

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper.

THIRTIETH YEAR, NO. 7

50¢

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1989



Slippery hill on Upper Ganges Road posed stiff challenge to island motorists

## Snow blocks roads, shuts schools

By SUSAN DICKER

Salt Spring Island's second snowfall of the month began early Thursday morning. By Friday afternoon, Canada's "Hawaiian Islands" were knee-deep in the white stuff, and the continuous downpour of flakes showed no signs of letting up.

For the second time in three weeks, cars were sent careening

off roadsides, school buses took a day off and hydro and road crews were called into around-the-clock action.

Weather observer Robert Aston reports that his station recorded a total of 12.9 inches of snowfall during the storm. The count includes 3.6 inches last Thursday, 6.6 inches on Friday, and 2.7 inches on Saturday.

Aston's weather recording station is located just slightly above sea level. Unofficial observers said more snow was present at higher elevations.

Aston noted that almost three years ago to the day, Salt Spring suffered through a similar snowfall. At that time, 12.1 inches fell on the island.

According to most sources,

islanders were more prepared for this snowstorm than for the previous one. And because it was not accompanied by the frigid arctic temperatures which characterized the earlier bout of bad weather, problems such as frozen pipes and water lines were not as commonplace.

Gulf Island school students,

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## Snowfall removal service criticized

By JIM BLACK

Snow removal — or the lack of it — over the past weekend have prompted more than a few Salt Spring Island residents to question the merits behind privatization of the provincial department of highways' road maintenance division.

While most of Salt Spring's main access roads were kept relatively clear during the two day storm, residents living on secondary roads — particularly roads at higher elevations — had to wait until Saturday or Sunday before they could drive to their homes.

Bob Cole of the Victoria Highway Maintenance Company, which holds the contract for roads maintenance on Salt Spring, said he felt island roads were cleared as well as was possible during the storm.

"Our main objective during the storm was to keep the main roads open," he said. "The secondary roads are last on the list of those we clean. It's a matter of priority. We keep the main roads clear, then once that is done, we start on the secondary roads by sequence."

"If we know of a person living on a secondary road with a heart

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## Teachers, school board close to district contract

After hundreds of hours of negotiations, Gulf Islands teachers and school trustees have reached an agreement, in committee, on a new contract.

As the *Driftwood* prepared to go to press on Tuesday, both sides were waiting for ratification before announcing details of the agreement. Ratification was expected to occur sometime Tuesday.

Gulf Islands Teachers Association (GITA) president Elaine Jacobson said she was happy an agreement had been reached. Grace Byrne, head of the school board's negotiations committee, echoed these sentiments, noting the agreement was finally reached last Wednesday at about 3:30 am, following 18 consecutive hours of discussion.

Contract negotiations covered some 40 sessions, ranging in length from six hours to day-long periods. They began last April, with stepped-up activity over the past few weeks.

Byrne explained that negotiations centred around an entirely new collective agreement, necessitating detailed work. The next session of negotiations should be easier, she added, because the groundwork is now in place.

Details of the agreement will be available in next week's *Driftwood*.

## Islanders, MB agree on framework for talks

By DAVE FRASER

**GALIANO ISLAND** — The Forest and Land Use Council discussing future uses of MacMillan Bloedel's holdings on Galiano Island has reached agreement on the framework for its talks.

The agreement came last Friday after a lengthy meeting in Vancouver involving MB officials, the provincial government and representatives of Galiano residents.

It was the second meeting of the council held since the body was formed. The format was endorsed last month by Galiano residents as the vehicle to help resolve local logging issues.

Those issues have come to the forefront in the past year as increasing public scrutiny was applied to MB's logging activities on Galiano. The forest products company owns 56 per cent of the island's land base.

Clear Cut Alternatives (CCA), which represents the interests of Galiano residents, indicated Saturday that the understanding

reached the day before will give it a mechanism by which islanders can discuss the agreed-upon objectives.

The wording of the agreement is as follows:

"The Forest and Land Use Council, consisting of three equal participants, representing the community of Galiano, MacMillan Bloedel and the government of B.C., serves as a mechanism to effectively address and resolve the concerns of the community regarding MB's forest and land use practices on Galiano Island.

"Through exploration and discussions of various options, the Council will strive to achieve consensus on a resolution which as far as possible meets the following criteria:

- "Meets the needs of the Community of Galiano for the maintenance and preservation, including appropriate forest management, of its forest environment, while respecting island

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# Snowfall removal effort draws criticism

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condition, or serious illness, then we will do that road before the others. Otherwise we follow our sequence for cleaning them.

"But I have to say I'm really proud of the crews — they worked 12 to 14 hours at a time without stopping for lunch or coffees. If it was still the government doing the roadwork I'm sure they would still be cleaning up."

Cole added that his office had

fielded close to 800 calls over the latter part of last week and that only two per cent of those calls were negative. "All the rest of the calls we received were positive."

However, some others didn't share Cole's view. Callers told *Driftwood* they didn't feel roads were cleared adequately or quickly enough, that a more thorough job could have been done on most secondary roads, and that clear-

ing equipment was seldom seen.

Neil Emmott, who arrived by ferry at Long Harbour on Friday night, was one who was unimpressed with the condition of the roads.

"When we drove off the evening ferry quite a few cars couldn't even make up the grade. There was so much snow on the road everybody was sliding off into the ditches," he said. "It didn't look like the road had been plowed in a

long time. For a main access road, it wasn't in very good shape."

Annalea McGarey of Dukes Road also had her share of problems. "The road was plowed on Thursday night so the school bus could get up here, but we were snowed in from then until about 5:30 pm Sunday night," she said. "They still haven't sanded it on Monday though, so it is still pretty slippery. If we

wanted to get out, it was by foot."

"I didn't envy them," said John Stepaniuk, who was roads foreman here prior to privatization. He feels the biggest problem facing road crews was a lack of experience.

Stepaniuk also said he would like the roads department to publish a central phone number where residents could call to find out when their road would be cleared.

## Power outage, clogged roads arrive in wake of snowstorm

From Page A1

many of whom just stayed home Friday, were probably the least put-off by the snowfall, which grounded all school buses. While school closures were not ordered, Superintendent of Schools Mike Marshall left the decision of remaining open to the discretion of individual principals.

Both Fulford Elementary and the Mayne Island school chose to close their doors entirely to academic ventures.

About 10 per cent (36) of high school students attended Gulf Islands Secondary School on Friday. None of the 55 Outer Islands students were in attendance, with both bus and water taxi service closed down. Principal John Wellingham said classes went as scheduled — to an extent. Some classes simply had no students.

Both Salt Spring and Fernwood elementary schools reported classes as usual, with limited participation. Sixty of the 220 students at the Fernwood school made it to class.

The story was much the same on the Outer Gulf Islands, where 13 students made it to the Pender Islands School and six arrived at the Mayne Island facility. Galiano Elementary School had the largest turnout — 44 of 80 students — despite the lack of bus service.

Pender Island RCMP reported a quiet day Friday, with most drivers "using their heads" and staying home.

At the Ganges RCMP detachment, Sergeant Larry Wendel said there were far fewer accidents during this snow storm than the one two weeks ago. Several cars reportedly slid off the road and one overturned; however, there were no injuries reported.

"The conditions were bad," Wendel said, "but a lot of people just didn't venture out."

Wild animals on the island had



Snowfall challenge

no choice whether or not to venture out and, according to local SPCA official Chris Wooldridge, we have probably "not seen the worst of the effect" the weather has had on the animal population.

The effect of two bouts of bad weather on the deer population

will be harsh, Wooldridge said. Because deer have lean, low-fat carcasses, their energy reserves are small, leaving them with little flexibility to cope with sudden cold periods and/or food shortages.

Birds are also suffering with most of their food either buried or frozen. When birds become weak, Wooldridge added, it is difficult for them to get out of deep snow. Wooldridge advises that those who begin to feed birds now should continue to do so even after good weather is restored. Birds become accustomed to territorial feeding locations.

As for domestic animals, Wooldridge said most farmers were prepared for the snowfall and took steps to ensure the safety of their animals.

Hydro spokesman John Langston said the weight of the snow snapped branches and trees which subsequently fell onto Hydro lines in the hundreds.

He said each of the Gulf Islands were hit by severe power outages. By Saturday morning, he said, more than 4,000 Gulf Island residents were without power. Galiano Island suffered the most, with some residents in the North End waiting for over 24 hours to have service restored.

The local Hydro crew was augmented by 15 non-regular workers, who attempted to fill the spaces as the crews spread over the islands. By Saturday night, Langston said, all but about 100 of the "tougher to reach" customers had their power back on.

One of the more difficult areas to service, Langston said, was Musgrave Landing, where the lack of vehicle access left crews dependent on boat and foot.

Langston said all Hydro crews and staff deserved recognition for the amount of work put in this weekend.

## Radio show to broadcast from Ganges

*Almanac*, CBC Radio's noon-hour program, will broadcast live from Ganges in late March.

The program is set to be broadcast on March 20 — the first day of spring — from Centennial Park.

The CBC said Monday it decided to base the show on Salt Spring for one day because producers were looking for "interesting places for remotes" and the island looked to match their requirements.

Producers say they hope the broadcast will profile interesting people from the islands.

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WE	1800	9.0	SU	1450	4.1
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	0650	10.4	27	0210	8.4
TH	1300	5.8		0745	10.1
	1855	8.9	MO	1540	3.7
24	0030	5.6	28	0100	9.2
	0705	10.3		0300	9.1
FR	1335	5.1	TU	0755	10.0
	2000	8.8		1630	3.3
25	0100	6.6	MAR		
	0720	10.3	1	0245	9.8
SA	1410	4.6		0450	9.7
	2105	8.7	WE	0805	9.9
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**to be frank**

by richards



**What they say!**

It's what I think he said. I leave television or radio on for company and most of the time I am unaware of what he might be saying; until I realize what has just been said. Because I only listen with half an ear, sometimes, I am reluctant to set out in type what I believe was said, without admitting the possibility of error.

It was one of the most interesting and profound admissions I have heard in the world of advertising: "This is the final announcement of no interest to everybody!"

