

Mary E Davidson
RR1
Fulford, BC
V0S 1C0
08/01/90

Gulf Islands Driftwood

An update on local Regional District events is provided on Page A7

A Salt Spring soccer team wins league title Page B15

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR, NO. 17

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1990



Salt Spring Island became home to a group of Japanese students for four days recently. They were brought to the island by David and Kay Kos to get a first-hand look at the Canadian culture and environment.

Here, several students find a number of items to photograph in Centennial Park in Ganges. The Kos's hope to bring more students here this summer.

Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Company changes its plans

Weldwood Canada has agreed to leave half of the old-growth area it had earlier planned to cut as part of a 50-hectare logging operation presently underway on Mount Bruce.

The decision came after a walking tour through the area last Thursday by Weldwood vice-president Carl Rathburn and a company forester along with Island Trust representative Nick Gilbert and two other concerned residents.

The old-growth area the company has agreed not to log is actually on Mount Sullivan which slightly overlaps the Weldwood site. Only two of the four hectares of old-growth timber will be logged.

Salt Spring resident Bob Andrew, one of the people on the walk, noted some of the trees are between 200 and 300 years old.

Andrew added there is particular interest in saving the area because it is one of the few remaining stands of old-growth forest on Salt Spring. The group had hoped to save more of the stand because of the special type of forest it represents and also because it is home to a trail system connecting park areas on either side of the Weldwood site.

Rathburn said Tuesday when the company originally planned to do the cut, it was not aware of the trail system. While the existing trail will not be saved, he said the community can build a new one through the old-growth area left standing.

Rathburn noted the company had been approached to sell the old-growth stand to the Salt Spring community. He said selling the property was out of the question since Weldwood was in the business of tree farming and not land sales.

He also said the size of the trees means the company will have to employ a cable cut method which means a selective cut cannot be done. He explained while the trees are older

Earth Week activities on Salt Spring attract high turnout of participants

Organizers of this year's Earth Week celebrations on Salt Spring were pleased with the high turnout at almost all of last week's events.

The art auction at Mahon Hall Sunday probably raised in excess of \$5,000.

Patricia Brown, one of the key organizers behind the event and a member of the Green Islands environmental group, said that close to 45 artists donated work for the auction.

She said the money raised through the auction will be used to cover the expenses of the group with Earth Week and the money will be turned over to

Green Islands to carry on its environmental work.

Brown said all of the events held

of bringing out the message that we are going to have to act soon because the earth is dying."

Related stories found on Pages B1, B2 and B3

last week carried the message that saving the planet is something which must be done on an individual as well as community basis.

"Each thing had a specific message about what we need to do to start taking care of the earth. It is a matter

Some of the more popular events included a classical music and tea ceremony at Mahon Hall Sunday which drew a standing room crowd of close to 150 people. And more than 70 cyclists participated in a bike-athon Wednesday to raise money for

safety paths on the island.

Brown said more than anything, last week's activities served to show each individual person can make a difference and it is people working together that will save the earth.

"When you first start hearing about the situation, you want to go into a corner. But when you become aware, you realize you can do something — one step at a time.

"I think it is important that everybody knows (what the environmental situation is like) because unless we act strongly and quickly, it will be too late."

TURN TO PAGE A16

TURN TO PAGE A2

Couvelier discusses budget and Islands Trust

The provincial budget contains two new aspects for provincial budgeting, finance minister Mel Couvelier explained.

Couvelier spoke with the *Driftwood* last Saturday about the provincial budget handed down on Thursday, April 19. He also expressed support for the Islands Trust.

By BILL WEBSTER
The Driftwood

The core of the new initiative by the B.C. government will be several funds set up to allow multi-year planning. The Sustainable Environment

over a period of years and enable planning in other areas of environmental problems.

The fund would be controlled by a cabinet committee comprising representatives from each ministry affected such as the ministries of regional development, environment, forests and municipal affairs.

"We should be able to get better quality environmental commitments in view of the cabinet task force making the decisions," he said.

In the past, co-ordination of ministerial actions often was non-existent, Couvelier noted: decisions of the various ministries on the same problem were often contradictory.

elaborate on any plans for such endeavours as reforestation, for instance. The ministries involved would announce plans "in due course" he said, adding that he did not want to pre-empt any such announcements.

Under the Freedom to Move funding, planning for construction of highways, expansion of B.C. Ferries and other related matters would be carried out over a period of years instead of on a yearly basis as was the case, he pointed out.

Other items such as operating budgets, highway maintenance and repairs would continue to be funded from the annual appropriations by the

Capital expenditures, such as construction of various new highways around the province or upgrading the B.C. Ferries fleet would come under the Freedom to Move account.

For instance, \$100 million has been set aside for work on improving the Vancouver Island highway including the Pat Bay highway. Although part of the Island highway is supposed to come under joint federal-provincial jurisdiction, Couvelier indicated the federal government has chipped in only a token \$10 million to cover costs of renovations to Highway 1, the B.C. portion of the trans-Canada highway.

Also part of the Freedom to Move



Mel Couvelier

News

Logging decision significant

From Page A1

and mature, they are not virgin stands.

In a press release turned over to the *Driftwood* last week, Gilbert noted the Weldwood decision is important for a number of reasons. One is it recognizes "public concern for old-growth forest and for recreation-

al trails" and another is it "opens a positive atmosphere of discussion and negotiation between public/corporations for this and future cutting decisions."

Gilbert also explained since the community plan does not describe trails and recreation areas, the concession must be viewed as significant and a "positive response" to a number

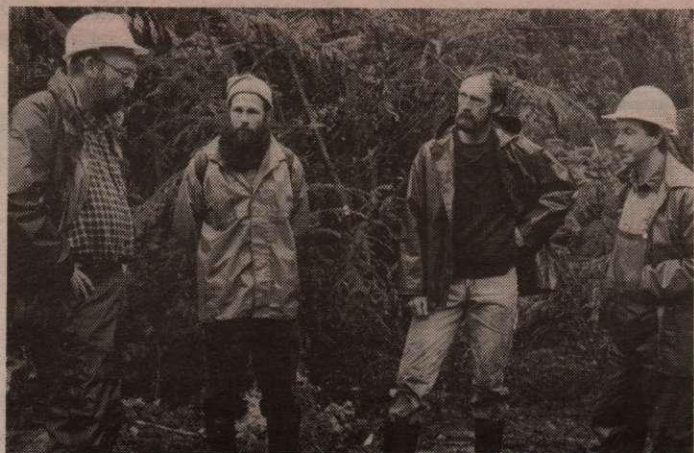
of concerns expressed on the island.

Andrew noted while he is pleased with the Weldwood decision, he says there is still hope the entire old-growth area can be saved. He also suggested Weldwood might not have been planning to log the two-hectare site in the first place because it is difficult to reach.

Altogether, Weldwood plans to cut 50 of the 300 hectares of land it owns on Mount Bruce in the cut currently underway. Rathburn said he expects the remainder to be logged in at least two cuts in the next 20 to 40 years once those trees are mature.

Gilbert said one of the concerns he has about cuts such as these is the cutting plans are approved by tax assessors rather than the Island Trust or some other government body that may be more concerned about the environmental impact of those cuts. The result, he says, is logging companies are encouraged to pursue larger cuts since increased cutting means more tax revenue.

He suggested now, when so many larger tracts of land are being divided and sold to smaller firms, would be an ideal time for the Minister of Finance to impose annual allowable cuts on privately-owned property.



A meeting between Weldwood officials and locals resulted in a new cutting plan for Weldwood.

"Dispersion of autonomy" causes island confrontations -- Couvelier

From Page A1

account will be money, an unstipulated amount, to cover costs of expansion to facilities at Swartz Bay. Couvelier said B.C. Ferries had received a substantial amount of money in the 1989/90 budget to cover the cost of constructing new vessels.

On the issue of the Islands Trust, Couvelier said he could not speak for government policy on the Trust. He offered his opinion that part of the confrontational nature of the Gulf Islands comes about through dispersion of autonomy.

So many governmental agencies are involved in various issues affecting the islands, he said. To lessen the confrontation, Couvelier suggested a consolidation of the various agencies dealing with island matters.

He pointed out the Islands Trust deals with land-use planning while the Capital Regional District concerns itself with supply various services. Even though the two agencies deal with different aspects of island life, they work needlessly toward confrontations.

"I would be just as happy to see planning and services done by the Islands Trust," he said, stressing that it was his personal opinion.

In 15 years of political involvement, Couvelier has "seen many

fighters" in the Gulf Islands. He noted a need to co-ordinate responsibilities better. A continued lack of co-ordination would continue to frustrate the process, he added.

When asked if the setting up of the various funds and creation of the cabinet task force committees signalled a new style of government for the province, Couvelier agreed. He offered a personal view that the traditional government structure no longer served the needs of society. Most issues cross ministerial lines, he repeated and with the creation of the cabinet task forces, the opportunity to refine the technique of delivering government programs has been set up.

He gave as an example the problems of women's issues. The attempts to co-ordinate programs within one ministry when several were involved has not made a "dent in the problems," he said. The cabinet task force approach, with representation from across all ministries involved would make the decision process more effective.

A program announced in the budget speech offered an example, Couvelier explained. The provincial government will be implementing equal pay for work of equal value.

The B.C. effort will not be like the equal pay program in Ontario where

government decreed that the private sector should implement the program just as government had been doing.

In B.C., the government will lead by putting "our house in order," Couvelier said. The private sector would follow strong government leadership on the equal pay issue. The program will be implemented over several years, he said.

The initial problem stems from how to quantify comparable value for work done. He said the answer seems to be if work carried equal value to society, the pay should be equal as well.

Early detailed discussions will be carried out on how best to implement the program. The initial stages would be aimed at low-pay government jobs "where we have great unfairness right now," Couvelier said.

When asked about the perception that government was being lenient toward polluters such as the Crofton mill, Couvelier defended the government action by noting that the minister of the environment was getting tough and "industry was getting the message."

He claimed that of the 24 worst polluters among pulp mills in Canada, three quarters of the offenders were in Quebec with only three or four in B.C. On an international comparison, he said, Canada looks bad but the figures show the problem to be isolated to Quebec.

The government of B.C. is not being complacent about the issue, he said. It will be doing something about it.

During the budget speech, Couvelier announced a supplemental home-owners grant to cover 25 per cent of the residential property tax for education above the minimum home-owners grant. Next year the supplemental grant rises to 50 per cent of the added amount of school taxes. Couvelier explained that a cap of \$1,000 had been put in place to ensure equity in the allotment of the grants. No property owner would be able to claim more than the \$1,000 ceiling in a home-owner or supplemental grant.

