

Mary E Davidson
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08/01/90

Gulf Islands Driftwood

The Community Centre stages a Conference on Youth Page B1

A pollution patrol will monitor Gulf Island waters Page C1

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR, NO. 14

50 CENTS

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

New era for the Trust

It was no April Fools Day joke. With the passing of four bylaws and the presentation of several impassioned speeches, the Islands Trust is now an autonomous governmental body.

By SUSAN DICKER
The Driftwood

Trustees, MLAs, former Trust chairmen, Capital Regional District directors, Trust staff members and ministry officials gathered at the Ramada Inn in Victoria, April 1, to help usher in a new era for the Islands Trust.

Islands Trust chairman Nick Gilbert told the audience of about 70 people, the moment was bittersweet.

"I'm pleased to have reached a point in history where the Islands Trust has a future, but it has come after 15 years of extreme frustration and constant hurdles," he said.

Gilbert criticized the government officials who did not accept the Trust's invitation to be present at Sunday's inaugural meeting.

He said the premier and a number of ministers had the opportunity to make this a significant day for the province, by attending the meeting.

"Despite the auspicious occasion," Gilbert said, "I'm still feeling angry."

Gilbert said he must constantly look his constituents in the eye and answer questions concerning logging in the Trust area, the dumping of toxic waste in Gulf Island waters, the lack of action on pulp mill pollution, and the lack of consultation with the Trust on matters such as transportation.

"We have a mandate to preserve and protect, yet our constituents wonder why we haven't done it," he

TURN TO PAGE A2



Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Young Boris Sipone-Puharich does not want to leave his comfortable spot among true Salt Spring lamb. The "sheep creations," made by local resident Evan Weston, were on display for sale at Saturday's Farmers' Market in Ganges' Centennial Park.

Seawalk project may come to a halt

Questions and confusion surround the seawalk in Ganges.

The Chamber of Commerce considers its task finished. The Parks and Recreation Commission is reluctant to assume responsibility and land owners are confused, and angry, about what is expected of them.

By BILL WEBSTER
The Driftwood

While almost everyone involved agrees the boardwalk should be finished and would be a valuable addition to the community, the project has ground to a halt and could be dismantled.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, last year, tentatively agreed to assume responsibility for the completed project. When the public portion of the walk, and some of the private portions were completed, the Chamber of Commerce attempted to pass control to the commission.

Kelly Booth, commission chairman, said there are too many loose ends involved for the commission to assume complete responsibility. The commission, and ultimately the Capital Regional District, would be responsible for any liability arising from injury on the board walk, she noted. And they are reluctant to take

Project may face dismantling

mine the safety of the boardwalk. Booth noted that if the boardwalk proved to be too much of a liability, the CRD would be hesitant to get involved.

Another "if" centres on the privately owned portions of the foreshore. If these owners do not proceed, the boardwalk will be too dangerous in its present condition and the CRD

might have to dismantle the completed portions, she said.

In addition, the commission is not satisfied that all the conditions of the takeover have been met.

"We all feel somewhat disappointed," she said, "that many promises have not been seen through."

Ian Fraser, of the commission,

Regional District debates fate of local Crown Lands

A plan to delay making a decision on Salt Spring Crown Lands gained support from the Capital Regional District last week, reluctantly.

The Crown Lands Use Coalition on Salt Spring wrote to David Parker, Minister of Crown Lands, asking assurance that nothing would be done about the lands in question until the Islands Trust Fund was in place.

Julia Atkins, CRD director for Salt Spring, requested the regional parks committee of the CRD support the request for a delay. The committee was told about efforts of the island group to prepare a proposal on the use of the Crown Lands. Atkins requested a letter be sent from the CRD to support the Salt Spring position.

When the matter came to the full board, the directors were hesitant to support it. Bob Clark, Sooke director, reminded the board Salt Spring is not part of the CRD regional park system. He was not enthusiastic, he said, with "interfering with the political process on Salt Spring Island, where we shouldn't be."

Atkins was absent from the board meeting due to a family health

pointed out the commission has never received finalized plans of the boardwalk. All they have seen are rough drawings of the proposal.

"We felt that we were grabbing a hot potato," he said.

Bard Brown, owner of the oil depot and the marina, said he was not willing to allow the boardwalk to proceed across his property.

"It's been botched up as far as I'm concerned," he said. "So I've shut it down."

Brown explained the cost of completing the boardwalk across his property would far exceed the original estimate. To date, he said, the portion of the walk on his property has cost \$65,500 and could cost in excess of \$40,000 more to complete. In addition, he said, the cost of liability insurance for the 300 metres of board walk fronting his property would be his responsibility.

Gordon Cudmore owns a portion of land in the area. He is not willing to allow the boardwalk for many of the reasons confronting Brown.

"It's a real mess," said Cudmore, "Somebody didn't do their homework."

He stated that despite many meetings with the proponents of the boardwalk, he has yet to receive any detailed information of what is expected of him. Until such information is available and until the liability insurance problem is sorted out, Cud-

Galiano looking to buy MB lands

The Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA) is hoping to get the money necessary to conduct a land-use study which could be used in a bid to buy land owned by MacMillan Bloedel.

Ken Millard, a GCA director, says the study would be used to persuade the logging company that the island is serious about its intentions to buy land on Galiano owned by MacBlo.

Millard said the group will apply

News

THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: For the week beginning Monday, April 2

Continuing sunny skies through to the weekend. No rain predicted and chance of snow is history.

HIGHS: 15 degrees C.

LOWS: 5 degrees C.

Chance of precipitation: 0 per cent through Saturday.

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Housing needed

Capital Regional District representative Julia Atkins said Salt Spring could be eligible for funding to build a social housing complex for low-income families and individuals.

Speaking at a "round table" meeting last week, Atkins said there are a number of sites near Ganges that would lend themselves to a social housing complex and added that a local developer has offered to provide a site in exchange for concessions on another project.

Atkins said money for the project would be provided by the federal government's Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) which would in turn rent the facility to local tenants. She added the island has a year to apply for funding from that particular program.

The community would need to find the land and a builder for the project, Atkins noted. She suggested Salt Spring might want to start with a small 10- to 15-unit complex which would provide housing for low income families, individuals and senior citizens.

She also suggested that building this type of facility is something the community should do before land prices climb any higher.

Can't reverse past

From Page A2

said. "We have new legislation before us, but we cannot correct the ills of the past."

The new legislation, he said, must be seen as a starting point.

Gilbert did note several "promising elements" of the new Trust Act, citing the creation of a regional policy statement as a chance for a cooperative approach to land-use planning.

"It provides the opportunity to recognize the Trust area as a sensitive ecosystem, an economic unit, a political unit and a provincial treasure."

The new legislation must be seen as a starting point.

Gilbert applauded the opportunity to establish the Islands Trust Fund, which allows the Trust to accept land or money donations, and said he is looking forward to a more open form of government.

Finance Minister Mel Couvelier, who is also MLA for the Southern Gulf Islands, took issue with the criticism levelled by Gilbert at the Social Credit government.

Couvelier said that as a senior minister, he represented his government at all levels (MLA Terry Huberts also attended the meeting.)

He said the present government supports the Trust and aims to decentralize decision-making to the community level.

"You only get sensitive answers

to local issues when you get government down to the local level."

Huberts drew laughter from the crowd when he said he had read the new Trust legislation several times, but not seen the section which dictated Gilbert wear a tie.

Huberts acknowledged the "momentous occasion" of the inaugural meeting, noting the Islands Trust "is a shining example of achievements in planning and preservation of a unique region in B.C."

Three former chairmen of the Islands Trust also spoke at the inaugural meeting, each calling on trustees to carry on the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect the Gulf Islands.

Salt Spring resident and former Trust chairman Marc Holmes provided a background account of events leading to the creation of the Trust, 15 years ago.

Holmes said it is important to coordinate other government agencies to work through the Islands Trust.