I'm all for interest-free money if I'm to be the borrower, but the only time I'd be interested in no interest matters as the lender would be around income tax time, when the little pink forms add up to more than I can afford.

But, of course, no interest to everybody would be of great interest to everybody.

**How did they all survive?**

Day before the big snow last week I watched the birds swarming over the garden in search of food revealed as the temperature rose. I had seen no sign of birds during the freeze-up.

End of last week Marg Johnston, of Stark Road, called to ask how did the birds survive the winter weather? And I didn't know. I know how to keep a supply of water coming in frosty weather and I can keep my vehicle on the road, mostly. But when it comes to the birds I'm out of their tree.

Marg was busy feeding the flyers and thoroughly enjoying the task, as her house was a bird cage without the bars. Obviously, she wasn't well up on this aspect of natural history.

Anybody tell us?

**Deer! Deer!**

My son-in-law gave me a quick run-down on deer and survival. I had found deer tracks across the deck outside the living room when the snow lay deep and sloppy and even.

The same afternoon I watched two deer in the woods by my carport. They were too canny to come out into the open and have their photos taken, so I tried a shot in the murk of the woods.

How do they survive, I wondered aloud, after watching the two animals browsing through the dark forest. They mostly live off their own fat in the winter, said Ken. He added that the deer suffer less damage from scarcity of ready food than they do from catching cold in such weather as the past weeks brought us . . . and them. They are vulnerable to pneumonia.

# Galiano land talks settle on objectives

From Page A1

resources, economy and rural community.

- "Meets the needs of MB as owner of the land to realize its highest and best use which can include a mix of uses such as appropriate forest harvesting, parkland dedication, development (for example, tourism, recreation and residential) or community purchase of the land.

- "It meets the spirit and intent of the Islands Trust mandate: to preserve and protect, in co-operation with the municipalities and the government of the province, the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefits of the residents of the Trust area and the province generally.

- "It is hoped this council can act as an example which implements many of the ideas presented in the Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy."

"We're quite happy with the agreement," said Geoff Gaylor, one of three CCA members appointed to the tripartite council which includes members of the provincial government and Mac-Millan Bloedel. "I feel very positive that it's a workable framework."

Also at the meeting, held at MB's head office in Vancouver and chaired by Andrew Thompson, were CCA appointees Ken Millard and Gary Moore.

"It was much more relaxed than the previous meeting," says Millard. "They came prepared to talk, as we were."

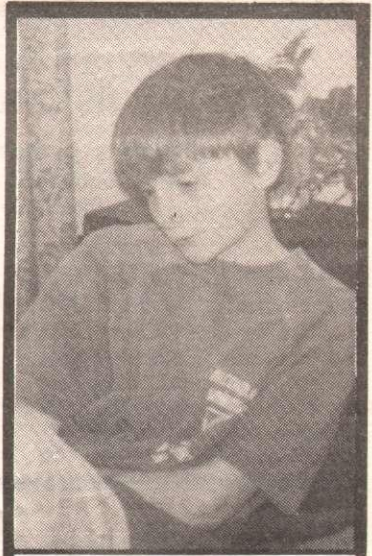
CCA members Dawn Christian and Dale Lyon were present,

serving in an advisory role. Galiano resident and Islands Trustee Margaret Griffiths was there as a local government rep.

Foul weather on the day of the meeting delayed the return home of the Galiano representatives. Conditions also kept provincial government representatives Robert Buchan and Blair Cafferty, and MB's Bill Cafferata, from attending.

Cafferata, however, was linked to the meeting by telephone for the entire five hours.

The next meeting of the forest and land use council is tentatively scheduled for March 2 in Victoria, the location to be announced. The public is invited to attend and observe the proceedings.



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SAVE THIS COUPON

**Islands Trust meeting slated for Wednesday**

The regular Islands Trust meeting set for last Friday on Salt Spring has been rescheduled for today (Wednesday).

The meeting, at the Harbour House Hotel, begins at 10 am. On the agenda are public hearings on a number of land-use bylaws. They include:

- policies for a new zoning designation — commercial service — and the application of the classification to an area at the junction of Upper Ganges and Robinson roads, and to a property on Rainbow Road;
- policies to encourage cluster subdivisions "to promote efficient resource management and conservation, by leaving large areas undeveloped and available for woodlot management and other resource management practices," primarily on lands now zoned agricultural, rural, or upland and forest;
- expanding the upland and forest zone classification to create two new designations allowing additional uses, and;
- a subdivision bylaw amendment allowing additional building lots when a commonly owned parcel of land is created.

Today's Salt Spring Trust Committee meeting will be the last one to include planner Dave Morris.

Morris is leaving the Trust to accept a planning position with the Capital Commission in Victoria.

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## Road service review urged

While the grumblings that greeted last week's local snow-clearing efforts must be put in perspective, there still appears to be reason enough to press the provincial government to review the winter performance of our privatized roads maintenance service.

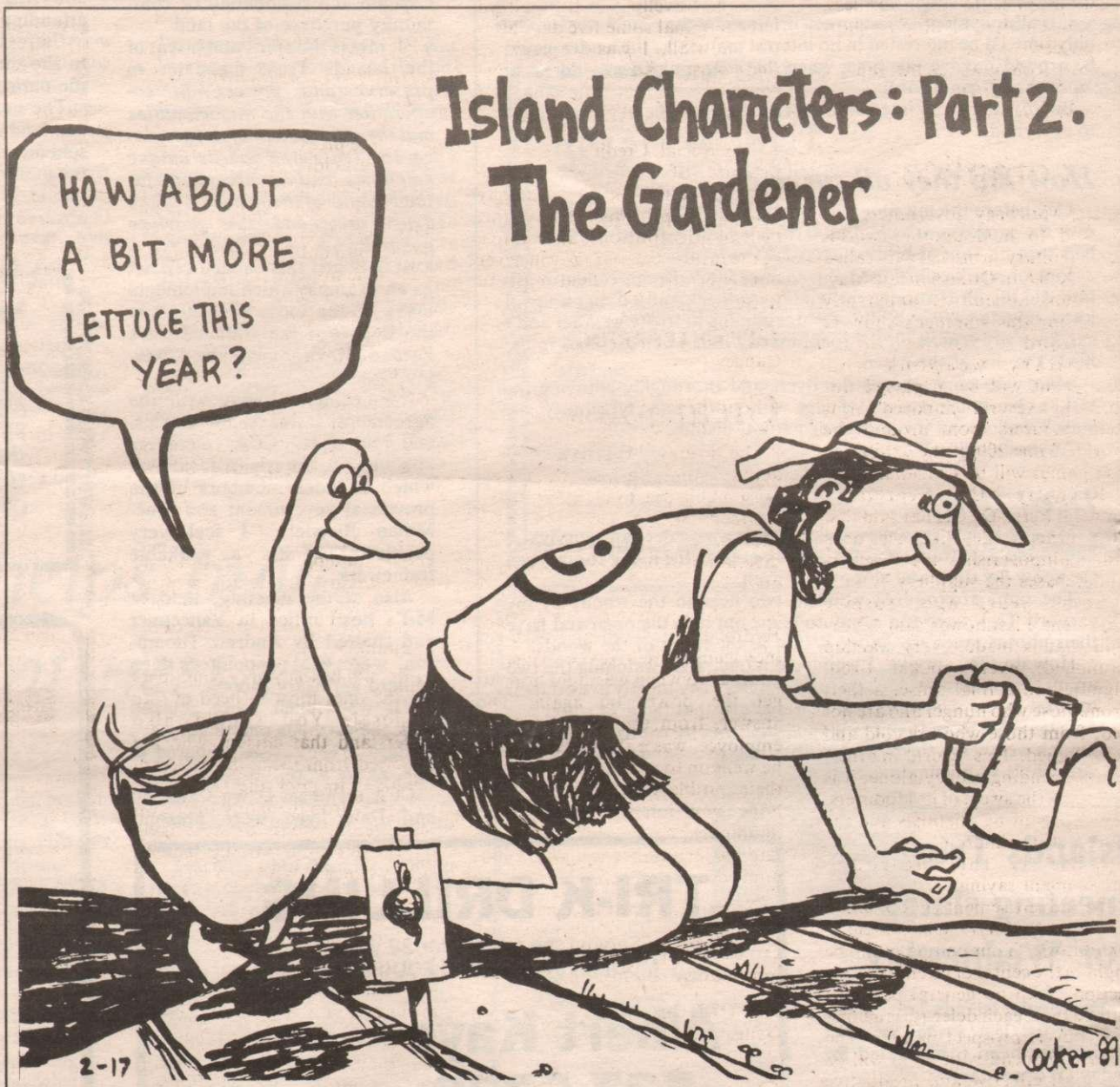
The snow which fell on the islands over two days last week overstayed its welcome on most Salt Spring roads. Complaints from residents included charges of inadequate clearing of main thoroughfares to shouts that little or no work was done to make secondary routes passable. It was also held that too much time passed before crews and equipment began work on roads.

To be fair, those criticisms should be balanced with the recognition that the recent snowfall was among the worst to strike Salt Spring in perhaps 20 years. The time and effort needed to clear the sudden arrival of one foot of snow — or more, in some spots — cannot be compared to the somewhat less demanding challenge of removing the lighter dustings we normally receive.

We must also guard against judging last week's work only against the standards established in recent years by the highways department employees working under former roads foreman John Stepaniuk. That performance was so superhuman and stellar that its day may soon be regarded as the golden age of snow removal on Salt Spring.

However, even when we place those qualifications aside, it is apparent that the snow removal service we received last week was less than acceptable. The responsibility for improving that level of service rests with the provincial government.

Although it has privatized roads maintenance work in this province, Victoria holds the contracts with the firms doing the work. As such, it can stipulate the level of snow-clearing performance expected and ensure that those conditions are



met. If they are not, it is incumbent upon the province to discover the reasons why — i.e., unusually heavy snowfalls or inadequate staffing levels and schedules — and act to see that its contract terms are appropriate and upheld.

If it is not already planning to do so, we would urge Victoria to review the level of road-clearing

services provided this winter under privatization. We would also demand that the provincial government shore up that service where it fell short of the mark.

