



# Ganges RCMP and Gulf Islanders welcome policing system changes

Residents of several Gulf Islands are expected to benefit from a new policing system that will employ the four-crew police vessel *Harvison*.

Under the new system, Galiano, Mayne, Prevost and Wallace islands will be policed by *Harvison* RCMP members based at Galiano and Mayne sub-detachment offices.

Victoria RCMP Subdivision announced the changes, effective January 1, last Monday.

In addition, residents of these islands will have a local non-emergency telephone number they can use to contact RCMP. The phone number — 539-2155 — will either connect the caller with a manned sub-detachment office on Galiano or Mayne or the Colwood Response Centre. If a police officer is not on duty at one of the offices, the Colwood centre will

relay information and dispatch calls to the *Harvison*.

Victoria Subdivision Staff Sergeant Jim Swanson told the *Driftwood* changes have been implemented due to increased populations and policing demands on these islands. The changes have also come about as a result of pressure from island lobby groups, he said.

Ganges RCMP Sergeant Larry Wendel said the move is a definite step forward for all the islands involved.

"The bottom line is that the people of Salt Spring are going to benefit from this and the people of Mayne and Galiano will benefit."

Galiano, Prevost and Wallace islands are presently policed by the six-member Ganges detachment. Wendel says Galiano complaints

make up approximately seven per cent of the Salt Spring RCMP's workload. Local police have only responded to a few calls on the smaller two islands.

The new system will lessen the load of the over-burdened Ganges detachment.

Mayne Island is currently policed from the two-member Pender Island detachment during the winter months, and has a fulltime RCMP officer stationed on the island throughout the summer.

"Basically we have four extra bodies that weren't helping out before," Wendel said.

He believes the four-member *Harvison* "detachment" is in the position to expand its workload.

Swanson says the 41-foot vessel can spare one crew member for a

"good part of the time" to take up duties at the Galiano and Mayne sub-detachments. Both islands have accommodation facilities for police members "who will be residing on both islands on a scheduled tour of duty."

These "schedules" will vary with the demand for police services "to the point where members (will be) on site at Galiano Island or Mayne Island fulltime during the busy summer months," Swanson said in a prepared statement.

Wendel believes the response time of the twin diesel powered *Harvison* in off-duty periods will be much faster than the Ganges response time of approximately one hour.

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# MALPRACTICE CLAIM

From Page A1

Elizabeth's father Michael Cherry told the *Driftwood* Monday "I am really glad for my daughter and my ex-wife Jody that this part is over with. It has been hard on me but it has been really hard on them," he said.

He noted, however, that since the judgment is being appealed, they will receive no funds until it is finally resolved. "I am jubilant on one hand but on the other hand, it is still not over. And they need the money," he said.

Cherry added that women on Salt Spring deserve quality gynaecological care and "it is good to see another female doctor being granted hospital privileges here."

Cherry said his former wife is not commenting on the case on the advice of her lawyer Frank Phippen.

While the incident and court action has taken place throughout an eight year period, local doctors say they knew nothing about either event.

When asked by the *Driftwood* if he was aware of a problem with the abortion or a civil action against his colleague, 27-year Salt Spring practitioner Dr. Ernie Jarman said "I don't remember it coming up, actually."

He said "if it was something that went amiss here it would come up in a quality assurance committee meeting (of hospital staff)." He added that because the doctors took turns serving on the committee, he could have missed the information. However, he said, "if something serious came up in the (quality assurance) committee, it would be brought up to medical staff."

Dr. Peter Rowell, another long-time island doctor, said he also knew nothing about the matter.

Dr. Robert Dixon says he was active in medical staff meetings and the quality assurance committee during

the period in question and while he had "heard vague rumours in the past," he had no knowledge of the incident until he read daily newspaper reports last week.

He said "it came as a surprise to me because during this time he (Borsman) was chief of staff and was responsible for ensuring that the state of medicine was as good as it could be and he was responsible for discipline of other doctors."