"The Trust area is a different area and must be treated differently," he said. "It must be preserved and protected in a special way."

Lasqueti Island's former Trust chairman, Mike Humphries, said it is now time to rekindle the spirits of Trust staff members, trustees and Gulf Islands communities.

Former Trust chairman John Rich, who resides on Bowen Island, told the audience the Trust has the opportunity to chose a creative and expansive vision of the future.

"The opportunity is there to actively pursue preservation of the islands," he said. "Make your recommendation, state your objectives and chose your dream."

Study to consider buying MB land

From Page A1

next two weeks for that study which he estimates will take several months to complete.

Millard said the GCA, which drew close to 300 people to a meeting there Saturday night, has been talking about buying the 2,800 hectares of land owned by MacBlo on Galiano for than a year. He added that so far, the logging company has not taken the plan seriously.

The study, he said, would be another step toward showing MacBlo that some Galiano residents are serious about the plan.

Millard would not say how much Galiano would have to pay to buy back the land owned by MacBlo but says it would be several million dollars. He also suggested that the money could come from a variety of sources including the provincial and federal governments, preservation groups and even developers and logging companies which would work with the land in an appropriate way.

Millard said there has been an ongoing concern in Galiano about what MacBlo has done in the past and what it will do in the future.

"MacBlo has repeatedly talked about intensive land development since 1972 and their forest practices have not been sustainable.

"They have made a recent commitment to be sustainable, but there is still a disagreement over what sustainable is."

He also suggested that MacBlo has been discussing intensive land development which goes against the Galiano Community Plan.

In the meantime, Millard added that he expects some of the initial work for the study to begin this month. He estimates it will take six months to complete. He added that the study will only be helpful in encouraging MacBlo to sell the land if the community stands behind it.



Next thing you know it'll be a real one! Happy Birthday Robin!



Now there's a dashing young fellow! Happy Birthday Frank!

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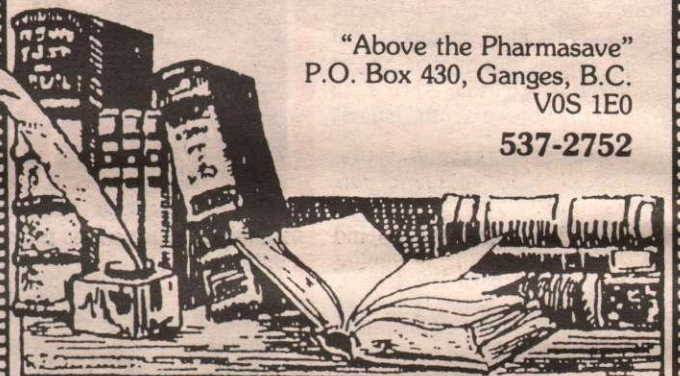
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	1305	8.1	SU	1640	9.0
	1940	4.0		2155	5.9
6	0310	10.5	9	0405	9.9
	0925	6.3	MO	1040	3.9
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News



Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Garden work occupied Salt Spring residents last week as the sun shone warmly. Above Daphne Bradley digs the hole and Rev. Barry Valentine plants the plant. Members of the Anglican parish were busy on the property opposite their Ganges church for several days last week.

Crofton gas leaks raises local fears

Management at the Crofton mill has acknowledged the occurrence of a recent chlorine leak which may have endangered workers at the site.

The mill is being upgraded at a cost of \$300 million. Several times while the upgrading work has been in progress, workmen have stopped work at the site due to escaping gases. Several of the workmen have been hospitalized from breathing the gas and residents of Crofton have expressed concerns about the effects the gas leaks have on villagers, particularly children.

Fletcher Challenge, New Zealand based owner of the mill, is putting \$260 million toward improvements in the mill: \$65 million for secondary effluent treatment and \$20 million for air pollution equipment. The renovations should be completed by 1992.

Chlorine gas can be detected, smelling like household bleach, at one-third part per million. At a concentration of one part per million, problems could develop after eight hours of exposure. By the time the chlorine gas reaches 25 parts per million, workers have half an hour before the gas kills them.

In small doses, the gas irritates the nose, windpipe and lungs.

Villagers are concerned about the apparent lack of emergency plans to deal with a serious leak of gas. If such an emergency occurs, residents of the village would not know what to do or where to go to escape the leak.

Fletcher Challenge has admitted the smokestack scrubbers were shut off during the night. Noise from the scrubbers had irritated residents of Crofton and Salt Spring. Without the

scrubbers in action, various pollutants were emitted into the air along with the smoke and steam. Crofton is covered with a fine layer of dust as a result of the air pollution.

Residents of the Vesuvius area of Salt Spring must cope with a noxious odour from the smokestack emissions.

Fletcher Challenge, following a shell fish closure in Stuart channel due to water pollution, promised to clean up its act. The federal department of fisheries specifically mentioned the discharge from the pulp mill as the cause of the pollution in shell fish.

Randy Thomas, of Green Islands, travelled to New Zealand to attend the annual meeting of Fletcher Challenge last year. He tried to tell the meeting about pollution from the Crofton mill. It was only after news of the shell fish closure reached the south Pacific country that he was listened to.

At that point the company agreed to take steps to ensure the pulp mill did not pollute.

Meanwhile, construction workers have had to cope with various gas leaks while making the needed renovations to the facility.

Collins pleads guilty

The assistant manager of the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Ganges entered a plea of guilty to charges of theft in a Victoria court this week.

Joan Collins, 47, was charged with stealing \$45,000 from the bank as well as \$1,300 from four private accounts. The total amount of money missing came to \$62,040 and Collins has repaid \$30,000 to date.

The court learned Collins had borrowed \$15,000 from a bank customer in 1987 to cover an overdraft in her account. She then stole money from individual accounts to cover repayments of the money. Collins used numerous transactions to shift small amounts of money between accounts.

The theft was discovered when a teller tried to account for a \$1 error in an account. Papers were found in Collins' desk which showed details of the money shifts.

Collins faces sentencing on May 15.

Opinion difference brings resignation

A dispute at Lady Minto Hospital led to the resignation of the Chief Of Staff, Dr. Adam Waldie.

The board of directors accepted Waldie's resignation at an emergency meeting last Tuesday, March 27. Details of the dispute, aired in an private meeting of the board, have not been made public.

Waldie told the *Driftwood* "an irreconcilable difference of opinion with the administrator about disciplining the medical staff," led to the emergency meeting. When the board of directors could not solve the problem, Waldie submitted his resignation.

The board issued a statement signed by Peter Vida, board chairman, on the matter.

"Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital regrets to advise of the resignation of Dr. Adam Waldie as Chief of Staff. Dr. Waldie cites a difference of opinion concerning medical staff governance as his reason for resigning.

"The Hospital Board will appoint a replacement as soon as it receives recommendations from the medical staff."



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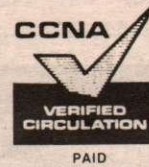
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Fresh ideas are needed to solve the seawalk fiasco

The original idea stands as an excellent concept which would have added to the grace and charm slowly developing in Ganges.

The facility, as it stands, threatens to become a community embarrassment.

The Ganges seawalk isn't finished and probably won't be finished. The Chamber of Commerce, which began the process two years ago has washed its collective hands of the deal. The Parks and Recreation Commission was to have taken responsibility for it, but won't.

The offices of the Capital Regional District echo with the sound of gnashing teeth and derisive laughter while a

CRD lawyer recommends dismantling it.

Money, both from private and governmental sources, has poured into the project. The land owners who are hesitant to finance the finish of the plan can be excused for not wanting to throw good money after bad.

Liability insurance will be needed. Although the seawalk will be a public thoroughfare, the CRD refuses to assume liability for the entire walkway only the public portions.

A suggestion which deserves consideration involves the formation of a new committee to look at the problems and to suggest ways of completing the seawalk.

Members of that committee should not be part of the

current fiasco. Fresh ideas are needed and a fresh approach to the problems found.