Currently, the home-owners grant stands at \$430 while seniors and veterans receive a grant of \$700 on their property tax bill.

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	2300	8.2		2130	11.0
26	0400	10.5	29	0215	9.4
TH	1120	.0	SU	0545	10.1
	1925	10.8		1350	.7
	2355	8.9		2230	11.0
27	0430	10.6	30	0345	9.1
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				0925	7.7
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537-4202
Harbours End, Ganges

THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: For the week beginning Monday, April 23.

HIGHS: 15 degrees C.

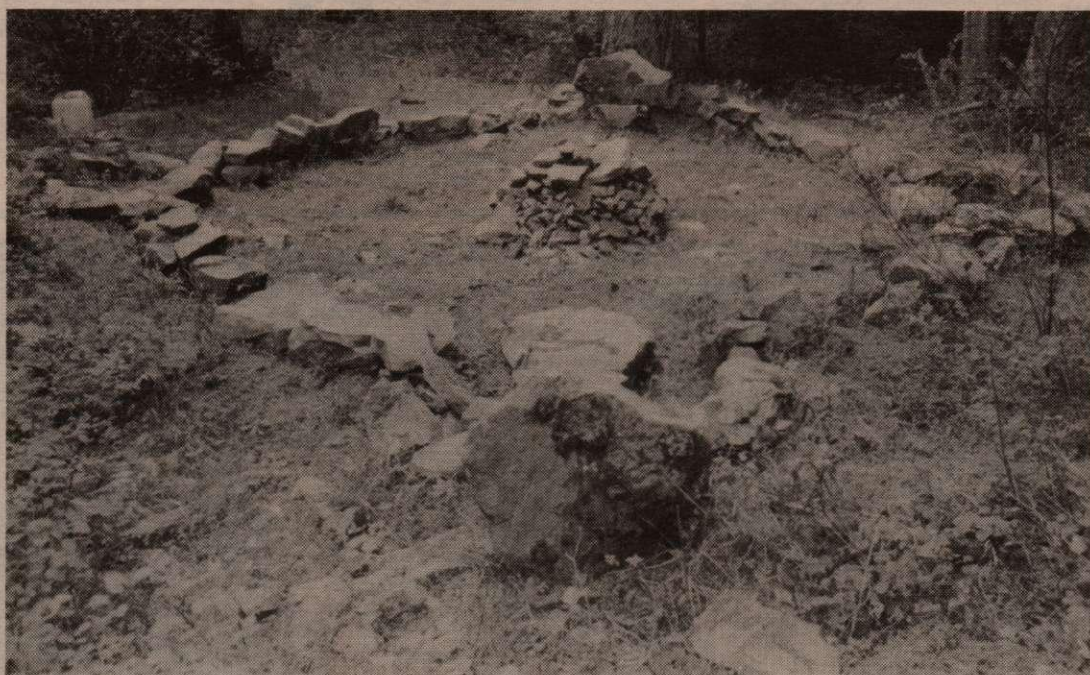
LOWS: 5 degrees C.

Sunny with cloudy periods and rain beginning on Wednesday. Friday through the weekend should be sunny.

Chance of precipitation 90 per cent Wednesday and 50 per cent Thursday.

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The ring of stones, with fire pit in the centre, shows existence of occult activity on Salt Spring Island. Photo shows view to the south.

Satanist coven found on island

A Satanist coven has been operating on Salt Spring for sometime now and RCMP are aware of its existence.

The coven apparently performs rituals at a property in the upper area of Ganges. At the site, in a grove of fir trees, rocks piled about a foot high, have been arranged in a circle with seats set up at each of the cardinal compass points. The area of the circle covers close to 155 square feet. Another cone-shaped pile of rocks in the centre of the circle shows evidence of use as a fire-pit.

The seat at the northerly portion of the circle has been set up to resemble an altar. Candle holders with traces of wax were found scattered around the site and different rocks in the circle and at the altar bore traces of wax drippings from burned candles.

Also found at the site was a hand-made broom, made of the plant known as broom.

In the past, rumours centred on a coven of witches on the island have circulated but the ritual area in Ganges is recent evidence of the presence of Satanists. Victoria and Sooke are known for the large number of witches and Satanists.

When the *Driftwood* visited the site last Wednesday, two youths appeared. Asked if they knew what the site was for, both mentioned the use of the circle for Satanic rituals. One of the youths warned that the story of the site should not be made public "because it is very religious."

Shortly after that incident, a telephone call came to the newspaper office threatening charges of trespassing if the story was printed. Any news of the site "would f.k it up," the caller said.

A decision to contact the RCMP was made in view of the threats received.

RCMP Sergeant Larry Wendel

told the *Driftwood* this is not the first time such a site has been located. He said there was "quite an elaborate" one in the woods near the RCMP office.

Fire permits now needed

As forest fire season arrives in the Gulf Islands, burning permits are mandatory.

Residents are reminded to pick up a burning permit for incinerators as well as for any outdoor fires to burn yard debris. Contained campfires do not require a permit.

The fire season, which began April 15, continues through to the fall. As the weather improves and the islands dry out, further restrictions will be put in place.

To report a grass or brush fire, the number to call is 911 for the local fire departments or dial '0' and ask for ZENith 5555 for the forest fire service.

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President Frank Richards
Publisher Joyce Carlson
Editor Susan Dicker
Reporters Nancy Vail
..... Bill Webster
Advertising Jeff Outerbridge
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Weldwood decision

Those on both sides must be commended

Several weeks ago, Islands Trustee Nick Gilbert asked a scant crowd of people "Where is the public?"

The words were expressed at an information meeting with representatives from Weldwood, which is currently logging 50 hectares of land on Salt Spring Island's Mount Bruce. Gilbert and others were concerned with islanders' apparent reluctance to take a stand on the issue.

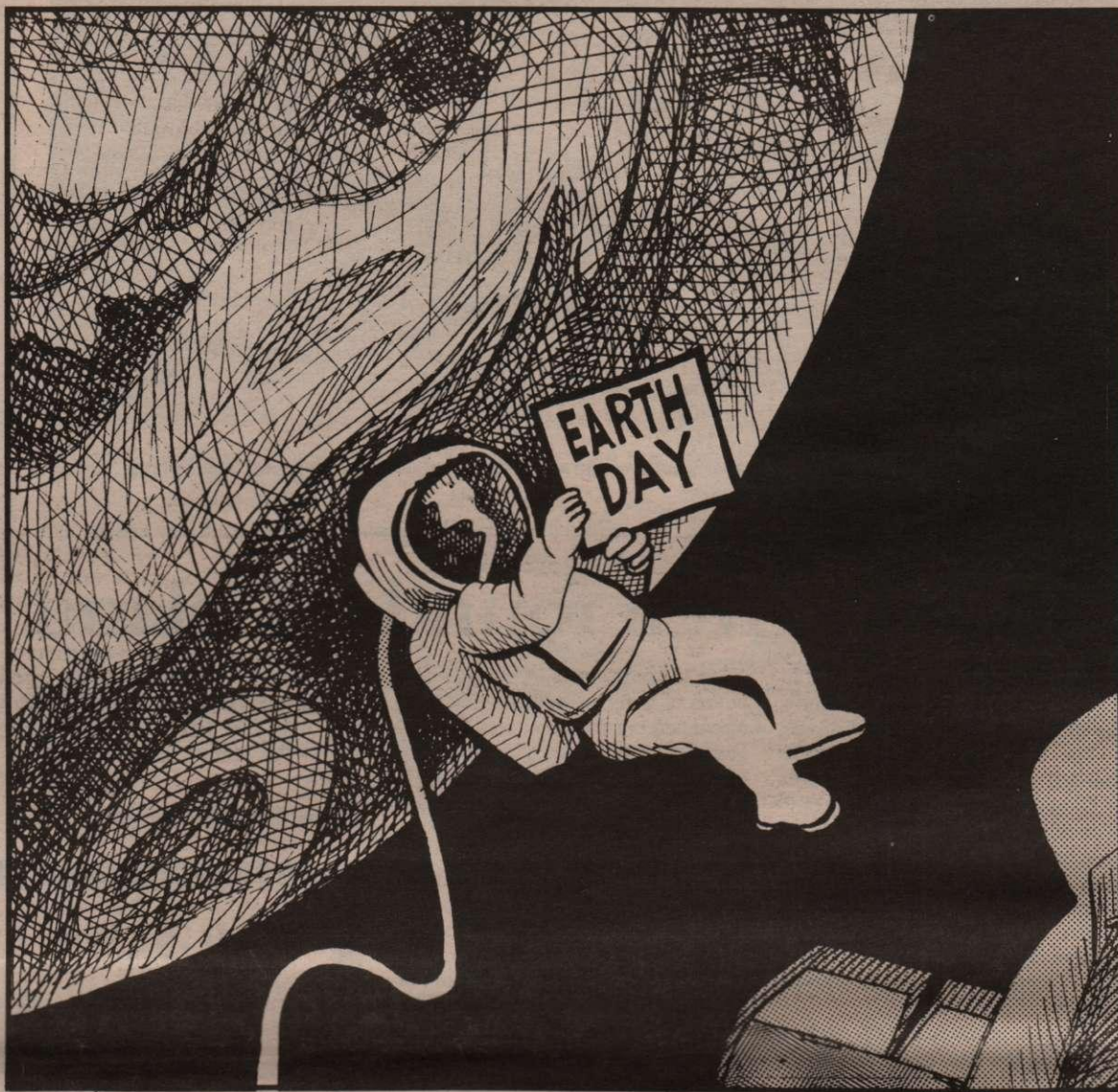
Since that time, a number of developments have occurred and both islanders and Weldwood officials are to be congratulated.

As announced in today's *Driftwood*, Weldwood has agreed to modify its cut plan, leaving intact, two of four hectares of old-growth forest it had originally planned to log. Weldwood's decision not to log the area will allow for a trail link between two parks on either side of the Weldwood site.

As Gilbert notes, the step opens a positive atmosphere of discussion and negotiation between the public and the company. Because Salt Spring's Community Plan does not describe trails and recreational areas, Gilbert adds, Weldwood's decision must be seen as a significant concession.

Furthermore, he believes the decision is a positive response to the many concerned islanders who have written and phoned Weldwood, and spoken out publicly.

These developments represent an excellent example of what can be achieved when islanders present a united front. Islanders should be congratulated for taking a stand and working towards the goal they set. And Weldwood officials must be commended for listening to the concerns of those who live on the island, and for recognizing the recreational value of this area.