The first winter under privatization has provided a stern test for crews. Now it's time to grade the exam.

## Islanders excluded from spending habit changes

The people living on these islands have long known, or suspected, that they're not part of the normal, mainstream segment of society. Now it's official.


Every four years, Statistics Canada updates the list of items it prices to determine increases in the cost of living. Those increases, in turn, are used to determine things like how much the monthly Old Age Pension should be increased to keep pace, and whether opposition politicians will have something nasty to say about the government during Question Period in the House.

Anyway, the items on the StatsCan list are updated every few years by detailed surveys of how Canadians spend their money. The most recent updating of

**my word**

.....

**by duncan macdonnell**



the list, made public last week, uses a 1986 survey of 20,000 Canadians as the basis for the changes since made.

The newspaper account I read of the tinkering listed a number of items that are now hot, and a lot that are not. New entries include the cost of ski lift tickets, precious metal tableware and memberships in recreational clubs; for the

first time, the price of those items will be used when StatsCan next determines the increase in the cost of living.

As much as those newly-added goods are alien to the lifestyle of the islanders I know, the confirmation of our exclusion from the mainstream of society came by way of the staples now excluded from the StatsCan basket.

Take ferry service. It's no longer part of the formula. Also out are frozen corn and peas, although it's not clear if those are the ones in the bags or the kind that shivered in island gardens this past month.

And a lot of the things we depended on to help us survive last week's snowstorm, and the sub-zero temperatures of the week before, are also gone. Items like the hide-a-bed rolled out for the unexpected visitor whose truck was stuck in your driveway, and the canned beef stew, peaches and sardines we resorted to when the power failed.

I guess we're just not with it anymore.  
 The other way to look at this

trend is to figure that if and when the cost of living index rises, it means prices are shooting up everywhere but here. When it gets out of hand, people will be even more attracted to these islands, drawn by our cheap peas, cheap ferry prices and cheap hide-a-beds.

For the slightly less paranoid islander, there is a third view: ignore the whole list because it never had anything to do with us in the first place, and has even less relevance now than before. Mainstream stuff you moved here to avoid.

Me? I'm stocking up on frozen peas and canned peaches, looking for a hide-a-bed and buying a book of ferry tickets. If it's out, I want in.

## letters

### Allowances

My turn to nit pick. Crofton Auto Service's ad in the February 15 *Driftwood* caught my eye, probably due to their nifty slogan. "A short ferry ride away," and the blaring lead is "Tired." The ad then insinuates that the service, availability of parts, and prices on Salt Spring may be suspect.

I would like to testify that, although one has to make allowances for Salt Spring time, I'm more than happy to give the local technicians my business. Perhaps I'm tired of all those short ferry rides.

Now, Robin, about my van...  
**RICK NEUFELD,**  
Fulford Harbour.

### Accomplice

The Mulroney government has decided to hold another world-scale military arms bazaar, called ARMX '89, in Ottawa in late May. A junior version is apparently slated for this summer's show at Abbotsford.

Military weapons and equipment will be displayed, for sale, by several hundred arms manufacturers from around the world. Some 200 of the exhibiting companies will be Canadian.

Recently, UN Secretary-General Perez De Cuellar said that "the arms trade, like the drug trade, impoverishes the receivers and debases the suppliers."

Some years ago, former President Eisenhower said "every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in a final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, from those who are cold and not clothed. This "world in arms" is not spending money alone; it is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists and the hopes of its children."

What is the Mulroney government saying?

An advertisement in *Canadian Defense Quarterly* tells potential exhibitors: "Your company can be right in the centre of intense buying action. With no general public in attendance, each delegate is a bona fide buyer, prospect or user. The time you spend with them will be the most effective and productive of the year."

Among the delegates attending Canada's last ARMX, in 1987, were high-ranking political and military officials from some 50 countries, including many from the so-called Third World; countries unable to provide even minimum standards of food and shelter for millions of their people.

Talk about an ultimate in hypocrisy! In a world where every minute of the day some \$2 million is spent on arms and militarism and some 30 children die from preventable causes, surely one has to wonder, out loud, why Canada is being such a willing accomplice in the world-wide arms trade, in the perpetuation of injustice and oppression, and in the destruction of human life.

So Brian says to the Grim Reaper: "How much for the missile?"  
**LOWELL HICKS,**  
Ganges.

### Deplorable

*Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Highways Minister Neil Vant, filed with this newspaper for publication.*

The recent cold weather and snowfall provided the first test of the Highway Maintenance Corp. on Salt Spring Island since privatization, and the obvious

reduction of services was disappointing to see.

Throughout the entire week beginning January 30, our island roads remained treacherous due to poor snow removal and inadequate sanding. School bus routes, normally a priority, were in deplorable condition for most of the week, as were streets bordering these schools. The main roads leading to the ferry terminals were not maintained at a level compatible with the heavy traffic flow.

While travelling to the Fulford ferry terminal some five days after the snowfall, I was surprised to find most of the route snow-covered, with very little sand, and extremely slippery.

The Social Credit government promise of equivalent service under privatization was seemingly feasible in principle, but if this taste of privatization is an example of the future, the savings will never outweigh the increased cost to ICBC.

**JEFF OUTERBRIDGE,**  
Ganges.

### Great job

On Friday, February 17, at about 7 pm, we lost the power, presumably due to the effect of the weather. No big deal — we went straight into "candles, wood and save water" mode and carried right on.

The following morning I called Hydro about 9 am and asked if they would care to make an insipid guess as to when we might hope to get the power on again. The answer, from the very courteous employee, was a flat no. However, he went on to explain the nature of their problems and offered the hope and intent of getting us illuminated again some time in the late afternoon (no guarantee implied or offered!)

At about 1 pm the lights came back on! How's that for good service? Thanks guys, for a great job in lousy conditions.

**JIM HEDGECOCK,**  
Ganges.

### Strains

From the standpoint of wholism or wholistic thoughts; Ganges is our commerce centre. We are not Ganges' periphery. If incorporation is to occur at all, it is most logical and practical (shared tax base) to incorporate the whole island.

I think if we fuss about this, not unlike other areas of the province, there could be a provincial command to amalgamate with the closest municipality, which would be Sidney, I believe.

In regards to missing out on grants, because of our current status, there is no such thing as something for nothing. These grants flooding in for developmental purposes could strain the natural ecosystem that we (residents and tourists) enjoy so much.

Whole island incorporation

could serve with chosen representation from Ganges, Vesuvius and Fulford at present. Much room there to let natural boundaries ebb and flow. Pressures would be able to build and release without explosions, and we could have a peaceful place to live and to host for others.

**GARY LUNDY,**  
Ganges.

### Misgivings

*Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Environment Minister Bruce Strachan, filed with this newspaper for publication.*

We are pleased to see that there was a pesticide and toxic chemical pickup here on Salt Spring Island on January 26th, 1989. (It may not have been used to its maximum, owing to an unfortunate mistake in the phone number on the ad in the *Gulf Islands Driftwood*.)

We would like to express a few misgivings on this program, however:

- The pickup is far too infrequent. Because of insufficient funding and staffing there was in fact no pickup at all last year, and we understand only two are planned this year.

- The requirements for marking and containing the chemicals, and the necessity of making a prior long distance call to Nanaimo both seem likely to inhibit the use of the program.

It could be that leaky containers are the ones most in need of safe disposal. You should also understand that citizens who are inhibited from using the program are likely to pitch the toxins into the bush, drop them into their own septic tank systems, or most likely put them into the garbage pickup, from whence they are carried to the local landfill. The landfill unfortunately lies right in the Cusheon Lake watershed.

None of the above disposal methods is likely to improve our groundwater supplies, and could prove very harmful.

A more frequent toxic chemical pickup, not involving each user in a long distance phone call, and actively inviting local participation would be appreciated.

**TOM WRIGHT,**  
Salt Spring Island  
Water Preservation Society.

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more letters

Present ideas

Environment Minister Bruce Strachan and Regional Development Minister Elwood Veitch recently announced the long-awaited formation of a task force on environment and economy. This initiative follows from the work of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Economy.

The impetus for this activity is the recognition by international and national leaders that the ecological and social problems we face are directly related to current patterns of economic development. There is a growing consensus that the world must move toward sustainable development.

Sustainable development offers an opportunity for society to harmonize the previously divisive concepts of economic development and environmental integrity. It is a new and expanded vision of development which takes place within the limits imposed by the environment while providing for essential human needs both locally and globally without detracting from the needs of future generations. Although the goal is clear, there is little consensus on how sustainable development can actually be achieved.

Interest in sustainable development is growing as demonstration projects and other initiatives are emerging. For instance, the community of Tofino on Vancouver Island recently adopted a sustainable development plan. The Kootenay Centre for a Sustainable Future held a conference to develop ideas for achieving sustainability. The Sustainable Development Committee of the B.C. Environmental Network (BCEN) has been working to inform BCEN members of the implications of sustainable development and to provide suggestions to the task force to further public discussion of these issues.

Communities and individuals throughout B.C. need to become involved in creating sustainable development options that are appropriate to their region. The B.C. Task Force on Environment and Economy provides an opportunity for individuals to express their concern and suggest alternatives to provincial development policies which meet the needs of their community and protect the environment on which that community is dependent.

We urge all individuals, community groups, and municipal

officials to present their ideas on achieving sustainable development in B.C. to the Task Force prior to March 30, 1989 (c/o Jamie Alley, Cabinet Secretariat, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.).  
**SHARON BAILEY,**  
Sustainable Development Committee of the B.C. Environmental Network, Vancouver.

Invisible

Our CRD director, a medical doctor, writes a perfect example of gobblygooky double-think from which I deduce that Maxwell Lake is on the hit list. A woman who works in the Health Office writes a masterful letter regarding the disadvantage the teachers were in at the bargaining table with the board of education. The alternate to the CRD director and the top signer of the Ganges incorporation committee responds with a laughable "rebuttal" which misses each of her points.