Private land owners criticize the CRD while that municipal body returns the knocks and both look at the Chamber of Commerce which allowed a good idea to go sour.

Name calling will not accomplish anything. Ian Fraser suggested the fresh committee approach. The idea should be acted upon and reason should prevail. If the impasse is not resolved soon, Ganges will be, truly and deservedly, the butt of rancorous jokes.

Community needs condom machines

A number of important issues came out of a conference on youth staged at the Salt Spring Community Centre last Saturday.

It would be difficult to tackle all of the key subjects discussed during the day-long meeting, but one important issue -- the need for condom-vending machines in an easily accessible location -- should be dealt with by this community.

The Community Centre is to be congratulated, first of all, for this one-day event which brought together a variety of professionals from a number of fields to discuss issues relating to youth.

And the six young people who participated in the panel at the end of the day deserve credit for the information and insight they offered.

One of the most important pieces of information to come out of Saturday's conference was an indication that young people are the next high-risk AIDS group.

In British Columbia, 103 adolescents under the age of 19 have been diagnosed as having AIDS -- six of these come from the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

One speaker at the conference said that although teenagers are concerned about AIDS, they are not changing their sexual patterns and practising "safe" intercourse. She said teens worry more about pregnancy than contracting the AIDS virus.

Addressing the subject of condom use, the six teenage panelists said peers do not use condoms because it is embarrassing to purchase them. Instead of having to feel awkward about buying condoms, teens will either steal them or not use them at all.

One sensible alternative is to make condom-vending machines available either at the high school or another private, easily accessible location. Teens should be able to access condoms in a discreet manner.

Accompanying this step, should be an on-going provision of education and information which will help teens make mature and informed decisions about sex.

The issue not a case of whether or not youths should be involved in sex. They are involved and will continue to be involved.

The issue has become one of life and death.



Intricacies of carpentry should be left behind

It was a simple enough task. Bang a few nails, twist a few screws and *voila* a new piece of furniture for my friend's (another G) new home.

In no time at all, however, the two of us sat dazed amid a floor-full of misplaced rectangular-shaped boards, each neatly labelled A to J -- a set of very foreign-looking instructions and several packages of screws, nails and knick-knacks.

The chaos surrounding us was merely an appearance-problem, we decided. We straightened our shoulders and prepared to complete a very sophisticated piece of workmanship. We wiped the lines of confusion from our foreheads. We became *carpenters*.

The instructions were not exactly explicit. Diagrams indicated what attachments needed attaching to various other attachments. Each step boldly displayed the necessary

Off the Record

SUSAN DICKER



label -- HN202 or DIPS531. However, no corresponding figures could be found on the neat little packages.

The only words in the entire instruction booklet were either Arabic or some other foreign language we just didn't have the time to brush-up on.

The task of applying knick-knacks with a screw driver proved highly laborious until a Good Samaritan presented us with an electric drill.

The transformation in productivity was tenfold. G displayed a

little screws with vigour and a grim smile of delight. The drill bit was everywhere. She blasted in new screws. She redid the manually installed screws. She blasted those screws so hard they disappeared into the boards.

I kept my fingers away.

With the screw-driver hurdle passed, it seemed the task would be downhill to the finish line.

Not so. With each step in the instruction manual our bodies were forced to achieve greater destina-

attached to the couch on the other side of the room.

"Well really," I said as we squinted back and forth between the instruction book and our product. "This is Sesame Street stuff."

Finally we prepared to erect the Microwave Cart. G installed the little wheels and we pushed it upright.

It was beautiful. It was brilliant. Well. Except that we had either one or two (depending on which side was the front) of the shelves on backwards -- with the unfinished particle board glaring out at us.

Easy enough to fix. We merely changed the middle board, so each of the shelf edges exposed the finished side.

It was beautiful. It was brilliant. Well. Except that now the particle board side of the two vertical boards faced the front.

And except for the three extra

of the cart. Of course, because only part of the front was supposed to be the front, the lips fit nicely on the backside.

The third piece -- labelled J -- was a greater puzzle. We flipped through the instruction manual, unsuccessfully looking for J. Now why would they label it and not include it in the manual? Turns out it's a special piece for "packaging only." Well really.

The finished product did not exactly match the glossy photo on the box front. However, it did remain standing (amidst our cheers) as we cautiously lowered the microwave on to it.

And we never did aspire to be carpenters.

The most frightening aspect of the whole business is the future. G has ordered an "entertainment centre." Some massive maze of boards and screws and nails and knick-knacks.

Letters

Memorabilia

To the Editor,
Salt Spring Island Branch 92 of The Royal Canadian Legion is planning a display of military memorabilia to honour No. 13 Platoon, Second Battalion of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. This Platoon was active on Salt Spring from 1931 to 1939. In September, 1939, those serving volunteered for Active Service and the Platoon was transferred to Victoria.

I would ask any past members of the Platoon or others who have such items as photos, cap or shoulder badges, or printed matter, and who are willing to loan or donate such material, to get in touch with our Secretary-Manager, Jim Andrews. (537-5822)

IVAN MOUAT
President
Branch 92

Please contribute

To the Editor,
During 40 years of practice as an eye surgeon in Victoria, I performed many, many, sight-restoration operations, but none brought me more pleasure, happiness and satisfaction than those performed on my behalf by Operation Eyesight International in the poorer countries.

Years ago, through Rotary, I worked in Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand and saw firsthand the immense need for eye work. As a result, I have been a longtime supporter of Operation Eyesight Universal, both personally and as a member of Rotary International.

I urge my fellow Canadians to feel the joy of giving sight to a destitute blind person this Easter. As we celebrate another spring on Vancouver Island and in the Gulf Islands, we look about us at the profusion of pink and white cherry blossoms. This is a good time to think of those who live their lives in darkness.

A \$25 donation to this fine Canadian charity pays for one cataract operation, glasses, and follow-up care in hospital or eye camp. Tax receipts issued. Send to: Operation Eyesight Universal, P.O. Box 123, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2H6.

DR. JACK T. CRUISE
Victoria

What's going on?

To the Editor,
While walking to town, which I do every day -- weather permitting -- I go from the Salt Spring Marine along the shore to the beginning of the Seawalk. The concrete and stone steps are constructed beautifully and blend well with the surrounding. Have you noticed the embedded round stone? Could this be a man-made object or maybe even a cannonball from way back when? The other half of the "enclosure" is lying nearby.

So, I have reached the Seawalk and slowly, enjoying every easy step along the way, I continue on my walk. I pass the ramp and I am impressed by all the designing, construction, excellent workmanship and expensive material which went into it and the following boardwalk. How thoughtful were the instigators to make it possible for the elderly and handicapped to have such easy access to this area.

It always saddens me, when I have to turn back at the end of it and exit by the stairs. This morning, I was trapped! The exit was blocked by heavy lumber nailed across. Being almost 70 years of age, I could not see myself climbing over it, so I went down the stairs and back to the ramp.

Continuing my walk along the road toward town, I felt frustrated and angry. I was still forced to walk on a sometimes very small strip, unprotected and watch out for the rather fast moving traffic towards me, while putting up with the noise and exhaust

played.

Now I ask you: "What's going on?" This seawalk was supposed to be built for the public. Significant amounts of money, yours and mine, have been spent so far and more will be spent for the completion of it -- whenever that will be.

When I say "Money, yours and mine" I mean just that. In this modern world, nobody lives entirely on his own. We all depend on one another. Just think about it: Where does all the money you use come from? Somebody else has to pay it.

Let's get the "Cat out of the bag" and tell us, why we have all that delay and even regression, who is responsible and what can we do to complete such a wonderful project.

JOHN F. VOLC
Ganges

Discouraging

To the Editor,
At a recent public meeting held with representatives of Weldwood there were 35 people present. Given the fact that this logging company plans to clear-cut a substantial portion of their property on Mt. Bruce, this extreme lack of concern was very discouraging.