Letters policy

The *Driftwood* continues to welcome the views and opinions expressed in letters from its readers.

The letters section gives all readers an opportunity to express opinions, concerns and noteworthy items.

However, due to the heavy volume of letters received by the *Driftwood*, we ask that writers limit their submissions to 200 words or less.

While the *Driftwood* attempts to run letters without major editorial revision, lengthy letters will sometimes be cut.

Expecting country of their dreams

To the Editor,
A year ago my brother and I arrived in the country of our dreams. We landed in Vancouver for a five week vacation, anticipating an encounter with the wilderness, infinite and almost untouched landscapes. It's normal to see Canada in this fashion when one comes from tiny, overcrowded Switzerland, as we do.

Like two happy discoverers, we set out to explore Vancouver Island. Almost at once disillusion set in. From Sooke up north on the west coast we surveyed devastated valleys and hill sides; it was an indescribable, apocalyptic mess of what were once forests.

The clear-cut, and often the erosion, were only relieved by patches of new "crops". The bright

billboards said "Planted in 79" etc., as if these logging shows were tourist attractions.

In Switzerland, the word "harvesting" is applied on a much smaller scale to wheat, corn or grass. Clear-cuts to our narrow Swiss minds refer to practices found in the remote countries of the third world in which greed and mismanagement (necessity?) play the driving economic motives. What of the ecosystems and the creatures eradicated in the process? Are there no scientists in Canada to call attention to the negative results of such methods? Or are we too soft-hearted?

As we learned later, almost no place in British Columbia has escaped from clear-cutting. The thought of the whole province

sprayed with chemicals (it's done, so we were told) made us very sad.

Needless to say these images accompanied us throughout our journey in B.C. (perhaps we ought not to travel on the back roads where the clear-cut epidemic is worse).

We thought that at least in the parks Nature is as She was sketched in our imaginations and dreams; not even then! One day while we were in Strathcona Park, an enormous truck passed us! Later we learned that mining is normal in Strathcona; furthermore its boundaries were changed according to the desires of logging and mining industries. Ironically the new opened areas were called "recreation areas." A park is a park; or is it?

I will not expend myself further speaking of the environmental problems that we became aware of during our journey, as you certainly all know about them. But their constant presence surely shadowed our vacations, shattered our naive dreams.

Nevertheless, we have had our share of joy too. We met so many handsome and lovely persons in British Columbia. We couldn't link these fine people with the problems mentioned above; in fact we knew it was unfair to do so.

And, when we could ignore the clear-cuts and pollution, British Columbia was indeed beautiful... for how long?

ALAIN CHALLANDES
Switzerland

Pink blotches - a reminder of springtime

Every year I forget.

Each April, I get all gushy about the springtime. I walk around dipping my nose into cherry blossoms, parking myself in the sun rays, and listening with happy contentment to the burping evening frogs and chirping morning birds.

I anticipate the sunny days ahead.

Then, picture this: It's Saturday morning, the sun is bursting through the French windows. The pillows are fluffed under your head and the comforter is wrapped around your shoulders. You stretch luxuriantly, listening to the birds working up a choral frenzy outside. You decide to roll over and spend a few more minutes in dreamland.

Then it happens. That high, whin-

Off the Record

SUSAN DICKER



blotches of pink calamine lotion — and hovers about your head. Cautiously, you peer out from beneath the covers, making an unsuccessful attempt to find the rotten little pest and smack it between your palms. But of course, you can't see it.

Determined to resume your restful Saturday a.m. snooze, you bury yourself under the covers, with only a portion of your nose revealed. And

mosquitoes. They love me. Quite typically, they'll enter a room — usually in sadistic little armies — extend special radar antennae, exchange some sort of attack strategy, fly in and around any number of obstacles — including dozens of other people — and head directly for me.

Others think it's great; I'm a big hit on camping trips.

No exaggeration: at the beginning of the summer, I average 20 to 30 bites at one time. I could be rented out as mosquito repellent: a sort of camping accessory.

My war against the — granted — small beast began years ago when we travelled to Miracle Beach for a camping excursion. I distinctly recall watching a mosquito land on my leg. Being a kind-hearted animal lover who disliked killing any little creature, I decided to give this pest its life and refrain from smearing its guts all over my leg.

I decided I would not scratch the bite. I'd ignore it and it would go away.

It was the worst bite I ever had. It swelled up to the size of a plum. I had

outlook on life and death. No mosquito would ever again escape the wrath of my palms.

Last year, a newspaper article announced an amazing new product on the market. Avon's "Skin So Soft" apparently (and surprisingly to its creators) works as a mosquito repellent.

Well this is great, I thought, no more sticky, horrific sprays or oily potions. A little "Skin So Soft" and I'm set. I could go to Africa. I could go on T.V. and place my arm in a glass case filled with mosquitoes.

It took some time to purchase the product. I distributed it generously over my skin. I took a trip into the woods. I received three bites within about five minutes. They love me in

Letters

Junk Mail

To the Editor,
Junk mail is symbolic of the waste generated in society today not only because it fosters consumerism but because much of it is printed on glossy paper which is difficult to recycle and usually disposed of in land fill sites. The knowledge that 100,000 acres of forest in Canada are consumed by junk mail each year and forty per cent of our garbage is paper products, indicates that junk mail is more than just a nuisance.

Please follow these easy steps to help solve the junk mail problem.

1. Write to the Canadian Direct Marketing Association, 1 Concord Gate, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 3N6 and ask them to remove your name from their mailing list.

2. Write to your magazine subscriptions and any organizations you belong to and request them not to sell your name to other companies or groups.

3. Return junk mail to sender in the enclosed envelope.

4. Send your flyers with a brief note to: Harvie Andre, Minister for Canada Post, Lucien Bouchard, Minister of the Environment, or Lynn Hunter, M.P. Saanich and Gulf Islands. Their address is: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2.

5. Recycle newspaper flyers and inserts and non-glossy junk mail.

6. Apply pressure on the federal government to examine the relationship between deforestation, junk mail and our rapidly filling landfills.

The government has embraced the concept of a sustainable economy and must develop a far-reaching strategy beyond simply repeating that businesses and individuals have the right to advertise and the post office must show a profit. Instead, let's demand creative solutions to end the careless use of wood fibre and let's all learn to recognize the essential part the forests play in the life of our planet.

JULIETTE LAING
Ganges

Threatening

To the Editor,
Nine and a half days was too short a stay on Salt Spring Island.

But it was long enough to make me realize that the rate of development as it is threatens all that I found beautiful.

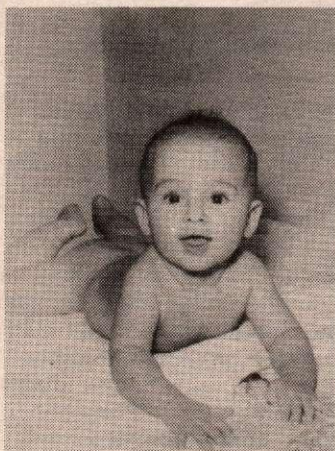
Every area cleared for a new house leaves less land to support the deer and eagles. Every area logged destroys completely the local ecosystem and damages the whole area's ability to regenerate itself.

The small community feeling which is so precious to many will also be irretrievably lost without some preventative action.

Please don't let Salt Spring end up looking like Vancouver.

JANE JOYCE,
England

Oh Lordy
Barefoot Gordy
Just turned forty



Happy Birthday
from all your

Offensive ditty

To the Editor,
I would like to hear an explanation from R.S. Holcroft regarding his entry in the April 18 letters section of the *Driftwood* on page B9, in the upper right hand corner.

I hope his explanation is better than his offensive little ditty.

J. BENNETT,
Ganges

Thinks the unthinkable

To the Editor,
I suppose when one thinks the unthinkable or speaks the unspeakable, the best one can hope for is to face only mild rebuke.

If I can add to the general discussion, however, I would express the hope that the Saturday Market group does not take my comments as a basis for polarizing the issues which, as I well know, is a volatile one, but rather, as a basis for considering solutions to the traffic problems which loom ahead.

While I have my neck in view, I have, for some time, felt that the Saturday Market has become, less and less, a local Arts/Crafts/Produce market and, more and more, like the California-style "swap meet," where many of the goods sold are imported from far and wide... China, Mexico, Taiwan and so on.

I suppose I am being unrealistic, but I would prefer to see the Saturday Market as a source of locally-produced goods only and sold only by Island people. Why should Centennial Park be used as a venue for off-Island vendors who come to Salt Spring only to take advantage of our burgeoning tourist trade? I assume these off-island vendors take the bulk of their profits home with them when the business day is over.

Should there not be a requirement of some sort that puts the focus of the Saturday Market on Salt Spring Islanders and what they produce?

L.S. HICKS
Ganges

Haunting words

To the Editor,
It's terrible to find my words coming back to haunt me. But my *Driftwood*-published story on the exploitation and ruin of BC forests by outside multinationals is now taking place with a vengeance right here on Salt Spring.

Showing an arrogance and contempt unrivalled since Fletcher Challenge refused to stop poisoning this

community, officials for Weldwood Canada have repeatedly lied concerning their cutting timetable, and turned down every offer to buy these 740 acres by concerned island residents — including the Islands Trust and Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

Readers might be interested to know that Weldwood Canada is BC's sixth biggest logging company, with a 1989 Annual Allowable Cut of 2,922,6740 cubic metres. The company is actually owned by Champion International. Headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, this US forest giant logs in Brazil, Nicaragua, Zambia, the Netherlands, the Antilles, Surinam and Sweden.

Champion-Weldwood also owns sawmills and pulp mills in BC, Alberta and Ontario — with sales to North America, Europe, Australia and Asia. In BC, Champion-Weldwood shares ownership of the Cariboo Pulp and Paper Company with Daishowa-Marubeni International of Japan. The huge American multinational also owns an 85 per cent share in Babine Forest Products - a company infamous for its wood waste.

With industrial scale clear-cut logging coming under increasing fire throughout BC, it is clear that this practice is out-of-place on a small island such as Salt Spring. Previous logging here, while extensive, never included clear-cutting — the technology wasn't available. Many seed trees and some stands of ancient growth were left to regenerate our now luxuriant second-growth. In contrast, an area clear-cut in recent years near the present Weldwood clear-cut has never come back.

Public outrage isn't enough. Loggers are back destroying Mt. Tuam. And the Fulford Valley — an area BC Tourism has called "one of the eight prettiest valleys in BC" — remains just a tiny blip on Champion's forest-targeting radar screens.

