciate it if you could print on your letters to the editor page a request for anyone knowing Mrs. Peter (Alma) Dartnall of Gabriola Island, last known address.

I am trying to locate her for a nephew in England, any help would be greatly appreciated.

Please write to me at: R.R. 5 Hwys. 33E, Comp 6 Site 13 E, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 4K4.  
**DIANE MARLATT.**

## Thank you

The recent flu bug has delayed the writing of this letter but, nevertheless, I must thank all those people who helped to make Santa's Workshop such a success. Their efforts means that over 100 children each received several toys on Christmas morning.

I should particularly like to thank Dale Codd for making premises available to me where the toys were stored and sorted, and Ellen Bennett and the Rod and Gun Club for the loan of the tables on which the work was carried out. Once again, the Golden Hands Ladies performed their usual miracle by washing and dressing more dolls than I even knew existed.

My special thanks go to the Fernwood Brownies for the beautiful hand-printed wrapping paper which they made, and to them also go my apologies for being unable to keep the promise I made to talk to them about Santa's Workshop. However, quite unprepared, my daughter, Rosemary Pearson, stepped into the breach and to her I am duly grateful.

Members of the staff of B.C. Ferries collected toys under the tree provided by the Ganges

## more letters

Village Market, and these were an unexpected windfall for Santa's Workshop. The Village Market also provided bags for the transporting of the toys.

Thanks, also, to North Salt Spring Waterworks District and Patterson's Store for acting as drop-off points, and to the kind people who cleaned and washed all those stuffed animals and repaired toys.

Most of all, I would like to say a big thank you to the children who gave their toys so that other children would not wake up to an empty stocking on Christmas morning. It's such a pity that this is still necessary, but it does demonstrate that love and compassion are still alive and well on Salt Spring Island.

**BOB APPLETON,**  
Ganges.

## How beautiful

I ate a carrot grown by my neighbour. They keep all winter, in the bank; they're better than any store carrot.

I get my hands dirty once a week; what a surprise, to touch the earth. She likes to be touched; how long's it been for you?

So what happens when the old farmer don't farm? When oil spills are ignored, forests mowed, and simple-minded profiteers make fortunes, on fortunes, on fortunes, on fortunes... the present fuelling the next exploit?

What happens when our leaders only lead, when those responsible for large actions effect to be deaf?

Europe's forest is a memory, the remainder dying presently.

But, oh, how beautiful the day...  
**KEITH MacHATTIE,**  
Ganges.

## Use position

Listen up, environment ministers.

I am writing to protest the rampant poisoning of our local environment by the pollutants from the Crofton pulp mill.

It is imperative that long-term human values take precedence over the profit motive so that our children live to enjoy the fruits of our labours.

I'm sure your family, as well as mine, has been devastated by cancer of "unknown" cause. Research indicates ever more clearly that cancers and many of the other ailments we suffer are a direct result of the poisons ingested through the use of common consumer products, and that bleached white paper products are one of the worst culprits.

Who of us imagined we were poisoning our families with the milk in our fridges, or that those paper products in our bathrooms had become intimate enemies? When did breathing air and having a drink of water become acts of rash self destruction? We must actively take responsibility for our health, our surroundings and the deadly legacy we are creating for our children.

I urge you to take all steps available to enforce the replacement of the deadly chlorine chemical processes in pulp and paper mills with safe ones, to use your position of responsibility to impose stricter control of all the chemicals being released into our air and water. Today.

As a consumer, I pledge that I will boycott all consumer products in bleached white paper as much as possible and urge everyone I know to do the same. We have been paying through the nose for our proximity to Crofton Mill, and now it turns out it was our lives.  
**MELISSA SEARCY,**  
Ganges.

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more letters

Consequences

Recently I heard the best, or should I say worst, excuse for using disposable rather than cloth diapers. "I'm too squeamish to cope with dirty diapers," one mother told me. If she is too squeamish to rinse a dirty diaper, how will she ever wash her child's bottom at change time? Parents who can't "be bothered" to use cloth diapers are letting past misconceptions blind them, rather than examining today's diapering options.

The first misconception is that disposable diapers contribute an insignificant portion of society's garbage. Second, it is assumed that disposable diapers are much easier to use because they don't require pins or laundering. These misconceptions were born in a time when people were less ecologically aware, and when all good mothers actually boiled diapers to clean them. Times have changed!

The fact is that using throw-away diapers during one child's diapering years creates about a half a ton of disease-laden waste. This is unacceptable, especially considering that it takes 200 to 400 years for those diapers to break down.

Are disposable diapers truly easier to use than cloth diapers? Disposable diapers have sticky closure tabs; cloth diapers are available with velcro closures. Disposable diapers are form-fitting; some cloth diapers are form fitting. Correct disposal of throw-away diapers requires removal and flushing of the paper liner; cloth diapers need only be rinsed and left soaking in a pail. Anyone who has been left with a guest's used disposable diaper will agree that there is an odour problem with paper and plastic diapers. Cloth diapers, on the other hand, can be made relatively odourless when soaked in a water and vinegar solution. Cloth diapers do require laundering; however, an extra two loads per week is rarely a hardship. Mothers with young babies will be doing extra laundry anyway, regardless of the type of diapers used.

My main point is that responsible parents should be doing their homework before deciding on the diapering method for their babies. Most disposable diaper users ignore the significant concerns of ecology and expense, and focus on the diapers' super-trim looks and chemically induced absorbancy. New parents should consider the consequences of their diapering choice to themselves, their babies and their community. **KIM MADSEN, Ganges.**

Prevention

At a time when major cities in Canada and around the world are seeking to find alternatives to chlorination of their polluted water sources, Salt Spring Islanders served by Maxwell Lake are being told that chlorination is inevitable.

But, apart from the major question of which means of disinfection is safer, is the reality that once man begins tampering with nature, he inevitably starts down the slippery slope to extinction of himself and much of nature with him.

There was a time when our rivers and lakes were pure and clear. Man has polluted them by dumping this chemical and that refuse into them for generations.

Fortunately, Maxwell Lake has escaped man's recklessness and

carelessness to a very remarkable degree. Maxwell Lake water is not infected, and need not be, if care is taken to protect it and its watersheds from man's ecological stupidity.

One can paraphrase the old saw, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" In this case, "it ain't infected, don't disinfect it!" Let us protect Maxwell Lake by caring for it in every way possible. Prevention is clearly preferable to chemicals. **LOWELL HICKS, Ganges.**

Version II

Responding to Paul Saunders, January 18, issue of your paper.

*Ladles and jellypoons:  
I come before you to stand behind you*

*to tell you something I know nothing about.*

*Next Thursday which is Good Friday there's a ladies meeting for men only.*

*Come if you can and stay at home bring all your friends and come alone.*

*Admission is free which you pay at the door.*

*Pull up a chair and sit on the floor.*

*It doesn't matter where you sit the man in the gallery is sure to spit.*

**And now for our show as the wild winds blow:**

*One dark day in the middle of the night*

*two dead boys stood up to fight.*

*Back to back they faced each other*

*drew their swords and shot each other.*

*A deaf policeman heard the noise*

*came and caught the two dead boys.*

*A lame donkey kicked them through a wall*

*into a dried up pond which drowned them all.*

If you don't believe me, ask that blind man; he saw the whole thing. **CLIFF LEBLANC, Ganges.**

And again

With reference to Paul Saunders' letter in the January 18 issue of *Driftwood*, I attach a North of England version of the rhyme to which he referred. No doubt this is not the only version in existence, but it is one that I learned about 50 years ago.