If this community continues in its apathetic ways, our Crown Land will suffer a similar fate. Several logging companies have already expressed interest in some of this land. We must insist that the best "use" of these 2,000 acres would be allowing them to remain in their natural state.

While it may be too late to save Mt. Bruce from Weldwood, there is still time to save our Crown Land. Please address your comments to: Dave Parker, Minister of Crown Land, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

As worldwide deforestation continues to bring us closer to environmental collapse, there is surely no better time to "think globally and act locally."

BOB STOPFORD
Ganges

Feathers flying

To the Editor,
I feel I must get back into the fray over logging on private lands.

Weldwood has plans to log a portion of their holdings on the side of Mt. Bruce and the fur and feathers have started to fly again.

When the announcement was made, Nick Gilbert said that the old logging roads would be used again, but he is concerned about the stability of the slopes after the timber is removed.

I would like to know why there are still slopes and hills on Salt Spring if every bare hill is going to slide into the valleys below. After all, the whole Island has been logged before - that's why the old roads are there! The side hills didn't slide last time around, so why should they now?

On page A2, column 3, of the

March 28 issue of *Driftwood*, Nick Gilbert states, "Tree farming is permitted by the Community Plan, but the concept was not to be used as an excuse for industrial logging." What other kind of logging is there? Logging certainly isn't recreational, is it?

That kind of thinking is comparable to telling a farmer on ALR land that he can't dig his potatoes or cut his hay or harvest any other crops after he plants the seeds.

There is enough controversy on the island now over garbage disposal, without adding this kind of garbage to it.

J. BENNETT
Ganges

Same event?

To the Editor,
A note to Bill Webster regarding his review of the SS Hysterical Society's recent "Comedy Night."

Were we in the same hall? My mother, my aunt and I went to "Comedy Night" together and we all enjoyed the show thoroughly, as did everyone else around us -- if uncontrollable laughter is any indication, that is. As my aunt said -- "I laughed till my face hurt! - as did we all.

Yes, having the production set on the "risers" rather than the stage diminished it somewhat, but it was still a hysterically good time.

C'mon, lighten up!
C. SIMPSON
Fulford Harbour



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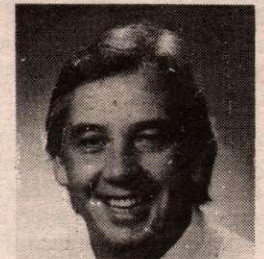
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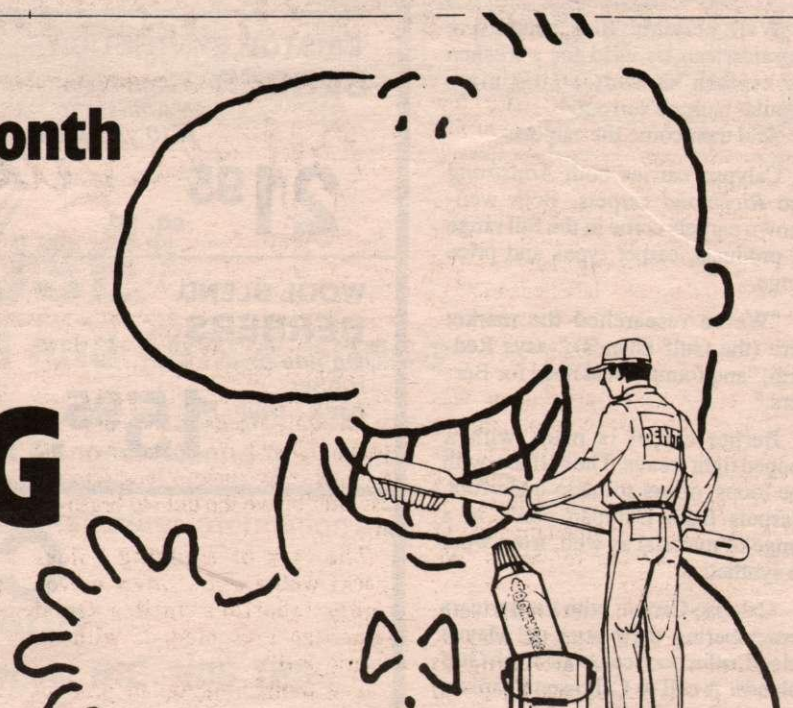
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Advertising feature

Calypso Carpet business is on the move on Salt Spring

Calypso Carpet of Salt Spring is on the move.

Partners Alan Redpath and Doug Barth relocated their business to the centre of Ganges while keeping up to five different work crews busy.

Calypso Carpet is now located in the Harbour Food building on Fulford-Ganges Road. The partners began their floor covering business on Mayne Island six years ago and expanded to Salt Spring three years ago. They had been in the Upper Ganges Centre but moved to the village centre.

"Salt Spring is changing and growing," Redpath explained, "and we wanted better exposure."

They felt the time was now to make a "positive move" to ensure they didn't "fall by the wayside."

Calypso offers floor coverings for the home, for the office or for the retail business space. They can meet demands for carpet, linoleum, ceramic tiles or hardwood floors. And if a sundeck is involved, they offer *Duradeck* to add a touch of class to the area.

Duradeck, the partners explain with enthusiasm, ranks at the top of their recommendation list for sun-deck covers. The material is maintenance free - and waterproof.

The price, \$2.20 to \$3.60 per square foot, includes installation. Calypso, when contracted to finish a deck, send their crew to professionally install the material. They do not recommend application of *Duradeck* as a do-it-yourself operation. For one thing, the guarantee won't apply unless *Duradeck* has been put in place by someone who knows how to do it.

The material, waterproof, enables the space under a deck to be used for dry storage. *Duradeck* is also available as a covering for a roof deck.

Hardwood floors can add a touch of beauty and atmosphere to a room. Here again, Calypso can help. They offer a wide variety of hardwoods for flooring. Oak - three-quarter tongue and groove - stands as the most popular hardwood floor. Calypso also offers oak parquets with a prefinished surface.

"Oak tongue-and-groove represents a hefty per cent of hardwood installations," Barth explained. Priced at 7.00 per square foot, with shorts being less expensive, the oak floor will be put in place and finished by a Calypso crew.

For those interested in ceramics, Calypso carries a wide variety of patterns and types. Ceramic tiles can be used on floors, for added safety under a wood stove or to add a touch of class to a fireplace hearth. Quarry tile is also offered by Calypso.

Wall ceramic tiles, including mosaics, can be used for a kitchen backsplash as well as the more popular bathtub surround.

And then come the carpets.

Calypso carries both *Armstrong* and *Richmond* carpets. Both well-known carpets come in the full range of products, carpet types and price range.

"We've researched the market here (the Gulf Islands)," says Redpath, "and found a real need for Berbers."

Berber carpet is made with a looped tight weave. The surface, with the loops, offers softness underfoot. Carpets from Calypso come in a range of material as well, from wool to synthetics.

Calypso Carpet, with the partners remembering their start on Mayne Island, offer services to all of the Gulf Islands. A call to Calypso to explain

more often if the demand is strong.

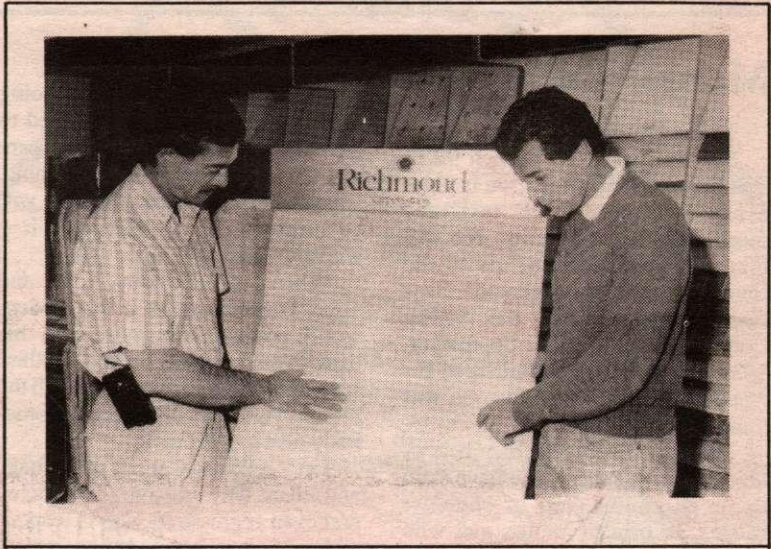
Calypso Carpet will be offering customer information seminars beginning this fall. They'll explain the advantages of the various types of floor coverings with show-how clinics packed with hints for the do-it-yourself individual.