Until we follow Galiano Island's lead in insisting that all commercial logging operators submit to a community clearance process, we are going to find our necks in an ever-tightening noose as fallout from the Crofton mill and local climate warming accelerate "dieback" and our watersheds deteriorate.

Wake up Salt Spring! Less than one per cent of this island's old growth remains. More than one tree is being felled every 10 seconds. And the destruction of our island continues at an ever increasing rate.

RANDY THOMAS
Ganges

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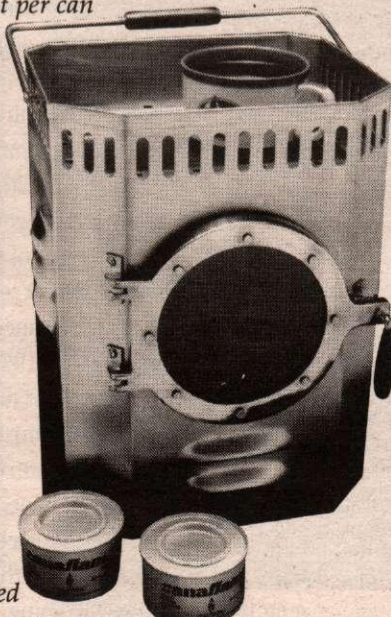
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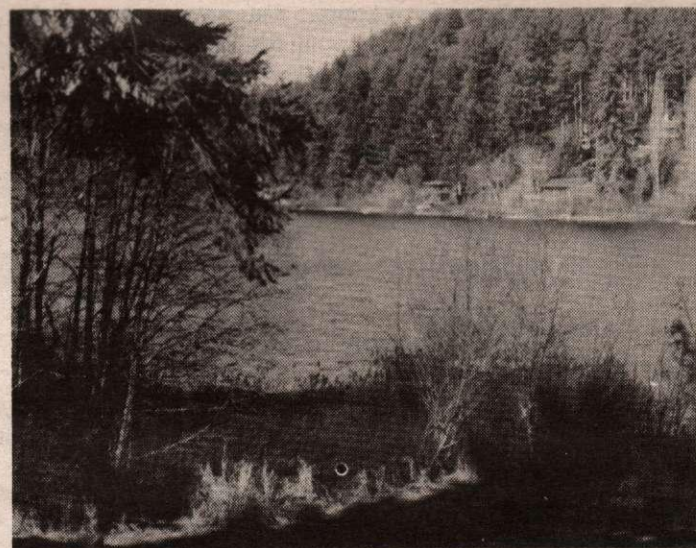
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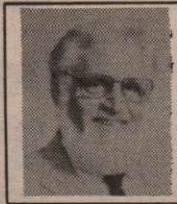
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Opinion

Capital
Comment

HUBERT BEYER



VICTORIA — Slowly but inexorably, all the prerequisites for a provincial election are falling into place.

A scarce three months ago, the only possible outcome of an election would have been defeat for Premier Vander Zalm and his Social Credit Party. Today, the outcome is no longer certain.

When the premier's popularity began to rise again, so did speculation of an early election, but the pieces were not yet in place. The most important ingredient was missing — an issue. Now, the Socreds got that, too. They got several of them.

There is the school referendum issue which is bound to help the Socreds in an election. Everybody is fed up with high taxes, and any measure to curb the cost of education will receive public support.

Fed-bashing, always a sure-fire election ploy, is with us again. Recent cuts in the federal budget have given the B.C. government a lot of ammunition to be used with abandon in the campaign.

As for the critics who say Vander Zalm all but forced Ottawa to cut B.C.'s share of the federal pie, the premier still says he could reduce the federal deficit without treating the provinces unequally and unfairly.

Eliminate need for GST

In that context, you can expect Vander Zalm to give more than cursory mention to the need for a reduction in the federal bureaucracy, as well as a tax scheme that has become near and dear to him — a flat tax system.

The system he is talking about would give everybody a tax exemption of \$15,000 and tax the remaining income at 24 per cent. Such a scheme, he says, would eliminate the need for the federal Goods and Services Tax.

Speaking of the GST, you can bet that the unpopular tax will feature prominently in the next provincial election. Not yet law, the mere prospect of the GST can be invoked in any number of dire predictions and fiscal disaster scenarios.

And now for the best election issue of them all — the public sector wage restraint package hinted at in the recent Throne Speech.

So far, Vander Zalm has refused to speak of the government plans in terms of wage controls or guidelines, telling reporters to wait for the legislation. But the Throne Speech set the tone for what could easily become a rerun of the 1983 election campaign in which then Premier Bill Bennett called for fiscal restraint and won the election.

Tough times require tough decisions

"All the ingredients for economic distress are present," the speech said, and that's the theme song the Socreds will be playing again and again during the election campaign. They'll be telling British Columbians that tough times require tough decisions, and the only ones capable of seeing the province through these tough times are the Socreds.

All of which will leave the NDP in a somewhat untenable position. It won't have any choice but to oppose the school referendum scheme, which will make them unpopular with a lot of people whose property taxes are already a burden.

NDP in tough position

The NDP will also have to oppose any public sector wage controls, and that, too, won't go over too well with a lot of people. Let's face it, public servants aren't among the best-liked people. And we all know what the premier himself thinks of them. Surely, you remember his remarks some years back — he was municipal affairs minister then — that the taxpayers are lucky to get three days' work a week out of public servants.

Once again, the NDP will be caught between a rock and a hard place. Until very recently, the opposition could depend on Vander Zalm to self-destruct. That's no longer the case. He may never regain the level of popularity that catapulted him into office with a huge majority in 1986, but he is certainly to be reckoned with in the next election.

Perhaps this is as good a time as any to admit that I couldn't have been more wrong about Vander Zalm's political future. I expected him to quit, but he decided to tough it out and if he stayed, I predicted that he'd take his party to certain defeat. Instead, his popularity rose again.

The only question remaining is when the election will be held. Most pundits still expect Vander Zalm to pull the plug this spring. I believe fall is the more likely time.

By the way, if he goes in spring, you can blame me. When I asked him recently how soon he would call the election, he said, "when would you call it? Hubert." I said I would first have my finance minister introduce a budget that's balanced or at least looks balanced, watch the opposition trample all over it for a couple weeks and then tell the legislature that I've had enough and I'm taking this budget to the people.

Slow it down

To the Editor,
Hi everybody. You'll be happy to know that we survived the unloading of the gravel barge to the cement plant, several Tuesdays ago.

However, my car has a nice dent from a stone flung out, perhaps, from between a dual tire on the back of one of those trucks.

Now I know it's fun to work, and to get a job done well and fast, but I really am afraid for the safety of our kids walking to and from school, as well as on other small roads that really weren't designed for the heavy use that this growing community is causing.

So please slow it down a bit.

KEITH MACHATTIE
Ganges

Ganges, France

To the Editor,

Ganges area residents planning a trip to southern Europe this summer may be interested in visiting Ganges in France. Ganges, France is a small market town of some 5000 people situated 50 kilometres north of Montpellier and the Mediterranean Sea. It lies in a limestone valley carved by two rivers which meet at Ganges, and is the centre for summer camps and outdoor activities such as white-water kayaking and hill walking. Its market day is Friday, and the main square fills with stalls and vans selling everything from lavender to clothes to kitchen wares and food. A Friday morning in Ganges, France, is almost as fine as a Saturday morning in Ganges, B.C.

Accommodation and restaurants in and around Ganges book up in the summer with the annual August ex-

W. E. SMITH
DENTURIST

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odus to the south. Most are listed in the red Michelin guide to France. Ganges is an easy drive from Arles where Van Gogh painted and died, and Nimes, where the Roman aqueduct still stands over the Gard river, the "Pont du Gard". A side trip to the shattered fortress of les Baux or the gipsy shrine of Ste. Anne on the coast is well worth it.

Ganges at this time of year is even more beautiful with swallows returning and blossoms on the trees. The hotels are half-shut until the season opens in May, but the stone buildings and the quiet flagstone streets are just as pretty. "Siesta" from 12 to 3 p.m., remember!

You can reach Ganges in a rented

car from Mumes or Montpellier by using a standard Michelin map. A simple room in the Hotel de la Poste will cost you about \$35 depending on the season. The "valley of treasure" its meaning in the language of the Phoenician traders who mined its valleys - is well worth a visit. A bus to Ganges may run from Montpellier, check beforehand. You pronounce Ganges as "Ganzh", by the way. Bon voyage!

JOHN SCOTT
Gabiola Island

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AN OPEN LETTER
TO THE PEOPLE OF
THE GULF ISLANDS

Since 1976, we have sailed the Gulf Islands and, like most visitors, were struck by the beauty and recreational potential of the area. When the opportunity arose to purchase the Bedwell Harbour Resort, we saw a chance to create the kind of resort that would complement the beauty of the area.

Prior to acquiring an option to purchase the resort, we consulted with the Islands Trust to determine what type of development was permissible on the site, without rezoning. Clearly we had no interest in either acquiring the property or pursuing a project if a lengthy and costly rezoning application would be required. From the very outset and on many subsequent occasions, the Trust confirmed to government agencies and ourselves that our proposal was consistent with existing zoning. As well, we were advised that the Trust had no intention of rezoning the property.

On the basis of the Trust's confirmations in relation to zoning, we purchased the Bedwell Harbour Resort, entered into an agreement for a tourism development loan and made a substantial financial commitment to the project.

In February 1990, we were in a position to receive building permits from the Capital Regional District. At this point, we discovered that, without advising us, the Trust had been carrying out a campaign to block our project by attempting to influence government ministries and our sources of financing. We were stunned by this development.

We have now been advised that the Islands Trust's lawyers have been instructed to do everything legally possible to stop our project. In short, instead of acting fairly and on a timely basis, the Islands Trust chose to give us the confirmations we required in relation to zoning, which in turn induced us to make a substantial financial commitment to the project, while at the same time attempting to stop the project. We are at a loss to understand why the Trust could not have told us that it would be opposing the project prior to our making a substantial investment in the project. In any event, the steps taken by the Trust have unfortunately forced us to seek the assistance of the courts.

News

Director's Report

JULIA ATKINS

Every day I get at least one brown manilla envelope from the CRD. These contain agenda for upcoming meetings (generally a thick wad, including background information on most agenda items), minutes of past meetings, correspondence concerning Salt Spring issues (now fairly sizable), and miscellaneous items such as Resolutions and Proclamations.

Last week I received notice of a Proclamation of this week as "Local Government Awareness Week". This seems particularly appropriate for Salt Spring right now — a regular deluge of local issues coming to the fore, and no end of differing opinions about them!