I note that persons living outside the downtown core area can be elected to the proposed village council and that no disadvantages to incorporation are cited in the *Report on Local Government for Ganges*. I remember the panel of specialists speaking to the issue of incorporation at the Island Watch Society's symposium. They unilaterally urged the strengthening of the Islands Trust and suggested further exploration with the CRD, citing significant disadvantages to incorporation. The businessmen set up to create another structure through which to manifest their power.

Concerned citizens are volunteering long hours attempting to contravene BC Ferries plans, are fighting to save our water resources, and have been working hard for better education for our children, etc. Meanwhile, the big boys sit in back rooms, wheel and deal, and pen five minute letters to the editor. Meanwhile our citizens who make sense burn out, trying to impact the system, trying to access the system, trying to be heard by the system.

Now what I really wonder is whether Maggie Hayes can write a "masterful" letter or are only the masters allowed that privilege? The fact that she (and the others who have written about Maxwell Lake, for example) makes sense is rendered invisible when cogent comments are responded to with idiocy. Similarly we are to assume that there are no disadvantages to

incorporation because that section is omitted.

The gobblygooky double-think is a sophisticated tactic used to erase that which threatens those in power.

It has been stated that "the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house" (Audrey Lorde) and that "reaction is the most potent form of collusion" (Sonia Johnson). What we resist persists. We MUST find other ways to bring about change and preserve our world.

**PHYLLIS TATUM,**  
Ganges.

Free to choose

Is abortion the new panacea of planetary birth control? Is it the highest pinnacle of humanity at its best? Is it the answer to feminist liberation and equality to male chauvinism? Have women finally succeeded in winning the right of free choice, to equally contribute to the destruction of humanity, that men have proudly contributed to for thousands of years? Is it now the will of some new age men and women to murder, abuse, neglect, exploit and victimize unborn babies and children?

How much longer will society use innocent children as scapegoats and whipping posts? How much longer will society continue to condemn defenseless children to death and abuse, because of society's ignorance and its mistakes, frustrations and grotesque negligence?

Where is the hope for humanitarian rights and global peace, when many mothers are demanding the right to legally murder their unborn children, and in the same breath, demand that we the taxpayers should financially support the destruction of human life?

If this is what freedom of choice means to society, then there is no such thing as humanitarian rights,

Turn to page A7

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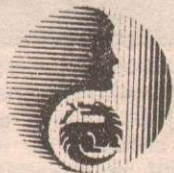


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more letters

From page A6

because humanitarian rights are for *everybody*, not just for some.

Freedom of choice is not a man-made invention. It is the inherent gift of God's love for all humanity, and when we the people choose to abuse our freedom of choice, then our freedom of choice becomes ego-centric and destructive.

When freedom of choice is to choose *not* to do unto others as you would have them do unto you (which means hatred, lies, war and abortion), then freedom of choice becomes "Thou shall kill."

When freedom of choice is to choose to do unto others as you would have them do unto you (which means love, truth, forgiveness, and peace) then the freedom means "Thou shalt *not* kill."

The laws of nature are not a man-made invention. The laws of nature are God's laws, and when our freedom of choice is to disobey, abuse, violate and destroy the laws of nature, then the obvious result of society's disobedience will inevitably end in global genocide.

Are we, as citizens of the world, slowly deteriorating into a godless pack of raging savages, or are we going to unite and take a solid stand for humanitarian rights and global peace for all humanity, including the unborn babies?

Freedom of choice is our decision!

IZADAURA L. GODCHILD,  
Fulford Harbour.

this island and have been involved in a volunteer capacity in furthering their interests.

Often, the youth I work with are troubled or in crises. Some of these leave home in their early teens and are faced with the difficulties of trying to feed, clothe, and support themselves on their own. Often this leads to dropping out of school, drug and alcohol involvement and perhaps even break and entry.

These kids are invariably worthy, beautiful beings. Life has simply not been a piece of cake for them. Usually these young people are the product of separation and divorce, single-parent homes, and financially and emotionally stressful situations.

When they become visible in the community, they are often seen as defiant, disrespectful, non-law abiding trouble-makers. And yet many of them have become my good friends and have shown me great warmth, intelligence and talent, and hope for the future.

Yes, even here on quiet Salt Spring we have young people who need *your* help.

I am more familiar with the circumstances of young teens, but I know that our community counsellors deal with numerous situations where children of all ages are in need of temporary or long term fostering.

We have very few foster homes on the island; far too few for the current need.

Recently children have had to be sent off island, which is not really the best solution in most cases.

Can you help? You don't need credentials, a fancy home, or years of training; you just need to be willing and to have an open heart.

Our local Community Society is sponsoring a foster parents program through the ministry of social services and housing. I hope you will attend the meetings and find out what is involved. Even if you don't want to foster, your input and support are needed.

Single parents are also welcome as foster parents, plus we invite you to share your views about the realities that often lead to the stress in families who experience crisis. We also need Big Brothers and Big Sisters who will give a little time to children who lack a mom or dad in their lives.

Watch the paper for more details, and/or phone the Community Centre. You are needed *now*.

ROSALIE MILES,  
Fulford Harbour.

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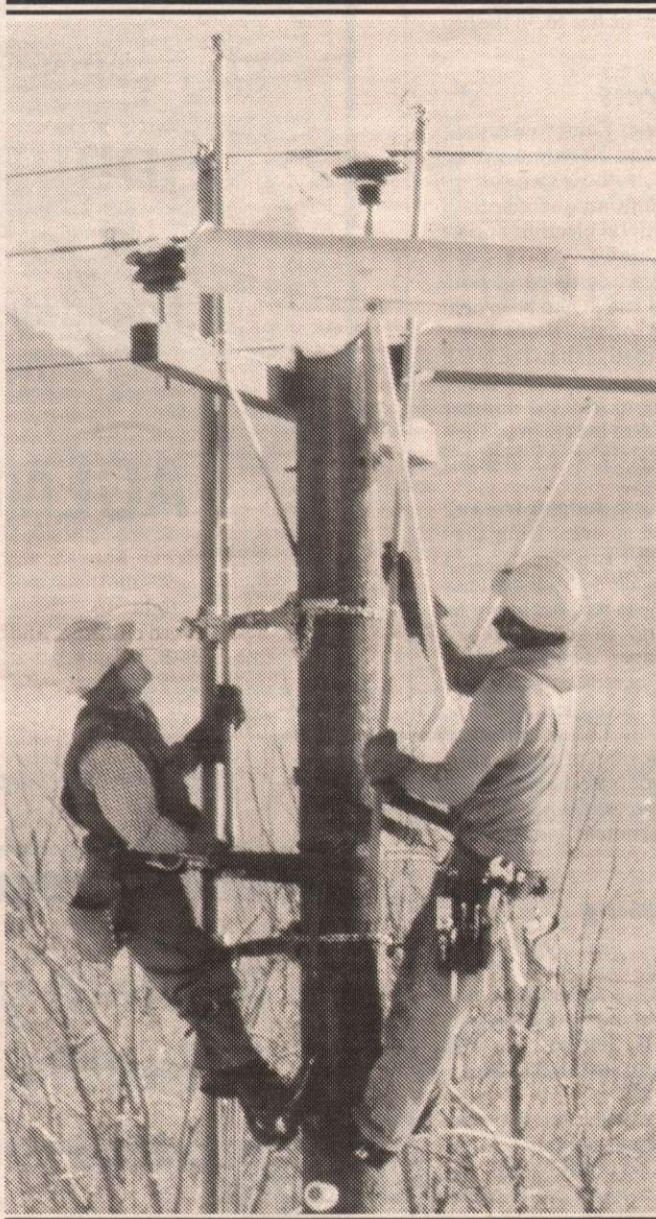
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**capital comment**

by **hubert beyer**



**VICTORIA** — Speculation about Premier Vander Zalm's future is rampant again, ranging all the way from his imminent resignation to a snap election call after the introduction of a great-news budget next month.

The latest scenario goes this way: If the Socreds win at least one of the two upcoming byelections and if their overall popularity increases significantly after the budget comes down, the premier will call an election.

Other rumours have the movers and shakers of the Social Credit Party, the money boys, lean on Vander Zalm to bail out gracefully before he takes the ship down with him.

Before that, the rumour mill had him sick and tired of the never-ending in-fighting, wanting to wash his hands of the whole sordid mess and to get back to his own business.

I'll bet you the entire B.C. cabinet to three of Ayatollah Khomeini's top Mullahs that the latest rumours are also just that — rumours. Absolutely nothing will happen. The premier will neither resign, nor will he call a snap election. Instead, he will continue to ride out any storm, calling an election only when he has to, in the last year of his term.

**No shortage of storms**

There will be no shortage of storms for Vander Zalm to weather. The two upcoming byelections in Point Grey and Nanaimo will be among the most severe. On March 15, voters in those two ridings will choose successors to Dave Stupich and Kim Campbell, both of whom resigned their seats to run in the last federal election and are now installed as Members of Parliament in Ottawa.

There's every chance that the Socreds will get defeated in both byelections. Nanaimo is a traditional NDP seat which had been held by Stupich for all but one term in the past 25 years. Point Grey, formerly held by Socred Kim Campbell, could easily fall to the NDP as a result of the general anti-government mood in the province.

Getting defeated in both ridings would bring to four the number of byelections the Socreds lost since Vander Zalm led them to such an impressive victory in 1987. And that certainly won't help his popularity.

The Socreds' big hope at this point is the budget. Judging from all indicators, British Columbians will be treated to something they haven't seen since 1981 — a balanced budget. We can also expect a number of "goodies" in the budget. Removal of the one per cent tax on property purchases for first-time home buyers will probably be one of them.

The irony of it all is that even the budget won't pull the government out of its popularity slump. The Socreds will continue to scratch their heads wondering why nobody likes them.

That bewilderment is totally understandable. The government has managed the economy as well as any government could have been expected to under the prevailing conditions. No other province will be able to produce a balanced budget this year, and yet, the storms continue to rage around this government and, more specifically, around the premier.

**Strong leadership missing**

The one missing ingredient that would have made this administration strong and stable is leadership. Vander Zalm has many qualities. The ability to provide strong leadership is not among them. He has brought to the office of premier a measure of compassion that was absent in his predecessors, and perhaps it is that openness and desire to be liked by everybody that makes him a weak leader.