*One fine day*

*In the middle of the night,*

*Two dead men*

*Got up to fight,*

*One blind man*

*To see fair play,*

*One dumb man*

*To shout hooray.*

*A paralyzed donkey*

*Passing by,*

*Kicked the blind*

*Man in the eye,*

*Knocked him over*

*A two inch wall,*

*Into a dried up duckpond*

*And drowned 'em all.*

**STAN HAMER, North Vancouver.**

*One fine day in the middle of the night*

*Two dead men got up to fight*

*Two blind men to see fair play*

*Two dumb men to shout hooray*

*A rocking horse went galloping*

*by*

*Kicked the blind men in the eye*

*Knocked them through a nine*

*inch wall*  
*Into a dry ditch and drowned them all.*

Another nonsense rhyme:

*I went to the pictures tomorrow*

*I took a front seat at the back*

*I fell from the pit to the gallery*

*And broke the front bone in my back*

*They gave me some plain cake with currants in*

*I ate it and gave it back.*

**DEIRDRE PRYCE-JONES, Ganges.**

Participation

Voice of Women (VOW) members are committed to work for justice and to preserve the integrity of all creation. In our community there are some positive signs that others share our goals.

Environmental concern is displayed by many merchants. Salt Spring Nature Works and Home Hardware sell biodegradable garbage bags; Matt's Meats uses meat trays made without chlorofluorocarbons; The Trading Company sells ecolab toilet tissue made from recycled paper; bottled milk can be found at Ganges Village Market (GVM), Salt Spring Nature Works, Mobile Market, and Patterson's Store; and staples can be bought in bulk, to avoid all the packing, at the Nature Works, Mobile Market and GVM.

Concern for a just society is displayed by many concerned groups like VOW, Tools for Peace, Ometepe Friendship Society, the Mendies Orphanage Fund, Amnesty International, The Nuclear Disarmament Group and others. We can also thank Pro Hardware and GVM for carrying Bridgehead products. Bridgehead is a project of Oxfam offering a market for farm co-operatives in developing countries. Their teas and coffees may cost a little more, but the profit goes back to the farmers.

Our participation comes in when we:

- recycle newspapers and magazines, crushed tins, and clean bottles at the recycle depot on Park Drive, behind Upper Ganges Centre;
- refuse to buy unnecessary paper goods, especially disposable diapers;
- re-use plastic and paper bags or, better still, use our own shopping bag or basket;
- avoid plastic containers when glass is available;
- carry our own mug when we think we will be offered a styrofoam cup somewhere;
- buy recycled or unbleached paper products when available (for information on a line of unbleached and recycled paper products, call Rick Laing at 537-9542); and
- use non-toxic household cleaners like baking soda, vinegar, etc.

In our community we all have an opportunity to participate in a caring society that preserves our common future unspoiled for our children and the children of our world neighbours. It involves our time and energy, and will probably cost more, but our grandchildren will thank us.

**LEE EVANS, Ganges.**

More letters  
Page B15

THIS WEEK IN RECREATION

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# Request for bus receives go-ahead

Judy Kelly's dream of a regularly-scheduled bus service for Salt Spring Islanders should be a reality by the beginning of March.

Last week, Kelly was notified by the provincial Motor Carrier Commission that her application for a licence for Azure Transport Ltd. has been approved. Her 22-passenger bus will take to island roads in about another three weeks, once the related paperwork is cleared up.

"I can't believe it's finally happening — there were so many things to be ironed out," Kelly said last week of her four-month wait between application and approval.

The bus will be operated three days a week — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday — over three routes. The schedule is tentatively set as follows:

• **TUESDAY:** Fulford Harbour to Beaver Point; Fulford Harbour to Isabella Point.

• **WEDNESDAY:** Cranberry Road, Old Divide Road and Salt Spring Way; Cusheon Lake, Beddis Beach, Creekside and Beddis Road; Pioneer Village, Croftonbrook, Brinkworthy and Wildwood Crescent; Long Harbour.

• **THURSDAY:** Long Harbour; Rainbow Road, Mt. Erskine and Booth Canal; Robinson Road, Walker Hook, Fernwood, Sunset Drive, Vesuvius Bay and Mobrae; Central, Vesuvius Bay, Mobrae; St. Mary Lake, Whims Road, Maliview Drive and Fernwood.

All routes terminate in Ganges. Fares will be \$2 per trip for adults and \$1 for students under the age of 12 years. Exact fare is required. Bus passes and tickets are options for the future.

The bus itself is a former airporter from Victoria. An Argosy Airstreamer, it can carry 22 passengers. An important feature of the vehicle is that it is built low to the ground, making for easy access — an important consideration for elderly passengers, Kelly noted.

On those days when the bus is not operating on regular runs, Kelly said, it will be available for charters.

Kelly, who was raised on Salt Spring and received her schooling here, attributes the pending launch of her bus service to the support she received from islanders. Her application to the Motor Carrier Commission was accompanied by a 173-name petition backing her proposal.

"I'd like to thank all of those people for supporting me," she said, adding that backing for the service itself will be essential once it begins, if islanders are to continue to have bus transportation.

"Everyone thought the idea was great, that the island would benefit and that it was time we had a bus service," she said. "If people want to see it work, they will have to support it."

The bus service should prove beneficial to residents and businesses, she said, pointing out that it promises to increase mobility for residents "presently finding it difficult to get where they are going."



Judy Kelly will soon have bus on local roads

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## Pender Island blaze claims man in house

PENDER ISLAND—A house fire claimed the life of an island resident last week.

Wayne Foster Gibson, 45, died in a fire at his Galleon Way home last Tuesday, January 30.

Pender Island RCMP say the fire began at about 3 pm. By the time volunteer fire-fighters arrived at the scene, the house was engulfed in flames.

Gibson's wife, Eileen, managed to escape the burning house. The deceased was reportedly located in the lower level of the home at the time of the fire.

The two-level house was destroyed by flames.

Cause of the fire is under investigation by police and fire officials, who declined to release further details.

## Mayne Island dwelling damaged in Friday fire

MAYNE ISLAND—The home of Ron Pither was almost completely destroyed by a fire that struck last Friday night.

The volunteer fire department responded quickly to the blaze on Glen Echo Road, but was unable to save the home.

The fire apparently started at an electrical space heater.

Pither was returning from an errand when he found the home—one of two on his acreage—engulfed in flames.

He lost three quarters of the building, a copying machine and other belongings. His library and archives escaped destruction.