The *Driftwood* is filled with controversial articles and letters and coverage is being more complete. Definitely more people are becoming involved. I feel I am watching the development, at the community level, of "local government" on Salt Spring Island.

Last week Nick Gilbert and I met with officials from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to discuss a study of local government on Salt Spring. The Ministry has never done the kind of study we are talking about. Instead of focusing on a particular goal (incorporation, local community council), we are going to look at present government organization, its problems and its strengths.

Through community discussion we hope to identify opportunities for improving local government and for increasing local participation in planning and decision making. A consultant will be hired to organize and facilitate the study. So over the next few months we will all become more aware of local government on Salt Spring.

Condom Vending Machines

Having made the decision to purchase two condom vending machines, the Parks and Recreation Commission is having difficulty finding somewhere to put them. The washrooms at Centennial Park are frequently subject to vandalism, and we're afraid the machines wouldn't last long there.

We are now pursuing the idea of using candy vending machines, with a slot for condoms. The difficulty here is finding a store front or another suitable location for the machines, which are also targets for vandalism.

An unfortunate situation, but we are still working on it.

Solid Waste/Recycle

The CRD Board has agreed to give the Salt Spring Recycling and Solid Waste Society up to \$20,000 towards the funding of a study of Blackburn dump. This is an essential first step towards closure of the dump. The study will cost approximately \$60,000 in all, and will assess leachate and other problems associated with the dump and make recommendations on proper methods of closure.

The Society is applying for funding from the Ministry of Environment, and will receive some funding through the Regional Director's Grants-in-Aid (interest on the Windfall monies).

The recycle depot is being moved to the Blackburn site, and the Laidlaw's drop box for newspaper, tin and glass will be at the Ganges Village Market. Options for a permanent site for the recycle depot and a transfer station for garbage have narrowed to two: the Blackburn Road site and a two acre portion of a five acre piece of land behind the cement plant between the two sections of Moutat Park. Both options are being explored.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee is preparing to get the information it has considered and the options they feel are most viable out to the community at large. There will be a flyer and a public meeting (or two, or more) before summer. If we want to go to referendum to finance any aspect of the project we must make that decision fairly soon.

Another Chance for a Pool?

The School Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission are exploring the possibility of a joint venture to construct recreational facilities in connection with the proposed new high school. There is a lot to be done to make this kind of project happen, but if enough of us are willing to work in the same direction, I think it can be achieved.

This is certainly the very best time to try.

The Seawalk

Concerns and frustrations having been well vented, I hope we can now get on with the business of getting the seawalk finished and opening it up for public use and enjoyment.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has suggested the addition of two of its members as representatives to the Seawalk Committee (Bill Curtin and Lawrie Neish). Hopefully this will improve communications and cooperation between the Seawalk Committee, which is building the seawalk, and the Parks and Recreation Commission, which will ultimately be responsible for large portions of the seawalk.

I am sorry the quote by the CRD lawyer about "dismantling the seawalk" came out in the paper. In my view it was a fine example of legal logic, but clearly not an acceptable solution to the problem. Quite frankly, I laughed when I heard it (second hand). A little sense of humour goes a long way, and if Salt Spring's road to greater local government is as rocky as that of most

Water sample tested

Test results from a water sample taken from the northwest corner of the island about three weeks ago show the water to be almost pure fecal matter mixed industrial waste.

Wendy Riggs, head of the microbiology department at MB Research hired by the *Driftwood* to test the water, says the fecal coliform count exceeds anything that would be found in municipal waste. She adds that fibers which appear to be holding the mass together are consistent with those found in industrial waste.

The sample was collected by a property owner on Sunset Drive (he prefers to remain anonymous) who said it was the third time in the past five months that the sludge-like material had washed onto shore. He said the three to four foot wide strip came in with the morning tide and that while most of it disappeared that day, some residue was still there a few days later.

Because the material has appeared more than once, Riggs suggested the discharge is probably not accidental. She said who ever is dumping it could be storing it and releasing it in a block dump or that it might be occurring on a routine basis.

Tracing the source of the discharge would involve monitoring the direction of the tide which bring it in she said adding that the structural composition is such that the waste could have come from a local source or one several miles away.

Tests on the sample which was taken from the beach between Vesuvius and Southey Point, indicate a fecal coliform count of 720,000. By comparison, the count from the outfall into the Ganges Harbour from the local sewage treatment plant is 70.

Riggs says the level of contamination is such that the beach would be closed under normal circumstances and that commercial fishing would not be allowed. She also said there would be a general concern about people eating mussels and other seafood from the area.

"The province and Ministry of Environment have regulations of what can and cannot go in to the water and this definitely exceeds what should go to a shoreline.

"If someone is doing it in a permit, then the terms of the permit would have to be reviewed."

A copy of the test results have been forwarded to the Waste Management Branch in Nanaimo which says it plans to conduct an investigation of its own.

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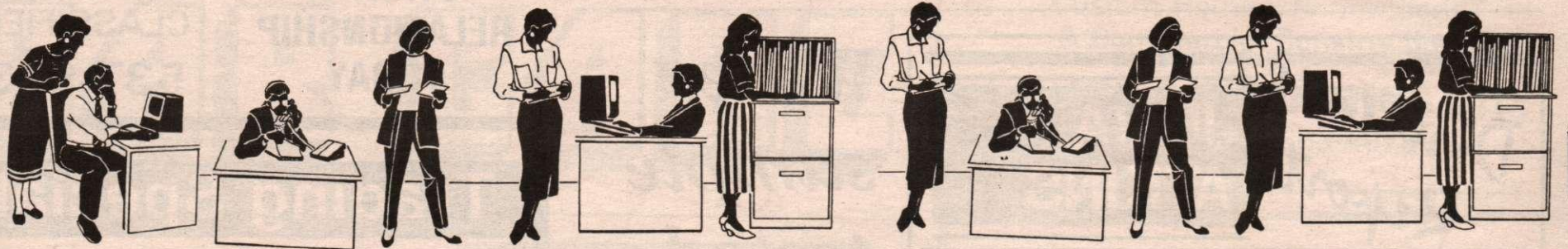
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Judy Eagle

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—THANKS HEATHER



Heather Gooding

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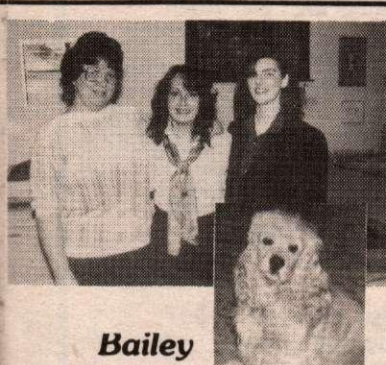
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Minzie Anderson

C-a — R-a — C-a — R-a —
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Three cheers for the pair of you. What would we do around here without you? Helping customers and keeping track of the "to-ing" and "fro-ing" of staff is a big job which you both take in step with a sunny smile.

Many thanks
from Joyce
and the rest
of the
Driftwood staff



Rae Ann Huth and Catherine McFadyen

All of the staff with
B.C. Hydro, Ganges appreciate
the hard working efforts of our
girls in the front office.

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Sheila Johnson,
Anne Garneau, Sharlene Betts

Thank you, Judy, for all your
efforts in keeping our office
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There once was an
O/M named Jones,
Organized, typed and
answered phones,
Her boss appeared one
day
And to Lib she did say,
"Without you I'd be
a bag of bones!"

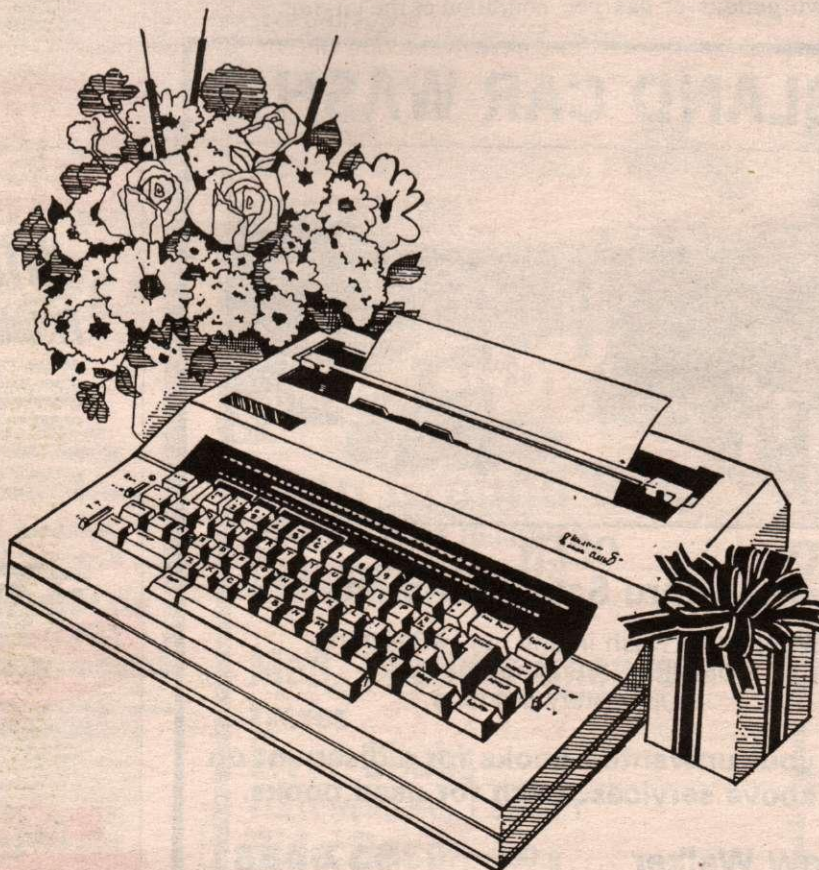


Libby Jones
Office Manager
SSI Community Society

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CAR CARE



Heading into spring with a tuned-up auto

Some answers to tune up questions

(S.O.P.) Engine tune-up often is included as part of seasonal service. Here are answers to some of the most common questions about this vital aspect of preventive maintenance.

1. What is a tune-up? Technically, it is the service of restoring the engine to the car manufacturer's specifications, or as close as possible. This usually involves replacement and/or adjustment, as needed, of parts that affect the engine's performance.

2. Can I do it myself? If your engine is a fairly simple one, if you have the basic tools and testers, if you have some mechanical savvy and if you are willing to do a bit of reading on the subject (there are lots of good books in the stores and in your library), you should be able to do it yourself.

3. And if I opt to get it done by a professional? Seek out a well-trained and equipped mechanic. If your car needs a tune-up, the return on investment in a professional job can amount to as much as two gallons of gas per

tankful.