A strong leader would have silenced the dissidents long ago, but Vander Zalm can't turn his back without someone sticking a knife into it. Not everybody in Bill Bennett's caucus was happy with his policies, particularly his restraint program, but no one dared speak out against it as long as he was in charge.

Vander Zalm, on the other hand, has to contend with dissident caucus members snapping interminably at his heels. And he doesn't seem to have enough strength and support from the rest of his caucus to silence them.

But the one thing his detractors can't force him to do is quit. Like it or not, he is the premier and he calls the shots. He will decide when to call the next election, and it won't be now.

Vander Zalm will continue trying to improve his image and the government's popularity. He will continue hoping that he'll succeed in that task, and he will put off calling an election as long as he possibly can.

Expect two NDP victories in the March 15 byelections. Expect a good budget at the end of March, but don't expect the premier to resign or call a snap election.

# Moratorium requested

The provincial government is being asked by both the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Salt Spring Islands Trust Committee to impose a two-year moratorium on the disposal of Crown lands on the island.

Dr. Hugh Borsman, Salt Spring's representative to the CRD, and local trustees Nick Gilbert and John Stepaniuk have outlined the request in letters written to the provincial lands ministry. The Trust is expected to send a second letter to Victoria following its meeting today (Wednesday).

Gilbert said "the fact that the CRD and the Trust are working together on this one" would likely carry some weight at the lands ministry office.

The requests for a moratorium were made after efforts to secure local management authority over the lands made little progress in Victoria. Those efforts, in turn, were made in response to a ministry review of the status of Crown lands on the island and the

possibility those properties could be sold or leased.

The lands — about 1,900 acres in eight parcels — are valued by the Trust for their recreation, greenbelt and possible woodlot management uses.

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- Minutes
- Financial Report
- Chairman's Report
- Report of Volunteer Firemen
- Election of Trustees  
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- Appointment of Auditor
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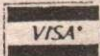
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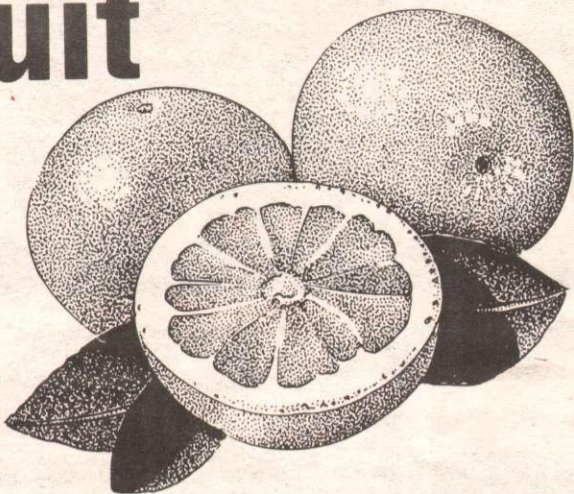
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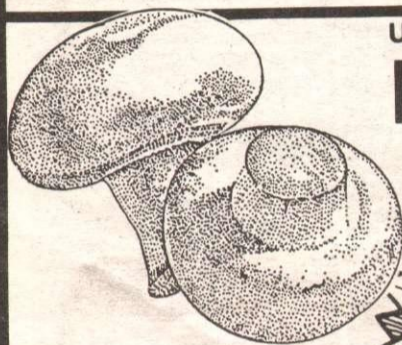
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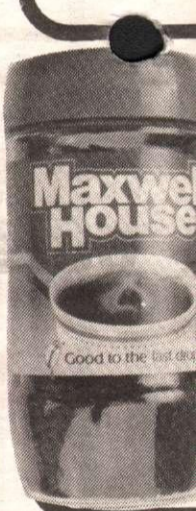
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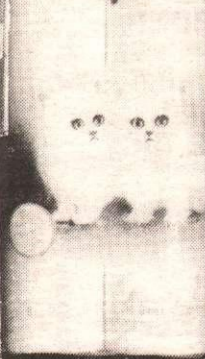
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# Island architect's project wins heritage group nod

A preservation project carried out in Victoria under the direction of a Salt Spring Island architect has been recognized by a regional historical society.

The project — the restoration of the Chinese Public School in Victoria — earned the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association an award of merit from the Hallmark Society, an organization dedicated to preserving historical and architectural landmarks in the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Sharing in the award, presented Monday night in Victoria, was Salt Spring architect Jonathan Yardley, who was retained by the Benevolent Association to oversee the restoration and preservation project.

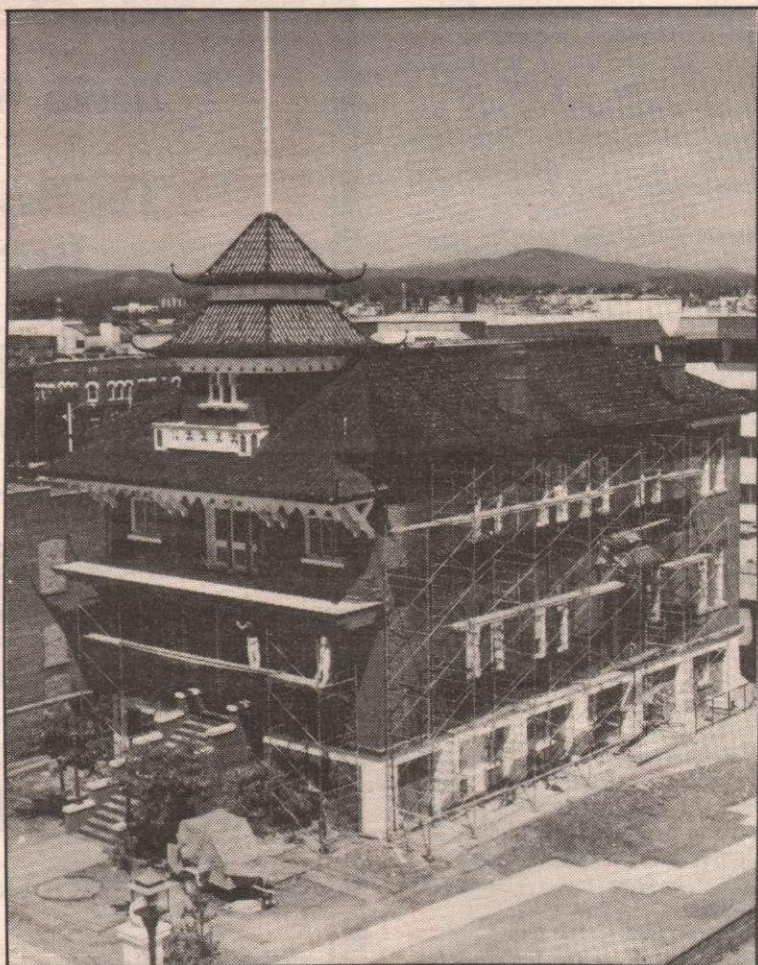
Another local resident involved in the work was professional engineer Phillip Grange, who carried out the structural analysis of the building prior to the beginning of the restoration in 1988.

The handing out of the award on Monday night coincided with the start of Heritage Week in Canada. Extending until February 27, the week is designated by Heritage Canada and is designed to make Canadians more aware of their past.

Yardley is also involved with heritage projects on Salt Spring. For the past 10 years, he has worked on the ongoing restoration and preservation of the original farm buildings at Ruckle Park — including the restoration of Henry Ruckle's 1885 farmhouse, undertaken in 1988 by Robert Whelan, a Victoria builder operating under Yardley's architectural direction.

Last week, Yardley was retained by the provincial parks ministry to complete a detailed survey of the main barn, built by Henry Ruckle in 1912, prior to an expected April 1 call for tenders on the work.

The barn, the largest building of the park, "is one of the major structures which is in desperate need of stabilization — it is slowly rotting to the ground," Yardley said.



Chinese school in Victoria

In a 1984 report on the structural integrity of the farm's buildings, Yardley noted that 12 were in urgent need of restoration work. The farmhouse done last year and the barn due for work this year are the only buildings on the list to have received attention to date.

Yardley said he hoped the remaining buildings would be stabilized "before they are lost to the ravages of nature."

He added: "Every effort should be made to ensure that this irreplaceable part of B.C. history is not lost forever."

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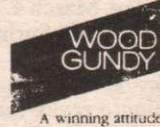
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### NOTICE OF INTENT

Notice is hereby given by Public Works Canada—Marine on behalf of Air Transportation Sector, 1166 Alberni Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 3W5, on this the 21st day of February, 1989, that the above-named intends to apply to Environment Canada for an OCEAN DUMPING PERMIT under the CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT to load a substance: Dredge Spoil at site: Patricia Bay, B.C., 48°41.3' N, 123°26.9' W, Airport-Seaplane Base for the purpose of ocean disposal at: Haro Strait Dumpsite, 48°41.0' N, 123°16.4' W by the following method: end dumping or bottom dumping from scows.

It is proposed that operations will be conducted between the dates of April 1, 1989, and March 31, 1990.

For further information regarding this operation please contact: T. Dunphy, Project Engineer, Public Works Canada, 1166 Alberni Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 3W5, Telephone: 666-3134. Requests for information on the permitting process may be addressed to:

Environmental Protection  
Conservation and Protection  
Environment Canada  
Pacific and Yukon Region  
Kapilano 100, Park Royal  
West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1A2

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CLASSIFIEDS GET F-A-A-S-T RESULTS!

# High school show continues local fund-raising traditions

Gulf Islands Secondary School's fifth annual cabaret presentation, *Play A Simple Melody*, is set for Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, in the Activity Centre of Salt Spring Elementary School.

*Play A Simple Melody* is a 90-minute revue featuring individual students, small groups of students, all three of the high school bands, about 30 young dancers and several professional musicians and dancers from the community.

Musical selections are to include a Japanese flute duet with synthesizer accompaniment, a piano solo and selections by the *Back Street Blues Band*, a five-piece student-initiated group.

The school bands will play songs ranging from *Spring* (from *The Four Seasons*) by Vivaldi, to *A Simple Serenade* by J.S. Bach, to a medley of songs from *The Muppet Movie*, to Herbie Hancock's fusion piece *Rock-it*, to the rock classic *On Broadway*, featuring improvisations by several members of the high school jazz band.