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**2<sup>98</sup>**

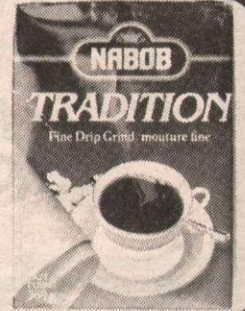
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**FRESH BREAD**

450 g loaf **79¢**

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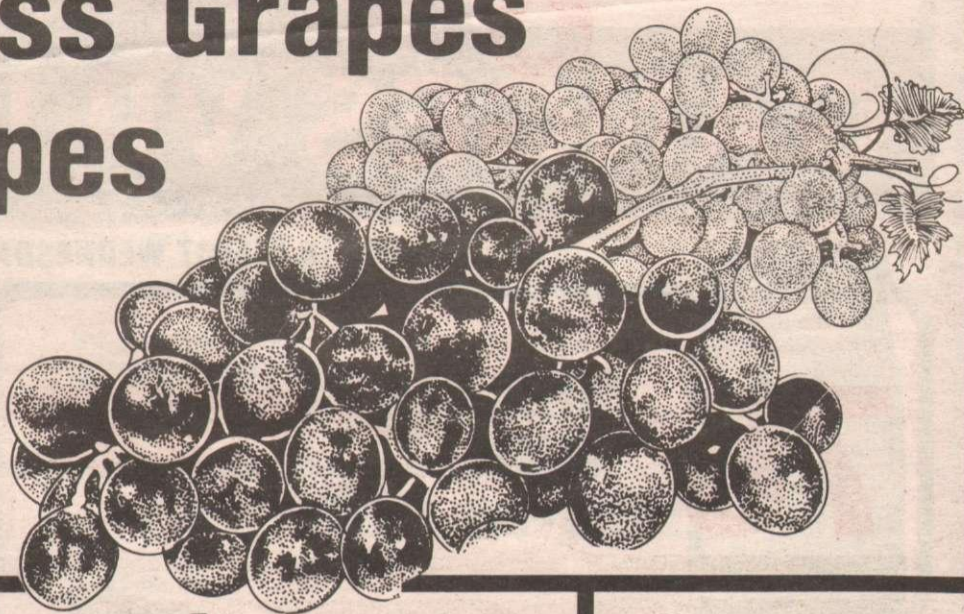
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750 ml btl.

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<b>FBI FROZEN ORANGE JUICE</b> 341 ml tin <b>98¢</b>	<b>SNOWCREST MIXED VEGETABLES</b> 1 kg bag <b>1.78</b>

**ROYALE BATHROOM TISSUE** 8-roll pack **2.98**



**RIDGEWAY TEA BAGS** 10 pack **58¢**

**BULK FOOD DEPT.**

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<b>Blanched Peanuts</b> 2.16 kg <b>98¢</b> lb.	<b>Papaya Chunks</b> or Spears 4.95 kg <b>2.25</b> lb.
<b>Long Grain White Rice</b> 1.28 kg <b>58¢</b> lb.	<b>Dipping Wafers</b> White, Dark or Light 5.85 kg <b>2.66</b> lb.

**PRONTO PAPER TOWELS** 2-roll pack **98¢**



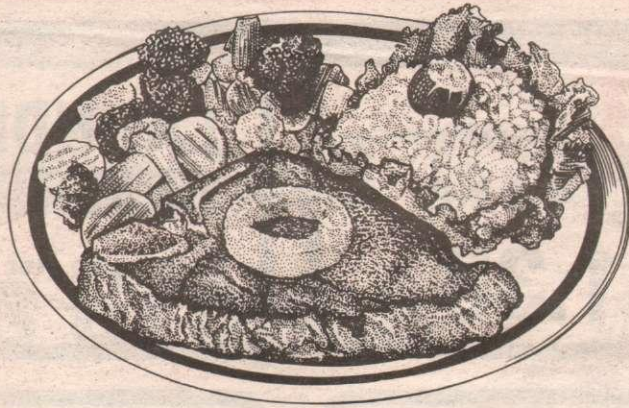
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**FRASERVALE FISH & BATTER**

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7.03 kg **3.19** lb.

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500 g pkg. **1.99** ea.

**SWIFT PREMIUM WIENERS**

454 g **2.29** ea.

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18.93 kg **8.59** lb.

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# B.C.'s kiwi fruit industry being pioneered on island

*Earth is here so kind that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest.*

— Douglas Jerrold, 1803-1857

By DAVE FRASER

There are few places in B.C. where kiwi fruit can be grown — west of Chilliwack, on Vancouver Island, south of Duncan, and on Salt Spring Island.

Gene Drzymala and Sharon Hawke of Salt Spring Island are true agri-pioneers. In 1985 they launched a commercial kiwi farm, something never before done in B.C.

Four years and many thousands of dollars later they are still unsure whether they will succeed. In spite of Salt Spring having the kindest climate in Canada, a devastating frost their first winter in operation took a heavy toll.

The duo, who live in a 93-year-old converted schoolhouse, say certain sacrifices must be made to preserve their island lifestyle. If that involves risk, hard work and little monetary return, they say it's worth it.

Kiwis have proven much more labour-intensive than expected and the added costs of being on an island have been staggering.

But the couple say there's no turning back. They find it exciting growing something out of its environment. "And if it succeeds, that will be satisfying," says Drzymala.

Although the kiwi plant doesn't mature for seven years, the team says they are pleased with the quality of their produce so far.

Last fall they sold their first crop of kiwis to Captain's Cupboard in Fulford Harbour, which the couple says was receptive to the idea of buying locally-grown produce.

Drzymala says they could have chosen to grow apples or potatoes but opted for the tropical fruit because "it was more adventurous.

"We thought if we were going to grow something from scratch it might as well be something exotic."

The couple is confident the demand for kiwis will remain strong. They say kiwis are healthy food — high in vitamins and fibre, and able to cut cholesterol levels in the blood. Drzymala says youngsters are more familiar with kiwis than adults, and have a fondness for the fruit.

At present, all commercial kiwi fruit found in Canada comes from New Zealand and California. The pair has bought plants from both places to experiment with both varieties.

The couple first learned of kiwi farming from a California farmer they met in Mexico, who invited them to visit his plantation on their way back to Canada. They were impressed.

A check with Agriculture Canada revealed that start-up costs for kiwi farms were expensive. Although kiwis were on the federal government list of new agricultural products, the couple was advised to wait until further research was carried out at Agriculture Canada's research station in Saanich.

But there was no holding them back. Drzymala trucked up a load of plants from California and cleared an acre. As they were told Salt Spring was in a banana belt they didn't install frost control.

Frost has proven to be their farm's biggest enemy. The 10-

acre farm is snuggled in Fulford Valley, which traps cold air. Hawke says temperatures would be more moderate along the seashore but there is a shortage of arable land there.

Their first year was full of surprises. The vines flourished during the unusually hot summer of 1985, growing up to four inches daily. But the fall and winter seasons that followed were among the coldest on record. Temperatures dipped as low as -14, killing over 100 of 350 plants.

The pair says it took three years for the plantation to recover. Next spring new plants were grafted onto the root stalks, in order to maintain the variety and proper ratio of females to males — eight to one.

*'They could have chosen to grow apples or potatoes, but opted for the tropical fruit because it's more adventurous.'*

The kiwi vine is a finicky plant, says Drzymala. Frost can kill, as can temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The plant requires lots of water — up to 16 gallons per plant a day. Fortunately, with five springs the farm is blessed with plenty of water.