4. How often should I get a tune-up? For best performance and economy, make tune-up an annual habit or at least as often as specified in the owner's manual.

Newer cars equipped with electronic ignition have longer service intervals which vary from make to make. While these engines have no distributor points or condenser, there are still spark plugs, wires, filters, distributor cap and rotor which may need periodic replacement.

If you're driving an older model car which has a conventional ignition system with points and a condenser, have the engine checked at intervals of 6,000 miles and a tune-up every 10,000 - 15,000 miles. After that mileage, these engines become prone to misfiring under heavy load or acceleration.

5. What parts would my mechanic normally check or replace? It depends on your car, how long it has been since your last tune-up and, of course, the condition of the engine.

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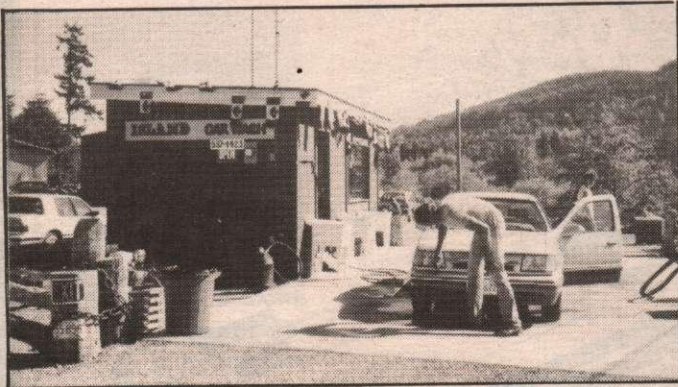
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CAR CARE

Burning the right fuel

(S.O.P.) The kind of gasoline car owners put into their cars can affect not only performance, but also how long the engine will last before it needs internal repairs.

If the car is hard to start, runs roughly, or stumbles on acceleration, try a couple of tanks of a different gasoline before heading off to a mechanic.

Virtually every car sold since the 1975 model year requires unleaded gasoline.

That's because lead, used since 1922 as an inexpensive way to boost a gasoline's octane rating, also damages emission control components.

Octane simply indicates how fast gasoline burns. Most cars require 87-octane unleaded fuel. Check the car manual. Fuel

with too little octane can damage a car. Fuel with too much octane provides no extra benefit.

Tip: Although leaded gasoline is slightly cheaper than unleaded, don't risk damaging a car for a couple cents a litre. However, little harm is done if unleaded gas is mistakenly pumped into an old leaded-gas car.

An engine creates power by burning a mixture of gasoline and air inside the cylinder. If the mixture burns too quickly or ignites prematurely, a sound rather like rattling dice — called "knocking" or "pinging" will be heard. The higher the octane rating of a gasoline, the slower it burns and the less likely that pinging will develop. Knocking can usually be eliminated by using the next higher grade.

What causes black exhaust smoke?

(S.O.P.) What causes black exhaust smoke? Why is it usually a cold-weather problem? Most often, it's due to a faulty carburetor choke that is sticking shut and not allowing enough air into the carburetor.

The carburetor choke is designed to improve cold-weather starting by providing a richer fuel mixture. As the engine warms up, the choke plate opens allowing more air into the carburetor for the correct air/fuel mixture.

A sticking choke prevents fuel from mixing with air causing the

engine to run rich.

Often, a simple adjustment or replacement of the choke spring will correct the problem.

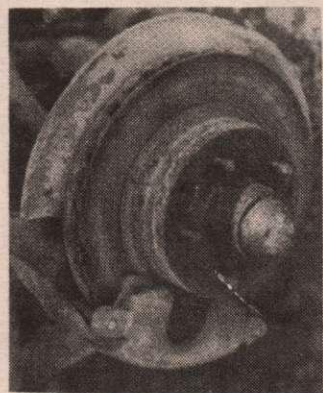
Black smoke from a rich-running engine may also be due to an old, worn carburetor or a severely clogged air cleaner.

A complete carburetor overhaul or replacement of the old part may be necessary to correct the problem.

Air filters require regular service, particularly if you drive in dusty or heavily industrialized areas. Dirt-clogged passages prevent air from reaching the engine. A simple test is to hold the air cleaner with a lightbulb in the center. If you can't see light through the filter, it's time to replace the filter.

A rich-running engine not only wastes gas but also can harm other components of the engine. Black, sooty spark plugs can lead to misfire and unburned gas can leak into the crankcase, contaminating oil.

After fuel system service, a complete tune-up along with an oil and filter change will be grate.



Problems with your brakes?

(S.O.P.) Here are some things which may indicate a problem with your brakes, according to Allied Aftermarket Division, which markets Fram, Bendix and Autolite products:

- A spongy feeling in the pedal. This may indicate that air has gotten into the brake fluid, making it less efficient.
- The pedal throbs when pressed. Throbbing can be caused by a problem with brake drums or rotors. Drums press against rotors to slow the car, and when the contact surfaces are uneven, throbbing occurs.
- Brake fade. The driver notices that it takes longer to slow from one speed to another when using the brakes. It often occurs when there is frequent braking during

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Contest winner Mr. Otto Lachmund (left) accepts gift certificates from Dennis Beech of Salt Spring Esso.

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Driftwood

Entertainment



Morningside Studio in Fulford Harbour was the sight of an art exhibition by "The Group of Six." These south-end Salt Spring artists will exhibit their works throughout the summer months.

Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Canadian writers lined up

The Salt Spring Celebration of Canadian Writers will feature two well-known women writers and Valdy among other participants.

The event, the fifth annual, takes place Saturday, April 28 at Central Hall. Scheduled as a series of three seminars, the Celebration begins at 10:30 when Valdy and Roy Forbes talk about *Writing Songs*.

At 1:30 p.m., Edith Iglauer outlines *A Writing Life* while Eileen Kernaghan speaks to the subject

Fantasy and Science Fiction at 3:30 p.m.

Iglauer, a long-time contributor to *The New Yorker* has written about such diverse topics as the United Nations, air pollution and Pierre Trudeau. Among her works is *Seven Stones: A Portrait of Arthur Erickson, architect*.

Her most recent book, *Fishing With John*, describes her years of fishing the B.C. coast, from a home base at Pender Harbour, with her hus-

band John Daly. The book contrasts her previous lifestyle in New York City.

Kernaghan, winner of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award for her book *Songs From the Drowned Lands*, has published science fiction shorts stories and poems in *Galaxy*, *PRISM International*, and has been included in such anthologies as *Tesseract*, and *Light Like a Summons*.

She is working on a non-fiction book on reincarnation and a fantasy novel for young-adults. She is also co-author of *The Upper Left-Hand Corner: A Writer's guide for the Northwest*.

Tickets for the Salt Spring Celebration of Canadian Writers are \$4 per event or 10 for the day and can be purchased at et cetera, Parkside News and Volume Two. Tickets will be available at the door.

Spring Fling organizers looking for volunteers

The Lamb Barbecue and Fair — Salt Spring Fling — to be held at Centennial Park on Saturday, May 29 is looking for more entertainers.

Musicians, jugglers, singers, dancers and comics are all invited to bring their instruments and equipment needed to perform on stage.

The fling committee is asking Salt Spring talent to contact Mernie Irwin at Cedar Beach Resort, 537-2205 to book their performance. There will also be open stage arrangements.

In addition to local talent needed, local chefs can enter some of their own specialty dishes. Even though bed and breakfasts and resorts will be busy the May long weekend, they can also show their support by supplying one of their specialty dishes.

Locals that enjoy cooking are encouraged to contribute their favourite

dish and join in the fun.

The Chamber believes that this year's lamb barbecue and fair will be great fun. It seeks involvement from all local businesses. Anyone can be part of the event as volunteers are needed.

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Entertainment

Anniversary bash Thursday

The Vesuvius Inn is 11-years-old and to help celebrate the event, the folk supergroup Nyetz entertains.

The four member ensemble play folksy bluegrass edged with African rhythms and jazz swing.

Each member of the group kicks in on vocals. Karen Anderson plays

the accordion while Zubin Gillespie strums guitar. Martin Walton handles bass duties and Pierre Lumoncel shows his talent with guitar and violin.

Each member is a veteran of the Vancouver music scene and they met at music workshop in Seattle in 1983.

They united in Nyetz in May of 1988 and have played together since.

Gillespie describes their style: "It's acoustic and uptown. It's not avant-garde, it's on-guard."

Show time for the 11th Anniversary party is 8:30, Thursday, April 26.



Nyetz will perform at Vesuvius Inn this week

Eleemosynary -- a play about words

"Eleemosynary" is a play about words.

The audience shares a young girl's sense for words — how one word can mean a whole phrase, or how we use words to communicate visions. And yet it is also a play about how words stand in the way of communication, and how by using many words we can avoid saying anything.

By PETER BLACKMORE
Driftwood Contributor

The richness that Lee Blessing (surprisingly, a man) imparts to his words is splendidly enhanced by the trio of fine actresses that perform "Eleemosynary," in Theatre Alive's current production. It's a play so rich and thick you could cut through the layers with a knife (but beware, the knife is two-edged).

Simply, it's the story how three old/young women juggle their lives around or with each other. The matriarch Dorothea lives and dies in flights of fancy, trying to dominate her daughter Artie who, in turn, flies off into the rare air of biochemical research while trying to dominate her daughter, Echo.

Each woman's need to reach a dream or goal for her own recognition brings alienation from what they do want.

Echo, the girl, is the national spelling-bee champion, and Tanya Slingsby portrays her with a rare sensitivity and understanding that belies her youth. From a three-month-old to a teenager, Slingsby gives a very creditable performance, and we see a young/old woman in this character, a precocious girl, wise beyond her years, loving and caring. But as if to underscore this, there is the keen competition and petulance of a teenager.

Echo is the thread that winds between her mother and grandmother.

Artie's anger, the only emotion

work, Artie is at first hunted down (Artie is from Artemis "The Huntress") and ends like a caged animal unable to show normal feelings other than anger.

Anne Goodall Prosk convincingly gives Artie not only anger fired by frustration, but the submerging of even this into negativism. There are poignant moments when we wonder if Artie will break down and let a little love show through. Prosk's face betrays the emotions, or lack of them, her character experiences a fine performance in an exacting role.

The rich eccentric Dorothea, mother and grandmother, fills the stage with a larger-than-life presence (larger than most of us would prefer in our own lives). Danny Scarfe has

caught the essence of Dorothea down to the rolling eyes and dying breaths — her challenging character evokes many feelings within us.