Dixon said "he was our judge at the time" malpractice claims had been made against him and were being tried in court.

Dixon also said the abortion equipment used at the time of Borsman's operation on Cherry was subpoenaed in Vancouver "years ago" and the reason for its departure was never mentioned.

Borsman came to Salt Spring Island in 1977, practiced gynaecology and obstetrics and was chief of staff at Lady Minto Hospital for 10 years until 1988. He was the island's regional director on the Capital Regional District board from 1983 until he resigned one month before his death from cancer on September 18, 1989.

## WEATHER

**OUTLOOK:** For the week starting Monday, December 10.

**Monday** - sun hides in clouds.

**Tuesday** - more hide and seek.

**Wednesday** - some choice: rain or showers.

**Thursday** - clouds, showers.

**Friday and Saturday** - clouds cry large, wet tears.

The good news is the temperatures hover slightly above normal while the bad news is all wet.

At least a 20 per cent chance of staying dry until next week.

**Highs: 9 degrees C.**

**Lows: 2 degree C.**

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	2050	2.5		2220	1.5
14	0525	10.9	17	0710	11.4
FR	0815	9.6	MO	1220	9.8
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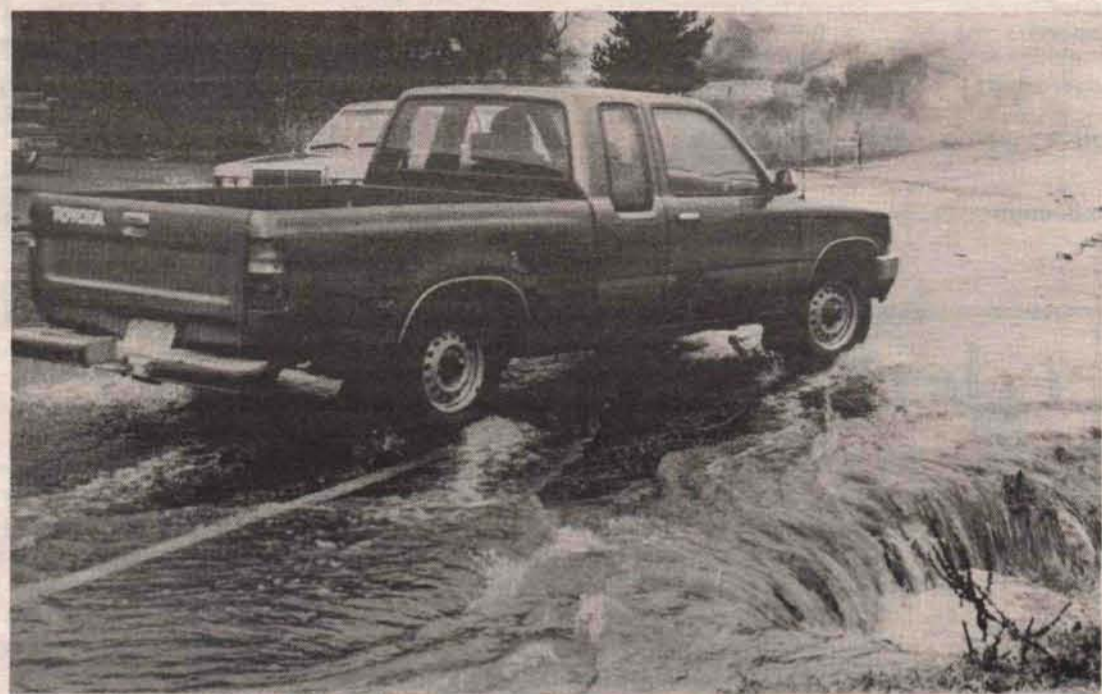
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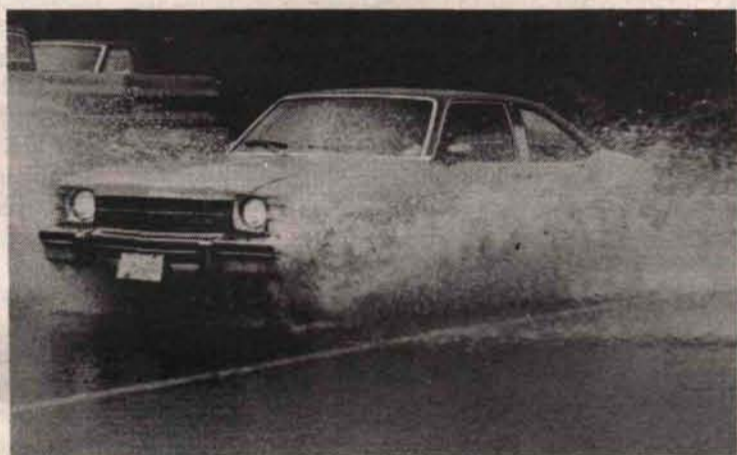
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**NEWSBEAT**