The island's clay soil did not provide enough drainage for the plant so the couple had to buy 200 cubic yards of gravel from Salt Spring and off-island, for the farm.

The couple moved here in 1981 from the Yukon, where Drzymala was a helicopter pilot. Hawke, who has a degree in agriculture, worked as a cook and prospector.

They say the kiwi operation can

be a full-time operation during the growing season, from April through September. The average kiwi farmer spends a day a week per acre. "But the problem is all the work comes within three or four months."

Under ideal conditions each kiwi vine can produce 500 to 1,000 fruits. The current price for kiwis is about \$1.30 pound. With 160 female vines — male plants don't grow fruit, only flowers — that could add up to a lot of money.

But Drzymala and Hawke say they aren't into kiwis to get rich. If money was their prime objective, they say they could have grown a more certain crop like apples or potatoes, or stayed in the Yukon "money-grubbing."

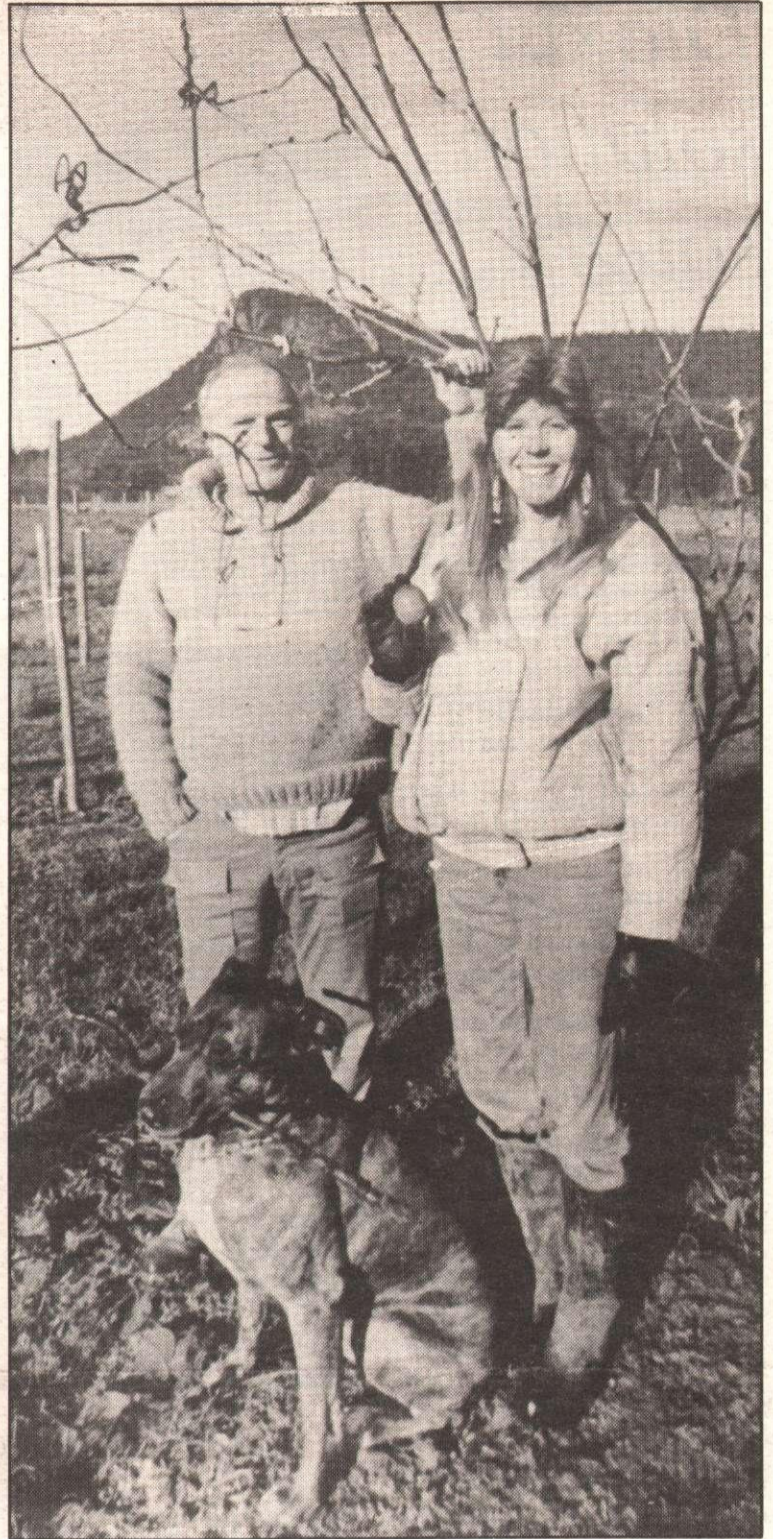
"Once you get off the ferry to Salt Spring, sometimes practicality goes out the window," says Hawke. Adds Drzymala: "It (a kiwi fruit farm) is a lot more challenging than chopping it up into a subdivision."

Drzymala says the average cost of installing an acre of kiwi plants is \$25,500 — but their expenses were much higher than that. At \$13 to \$15 each, the plants are the least expensive part of the whole operation, he adds.

They purchased two specialized tractors that were small enough to get under the six foot high grid of wires that serves as an arbour for the vines. Poles worth up to \$30 each were imported from Kamloops, while wire alone came to \$1,000.

Surrounding the plantation is an eight-foot-high fence to keep out deer, the only animal that seems to fancy gnawing on the kiwi shoots.

Vines are planted every 15 feet with rows 20 feet apart. Each plant is irrigated individually by a spigot at the base. Foam is wrapped around the base of the plant to equalize temperatures.



Gene Drzymala and Sharon Hawke

## Classroom incubation program designed to help students learn about salmon cycle



Dale Lowen from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans observes fish tank with Pender Islands school children.

By DAVE FRASER

Fish from Salt Spring are helping Pender Island School students learn that a salmon is more than something their moms scoop out of a can.

A classroom incubation project at the school is teaching the students about the early life cycle of the salmon, and about the importance of the resource to the west coast fishing industry.

"It also ties in with water conservation and watershed protection. Those kids are going to be the loggers, miners and fishermen of the future," says Kathy Reimer of the Salt Spring Island Salmonid Enhancement Society, who in late January delivered 200 Fulford Creek coho eggs to the 120 litre tank in the library of Pender School.

Students there will be in charge of changing water, maintaining equipment, feeding the salmon fry and releasing them into Roe Creek in April.

The coho will return to the stream to spawn in December, 1991.

"We're trying to mimic nature with the water quality, temperature and light," says Dale Lowen, a technician with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Victoria who is helping to run the program. It has operated in B.C. schools for six years.

The Pender hatchery is the first on the Outer Islands. Salt Spring schools have seven aquarium hatcheries. There are about 30 aquariums in schools between Nanaimo and Victoria and 300 in the Lower Mainland, part of DFO's emphasis on educational programs.

Reimer says if Roe Creek is found suitable for rearing salmon it will be supplemented with

another 800 eggs from the Salt Spring hatchery.