Barth sums up Calypso Carpet's view on service to the customer:

"A large per centage of people moving to Salt Spring are coming from larger centres and are used to and expect good service.

"While we still like to live on 'Salt Spring time', Calypso believes in prompt, professional service.

"I believe the need to extend good service should be an integral part of any business. Our motto is Service, Sales and Satisfaction.



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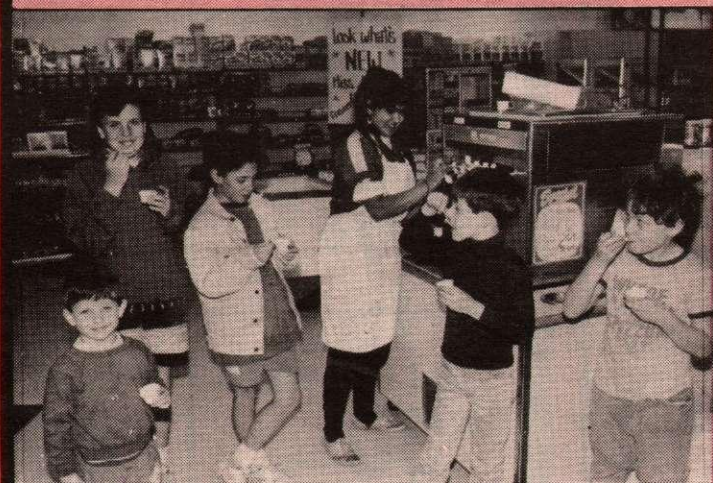


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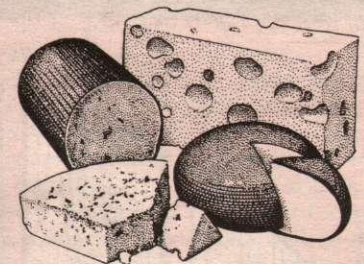
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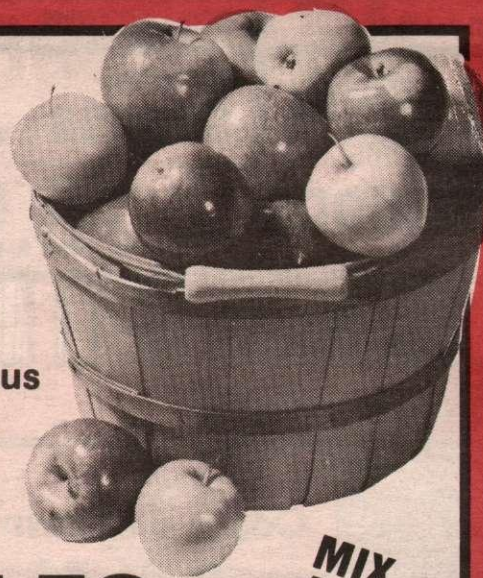


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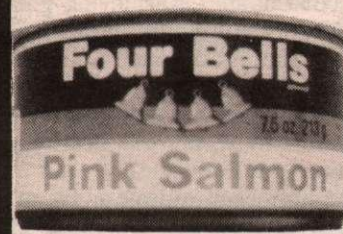
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Reg. or Diet 2 litre btl.

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News

Capital
Comment

HUBERT BEYER



VICTORIA -- If he could have it his way, Premier Vander Zalm told me recently, he'd concentrate on achieving greater financial and economic security for British Columbians.

Well, sir, have a try at it. I'm sure most British Columbians would want the same thing. Why not have Lieutenant Governor David Lamb tell us in the Throne Speech just how you hope to bring about that increase in financial and economic security, and then back it up with details in the April 19 budget?

The budget will, of course, be balanced, at least as far as the government is concerned. Not everybody is that certain. Some accountants say it's all a matter of creative bookkeeping, the NDP says it's an outright scam, and most journalists, including me, are so damned confused they don't know the difference.

This lamentable lack of journalistic understanding of the government's fiscal tap-dancing repertoire is to be addressed at a special backgrounder at which finance ministry officials will attempt to give us a crash course in budget-juggling.

The idea of this backgrounder is, of course, to get journalists into a frame of mind where they will never again question Finance Minister Mel Couvelier's claim to have produced a balanced budget. Big deal, I never questioned it in the first place, even though I have some doubts about the method.

Whole thing is smoke and mirrors

Apparently, the money in the so called Budget-Stabilization Fund, which is to help the province over the rough fiscal years, isn't really in the bank. It's taken out as fast as it's put in -- on paper. That's why the NDP says the whole thing is smoke and mirrors.

On the other hand, I do know that British Columbia's financial situation is the envy of other provinces. It's so good, in fact, that the feds with their abysmal fiscal record absolutely hate us.

Against this background of Sacred fiscal dexterity, the 1990-91 budget will be introduced in the legislature on April 19. The government will call it, once again, a product of utmost fiscal and economic responsibility, claims that will elicit jeers and hoots of derision from the New Democratic Party benches.

What about budget details? Well, let's speculate. First off, it will be a good-news budget. Not only will it be balanced, at least that's what the government will say, it will contain a number of goodies for which we are to be grateful. Never mind the fact that the goodies will be bought with money the government shamelessly took out of our pockets to start with.

Greater financial and economic security?

This government sees the province's future in trade with Asia. It is my guess that the budget will reflect that thinking. There will probably be more funds to facilitate trade with Pacific Rim countries. Tax incentives are a definite possibility.

And what about Vander Zalm's avowed aim of wanting to give all of us greater financial and economic security? I'd say that's a tall order, considering some of the uncertainties such as rising interest rates and possibly another recession.

Still, there will be a few nice things for all of us, because it's the last budget before the next general election. My informants tell me that the premier was all set to go to the polls this spring, but pulled back because of the Bill Reid scandal. That means he'll probably go this fall.

Chances for his re-election have never been better. The latest polls place the Socreds just slightly behind the NDP. That's about as good as any government could hope for. As a rule of thumb, the government can enter an election campaign five to six percentage points behind and still win.

Sacred gospel of good management

Of course, Vander Zalm knows that the best-laid plans can falter for any number of reasons. One ill-conceived remark can send his popularity plummeting again. A scandal can kill his chances. That's why you'll find that Vander Zalm will watch his every word.

You won't find him jumping into any frays that got him in trouble before. Between now and the election, the abortion issue won't exist, not if Vander Zalm can help it.

What he will do over and over again, between now and the election, is spread the Sacred gospel of good management. You'll be hearing more about the Socreds' fiscal prowess than you care to.

Just how good the Vander Zalm government's chances are of being re-elected can be seen from Jack Kempf's latest manoeuvre. Believe it or not, Wolfman Jack has had preliminary talks with the Sacred caucus about his possible return to the fold. If Kempf even considers the possibility of crawling back, he, too, must have heard that the Socreds can, indeed, be re-elected.

For these and other developments, stay tuned to this column. The Throne Speech should give us an early indication of what the government is up to and the budget should spell it out more clearly.

And as for the financial and economic security the premier

Liability insurance costs high

From Page A1

Bill Jordan, executive director of the CRD, commented, "It's a nice public facility." The CRD would like to see it finished, he said, but "the problem lies with the private owners."