**"RAINBOW RIVER:"** Rainbow Road took on a new look last week when heavy rains caused flooding all over the island. These motorists might have used paddles as a more effective mode of transportation.



Driftwood photos by Derrick Lundy

**Rain showers island**

November proved to be wetter than average with 19.8 centimetres of rain soaking Salt Spring.

Ganges weather watcher Robert Aston compared that figure with the long-range average of 18.75 cm. The largest rainfall for one month came in November, 1984 when lawns and gardens were showered with 36.1 cm of rain.

Aston pointed to a slight change from normal. He noted Victoria received approximately 27 cm of rain. It is unusual, he said, for the capital to receive more rain than Salt Spring.

Meanwhile on the mainland, Vancouver measured close to 37 cm of rain for the month.

Aston noted that the deluge which fell from last Monday night (December 3) into Tuesday marked the first time his measuring device overflowed.

For the two days from Sunday (December 2) to Tuesday morning, he noted 7.1 cm of rain fell with 4.3 cm falling Monday night. Earlier in the month, Salt Spring experienced a three-day rain total of 7.6 cm.

While the heaviest rainfall of the month was measured on November 8 at 3.81 cm, it was short of the all-time record which occurred on January 17, 1986 when 9.7 cm showered the island.

**Concern for lost time noted**

Staff planning for the new high school and the new curriculum has resulted in loss of instructional time for students.

When the matter came to the attention of the school board recently, trustee Charles Hingston noted he has received many complaints from parents about students spending half days in school because of meetings.

So far this school year, Gulf Islands Secondary School students have been released early on four occasions after spending only half the day in class.

Carol Money, of Saturna, wrote a letter of complaint to the trustees about the matter. She noted the school day for her daughter begins at 5:30 a.m. when she prepares for the water taxi ride to Salt Spring for school.

"The water taxi alone takes a minimum of one and a half hours travelling each way," she wrote. "We are looking at travelling time equalling school time."

She suggested if meetings had to be held, they should be arranged so the students have a full day off, saving travelling time for Outer Gulf Islands students.

Superintendent of schools Mike Marshall explained the new School Act requires the school year include 190 days between September and June. The stipulation is "inflexible," he said.

In response to the complaints to the number of half-day school days, he said "the problem is a great one and we'll have to be more creative than we have been."

Jim Lightfoot, teacher representative at school board meetings, noted the problems of scheduling professional development meetings on a district basis. While the teachers

agree to dates for some meeting days each September, he acknowledged, they faced difficulties attempting to plan all the meetings in advance.

Part of the problem stems from trying to coordinate meetings with the schedules for each school, he said.

Hingston noted, "It's to our detriment that parents are getting angry for all the right reasons and also for the wrong reasons."

Money expressed concerns that with the emphasis on planning for the new high school and the new curriculum, students in school now are suffering. Teachers aren't able to give extra help because of the extra meetings, she noted.

"While this planning is important, the students who are in the school now are also important," she wrote. "They are suffering the fallout of a too busy staff."