Eggs in a basket atop the aquarium hatch within a week into alevin and swim to the rocks lining the bottom of the tank.

In March the alevin's yolk sack is completely absorbed and students start feeding them special fish formula from Oregon.

Coho salmon spend a year in the stream they were born in before swimming out to sea — compared to only three months for pink and chum salmon. Therefore, they require a stream that flows year-round.

Because of controlled water flow and the absence of predation, there is a 98 per cent fertility rate for the salmon eggs, compared to between 10 to 15 per cent in the wild.

Lowen says hatch time and swim-up time can be predicted by charting the water temperature each day. Students will keep track of these "accumulated temperature units" until the fry are released.

In most classroom hatcheries tap water flows through 50 feet of tubing to keep it at groundwater temperature. But since water for the Pender aquarium is supplied by a well it was necessary to install a \$500 refrigeration unit.

Otherwise, the whole project costs about \$100 — a pretty cheap way to bring the life cycle of salmon to thousands of school children.

Reimer, who says her society's mandate is to stock creeks in the outer Gulf Islands, welcomes information from old-timers about local streams and lakes, to help salmonid enhancement activities. Call 537-9630 or 537-2232.

# Dioxin solution sought

A Simon Fraser University professor says he may be able to help pulp and paper companies eliminate a controversial chlorine bleaching process that produces dioxins.

Chemical engineering professor Kenneth Pinder is conducting tests on a new, cheaper method of producing chlorine dioxide, another bleaching chemical.

Both chlorine and chlorine dioxide are commonly used in pulp bleaching, but chlorine has come under attack because it's been found to release dioxins as a byproduct. At the pulp and paper mill at Crofton west of Salt Spring, traces of dioxins were found last year in sea life and herons.

Pinder said the new process he's working on could be an economical way to lower chlorine use to more acceptable levels, by using more chlorine dioxide and less chlorine.

If tests at a pilot plant in the pulp and paper center at the SFU campus are successful, the technology could be commercially available to industry in as little as two years, the university says.

Dioxins are highly toxic substances released into the environment by many manufacturing processes—including the kraft processing methods used by B.C.'s paper mills, Pinder notes.

"We realize the chlorine stage in the pulp bleaching process is critical—that's where the dioxins are produced," he said.

Companies commonly use one of two chemicals — sulphur dioxide or methanol — in a complex reaction to manufacture chlorine dioxide. Pinder plans to replace those compounds with pure sulphur, a previously untried procedure.

"The new process will drastically reduce the cost of bleaching for industry and make it possible for them to eliminate dioxins entirely," Pinder said.



## Off road

Vehicle driven by Wayne Dale of Ganges lost battle with slippery roads in Fulford last week.

# Task force review set

The groundwork for a Salt Spring Island response to the provincial government's transportation system initiatives was formally organized last Saturday.

At a meeting called by the Community Planning Association (CPA), members of that group adopted four resolutions connected to a review. They decided that:

- the islands should respond to the province's proposals for changes to the transportation system;
- a task force should be established to undertake that response;
- the task force is to be composed of representatives from a cross-section of community groups and organizations; and
- the chairman of the task force shall be empowered to draw on other representatives as needs arise.

Next step in the process is to name a task force chairman and begin assembling the information needed to prepare a submission.

The task force will be working towards a July 1 deadline. That's when final reports are to be drafted by the regional committees established by the provincial government to comment on proposed transportation network changes.

Those changes are outlined in an 18-volume consultant's report released by the province in late December and covering proposals for air, sea, road and rail transportation networks throughout B.C. The projects, carrying a price tag of \$7 billion, are designed to cover the province's transportation needs into the next century.

One of the 18 volumes of the report concerns the southern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands region. Proposals concerning the Gulf Islands centre on changes to the ferry system infrastructure — including a new terminal at Isabella Point on Salt Spring, closing of the Long Harbour terminal, a permanent bridge or vessel link between Mayne and Saturna islands, and alterations to local ferry routes.

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**capital comment**

by **hubert beyer**



**VICTORIA** — If Tony Brummet weren't education minister, the government would probably consider him a dangerous radical. The changes to British Columbia's education system he announced last week are significant and far-reaching, and I'm sure not every cabinet minister is all that sure they'll work.

It'll be a few years before we can determine with any accuracy whether the changes are going to be an improvement, but for better or worse, the education system has been launched on a new course, and the driving force behind it has been Brummet.

To start with, Brummet announced that \$1.5 billion will be spent over the next six years on new schools and the upgrading of existing ones. A further \$1.4 billion will be spent over the next 10 years on implementing changes to the school system.

He didn't have to wait long for the critics. None or only part of the \$2.9 billion, they said, was new money. In other words, there would probably be little or no funding in excess of regular budgets.

But the \$3 billion isn't the big story anyway. It's the drastic changes to the system that will get Brummet either a gold star or a nasty note to take home to his mother, depending on the outcome.

The most important change is the revamping of the curriculum from the current rigidity that has allowed neither teachers nor students to digress from the beaten path. The new curriculum is to offer maximum flexibility to capitalize on the individual student's interests and abilities.

**Move at their own pace**

There will be no grading from Kindergarten to Grade 3, allowing primary pupils to move through the primary grades at their own pace. That means some pupils might complete primary school in as few as three years, while others might take five years.

A dual entry system for kindergarten will allow children to start school in January or September, depending on their birthdays.

The curriculum for Grades 4 to 10 will be "learner-focused," allowing teachers to teach several subjects at once, instead of separating them. Emphasis is to be placed on problem-solving and critical and creative thinking.

There will be new Grade 11 and 12 programs, offering a wide range of alternatives to help students take aim at a career. Brummet hopes these programs will encourage students not to drop out and encourage dropouts to go back to school.

Grade 12 provincial exams will count for 40 per cent of the final mark next year. They now count for 50 per cent.

Teachers will be enticed to teach in rural areas by way of forgivable loans. Each year a teacher teaches in a designated area, 10 per cent of the loan will be forgiven. No maximum amount has been set yet for these loans.

To make sure the changes will work, schools are expected to keep parents informed of the strengths and weaknesses of the new system.

**Advantages of a flexible system**

When I talked to Brummet about the changes a day after the announcement, he looked like a kid who had just been given his first bike.

"I know it will work," he said. "I have used parts of this new approach when I taught. Only then, you could get fired for deviating from the prescribed curriculum. I've always wondered what's so sacred about a curriculum."

The system's previous inflexibility, he said, didn't allow for a society that was undergoing dramatic changes. It pressed students into a mould that often kept students from achieving their best.

"The accumulation of knowledge is so large that we can no longer pass it on as pre-packaged information. Organizations and teaching may work that way, but not learning."

Brummet pointed out that the advantages of a flexible system of learning have been tried and proven in a limited way. Special education provisions, he said, have always been based on the learner's strengths, abilities and interests.

"We have had enriched programs for some and special help for others. Now we'll base the entire system on the individual's strengths," he said.

Changes usually cost money, and this one is no exception. Brummet estimates that the cost to the average homeowner of implementing all the changes will be about \$20 a year.