We feel overwhelmed when Dorothea tries to overwhelm her daughter Artie, and we laugh with relief when she chooses eccentricity. We can forgive Dorothea for turning out the way she is — an intelligent woman trapped into motherhood, something that Artie cannot do even while she is in the same predicament.

Director Yvonne Adalian's insightful directing and clever casting packs power into the words and fleshes out the characters. Her intuitive staging gives point and counterpoint to the intimacies and distances, conflicts and agreements in this one-act play.

VESUVIUS INN

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
NYETZ

Vesuvius Inn's
11th Anniversary Party!
DON'T MISS IT!

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Fri.-Sat. 11:30 am-11 pm
Come & try our Rum Ribs!
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THURSDAY, APRIL 26 — 7:30 PM

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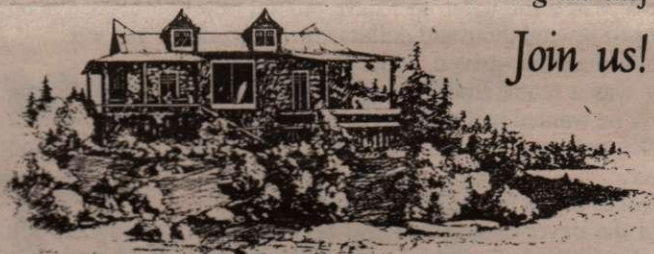
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News

Variety of charges leads to \$775 fine

The vehicle ended up in the ditch and the driver ended up in court. Anthony Winston, 27, of Eagle Ridge Drive, appeared in Ganges court last week to answer charges of driving without a licence, without insurance and impaired driving.

The court learned an RCMP highway patrol came upon Winston's vehicle in a ditch by Lower Ganges Road. The vehicle was extensively damaged but no one was hurt. A breath analysis at the police office showed Winston to be impaired by alcohol.

Judge Hudson, in passing sentence on the guilty pleas by Winston, noted the accident could have been more serious. He said the fact no one was injured occurred "more by good luck than good management."

Judge Hudson imposed the mandatory \$300 for driving without insurance, plus a \$75 fine for driving without a valid driver's licence. Winston also faces a \$400 fine for the impaired driving charge and loses his driving privilege for 12 months.

Wit and Whimsy

ARTHUR BLACK



If poverty is the mother of crime, stupidity is its father.

A French satirist by the name of Jean de La Bruyere penned those words more than 300 years ago, but they might have been lifted from yesterdays blotter at any police precinct in this country.

A lot of things have changed in the past three centuries but not, I submit, the amount of grey matter between the ears of your average sneakthief, snatchpurse or cutthroat. They're still stupid after all these years.

There are degrees of dumb, however. The heistmeister who hit the Bank of Commerce in Cambridge, Ontario recently broke a cardinal bank robbing commandment — he left his face hanging out for bystanders to see and remember — but at least he did it in style. The guy showed up at the teller's wicket decked out in a three-piece suit and sunglasses with an expensive-looking attache case dangling from his well-manicured mitt.

Not as big as cash withdrawal

He passed the teller an I-have-a-bomb-in-my-briefcase note, scooped several thousand dollars into his briefcase and left. In a chauffeur-driven, white limousine.

It was a rental from a nearby-town. The crook had told the driver he wanted to "look at some real estate" in the area.

"He put up a big cash deposit for the rental," said the limo driver.

Not as big as his cash withdrawal I bet.

In the never-ending turf war between cops and robbers it's not always the bad guys who show idiocy above and beyond the call. Consider the red-faced officers of Halton County in southern Ontario who recently lost a dangerous prisoner.

They were driving said prisoner between jails in a prison van. When they got to their destination, they went around to the back of the truck and found the door bent open and the prisoner long gone. "Didn't you hear anything?" the desk sergeant wanted to know. Well, actually, no. The two guards had this killer rock and roll tape on the van's four-speaker stereo y'see, and . . .

Breath-taking Clod-dom

The Halton Board of Police has since voted to ban pleasure radios in prisoner escort vans.

Once in a very long while you encounter a crook who transcends the usual boundaries of mere stupidity and vaults into a whole new category of Clod-dom so breathtaking it doesn't even have a name yet.

Let's call it Hyperstunned.

Such a candidate is the chap currently staying at a Crowbar Hotel in North Carolina. It all started one sunny Saturday morning — the kind of morning where you get up and say "boy, what a great day to cut the lawn!"

No such luck for our anti-hero. First, he lost control of his vehicle and ploughed into a truck. Two other cars ran into each other trying to avoid the crash. Police arrived, handcuffed our man and popped him into the front seat of their police cruiser while they took statements from the other drivers.

Not a laughing matter

Next thing they saw was their patrol car disappearing down the highway. After abandoning the car our man (handcuffed, mind) let police on a half hour footrace before they finally brought him down, hauled him off to the slammer and threw the book at him.

His charges are various: driving while impaired, driving while his licence was revoked, improper registration, larceny, hit and run causing personal injury, careless driving and reckless driving.

Not a laughing matter, to be sure . . . until you find out that the vehicle our man was piloting was a lawnmower.

Pretty dumb, but not all-time dumb. That honour goes to Willie J. Collins who stormed into an Atlanta police station last month and indignantly showed the desk sergeant the very bad quality cocaine some . . . thief! — had sold him.

POLICE REPORT

Ganges RCMP laid a charge of impaired driving against a Salt Spring man following an incident, April 20.

A routine RCMP patrol spotted a vehicle being driven in an erratic manner as it left the parking lot of an island pub. A subsequent breath test showed reading in excess of twice the allowable limit of .08.

Wilful damage

Also on that day, RCMP were called to the Gulf Islands Secondary School to investigate an incident of wilful damage. The call came in at 8:10 a.m. A person, or persons, unknown had thrown rocks and broken five windows in the secondary school.

Liquor seizures

During the week, RCMP made two liquor seizures. A vehicle was stopped on Fulford-Ganges Road near Garner Road and 18 beer cans were seized.

The second liquor seizure occurred on Vesuvius Bay Road when two males were observed, walking with beer cans in their hands.

Impaired driving nets jail

The third impaired driving conviction resulted in a jail sentence for a Ganges man.

John Wayne Anderson, 24, of Ganges, will spend 21 days in a Vancouver Island correctional centre, but the sentence will be served on weekends.

Judge Hudson, in passing sentence said Anderson "shows a lack of any proper regard for those who would control our highways for the safety of others."

In addition to the jail sentence, Judge Hudson ordered an extension of loss of driver's licence for 18 months and told Anderson the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles could order a further loss of driving privileges.

Anderson must pay a \$250 fine for driving while his licence was suspended for a previous conviction. The alternative would be 14 consecutive days in jail.

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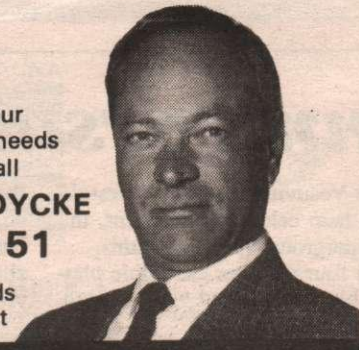


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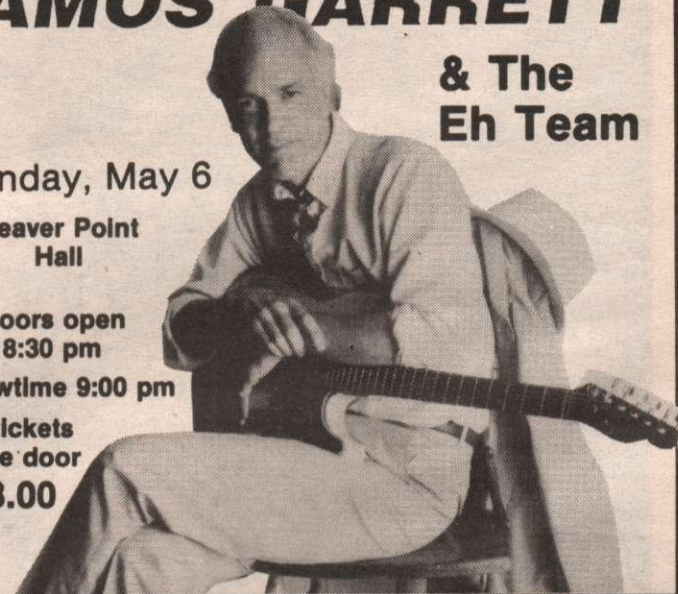
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Showtime 9:00 pm

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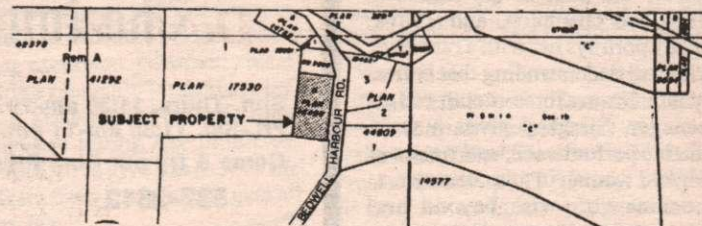


ISLANDS TRUST North Pender Island Trust Committee NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons who deem their interest in property affected by the following proposed bylaw will be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the matters contained therein at a Public Hearing to be held in the NORTH PENDER ISLAND SCHOOL, NORTH PENDER ISLAND, B.C. on SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1990, commencing at 8:00 P.M.

In general terms the intent of the following proposed bylaw is as follows:

- Proposed North Pender Island Trust Committee Bylaw No. 50, cited as "Zoning Bylaw, North Pender Island, 1978, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 1989", would add "public schools", "museums", "libraries" and "non-profit group activities" to Section 6.A.1, *Uses Permitted*, in the Community Service Zone (CS). Proposed Bylaw No. 50 would change the zoning classification of Lot A, Plan 14409, Section 18, North Pender Island, from Public Recreational Zone (PR) to Community Service Zone (CS). The area subject to rezoning is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 1106 Cook Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 957(2)(v) of the *Municipal Act*, an additional copy of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Post Office, North Pender Island.

News



Salt Spring Elementary School Grade Six students (left to right) Eric Vanderwekken, Shane Cocker, and Heath Cooper scrub an island car, in an attempt to raise funds for their June Strathcona trip. Another car wash will be staged this Saturday at the Esso station.

Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Grade Six students working to raise funds for Strathcona

Grade Six students at Salt Spring Elementary School are staging a number of activities to help raise funds for their annual excursion to Strathcona Park.

A group of parents helping the children hopes the numerous activities will raise some \$2,500.

A feature event is planned for May 4 in the Activity Centre, when a number of performers will gather to stage a "Night of Music."