**CHAIR**

From Page A1

The trustees on the current school board are: for Salt Spring — Hingston, Eyles, Lambert, Byrne and Bazzard; for Galiano — MacDonald; for Mayne — Billsten; for the Penders — Arthur Dennis; for Saturna — Campbell. The trustees will serve a three-year term.

Membership on various school board committees is being sorted out and will be announced at a later date.

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# Driftwood

## LETTERS SECTION

### Fun without alcohol

To the Editor,  
In response to Lynne Richardson's letter to the editor, Dec. 5, may I point out to Lynne and the Sea Capers committee that it is very possible to have fun without alcohol.

The graduating class of 1990 did just that, with resounding success, along with 150 other graduating classes in the province, and plans are underway for this year's dry grad.

Since our teens have proven to themselves and to the community that they can have a memorable night on one of their milestones in life, then surely in a community with so much creativity and talent Sea Capers can organize fund-raising activities that do not require the sale and consumption of alcohol.

I, too, have "experienced" Sea Capers as a committee member, a participant, and a merchant and along with many other merchants voice the fact that Sea Capers does not contribute in any way to a store's success. In fact, it is not one of our better days.

Parks and Rec members are commended for their awareness of the social and moral problems that stem from alcohol and drug use and for taking the initiative to expect healthy alternatives from user groups of the park. I believe that garbage was a secondary issue.

SHARON CROUSE,  
Ganges

### Standing ovation

To the Editor,  
Thanks to Jean Knight and Chris Kodaly for their concert Sunday, December 2. It was both glorious and cosy to hear beautiful music played by two gifted people one likes and respects — in the company of one's friends and neighbours.

Of course, behind Jean and Chris was an energetic team of organizers, cookie bakers, tea servers, piano movers, all creating the kind of event that strengthens and enriches our community. A standing ovation to everybody!

MELISSA SEARCY,  
Ganges

### Ecologically unsound

To the Editor,  
Salt Spring Islanders who are seriously concerned about the environment will not send commercially produced Christmas cards or use standard wrapping materials for gifts. Such products are ecologically unsound! Neither will they display strings of electric Christmas lights on their houses — wasteful mis-use of

resources. Plastic toys, likewise, require petroleum products for their manufacture and will be avoided by committed environmentalists.

Nevertheless, it should be perfectly possible to have a merry Christmas without these things. Avoiding their use will provide an opportunity to use a little ingenuity!

DAVID (SANTA CLAUS) AMIES,  
Ganges

### Concerned rider

To the Editor,  
I ride horses with Lynn Denton at Denton Farms. Me, Lynn and the other riders are very concerned about our safety going to and from the riding ring. If you didn't know, the ring is on the corner of Stewart and Beaver Point roads and is near Reynolds Road, which is where we get our horses.

I don't think I've ever seen one slow car on that road and when horses get scared of a car they jump to it instead of away. This is very dangerous, so I'd like to remind all of the drivers that there could be a serious accident if this doesn't get fixed.

JULIA FILTNESS,  
9 years old  
Fulford Harbour  
P.S. Horses especially get scared when it's dark.

### Like to return

To the Editor,  
On behalf of the 33 members of the Quilters Holiday Group who recently visited Salt Spring Island, we want to express our appreciation for the many courtesies extended to us.

We especially want to thank Ilse Leader and her friends who provided hospitality in the delightful bed and breakfast accommodations, as well as the experience of getting to meet the wonderful people who reside on your island.

It was a memorable experience and each of us have a secret desire to make a return visit.

HELEN STORBECK,  
Winfield

### MacBlo spending wanted

To the Editor,  
I'd like to comment on the recent expansion by five times the area of fish closures around six pulp mills along the B.C. coast.

The media has reported that all companies except MacBlo have spent money on cleaning up their effluent. How does the giant Mac-Millan Bloedel, with \$246,000,000 in profits last year, get away with not spending a nickel on clean-up of its

cancer-causing effluent?

Its Powell River mill is the worst mill in Canada in terms of discharge of poisons into the air and water. Is MacBlo planning to hold jobs as ransom, as it has already threatened in Port Alberni, when this spineless government finally enacts some stricter regulations, assuming it ever does?