He thinks it's worth it, and the majority of British Columbians seem to agree with him, considering that this radical overhaul of the education system is based on the wide range of submissions people from all over the province made to the Sullivan Commission.

"I'm really excited about it," he said, and he looked it, too. If the teachers, the school boards, the parents and everyone else playing a part in the education system are only half as excited about the changes, they'll not only work, they'll work wonders.

**Conference postponed by weather**

Last week's weather conditions forced postponement of a conference on communications for people involved in Gulf Islands education.

*Bridging Gaps*, a day-long combination conference and workshop sponsored by the Gulf Islands Secondary School parent's group, was scheduled to run February 4.

However, unpredictable weather conditions and the chance that water taxis would be unable to transport Outer Gulf Islands residents to Salt Spring forced organizers to postpone the event until March 11.

The March date — also a Saturday — will follow an agenda identical to the original lineup.

One organizer, Anne Hohmann, said the decision to postpone the event was made Thursday — in time to pass word of the cancellation to facilitators and those preparing food.

Hohmann said each of the 80 people who had registered for the conference was contacted by telephone prior to February 4.

The *Bridging Gaps* conference will involve teachers, parents and students in discussions concerning various levels of communication within the Gulf Islands education system.

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**SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**Annual General Meeting**

TO BE HELD

**Tuesday, February 28, 1989, at 8 pm  
in the Fire Hall, Ganges**

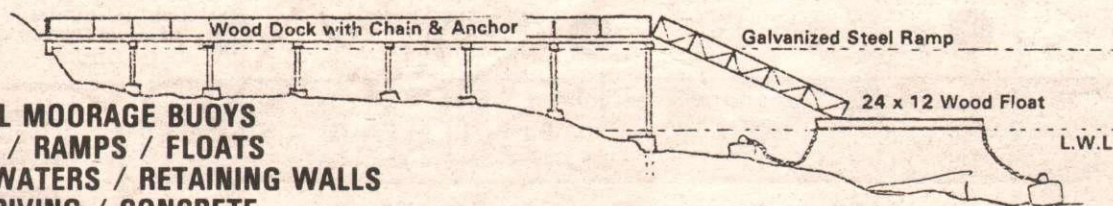
**AGENDA:**

- Minutes
- Financial Report
- Chairman's Report
- Report of Volunteer Firemen
- Election of Trustees  
(two for a term of three years)
- Appointment of Auditor
- Any other business

*Trustees would appreciate a good turnout of island residents.*

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### Data wanted

Salt Spring resident Gordon Lee recently found the above photograph in a locket he received in a box of odds and ends from Sooke. Since no one in his family can identify either of the people pictured, he's hoping the public might be able to help. The only clue is that the two people may have been members of the "Douglas family." Gordon Lee can be reached at 537-5001 or 537-2246.

## Exchange program needs host families

Interculture Canada is looking for families interested in "rediscovering the beauty of the world" through the eyes of a foreign student, by hosting one of 200 youngsters for an entire school year.

The non-profit organization, which administers international exchange programs, has launched its 1989-90 host family recruitment program. Close to 200 students from 30 countries are preparing to travel to Canada for the coming school year.

Students, who are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, will be given the opportunity to fully experience Canada by living with a Canadian family and attending a local high school.

Interculture Canada selects students after screening a large field of applicants. Through a "sensitive family-matching process," it then makes every effort to create a positive exchange climate that helps both parties discover their similarities as well as their differences.

The program is open to all family types — two parents with children, single-parent families and childless couples.

Host families are not asked to absorb any outstanding expenses for the student. They supply food, housing and incidental expenses

such as would be provided for their own teenager. Support is available from Interculture Canada.

The organization is part of the world's largest network of high school exchange programs. Established in 1947 and operating in 66 countries, it promotes intercultural understanding and development.

Families wanting further information should call 1-800-361-1879.

## Ambulance service posts record high for responses

The Salt Spring Ambulance service had a busy year in 1988. So busy, in fact, that it set yet another record for the number of calls answered in one year.

Over the year, the ambulance crews answered a total of 631 calls, topping the old mark of 575 set in 1987 — all that with only two full-time staff members and 14 part-timers.

"We couldn't function as well as we do without the help of the part-time staff members," said Gerry Parrott, the unit chief for Salt Spring Island. "It's a total commitment on their part that keeps us going."

The part-time staff logged a total of 27,303 hours last year. Of that, they were paid for 3,316 hours; the other 23,987 hours were "free time," or unpaid hours that they worked.

"And that doesn't include the training sessions, station meetings or volunteer standby that they put in but don't get paid for either," said Parrott.

The ambulance crews work two shifts, from 7 am to 6 pm and from 6 pm to 7 am. During the day shift there is one full-time staff member on duty, with three part-time staff on call. It is during this time period that the ambulance crews respond to over 67 per cent of all calls. The night shift is comprised of four part-timers on call.

The average time it takes the on-call crews to reach the station when a call comes in is four minutes. The average length of time it takes them to reach their destination is 15 minutes, which may seem a little long but

includes those calls where a water taxi is used to reach the patient.

Of the 631 calls the crews answered last year, 550 were considered routine. A routine call is one that is not considered life-threatening; the driver does not use either the siren or lights during these calls. The other 170

responses were classified as emergency calls.

The Salt Spring Ambulance Service also works in conjunction with the ambulance services from the Outer Islands. "If a patient needs to be transferred off one of the islands, we go over on the water taxi and do the transfer," said Parrott.

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### Wedding held

Kelly Robertson and Bob Corneille were married in Victoria on October 1, 1988. The ceremony, held at the home of the bride's parents, included maid of honour Cindy Robertson and best man Brian Smith. Flower girl was Ashlee Corneille. Following the ceremony, a small reception was held at Amity's in Victoria. The newly-weds will reside on Salt Spring.

## New Horizons funds awarded for Legion landscaping project

The project committee of the Royal Canadian Legion in Ganges was one of 22 seniors groups in the province to receive a grant under the federal New Horizons program.

The \$15,000 grant will be used to help develop a park alongside the Legion Hall, with paved walkways through the woods nearby.

Jake Javorski, the group's president, told *Driftwood* the work will begin shortly on the clearing of underbrush from the woods. A

covered picnic area with washrooms and cooking facilities through the woods," he said. foundation of the late Ted Meaden's house.

"We are planning on paving the walkways so the residents of Greenwoods who use wheelchairs will be able to take strolls through the woods," he said. "The washrooms in the picnic area will be wheelchair accessible as well."

The Legion is also planning on

putting picnic tables both in the covered area and throughout the woods, to complete extensive landscaping around the area and to possibly install lawn bowling courts at the front of the Legion.

The New Horizons program, which is partly funding the project, is a program of the Department of National Health and Welfare, which funds projects by groups of seniors, enabling them to remain active and involved in the community.

### police blotter

Police investigated a total of 12 accidents in the past week, most of them stemming from the snowstorm that struck the island.

There was a total of \$16,000 damage done to the vehicles and another \$1,000 damage done to a hydro pole struck in one of the incidents.

There were no injuries reported in any of the accidents, and no charges laid.