The CRD acts as its own liability insurer, Jordan explained. Insurance companies, faced with large court-ordered settlements, have boosted the premiums very high. While the municipality is responsible for many public areas, liability insurance costs are far too expensive, he noted.

"That's the dilemma facing all municipalities," Jordan said. The CRD has set aside \$1.5 million as a liability fund.

In a letter explaining the CRD position with regard to liability on the public portions of the seawalk, CRD

lawyer Lorena Staples pointed out "The question of signing the boardwalk (no trespassing signs) to give notice of specific risk may establish that a person has willingly accepted a risk."

Staples suggested, "The ultimate risk management course of action is simply to remove the boardwalk entirely, if it cannot be made free of risk."

She went on to suggest an alternative which would be to put "impenetrable barriers and signs at the unfinished end of the boardwalk." She concluded, "If the Regional District takes no action whatsoever, it runs the risk of being totally responsible for all damage that ensues."

The public portion of the seawalk begins near Lower Ganges Road where the Cy Peck memorial is to be located. The seawalk runs along the

shore line toward Ganges Marina. The stairway is on land owned by the marina as is the part of the boardwalk which runs toward the ramp leading from the shore to the marina floats.

Brown, the Farmers' Institute, the Strait of Georgia Land and Timber Co., with local lawyer Jon Oldroyd as one of the owners, and Gordon Cudmore own the intervening land before the public portion continues along the landfill jutting into the corner of the harbour up to Mouat Bros. property.

Fraser indicated a possible solution to the impasse. He suggested the formation of a committee comprised of islanders not involved in the dispute. Such a committee would look at costs of completing the boardwalk as well as such things as lights and how to pay for maintenance and repair of the facility.

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FIRE SALE.

HOT PRICES NOW ON KENT WOODSTOVES

SALE PRICES IN EFFECT WHILE STOCK LASTS

The Tile Fire

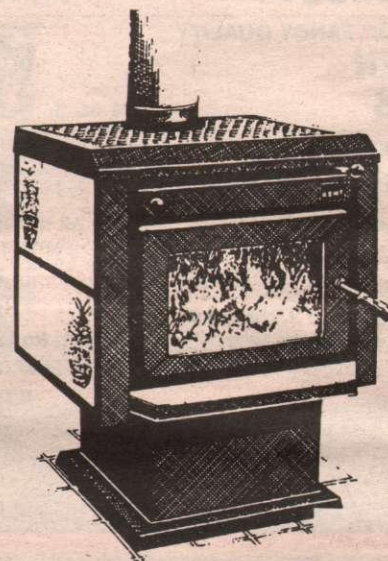
One of the best selling stoves in the world.

- Unique twice-burning combustion system—more heat, less emissions.
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REGULAR \$1,229 **\$979**

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(includes free tile pack—a \$40 value)



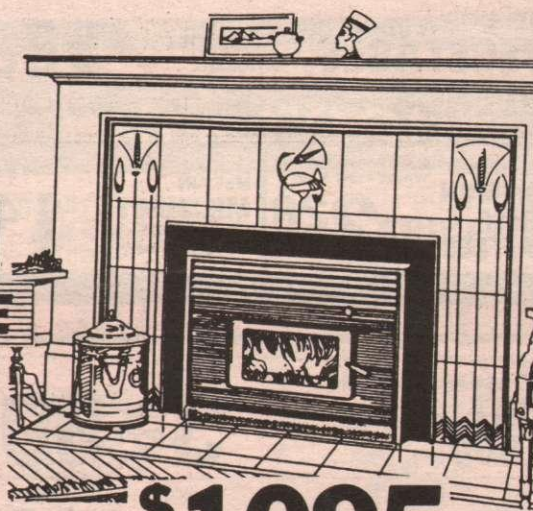
The Sherwood

Freestanding pedestal-based radiant stove. Finished in satin black with optional gold colour trim available. Fingertip controls. Large cooking surface. Ceramic glass door. Optional heat shields are available to reduce clearances. The Sherwood carries a 5-year limited warranty and is listed by Underwriters Laboratories of Canada.

REGULAR \$839

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- Fireplace Insert
- EPA Certified
- Ceramic lined Series 2000 firebox produces up to 63,000 BTU/hr.
- Convection rate of 130 CFM—no fan necessary
- Patented secondary air bar
- Choice of Black, Grey or Nordic Bronze vitreous enamel finish
- Optional gold coloured grille and gold plated door
- Door features "big view" self-cleaning ceramic glass
- Optional spacer frames for custom fit
- 5-year limited warranty
- UL/ULC listed

**\$1095**Gulfstream **PRO** hardware

News



Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Volunteers of the Salt Spring fire department were called to wash the intersection at Central last week as anti-freeze from a ruptured radiator coated the road. Here, Dave Bartle hoses down the pavement.

Car accident at intersection causes \$5,500 in damages

A motor vehicle accident at Central caused some \$5,500 in damages, but no one was hurt.

The accident occurred March 30 at 2:02 p.m., when an 89-year-old man collided with a 24-year-old driver at the intersection of North End and Vesuvius Bay roads.

Some \$3,000 in damages was sustained by the two-day old vehicle, driven by the 89-year-old, who was later charged with failing to yield after a stop sign.

A further \$2,500 in damages was sustained by the second driver's pick-up truck. Both cars were towed from the scene.

The Ganges volunteer fire department was called in to hose down the road where antifreeze from one of the vehicles had leaked.

Theft charges

Theft charges against two Salt Spring youths are pending after police discovered them in the Windsor Plywood compound on March 28.

A resident who heard noises at Windsor Plywood contacted police at approximately 8:43 a.m.

Local RCMP discovered a pick-up truck parked in the lane next to the Ganges company. Six rolls of tar paper were in the back of the truck

and three sheets of plywood sat in the ditch.

Police apprehended a 17- and 19-year-old found on the site.

District reluctantly agrees to help buy time for island

From Page A1

Vern Roddick, Outer Islands director, pointed out the Islands Trust fund would be established as of April 1, 1990. The deadline for a submission on Crown Land use was March 31, 1990.

Baird said the request for a letter in support of the CLUC position was a matter of "buying time for Salt Spring." The ultimate decision on the fate of the parks, should the land be turned over to Salt Spring, rested with islanders, she pointed out. If Salt Spring wants to join the regional parks system, "they should get on with it."

All the member municipalities and electoral areas of the CRD are part of — and pay for — the regional parks system with the sole exception of Salt Spring Island. The Outer Islands will pay close to \$32,000 toward the system in 1990.

Bill Jordan, executive director of the CRD, told the *Driftwood* that if Salt Spring joined the regional parks system, the cost would be in excess of \$40,000 per year.

Baird said that if Salt Spring voters agreed through referendum to join the parks system and if the Crown Lands became available, there would be no way to ensure that the CRD would purchase the lands for the regional system.

The CRD has priorities for parks, she pointed out, and Salt Spring would be down the list.