The school band will perform as

will several other island artists, including Chris Kodaly.

The evening will also include a services and goods auction. Parents are encouraged to drop off saleable items at New Beginnings (in the old Legion building on Hereford Avenue) for storage. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Organizers also hope to have a variety of services to auction off.

This Saturday, students will hold a car wash at the Esso station in Ganges.

Parents involved in organizing the fund-raising effort say the emphasis this year is to more directly include the students in the activities.

The annual Strathcona trip is planned for June 18.

Cost per child is \$190 and some of the funds raised will help supplement the costs of children who could not otherwise afford to go.

Class organizers hope to secure funds for local computer course

When applications for a computer school on Salt Spring came in, 30 people had applied for four places.

Organizers Terry Romeril and Susan Monahan set up the program with help from a federal job training grant. When this program ends, they intend to seek further government help and seek assistance from the business community on the island to ensure the office skills-computer

Several pass VHF course

Twenty-seven members of Salt Spring Island's boating fraternity were successful in passing the VHF radio course, sponsored annually by the Salt Spring Power and Sail. The course is open to the general public.

Arrangements for and the teaching of the course is handled by Past Cdr. Don Clarson, assisted by Al Kirk. This year, two sessions of the course were held in successive weeks. Each session goes for two evenings with the examination on the third night.

Successful students receive a Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate (Marine) issued by the Federal Department of Communications. The certificate is mandatory for all owners and operators of VHF radios.

Course involves work experience

training can continue.

Monahan told the *Driftwood* the federal program allowed purchase of two computers with a lease on two more. When the program ends, the equipment is to be sold at auction or donated to a non-profit organization. She indicated that if community support comes through, such a non-profit group could be formed to continue the office training.

Under the job training program, admittance to the course is limited but if a office-computer school could be realized, the training facility can be available to anyone on the island.

The course primarily covers use of a computer in the office with instruction in various programs such as word processing and bookkeeping with other office skills featured. Participants are taught office procedure and undergo lifeskills training to in-

crease their confidence.

As the four participants proceed through the course, various days are set aside to allow them to experience use of their new skills in office settings. In total, 23 days are devoted to work experience.

Monahan expressed enthusiasm at the progress of the current class. The four women are "way ahead of schedule," she said. "They are all learning very well."

The concept behind the program is to teach office skills to individuals who would otherwise not be in a position to gain employment in business. Near the end of the 20-week program, Monahan will be helping the participants gain employment in an office. She stressed the importance of such placement in order to ensure a favourable response for continuation of the course on the island.

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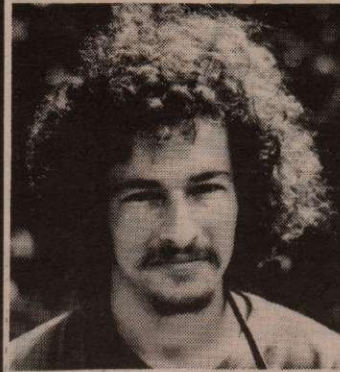
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- lumber sales
- custom sawmilling
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- cedar and fir beams up to 8" x 12" x 28'
- for all your cedar and special lumber needs

We take pride in our quality and service

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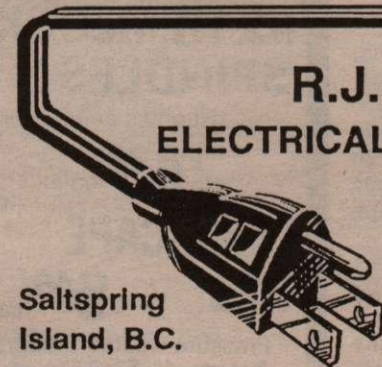
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Saltspring Island, B.C.

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Monday-Saturday 4 am-5:30 pm

SPECIALS THIS WEEK:

BUCKWHEAT & HONEY BREAD Reg. 1.35/loaf NOW 1 19

CHICKEN & VEGETABLE PIES

Large Reg. 1.70 NOW 1 59
Small Reg. 90¢ NOW 79¢

CHERRY FINGERS REG. 50¢ NOW 40¢

PREMIUM QUALITY AT REGULAR PRICES

Foot of Ganges Hill

537-5611

Hiking schedule released

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club has released its May schedule. All excursions leave from Centennial park at 10 a.m., unless otherwise stated. Car-pools are recommended.

MAY 1

Hike: Fish and game trail from Duncan with leader Lorna Clarke.

Walk: Channel Ridge area with Sue Mouat.

East Walk: A short stroll around Blackburn Lake with Tony Luton.

Interest trip: A guided tour of Pacific Geoscience Centre (9860 West Saanich Road, Sidney). Take 9:30 ferry from Fulford. Pack a lunch or plan to eat in the cafeteria. Leader is Peggy Jacobs.

MAY 3

Visit of Sunshine Walkers from Victoria to Mt. Erskine. Local members are invited to join this walk. Meet at Toynbee Road at 11:10 a.m. Further information can be obtained through Peggy Jacobs at 537-9890.

MAY 8

Hike: Bold Bluff, led by Nancy Braithwaite.

Walk: Weston Lake area with leader Margaret Briggs.

MAY 15

Hike: North end area with leader Linda McKieve.

Walk: Butter Tubs Marsh area, led by Chris Pattinson. Take 10 a.m. ferry from Vesuvius.

Easy walk: Walter Spit with leader Tony Farr.

MAY 22

Hike: Shepherds Hill (long one) with leader Loes Holland.

Walk: Leader's choice with Carol Howell.

Easy Walk: North end with Ilsa Foster.

MAY 29

Trip to Prevost Island. Phone Ann Barber (537-5688) to reserve. Only 40 members can go.

Easy walk: Meet Jean King in Drummond Park at 10 a.m. for leader's choice walk.

Earth Week just the start of awareness

From Page A1

Though Earth Week may be over, Brown said the environmental activities have not come to an end. She said money raised in Sunday's sale could provide Green Islands with funds to hire a co-ordinator to cope with the growing workload being done by volunteers.

"They are trying to solve strong environmental problems and they are usually operating in the red and on a lot of volunteer good will. Hopefully the money from the auction will help them to work on more projects."

Brown also noted with the high level of concern about the environment shown on Salt Spring last week, there is no reason why this community could not set the pace and become an example to other communities.

"People on the island live so simply — we have a strong group of people who are really concerned."

"The potential is here to be a sustainable community and to be an example to others."



Backyard Bargains!

SALE DATES APRIL 25-28



3⁴⁸
25 Kg Bag

**PREMIX
PREMIX CONCRETE**

**DECK
STAIN**
26⁸⁸

4 L

Another top quality product by Behr specifically formulated for Decks.



**BEHR
STAIN** **24⁸⁸**

4 L

Our finest quality exterior stain.

Revolutionary oil/latex formula gives superior adhesion, high hide and durability which lasts for years and years. Dozens of colours to choose from in Semi-transparent or solid colours.

PAINT

Exterior oil base solid colour stain, great for the cottage or fence. Economical. High quality.



Russet, Cape Cod **14⁸⁸**
Grey, Oxford Brown
White **19⁸⁸** 4 L.

**OIL FINISH
AND SEALER**
Varathane
Interior/Exterior

The same quality finish Varathane has built in its polyurethane is also available in a clear oil finish.

Reg. **39⁹⁵** NOW **29⁸⁸**
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- 1"x4"x6' Construction Grade **69¢** ea.
- 1"x4"x8' Construction Grade **89¢** ea.
- 2"x6"x14' Construction grade Fir **5²⁹** ea.
- 2"x6"x10' #3 Fir, 128 pieces/lift **3¹⁰** ea. or **375⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x6" #3 Studs 128 pieces/lift **2⁴⁵** ea. or **298⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x6"x6" #3 Fir **99¢** ea.
- 6"x6" Rough Lumber Pressure Treated **2²⁵**/lin. ft.
- 2 1/2"x8" Rough Fir **95¢**/lin. ft.
- 2" Random Width (2x4 - 2x10) Fir **550⁰⁰**/1000 B.M.
- 3"x10" Rough Fir **1²⁵**/lin. ft.
- 1"x6" Cedar — 382 L/F **95⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x6" #3 Cedar — 636 L/F **250⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x8" Ship Lap — 1400 L/R **230⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x8" Cedar — 450 L/F **135⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x6" Cedar — 880 L/F **175⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x6" & 1"x10" Cedar — Shorts — approx. 300 L/F **55⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x10" Common — 438 L/F **88⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x6" Cedar — 731 L/F **288⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x6" Cedar — 770 L/F **308⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x4" #3 Hemlock/Fir — 1550 L/F **278**/lift
- 6"x6" Pressure treated #3 — 182 L/F **140⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x10" Bevel Siding — 472 L/F **168**/lift
- 2"x8"x6' C/S — 42/6' **100⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x6" Common — 208 L/F **29⁰⁰**lift
- 2"x6" T&G Spruce — 380 L/F **175⁰⁰**/lift
- 1"x10" Cedar — 324 L/F **128⁰⁰**/lift
- 2"x4" #3 Cedar — 450 L/F **135⁰⁰**/lift
- Railway Ties 12 pieces (as is) **60⁰⁰**

HEAVY DUTY Full 1/2" construction stapled every joint



**LATTICE
PANELS**

4x8 2x8
22⁸⁸ 12⁸⁸

**WOOD FENCE
POSTS**

Pressure treated 7' long Sharpened ends

2"-3"x7' 4"-5"x7'
2⁵⁰ 4⁸⁸
each each

**WESTCON PAVER
UNIPAVER OR DECOR**

215 sq. ft.

**WE
ALSO
STOCK**

2x8, 2x10, 2x12, 4x4 dimension lumber and 1/2", 5/8", and 3/4" std. sheathing.

RAILWAY TIES
Heavily creosote-treated timbers approx. 6"x8"x8". Perfect for retaining walls or path cutlines or hundreds of other uses.

each **9⁸⁸**
30 pces/lift **285⁰⁰** lift

#2 SHELVING 12"x8' **3⁸⁸** ea.
16"x8' **5⁸⁸** ea.

**#2 HEMLOCK
SPINDLES** x36"

Bundles of 12 **24⁸⁸** bdle

**LANDSCAPE
TIES** **5⁴⁹** ea.

Pressure treated timbers Approx. 4"x5"x8'6" For lighter walls and walkways.



**PRESSURE TREATED
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Top quality — can be used for a deck and lasts for years and years or used underground for lasting durability.

2x4 2x6
39¢ ft. **59¢** ft.

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CEDAR DECKING**

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39¢ ft. **75¢** ft.

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