Police reported finding a 16-foot fibreglass canoe on Parker Island, near Galiano Island. Anyone wishing to claim the canoe can contact the Ganges RCMP detachment.

## Incinerator will test disposal of oil debris

Provincial environment ministry officials now face the sticky problem of disposing of hundreds of bags of oil and oil-soaked debris gathered by workers cleaning beaches along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The ministry is holding talks with the towing company originally involved in the spill, regarding their taking responsibility for the material. At the same time, informal discussions are underway with the Washington State department of ecology.

While those talks continue, the Cowichan Valley Regional District has agreed to a test burn of one truckload of the oil debris in its incinerator. If the test proves successful, and the incinerator is determined to have a sufficient capacity to handle the material, it could be disposed of there.

## Pool Society slates meeting

New directions and the election of a new executive will highlight a meeting called for next Wednesday, February 15, by the Salt Spring Island Pool Society.

Set for 8 pm at the Ship's Anchor Inn in Ganges, the meeting is being held to examine and

discuss several options for bringing an indoor and/or outdoor pool to the island in the near future.

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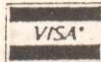
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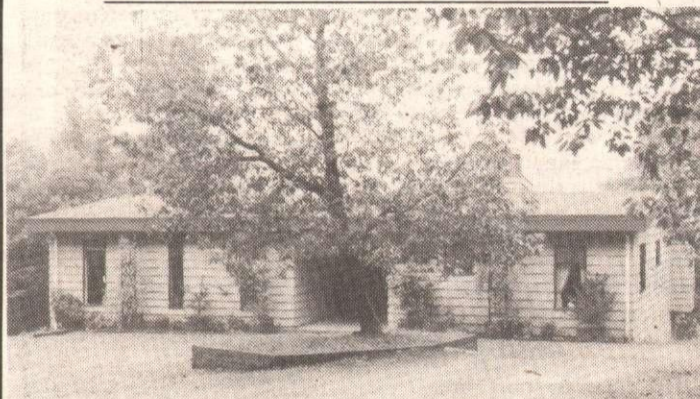
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**artseen**

by gary cherneff



Whew! Missed that one, just as Salt Spring was experiencing the big chill, I was enjoying sunnier climes; not warm, mind you, but sunnier — above cloud level on top of Mt. Washington. Yeh!

I can hear your bones rattle at the mere thought of -21°C with wind chill bringing it down to -44°, while you're plummeting down the runs: "Westerly," "Easy Rider," and "Linton's Loop" (popularly dubbed Lipton's Soup).

But what fun. The more I learn about skiing or any physical sport the more I understand that the arts and sports activities are far more closely allied in character than any layman would ever suspect.

Skiing and ice-skating are dances that require physical discipline and training. The skier's floor is a snow-clad slope; a mutable substance changing from hour to hour and day to day. Wet and mushy one day, with an overnight freeze it can be icy and crusty the next. Then suddenly you get this wonderful fluffy snowfall depositing soft powder.

**Bordered on steeper slopes**

We cut lines through the snow which become paths and then valleys bordered on the steeper slopes by obstacles called moguls. Each skier develops a plan and a strategy for descent through this terrain. Then with this visualization begins an intuitive enactment and creative response to unforeseen conditions.

With skilful manipulation of body parts and strategy, you arrive at the bottom unscathed, ready to try it again in a different way, playing with the material, the snowy slope, finding the best path, pleasing oneself with progress in speed or dexterity.

There is a dialogue between snow and skier. The more often one traverses the terrain the more intimate one feels with it.

So it is with painting, throwing pots, or dancing through air and sound on a supple floor.

So what is the difference? Well, I think it lies here. Art tends to include in its nature the intent to move or influence an audience. It very often is a source of information and opinion. It offers a new viewpoint or a different way of seeing which can challenge established conventions. As such it has intellectual content and a political potential.

**Satisfaction and pleasure**

The intent of sport rarely extends this far. Its purpose is to give satisfaction and pleasure to the participant and, as a by-product, entertainment to interested observers.

One might be able to say that art and sport overlap, or that each activity has its spot in a continuum between the political on one end and pure entertainment on the other. Everything in between is a shade of grey between the white and black poles.

There is certainly lots of room for argument on the above broad generalizations. But the point is that everybody who enjoys sport of any kind, from Japanese calligraphy to free-style acrobatic skiing, is also an artist of some definition. The capacity for creative manipulation is endemic in every human activity. We just call it something different from art.

# Nomination date nears

Nominations close later this week for the B.C. and Yukon *Junior Citizen of the Year* awards, sponsored by Air Canada and the region's community newspapers.

Nomination forms are available at *Driftwood* and at local schools. They must be completed and submitted by February 10 — this Friday.

Junior citizen awards will be given to youngsters between the ages of eight and 18 years who "have a

sense of self-worth, demonstrate moral and social responsibility, show consideration of others and give service to the community."

Any resident of B.C. and the Yukon is eligible to be a nominator. They should complete the nomination form and include two letters of support for their nominee.

The junior citizenship awards will be presented by Lieut.-Gov. David C. Lam in a ceremony set for March 16 at Government House in Victoria.

## Slugs drop two games during week

An abbreviated version of the Slugs (eight skaters) went on a road trip Saturday night to Sidney to play an exhibition game against the Whalers. The much-improved Whalers easily defeated the slower-skating Slugs by a score of 11-2.

Three more players joined the team Sunday morning for a league game against the Green Lantern Hawks. The effects of the night before seemed evident in the Slugs' slow start, and the Hawks were ahead 7-2 early in the game. The Slugs revived a bit in the third period but the game was out of reach. Final score, 11-4.

**Notes from the Trail:**

The only good news from the Slug camp this week is the announcement of the winners in the meat, meat and heat draw.

- First prize — Ken Sampson wins the hindquarter of beef donated by Ganges Village Market.
- Second prize — Irene Wright wins a Salt Spring lamb from Pat's Custom Meat.
- Third prize — one cord of firewood will be delivered to Loretta Minvielle.

The Slugs would like to thank everyone who participated in the draw, especially Brent Cooper of the GVM meat department for drawing the winning tickets.

In a surprise move, Stephane Caron was sent down to the farm club in New Brunswick. Even though the Slug Lady Byng candidate showed a fine touch around the net during practice, lack of production was cited as the reason for the transfer.

## Secondary school suffers student drop in cold snap

By HEATHER THOMSON

Recent weather conditions disrupted classes at island schools last week, thanks to strong winds and unstable road conditions that halted bus and water taxi services.

Student attendance dropped at all island schools. The elementary schools reported low attendance on Wednesday, but classes were functioning normally by Friday. The high school had the lowest student body total, with 65 students on Friday.

The high school also experienced heating difficulties, as a result of a power failure Thursday night. Temperatures in some of the classrooms were as low as 38 degrees Fahrenheit. The water temperature in the boiler system has since been increased by 20 degrees to prevent the problem from recurring.

Regular classes resumed as of Monday.

The *Bridging Gaps* conference



Support Your Lung Association

has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 11. For more information, contact Anne Hohmann at 653-9419.