The 30-plus dancers will present 10 different dance numbers. Seventeen young dancers from the high school will be featured in five of the dance numbers, including the opening and closing productions, which are arrangements by pianist Gary Lundy of the *Play A Simple Melody* theme song.

A troupe of young dancers instructed by Sue Bowler will perform *The Boy From New York City*. Bowler and Gordon Wales, the choreographers for the show, will be featured in dance with other local dance instructors Robbyn Scott, Mike Krayenhoff and Lottie Devindisch.

Scott and Krayenhoff are also slated to perform a freestyle dance to a Claude Debussy solo flute piece played by music director D. Antoine Prosk.

Professional local musicians Ray Newman, Gary Lundy, Keith Hearsy and Bill Smith have been hired to "fill the gaps" in the program and to provide inspira-

tion and know-how for students. Host for *Play A Simple Melody* is fast-rising Salt Spring star James Wilkinson, who will bring his brand of humour to the show and be featured on three vocal selections, including a duet with high school vocalist Nikki Hanssens.

The cabaret concept followed in the show was originated five years ago by Gulf Islands Secondary School music director Dwaine Prosk.

*'We were looking for a way to fund-raise that directly involved what we were doing in the classroom.'*

"We were looking for a way to fund-raise that directly involved what we were doing in the classroom," he said. "Musicians don't like getting wet, cold hands washing cars. We came up with *Puttin' On The Ritz* (1984).

Prosk continued: "The scope of music and dance offered at the high school is quite narrow or non-existent. The cabaret concept was a means by which we could


nurture a dance program; feature talented young musicians who may not necessarily be enrolled in the band program; provide some employment for local professional musicians, choreographers, dancers, directors and composers; have students work with and be inspired by professional performers; provide opportunities for students to work with lighting, sound, sets, decorations, costumes, etc.; bring the community and school together through the power of music, and maybe raise a few dollars."

A spaghetti dinner (including garlic bread, salad, a beverage and dessert) prepared by Linda Hoover and Marianne Allan, food and nutrition instructors at GISS, their senior students and some parents will be served prior to the Saturday, March 4 performance only. There will be no dinner at the Friday show, although a beverage and snack is included in the price of admission.

People may attend the show only on either night, or the dinner and show on Saturday only. Show time is 7:30 pm both nights, and dinner will be served between 6 pm and 6:30 pm on Saturday night.

Admission to the show only is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Price for dinner and show is \$7 for adults and \$5 or students under the age of 12 years.

Tickets are available at *et cetera*, the high school office or from music students.



**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 92**

## Annual General Meeting

**8 pm**  
**Monday, March 6**

**Phillip Swift**  
B.C. Land Surveyor  
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Box 997, Ganges

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**Dinner Special — Feb. 25-Mar. 3**

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Petite Ribeye Steak .....	7.25
Grilled Chicken Breast .....	6.50
Sole Florentine .....	7.25

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---

DINNER SPECIALS IN THE PUB (while the dining room is closed) will be ANNIE'S CHOICE.

Daily Menu  
11:30 am-9:30 pm

# PUB

Daily Specials  
Hamburger Paradise

Entertainment in the Pub Saturday, Feb. 25

## MEGASOUND Canned Music

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FIFTH ANNUAL FULFORD INN INVITATIONAL

# Volleyball Tournament

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26, GISS High School Gym



In the Lounge  
Fri. & Sat.,  
Feb. 24 & 25

## MARLON

at the piano  
8 pm-midnight

---

In the Pub Fri. & Sat., Feb. 24 & 25

# SEA CRUZ

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HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL  
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artseen

by gary cherneff



There she stands or, more appropriately, there she decays, in the warming, incessant penetrating rain. A white relic deteriorating, eroding, dome collapsed, frosty walls rounded like a sucked popsicle.

The weather report indicated up to 15 cm. of snow and after that, freezing temperatures. Without that assurance, I probably wouldn't have begun, but the 5-hour project suggested by my partner in crime, was undertaken with the idea of aiding and abetting harmonious family life. What the heck, I thought, it looks like lots of fun and a nice change from my daily work routine.

I remembered back to the igloo my dad built for me when I was 9 or 10, how meticulously he cut the frozen snow blocks and laid each on its circular course, culminating in the symmetrical completed dome with small back window and arch tunnel entrance.

That was the Vancouver winter when the next door neighbour (with an evangelistic belief in the weather prognosis of the Farmer's Almanac) levelled his backyard garden in preparation for an outdoor skating rink—uncommon in these parts, to say the least.

The snow I had to deal with last week was a different kind, not icy, not fluffy but with just the right texture for snow balls and snow-people. The three of us — my honey and my 11-year-old daughter — began with the spirit of laissez-faire and invention within a loosely-inscribed circle in the snow.

Confrontations and arguments were diffused with energetic free-for-all snowball fights. But it occurred to me after the circle had taken on a flat-sided oval shape that an essential part of design and construction is the organization of qualified, skilled labour willing to submit to the direction of an accredited overseer.

This apparently being contrary to good co-operative family fun, I dropped this serious requirement and let the snowballs fly where they may. An improvised free form structure was the result, deviating from Buckminster Fuller's orthodoxy in radical and unpredictable ways.

How we managed to complete the dome without major structural collapse is a bit of a mystery. The book *Architecture without Architects*, by Bernard Rudofsky, clearly shows enormous historical precedent for our approach. It is a visual compendium of how structural form around the world is dictated by climate, function and the qualities of local materials. However, with no expert looming on the horizon to guide us, we dived in, inventing as we went along.

Snow is a versatile building material whose specific characteristics vary according to free-water content. Our snow was rollable, so we started with balls about eight inches in diameter at the base. Gradually we reduced the size as we tapered toward the summit.

Because we had left a two-foot-wide gap for a doorway, structural integrity was denied until an arch was constructed to tie the walls together. Until this time stress cracking required inside buttresses similar to ribs in a boat.

Doorway arch completed, the work went quickly. Adding snow in small increments, the walls curved in to become ceilings. The form began to remind me of photos I'd seen of granaries built of clay in the upper reaches of the Volta river on the Ivory Coast.

Rudofsky's book shows huge networks of elegant vaulted domes (sail vaults) constructed of mud brick in Lybian and Iranian deserts.

Our task was a bit like coil building a gigantic pot from the inside. But snow, unlike clay, is a translucent substance. As the wall rose and the opening closed, the falling snow was shut out, but the light, a pure filtered light, diffused into the structure creating a shadowless environment.

Very quickly it was discovered that utterances from the inside were largely indiscernible to outside ears, and as we worked scraping and filling the inside walls, I became warmer.

The shelter felt safe and secure. The world outside was divorced from our newly-completed refuge. By the next morning I found our snow house destitute and devoured by the ravaging west coast evening rains.

Show entry deadline is approaching

The deadline for submission of entries to *Windborne 1989* is fast approaching.

The event, sponsored by the Community Arts Council (CAC) and the Summer Festival of the Arts Society to raise funds in support of a centre for the arts on Salt Spring Island, is a one-time-only replacement for *Showcase*, the annual display of juried works by local artists.

Entries for *Windborne 1989* must be in by March 15. Entry forms are available at Volume II Books, *et cetera*, and the Waterfront, Morningside, Pegasus, Orcas and Gulf Jewels galleries.

The title of the fund-raiser suggests its guidelines: "a multimedia show and auction on the theme of kites, whirligigs, balloons, vanes, clouds or objects borne or propelled by the wind." Entrants are encouraged to stretch the bounds of the definition, as in *wind-ows*.

Participations is open to individuals and to groups, although each is limited to one entry. There are special categories for elementary and high school entrants. Unlike *Showcase*, all entries will be accepted, provided they fit the theme.

*Windborne 1989* will comprise an exhibition on Friday, March 24, to Saturday, April 1. Prizes will be awarded in several categories and, on the final day, all of the items entered will be auctioned to the public; about 50 of them through active bidding, the rest by way of silent auction.

Of the selling price, one-third will go towards the artists while the remainder will be directed towards a trust fund opened to cover the construction of a performing arts centre.

Establishment of an arts centre is the long-term goal of the Summer Festival of the Arts Society. Organizers of *Windborne 1989* noted that it is essential to raise funds for that project now, since the artistic community does not know how much longer it will be able to use its primary venue, Mahon Hall (which is owned by the school district), and because lead time and money is needed to help planning for an arts centre.

For further details on *Windborne 1989*, contact CAC president Illtyd Perkins at 653-9392.

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## Mask work on tap

A workshop for people interested in learning how to act with masks has been scheduled for March 11 and 12 at Off Centre Stage in Ganges.

Sponsored by Active PASS, the workshop is set to run each day from 10 am to 4 pm. Price is \$35 and classes are limited in size. Pre-registrations should be made by March 1. Contact Lynda Jensen at 537-4168.

Instructor for the two-day event will be Pauline Landberg, co-founder of Theatre At Large in Vancouver. She said the workshop is designed for those with little or no experience with masks, and for those wishing to reacquire themselves with mask work.

"Participants will learn the fundamental skills necessary to perform successfully with masks," Off Centre Stage says. "Through a series of discussions, exercises, games and improvisations, participants will gain the understanding and ability to communicate dramatically using masks."

Workshop students will also gain knowledge and experience in the areas of scene and story creation.

Landberg said she feels the workshop will create an enthusiasm for masks and their dramatic ability.

Many of the masks to be used in the workshop were designed and built by Kathleen Measures, who recently



Kathleen Measures with masks display

displayed those creations at Off Centre Stage. In the spring, Measures will conduct a workshop in mask-making for Active PASS.

Landberg, who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from UBC in 1985, comes to the March 11-12 mask workshop after working as an actress,

director and teacher in the Lower Mainland. She has taught classes in acting, improvisation, movement and mask work at Vancouver Community College's Langara and King Edward campuses, and at the Burnaby Arts Centre, the UBC Continuing Education program, Theatre At Large and Arts Umbrella.

## Part-time islander has hit TV series

Part-time Galiano resident Don Hunter has a hit on his hands with the Sunday evening television series *9B*.