Donald G. MacGregor, MD, FRCSC

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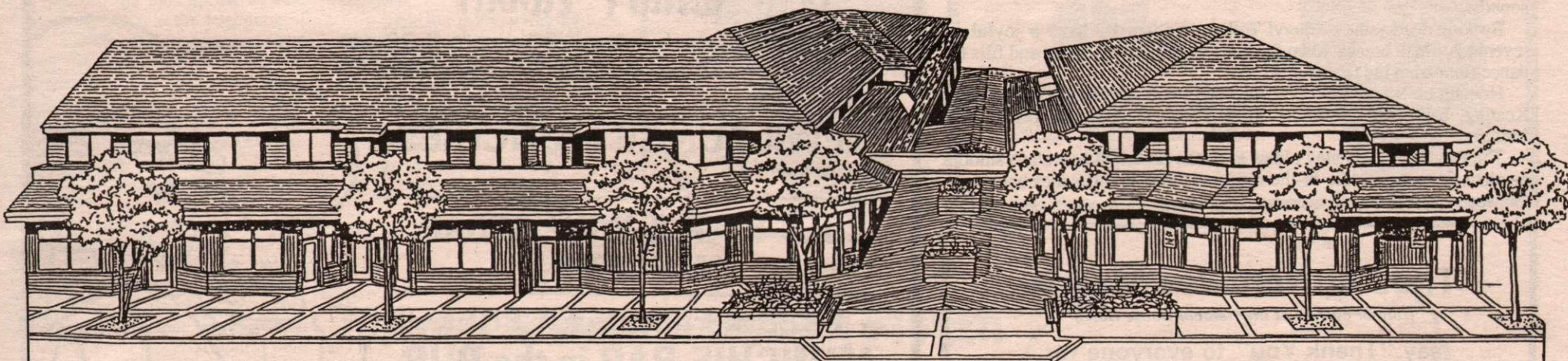
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Wednesday, April 18th

8 pm

at the Golf Clubhouse



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Driftwood

Entertainment



Five-on-a-string will play Beaver Point Hall this Saturday

Five-on-a-string will play for island bluegrass fans

Bluegrass fans have the opportunity to see and hear bluegrass music performed by a group of musicians from Vancouver at the Beaver Point Hall, Saturday night.

"Five-on-a-string," as the group is called, plays a type of bluegrass from the Southern Appalachians in the Eastern United States which has its roots in celtic music.

Banjoes, guitars, fiddles, dulcimers and mandolins are used to

play bluegrass whose sound has been influenced by blues, jazz, popular, swing and even Hawaiian music.

Terms like soulful and exuberant are now used to describe this music which takes the form of everything from ballads to gospel music and enjoys a world-wide following.

Members in "Five-on-a-string" include Carrol Oldenburg on mandolin, Gordy Sadler on banjo, and Gary Stevenson on flat-top guitar.

The Hawaiian "dobro" played by Larry Stevens, is an acoustic resonator guitar which lies flat in the musicians lap and is played using a steel slide. Back up will be provided by Brian Landry on bass.

In addition to the Vancouver performers, several local musicians will be brought in to round out Saturday night's events. Tickets, which cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, are available at the door.

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Elaine or Krista

"Rhythm Toads" will hop on Harbour House stage

The Rhythm Toads hop on stage at the Harbour House Hotel, April 6 and 7.

The Victoria-based band of six offer high energy versions of Top 40 sounds.

Backing lead singer Cheryl Fisher, the Toads "have a joyful irreverence which breaks down the barriers of even the shiest and fills the dance floor from the first chord."

Helping Fisher are Joan Lett, keyboard; Bill Armstrong, guitar; Mike Keating, bass; with drummer Mark Ponsford and reed player Bert Menear.

The Rhythm Toads play oldies to evoke nostalgia as well as smooth versions from the middle-of-the-road and throw in tunes they have written, and recorded.

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Entertainment



Salt Spring Players come out of hiding for the Festival of the Arts. Director Hettie Clew (right) auditions Dawn Luker (centre) and Virginia Newman for roles in play "Gone to Glory," which will open the Festival on June 27.

Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

ACTIVE PASS production receives nod of approval

Back in the days when "heavy metal" meant something more like gold, songs were sung that were funny, "dancy," bluesy and happy.

By PETER BLACKMORE
Driftwood Contributor

The songs of Harold Arlen and his lyricists are "gold" -- golden oldies. They are songs that touch our toes to make them tap, our heads to make them nod, our funny bones to make us laugh, and our hearts to help us love.

Active P.A.S.S. opened Friday

night with its revue "Get Happy" -- words of Arlen & Co. The interior of Mahon Hall has been set up in cabaret style with the stage off to one side . . . this gives the intimacy of a speakeasy or jazz bar (Arlen was resident composer for the "Cotton Club") and this is just the right setting for a relaxing evening's entertainment.

When the quartet -- Virginia and Ray Newman, Stu Salmond, and Bill Smith -- perform the opening numbers, it's easy to imagine being in some jazz cellar about 3 a.m. And within those first numbers are "those" tunes -- the ones were you say to yourself "oh that's that song," or "I remember that song, that was when . . ." An evening of "those" songs in fact.

Singers like Sue and Tom Bowler, Lynda Jensen, and Amy Newman croon, jingle and belt out many memorable hits of the 20s, 30s and 40s. Songs that you might have danced to, have seen in the movies, or fell in love to are given excellent treatment and some are given

original presentations (remember "Accentuate the Positive?").

Although the revue is called "Get Happy" it's more than that, there are the blues, there is jazz, there is romance, there is poignancy -- all carefully threaded through with biographical notes and anecdotes from Arlen's life.

The musicians and singers all looked like they were enjoying themselves and judging by the number of tapping feet and bobbing heads the audience was doing the same.

So come along (and come early for the good seats at the tables), listen to good music well-played and sung, and let your mind set the scene for that speakeasy, that gospel mission, that movie, or that dance hall, but most of all in the words of his most famous song "Hallelujah, C'mon Get Happy, Gonna Chase All Your Cares Away."

(And if you see people in the street who look happy -- they've seen the show, and you haven't!)

Grenby

Tickets going quickly

Tickets for a talk entitled "How to save Tax, Invest Successfully, and Retire Richer, Whatever Your Age" are disappearing quickly.

The talk, scheduled for Wednesday, April 25 (not April 26 as the tickets indicate), will be led by well-known financial manager Mike Grenby.

The event -- offered free of charge -- is co-sponsored by the Gulf Islands Driftwood and Islands Savings Credit Union.

Tickets are available at the Driftwood office.

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Take Note OF THESE DATES...

- APRIL 4: 2:30 pm, S.S. Elem. Staff Room - Parents Group Meeting
- APRIL 5: 10:30 am, Mahon Hall - Weavers & Spinners Guild Business Meeting
- APRIL 5: 6:30 pm, Harbour House Banquet Rm. - Salt Spring Speakers ITC meeting.
- APRIL 5: 7:30 pm, School Board Office - Sierra Club Salt Spring Island Branch meeting
- APRIL 7: 8:00 pm, Beaver Point Hall - Bluegrass Music Concert
- APRIL 7: 6:30 pm, Central Hall - the Ometepe Gulf Island Friendship Association Annual General Meeting.
- APRIL 10: 2 pm, Central Hall - S.S.I. Historical Society talk.
- APRIL 10, 11 & 12: G.I. Secondary School - VHF Course.
- APRIL 11: 7:30 pm, OAP Rm., Fulford Hall - Fulford Community Hall Annual General Meeting
- APRIL 11: 7:30 pm, Mahon Hall - Community Arts Council Annual General Meeting
- APRIL 11: 7:30 pm, S.S. Elem. School Library - Women's Development & Agroforestry in Uganda.
- APRIL 11: 12:30 pm, School Dist. #64 Board Rm. - regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

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Entertainment

100 high school students prepare for performance

Performers from each of the Gulf Islands Secondary School Fine Arts programs will be involved in the school's sixth annual musical extravaganza.

school's Fine Arts programs (music, drama, art and dance) will be involved.

Organizers say the annual show has helped expand the interests and standards among students in the Fine Arts.

"It provides a practical, yet inspiring experience for them."

Approximately 100 students will be directly involved in all aspects of the production -- performance, publicity, posters, gallery display, technical support and creation.

Organizers note the music, drama and dance programs at the high school are staffed part time, and most of the Fine Arts classes do not have much space or equipment. Therefore, they note, "it is a major commitment of extra time and effort from the Fine Arts teachers."

They say, however, it provides an opportunity to "enrich these programs with professional artists, technicians and additional equipment from the community."

Students are able to specialize in

a specific area with an expert. Some may chose to work on sound, lights, video, set, publicity, stage management, costumes, props or makeup. Other become involved with the band, singing, dancing, acting or artwork.

Parents provide extra help by baking desserts which will be available in the intermission.