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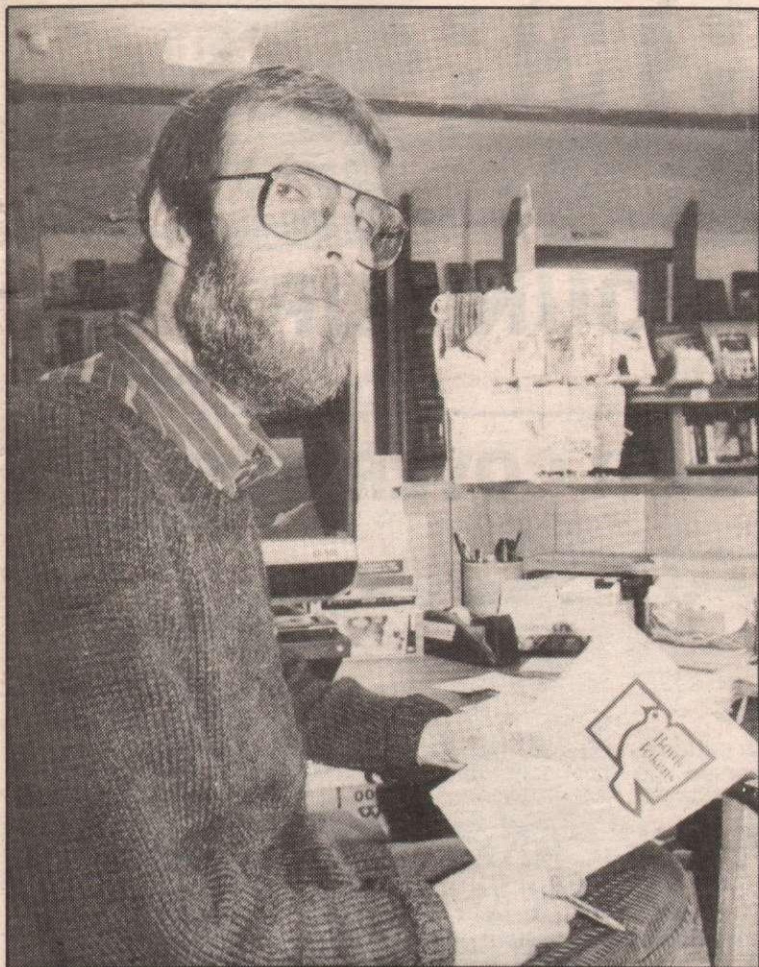
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Roger Koster of Volume II books holds promotional material for token program that will include his store among 250 nation-wide participants.

## Book token program endorsed in Ganges

A Ganges bookseller is taking part in a nation-wide program to make book-giving easier — and to support improved literacy.

Roger Koster of Volume II Books is one of about 250 dealers participating in *Book Tokens Canada*, due to be launched across the country in mid-February.

The program works like this: visitors to participating stores can buy a book token (gift certificate) in any denomination; once validated, the token can be redeemed at any of the bookstores taking part in the program.

For an additional dollar, the token can be bought in the form of a greeting card. Twenty-five cents of that purchase price is turned over to the *Give the gift of Literacy* Foundation, a non-profit group working to increase reading proficiency among Canadians.

The token program is sponsored by the Canadian Booksellers Association (CBA) and based on a model that has operated successfully in Great Britain since 1932.

The CBA says the token program offers several benefits to customer and bookseller alike. As examples, it notes that books can be given as gifts without being physically shipped across Canada, and that a token allows the recipient to have a book of his or her choice.

The advantage to the bookseller, Koster said, is that the program should allow him to "sell" more books without having to physically increase his inventory.

Bookstores selling tokens receive 12.5 per cent of the certificate's face value; those redeeming tokens receive the remaining 87.5 per cent. The CBA says the dollar differences should balance out over time.

Koster expects that on Salt Spring, he may sell more tokens than he will redeem. That's because he has many older customers who like to give books as gifts to children and grandchildren in other parts of Canada, he said.



**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 92**  
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Feb. 13 — 8 pm

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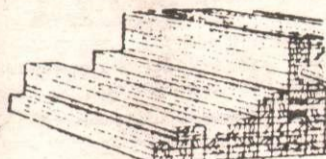
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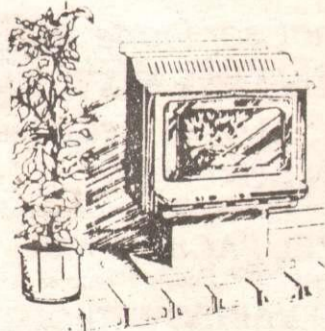
### NEW FROM...

### PROPANE GAS BURNING STOVE & FIREPLACE



Now you can enjoy the warmth and pleasure of a fireplace where it was never possible before. The elegant design of Osburn's new GAS BURNING appliances complement today's decor and lifestyles. They look and heat like real fireplaces.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER:  
**\$150<sup>00</sup> OFF!**



### HOME INSULATION BY Manville

R12-15" 90 sq. ft./bdl. **19<sup>79</sup>** R20-15" 50 sq. ft./bdl. **19<sup>29</sup>**



### POLYETHYLENE VAPOUR BARRIER

- 2 mil ..... 500 sq. ft. **5.88**
- 4 mil ..... 1000 sq. ft. **20.88**
- 4 mil ..... 1500 sq. ft. **31.88**

### ROOFING SALE



#### T-LOCK SHINGLES

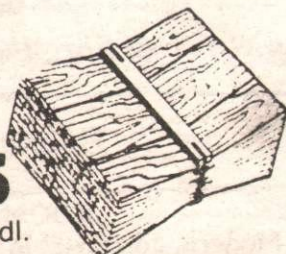
NO. 1 ESSO BRAND SHINGLES  
33 SQ. FT. BUNDLE

- 10 Year ..... bdl. **11<sup>88</sup>**
- 15 Year ..... bdl. **13<sup>88</sup>**

INSTALLED ROOFING ★ FREE ESTIMATES

All work fully guaranteed.  
ON SPECIAL THIS WEEK—professional installations done by "SAM THE ROOFER".

TAPERSAWN CEDAR SHAKES **13<sup>95</sup>** bdl.

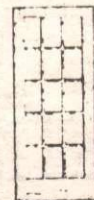


### DOORS! DOORS!

#### FRENCH DOOR

2'6" x 6'8" interior door, solid hemlock with 15-light brass bar glass insert, ready to stain or paint

COMPARE THIS PRICE...  
**88<sup>95</sup>**



#### PRE-HUNG DOORS

INTERIOR MAHOGANY 2', 2'4" or 2'6" x 6'8". Reversible hang, mahog. jamb ..... **36<sup>95</sup>**

HERITAGE PREHUNG C/W primed 4 1/2" F.J. jamb. 2'0", 2'4", 2'6" ..... **69<sup>95</sup>**

#### BIFOLD DOORS

ROTARY MAHOGANY 2'0" x 6'8" ..... **27<sup>95</sup>**  
2'6" x 6'8" **29<sup>95</sup>** 3'0" x 6'8" **33<sup>95</sup>**

HERITAGE BIFOLD Including Hardware. 2'0" or 2'6" ..... **58<sup>95</sup>**