Hunter, who has owned a home on Galiano since 1971, is scriptwriter for the CBC series and also authored the 1986 television movie of the same name.

Now a reporter with the Vancouver *Province*, Hunter based his stories on his one-year teaching experience at a Fort Nelson high school.

The series has been favourably reviewed by *The Globe and Mail*, and has been compared with *Degrassi Junior High*, another CBC production, this one set in an urban high school.

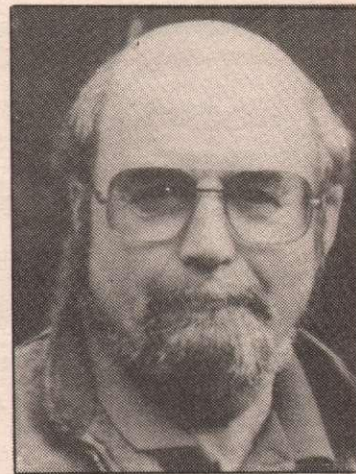
Hunter's autobiographical character is Bob Dawson, portrayed by actor Robert Wisden. Both Hunter and Wisden hail from Britain. Hunter was born in the tiny village of Asby in Cumberland, England, on the fringe of the Lake District.

The fictionalized Spinner family, featured in Hunter's latest book *Spinner's Inlet*, emigrated from Cumberland to the Gulf Islands in the mid-1880s.

At the age of 23, Hunter was conscripted into the National Service, serving in the Parachute Brigade for two years. After two years of teacher training he taught for two years in a slum school in West Bromwich, in England's industrial Midlands.

Hunter met a student teacher named June Thomas and married her in Cardiff in 1960. They came to Canada the following year. He taught in Campbell River for three years, Delta for two years and for a year each in Fort Nelson and Richmond, before joining the *Province* as a reporter and theatre critic in August, 1969.

As well as covering every conceivable kind of story for the



Don Hunter

*Province*, Hunter has written freelance pieces for newspapers and magazines in North America and the United Kingdom.

Hunter and his wife, a teacher in Richmond where they now live, have two daughters — Susie and Taryn, and a spaniel named Charlie.

## Month of school events to celebrate 'fine arts'

Fine arts will be celebrated in Gulf Islands schools for the next month.

Beginning tomorrow (Thursday, February 23) and continuing until March 23, fine arts month will see the arts curriculum highlighted in all district schools.

The program will include entertainment provided by visiting artists like the Robert Minden Ensemble, the Kidco Dance Company and Kaleidoscope Theatre. Local artists are also set to visit schools to work in classrooms with teachers and students, and schools will be involved in "arts blitzes."

The focal point for the month for Gulf Islands Secondary School, meanwhile, will be its presentation of *Play a Simple Melody* — the school's annual extravaganza of the arts, on March 3 and 4 — and a series of small dramatic presentations.

On March 16, 17 and 18 fine arts month will see Mahon Hall in Ganges transformed into a children's visual art gallery and a theatre for performing musical groups, choirs, bands and other ensembles.

Plans are also in effect to display the artworks of children

throughout the community, wherever space is available.

Kevin Vine, vice-principal of Salt Spring Elementary School, notes that the public is invited to participate in fine arts month. He encourages people to "come and see what our schools are doing in the arts."

Details of specific events will be made available as they approach.

### THIS WEEK IN RECREATION

**VOLLEYBALL:** Tuesday nights at the High School, 7:30 pm. Coed, everyone welcome.



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BR. 92

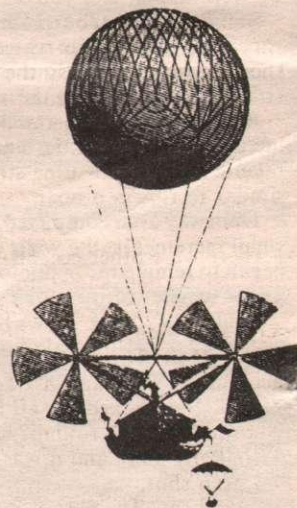
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arthur black



When you move away from a place you've lived for a long time, interesting things happen in your head.

At first, it's kind of frightening. Your mind is crammed with knowledge that's not much good to you any more. For the first few months, most of your waking thoughts and all of your dormant ones are about the old place. You remember the quickest route across town, where to get the best perogies, which stores open on Sunday.

But gradually the memories fade. Your recall of the Old Home Town gets sort of blurry. One day you realize with a start that you can't remember some of the major streets, or the name of the town's hockey team.

It's been nearly five years now since I left Thunder Bay, and my once-crystal-clear recall is getting a little foggy around the edges.

Funny thing is, it's the memory of the big stuff that's fading. I can remember trivial things as if I saw them this morning.

I may no longer recall my Thunder Bay phone number, the face of my North Ward alderman, or the name of that funny department store downtown, but I remember Ronnie and The Curser perfectly.

Those two guys probably knew the geography of the city as well as anybody. They knew it because they walked.

And walked and walked and walked.

Summer and winter, blizzard and heat wave, you'd pass them trudging along the side of the road. It might be downtown, it might be in the suburbs — could even be on the highway out of town. God knows where they were going or where they'd been.

**No hat, and a hopeful smile**

The Curser was a short, stocky, swarthy guy who always wore a ski cap, a windbreaker and rubber boots. He marched along at an almost military pace, and if he thought no one was listening he let go with a skein of cusswords that would have brought a blush to the cheeks of a drill sergeant.

And there was Ronnie, a tall, skinny native guy who wore a grubby black overcoat, no hat and a hopeful smile. Mostly, all Ronnie ever said was "Got a quarter, Jim?" To Ronnie, all white folks looked alike and answered to the name Jim.

I heard a story about him once. One of his regular mooching stops was a shop that sold Indian art work. On this one day, the proprietor, a little exasperated with the frequency of his visits, said: "No dice, Ronnie. If you want any money you have to work for it."

Ronnie looked around the shop, noticed prints by Benjamin Chee Chee and Norval Morrisseau. "You like drawins, eh?" he mused. Then he leaned across the counter, picked up a ballpoint, and shabby sleeve of overcoat trailing over a sheet of blank wrapping paper, executed a gorgeous drawing of a galloping horse. He did it in a single, flowing line. In seconds.

Upside down.

**Other eccentrics**

There were other eccentrics who called Thunder Bay home and gave the rest of us something to think about from time to time. There was The Madame — a strange little woman who patrolled the streets in plucked eyebrows, a Cabbage Patch wig and enough face powder to slalom in. There was Christmas Mary, a rotund little ball in a raccoon fur coat and a traditional Finnish cap all covered with sequins. She looked for all the world like Mrs. Claus, waiting for Santa to finish his rounds. One Christmas, Christmas Mary wasn't around any more and it was a little like hearing the news that JFK had been shot.

Once I saw The Curser in trouble. A gang of kids on bikes were taunting him. Before I could even blink, an old Finlander who'd been sweeping his porch was chasing those kids down the road with his broom, calling them names even The Curser didn't have in his repertoire. When the kids had scattered the Finlander went back to sweeping his porch, The Curser marched off, arms swinging, mouth cursing.

I remember that about Thunder Bay: it always made room for its eccentrics.

In fact it's the one thing I'll probably never forget about the place.

# Spate of vehicle accidents commands police attention

A 16 year-old Fulford man will appear in court on April 11 to face a charge of driving without due care. The charge was laid following a two-vehicle accident at the corner of Lower Ganges Road and Crofton Road on February 19 at 1:30 pm.

Police report the accused rear-ended a car driven by a 45-year-old Ganges woman, who suffered neck injuries in the crash.

A single-vehicle accident on February 11 resulted in about \$3,000 in damages to the vehicle of a visitor from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

John Kavelin's car sustained the damage when it went off West Eagle Road at about 10 am.

Joan Hayward of Ganges suffered a broken hip and her 1977 Datsun station wagon was a right-off following a February 14 single-vehicle accident on North End Road. Police said Hayward lost control of her car and went off the road. No charges were laid.

Ganges Auto Marine reported a break, enter and theft. Police are still investigating the theft, which took place sometime between 5:30 pm February 11 and 7 am on February 13. About \$83 was stolen after the thieves entered by breaking through the front door.

Poor road conditions were blamed for a two-vehicle accident on February 16 which sent one man to hospital with minor injuries and caused \$3,000 damage to the two vehicles. Police report that Michael Bentley of Ganges lost control of his Ford van and went into the ditch and was followed shortly afterward by Jonathan Hogarth, who slid into the back of the van. No charges were laid.

Joy Brownsword of Broadwell Road received minor injuries in a single-vehicle accident on Vesuvius Bay Road near Sunset Drive on February 16 at 4:10 pm. Police said Brownsword lost control of her 1986 Dodge van and slid off the road. Damage was estimated at \$1,000; no charges were laid.

Police are investigating a re-

port of wilful damage at Gulf Islands Secondary School, where a window was broken in the school and several windows were smashed in a school bus. The incident is believed to have occurred on February 11, following a school dance.

Bill Webster of Ganges reported having a tank of gas stolen from his car sometime overnight on the evening of February 18. Webster had left his car at the corner of Mobrae and Vesuvius Road. Police are investigating.

Police are also looking for the

culprit who removed a car battery and cables from a vehicle left overnight at the Gulf Islands Secondary School parking lot. Barry Pinchin of Ganges reported the theft to police after leaving his car in the parking lot on the night of February 12. The battery was valued at \$100.

Police are warning that motorists whose vehicles are obstructing the highways maintenance crews from performing their work can expect their vehicles to be towed away — at their own expense.

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# Stripped bonds designed to guard safety of capital

By J. BARRY MILLS

Individual investors who are primarily concerned with safety of capital often find it difficult, if not impossible, to reinvest their interest payments at competitive rates of return.

There are two main reasons for this: the amount available for reinvestment may be small, and/or interest rates may be lower at the time of reinvestment.

These disadvantages have been overcome with the appearance in recent years of "strip" or more accurately, "stripped" bonds.

In these bonds the principal amount of the bond and the coupons are separated. Each piece of the investment is then available at a guaranteed compound rate of return.