Advance tickets for "When You Wish Upon A Star" are available at cetera, or GISS. Cost for evening performances on April 27 or 28 is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children.

First time students in each of school's Fine Arts program will be involved.

"When You Wish Upon a Star" is the theme of this year's production, scheduled for performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 26 to 28.

Each of the schools in the district -- including those on the Outer Gulf Islands -- have been invited to attend a Thursday (April 26) matinee.

This year's production marks the first time students in each of the high

Career choices

Education branch offers new courses

Whether one is in school, recently graduated, or school days are just a memory, there comes times when many people ask, "What next? What is the best direction for me to use my skills, interests, training?"

Organizers of the Salt Spring branch of Challenging Education say April and May are the months which will help you to answer those questions.

"Career Directions: First Job or Career Change" runs for 6 weekly sessions starting April 18. In this program, GISS counsellor and instructor, Scott Bergstrom, will help participants explore their own skills, aptitudes and interests, and relate them to realistic career opportunities. Resume writing and interview skills will also be stressed.

A special feature of this course is the opportunity to use the new GISS IBM computer lab in job search exercises.

Bergstrom emphasizes that in-service experience with local organizations might be arranged for participants. This course is open to everyone: high school students, as well as those returning to the work world or considering career changes.

"Out of the House? Women Returning to School and Career" is another Continuing Education program for those seeking information and answers relating to career changes and career goals.

A relative newcomer to Salt Spring Island, instructor Anne McLeod brings a wealth of experience and training in career counselling and counselling for women in transition.

This one day seminar slated for Saturday, May 5, was designed with women in mind: women who have nurtured and matured and who now might be ready to look outside the home for satisfying occupation and personal growth.

The seminar will deal with questions involving the need for more education, specialized training, shifting away from previous careers and training, utilizing the many skills and experiences of housekeeping and family life in the modern job market.

McLeod has researched these issues and offers an opportunity for participants to explore the possibilities, look at their own personalities, and settle on a realistic and personally satisfying course of action.

Pre-registration for both of these courses is strongly advised. Call the Continuing Education office, 537-2822, for more information or to register.

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SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SOCIETY
NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7:00 pm Wednesday, April 18, 1990
at the Centre

Nominations for Council will be accepted from the floor.

The following proposed additions to the constitution and bylaws are requested by the B.C. Housing Management Commission in order that the Society and its McGoldrick Residence Project will conform not only to the *Society Act* but also to the *National Housing Act*.

CONSTITUTION ADDITIONS
2(j) To operate a charitable institution (without profits to its members) for the purpose of constructing, providing, maintaining, leasing, owning and managing one or more housing projects.
5. The councilors shall serve without remuneration, and the councilors shall not receive, directly or indirectly, any profits from their position as councilors, but may be paid expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. This clause is unalterable.
6. The Society shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its member(s), and no part of any income of the Society shall be payable or otherwise available for the personal benefit of the member(s) thereof, and any profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used for promoting its purposes. This clause is unalterable.
7. The Society shall carry on works exclusively of a charitable nature. This clause is unalterable.

BYLAWS ADDITION
Article V--Council
6(h) Councilors shall annually appoint external auditors to review the books and accounts.
Please come to Community Centre to sign membership list.



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— BEGINNING APRIL 13th —

News



Driftwood photo by Susan Dickler

Young, old and canine met at the extended care wing of Lady Minto Hospital, when a Salt Spring Elementary School kindergarten class visited the elderly residents at the hospital. Topping of the visit was the addition of a golden lab, brought by Ladies Auxillary member Marjorie Cuttell.

Director hopes to create island youth committee

Salt Spring's director to the Capital Regional District says she hopes to either set up a youth committee consisting of a variety of individuals working with young people on the island, or act as a facilitator to increase the communication between those groups.

Speaking at a "round table" meeting last Friday, Julia Atkins said she would like to see a committee formed which would include representatives from a number of groups and young people from the island.

Atkins would like to see half of the people on the committee to be teenagers.

Atkins said she is not sure the problems with youth on the island can be addressed by one particular group and added that the scope of one particular group is often too narrow. The purpose of forming a larger group with a broad representation would be to generate more ideas on how to meet the needs of the island's youth.

Atkins also told the group last

Friday that she hopes the school board might consider turning the Mahon Hall site back to the community. (The board bought the building from the Farmer's Institute for \$140 years ago.) She said the site would be ideal for a recreation centre if and when one is built.

Atkins has also suggested the Seniors for Seniors group might consider putting its \$60,000 Windfall grant toward a recreation centre. She said in exchange for that contribution, the seniors could be guaranteed user privileges at the facility. She added the \$60,000 could generate three times that amount in matching grants.

Parks Board rep suggests joint use

The Parks and Recreation Commission is hoping it can take advantage of the new Salt Spring high school to provide some additional recreation facilities here.

Speaking at a meeting of the commission Monday night, Brian Storrier, an administrator with the parks board in Juan de Fuca, said the parks commission here should take advantage of the new building to provide more recreation facilities -- something which could be a "tremendous" saving for taxpayers on the island.

Storrier added that one of the walls in the new school could double as a wall around a swimming pool complex.

The Juan de Fuca parks administrator was invited to talk here at a special meeting called by the commission to talk about joint-use facilities.

Representatives from the Gulf Island School District, including chairman Grace Byrne and the district secretary treasurer, participated in the meeting.

This was the most recent of several visits made by Storrier to Salt Spring to discuss recreational issues. He noted the climate on Salt Spring has never been better to bring recreational facilities here. He said it was both positive and encouraging that Salt Spring has found a site for a new school and that provincial funding for that may be coming.

He added it will be essential for the community be involved in the planning and building stage of the new school.

Ian Fraser, school board representative on the parks board, said if the parks commission wants to be somehow included in the new school, it should have some money available to back up any ideas it might want to put forward. He added that the commission should start looking at a variety of funding alternatives now.

Storrier added that it would likely be three years before a new facility (including the school) opens from the time of its initial planning.

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News

District acquires two new school buses

Two new 72-passenger school buses cost the Gulf Islands School District close to \$120,000.

The two vehicles, purchased as replacement for smaller, older units, will be powered by diesel engines. School Board chairman Grace Byrne

noted the two buses carry price tags of \$60,000 each. Tax would be added to the total figure and the trade-in value of one of the other buses subtracted.

Funds for the purchase come from the 1989/90 capital budget.

One of the new buses will be utilized on Galiano while the other comes to Salt Spring. The older Galiano bus will be tuned and used as a spare bus on Salt Spring.

The buses now in use are powered by propane but while the fuel is

cheaper to purchase, repairs are frequent and the buses lack sufficient power on the hilly roads of the Gulf Islands.

None of the school bus manufacturers produce propane vehicles and only one builds a gas-powered bus. Conversion to propane would add at least \$10,000 to the cost of the buses.

Diesel engines, if kept in good repair, produce fewer emissions than other types of engines and contain adequate power to handle the hills.

Funds given

When organizers of Salt Spring Elementary School's Fiftieth Anniversary asked for \$350, the answer was no.

But then Gulf Islands School Board trustees took a second look at the request for funds to help pay some of the expenses of celebrating 50 years.

The organizing committee will receive \$300 from the school board.

School trustees vote against referendums

Confusion continues to surround the working details of the 1990/91 school budget but the school trustees are sure of one thing: they do not like the idea of referendum.

The trustees of School District 64 voted unanimously to let the minister of education know they oppose the idea of referendum to finance education.

The trustees feel that facing the voters in school board elections every two years stands as a valid way of measuring voter opinion.

Charles Hingston pointed out the cost involved in gaining voter approval could outweigh the amount needed.

"We should not waste tax money to get approval for more tax money from the taxpayers," he said.

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Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Salt Spring Island Brownies gather at St. Georges Church Hall

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Eye exams will be available on Salt Spring Island at Lady Minto Hospital beginning mid-April.

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