Assume, for instance, a \$10,000 Government of Canada Bond maturing in 10 years and guaranteeing annual interest of 10 per cent. This security would, in effect, consist of a principal amount of \$10,000 and a series of interest coupons maturing semi-annually over the 10 year period.



*money matters*

Each of these 21 different "pieces" mature at a date in the future, ranging from six months to 10 years, and their present value is quoted at a "discount" to their maturity value.

For example, the \$1,000 interest coupon maturing one year from now would be quoted at \$903 to yield about 11.3 per cent, and longer maturities at prices reflecting appropriate rates of return.

Investors are, therefore, able to match their investment requirement to the appropriate maturity, earning a guaranteed rate of compound interest. This eliminates the need for reinvestment of interest.

Government of Canada

Treasury Bills, which have become so popular with individual investors, are another excellent example of a short term "discount" investment.

At this time of year there is a great deal of publicity and advertising devoted to strip bonds. This is because they are particularly appropriate investments for Registered Retirement Savings Plans and Registered Retirement Income Funds where interest is sheltered from tax.

Investors should realize, however, that the outstanding returns provided by stripped bonds are nothing more than the result of ordinary compound interest at work.

# Early planning helps build healthy retirement nest egg

By RON PARK

How would you like to retire on a half million dollars or more?

You can do it if you put money away each year in a Registered Retirement Savings Plan. How much you end up with depends on how much you put into your RRSP each year, your age, and interest rates.

Assume you contribute \$7,500 a year to a RRSP between age 30 and 65. At an annual compound rate of 10 per cent, you will accumulate \$2,032,700 by age 65.

You reach two million dollars with compound interest and by deferring the taxation of the earnings within the plan. You only pay taxes on the plan when it is withdrawn.

By then, you will probably be retired. Your income may be lower and your taxes on your RRSP withdrawals may be taxed at a correspondingly lower rate.

If you are young, retirement planning may not seem important.

But, the younger you are when you start an RRSP, the more valuable your contributions will be, both in terms of tax savings over the years and in compound growth. This will mean security for the future.

If you start an RRSP at age 18 and make an annual contribution of only \$1,000, the plan would grow to almost \$1 million by age 65, assuming an average interest rate of 10 per cent.

There is a limit on how much you can contribute to an RRSP. The amount varies according to your earned income and whether you are a member of a company pension plan. Your financial institution and the income tax guide explain the rules.

Not everyone can afford to contribute a substantial amount to

an RRSP each year. Depending on your circumstances, borrowing to make a contribution may be a good idea, although the interest on the loan is not tax deductible.

You have until March 1, 1989 to make a contribution to an RRSP which will be deductible from your 1988 income.

If you are considering starting an RRSP, there are numerous plans to choose from. Some plans assess an administration fee annually or impose a charge when you cash out the plan. Some plans pay a fixed rate of interest for a period of years, while others pay daily interest rates which can fluctuate.

Make sure you know the rules before you invest, or ask a chartered accountant.

**Investing is a matter of personal choice.  
Investing wisely is a matter for professionals.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**



Terra Tepper is pleased to announce that Glen Moores, C.G.A., has joined the firm as an associate.

Glen brings to the practice extensive experience in the Income Tax Department and general accounting. He has developed his skills in the area of personal and corporate tax planning, computer applications and business financing.

We provide accounting, tax and management consulting services to individuals and corporations of Salt Spring Island and the other Gulf Islands.



Lorraine Emery

ISLAND SAVINGS CREDIT UNION is pleased to announce the appointment of Lorraine Emery to the position of Manager of Human Resources. With twelve years experience in the field of human resources, her responsibilities with Island Savings will include staff training and education and liaison with the management and staff of Island Savings' nine insurance and three real estate offices, and four credit union branches.



Oh what a feeling!



# Options available to counter inflation obstacle

By **BRUCE FOERSTER**

The Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) was originally passed into legislation in 1957 by the government of Canada.

The idea of the RRSP was to provide Canadians with an incentive to plan their own retirements, and not to rely solely on the beleaguered Canada Pension Plan.

The idea caught on immediately and 30 years later, the RRSP has grown to be one of the most popular forms of investment in Canada today. In 1957 there were relatively few options for an RRSP, the majority being with banks and trust companies.

With a stable economy and low inflation, this type of plan was appropriate for the times. However, in today's uncertain and inflationary economic environment, this all-too-convenient type of RRSP has become obsolete.

Today's investors realize that inflation is their biggest obstacle, and with the cost of living doubling in the last 10 years and expected to double again in the next 10 years (an annual rate of eight to nine per cent) the GIC or term deposit route has quickly become outmoded, as they offer little in the way of real growth after inflation.

Many investors have instead chosen self-directed plans, investing in stocks or stock-based mutual funds, as these have shown to be the best long-term form of investment.

The volatility, however, makes this type of RRSP an appropriate investment only for a younger investor or to form a smaller portion of an otherwise more secure portfolio.

Bonds and mortgage funds are being increasingly used as RRSP vehicles, but with interest rates fluctuating greatly, these types of investments have been shown to be just as volatile as stocks.

The problem remains that if you invest all of your money in one type of security, you will do well in one economic environment, but poorly in another.

The solution to this problem is simple. Pension fund managers have been incorporating this simple principle in managing pension monies for many years.

If you were to look at a large group pension fund you would quickly see that the fund invests in not just stocks and bonds, but also

in treasury bills and mortgages (and sometimes real estate). The managers then have the ability to adjust the mixture of these securities to perfectly reflect the economic environment.

We know that interest rates have a major impact on how most investments will perform. If interest rates are rising, pension managers will adjust the portfolio away from bonds and stocks (which historically have performed poorly in rising interest rate environments) and into mortgages and treasury bills, as they have shorter maturities and can be constantly renewed at the higher and higher rates.

In the opposite scenario, with interest rates falling and the mortgages and treasury bills being renewed at lower and lower rates, the portfolio will again change, this time into bonds and stocks, both of which are given an environment to perform well.

This simple logic and flexibility has provided pension fund clients with more consistent and impressive gains for their invested dollars.

This type of portfolio management is now available for your RRSP — your personal pension plan.

Perhaps the finest of these plans is the Sunset balanced fund. The Sunset Fund is managed by

Connor, Clark Lunn — one of the largest, most successful pension fund managers in Canada. The firm currently manages almost a billion dollars of pension fund monies for such large corporations as IBM, McDonald's restaurants, and 3-M Canada, to name a few.

The Sunset fund is managed in the same fashion as their pension fund — that is, any changes made to their billion dollar pension fund are also made to the Sunset Fund.

The results? Impressive.

Investing only in the highest quality securities available, Connor, Clark and Lunn have provided their clients with annual returns averaging over 19 per cent yearly for the last 10 years, without a single loss year. Not even the stock market crash in October, 1987, significantly affected the Sunset Fund. In fact, its sister fund, The Sunset Global Fund actually increased three per cent that October.

Looking for a secure investment that will provide consistent, impressive returns regardless of economic conditions? You've just found it.

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## Roads complaint letters requested

Dr. Hugh Borsman is asking islanders to put their pens where their mouths are and document complaints over snow removal from local roads.

Dr. Borsman, Salt Spring's director to the Capital Regional District (CRD), has drafted a letter to the ministry of highways complaining about highway maintenance during this month's snowstorms. The letter is in response to numerous phone calls he received from islanders angry with snow removal services.

Dr. Borsman wants anyone with a complaint to write him a letter, so he has specific examples to provide to the ministry.

Those writing letters should indicate when the snow on their road was first removed, how many times, and how this year's service has compared to that of previous years.

Letters should be addressed to Dr. Borsman at RR1, Mountain View Road.

## Fish hatchery design helps beat winter chill

The new Salt Spring Island salmon hatchery survived the cold spell and has proven highly successful, the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society said last week.

Although workers at the hatchery — located at the corner of Stewart and Cusheon Lake roads — were prepared with a back up system throughout the sub-zero weather, they were not required to use it. Society spokesman Kathy Reimer also noted the hatchery's gravity-fed water system did not freeze up during the cold snap.

The hatchery held a record number of coho eggs this year (39,000) and produced a 90 per cent survival rate. Half of the coho will be released in Fulford Creek.

A total of six coho spawners were seen returning to Cusheon Lake, Reimer says. The society expected anywhere from zero to 50 returns. A larger return is expected next year.

Meanwhile, all four schools on Salt Spring Island are hatching coho eggs in a total of seven classrooms. Due to the recent purchase of a cooling unit for Fulford Elementary School, students there can now set the temperature of their incubator at

the same level as Fulford Creek, where they will release the fish.

In other news, the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society is hosting the Public Involvement Program's annual meeting. The February 26 event, which will involve individuals from all over southern Vancouver Island, will take place all day at the Legion's Meaden Hall.

Representatives of salmon enhancement groups from Nanaimo to Sooke will be in attendance, along with Federal Fisheries officials from Vancouver and Victoria. Guest speakers will address topics such as school programs, fish disease, and the lack of funding for small projects.

Reimer says the local salmon enhancement group is looking forward to giving fisheries personnel the opportunity to tour the new hatchery.

The group is planning a public open house at the hatchery for sometime in March.

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## School input requested in Fulford

Parents of Fulford Elementary School children are lobbying the school board for participation in the planning of an addition to the school.

A delegation from the parent's group addressed the school board February 10, requesting the board give support for community involvement, board management of the project, parent participation in choosing the architect, and advertising for local tradesmen.

Board chairman David Eyles assured the parents there is board support for community involvement. And while school trustees will make the final choice on the architect, he said, parents will be involved in that process.

Regarding the use of local tradesmen, trustee Grace Byrne noted the ministry of education has strict regulations: tradesmen must be bondable and competitive.

Presently, the parents said, students and staff members at Fulford School are "brainstorming" on how the facility can be improved and how it works. They are also pinpointing problem areas.

Parents received assurances from the board that the school addition may also involve some renovations to the existing structure.

In the meantime, school trustees passed a motion, agreeing to advertise for an architect for the Fulford addition.

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For information on how to acquire and register an EPIRB as soon as possible, please contact your nearest Canadian Coast Guard office.

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