Or will MacBlo continue to exceed permitted levels of discharge as it presently does with the Socreds' blessing?

Meanwhile this same polluting giant hires lawyers at \$200 per hour to suppress peaceful protesters in the lower Tsitika Valley so it can continue to rape the last of our sacred places.

GARY GAGNE,  
Ganges

### Looks wonderful

To the Editor,  
Congratulations to the *Driftwood* for organizing the Light-Up Day contest. The village of Ganges looks wonderful, all lit up for Christmas, and we enjoyed participating.

Thanks for our second prize in the Lighting Category. We at Gulf Islands Realty have decided to donate our \$75 prize to the local food bank, to help brighten up Christmas for other Islanders.

GULF ISLANDS REALTY  
Ganges

### Thanks to Lions

To the Editor,  
I would like to publicly thank the Lions Club of Salt Spring Island, Pender Island and Galiano Island for sponsoring eight of our teachers to be trained in a new school based program, *Skills for Adolescence*.

It is our intention to use this program in district schools to help adolescents develop positive self-esteem, strong family ties, sound decision making and communication skills.

The following teachers attended the program: Ken Cameron (Pender Island), Ken Trotman (Galiano), Jean Sissons (Fulford Elementary), Larry Field (Salt Spring Elementary), Susan Lee (Fernwood Elementary), John Bergsma and Jack Barclay (Gulf Islands Secondary) and Debbie Magnusson (District).

One important component of this new program is parental involvement. As each school program is developed parental participation is emphasized and encouraged. Please contact these teachers if you would like more information on this program.

Next year, with the help of the Lions Club in our area, we hope to expand this program throughout our school district.

R.D. MCWHIRTER,  
Director of Instruction

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## OPINION

Capital  
Comment

HUBERT BEYER



VICTORIA — "Support growing for Zalm review," said the front page headline in Victoria's daily newspaper, notwithstanding the obvious fact that the latest mini-revolt against Bill Vander Zalm's leadership of the Social Credit Party had been quelled before it even had a chance to take off.

A more correct headline would have been: "Zalm puts down revolt." But that, I suppose, didn't fit the more exciting and in media circles more popular scenario of a premier being drummed out of office.

The story is a good example not only of how a headline can distort the actual content of a story, but how it can create totally false impressions. The story itself didn't say that support for the review idea was growing. The headline did. And since a lot of people only read headlines and perhaps the first couple of paragraphs of a story, you can see the danger of a manipulative headline.

Whenever I see examples of inventive journalists trying to limit the damage a positive development does to an otherwise beautifully negative and controversial story, I think of what an old newspaperman told me when I was just starting out in the business.

If newspapers had been around 2,000 years ago, he said, some of them would have gone to any length to debunk the story of Christ walking on water. "Christ can't swim," he said, might have been a banner headline in those days.

### Manifestation of ingenuity and tenacity

About six years ago, then premier Bennett led a media tour on what was billed as a "northeast coal trip." The idea was to make reporters (and columnists) a little more familiar with the northeast coal project, in the hope, of course, that they will deal more kindly with the topic.

Paying our way, we visited the various stations along the northeast coal journey from where it is mined to where it's loaded into huge ships for export to Japan. One of the stops was Tumbler Ridge, the town that houses the people who get the coal out of the ground.

I was more than impressed by Tumbler Ridge. I was blown away. Here was a beautiful town with modern homes, shops, restaurants, schools and parks, where, just a few years earlier, there had been wilderness. The town was a wonderful manifestation of man's ingenuity and tenacity.

Some of my colleagues, however, seemed less than impressed. BCTV that night gave about two minutes to the Tumbler Ridge story, showing Bennett's arrival and some footage of workers laying down pre-grown turf. The gist of the story was that they hadn't managed to get the grass into position in time for the premier's arrival.

### Can't say anything positive about anybody

A lot of my colleagues wouldn't be caught dead saying anything positive about anybody. They see their role as cynics, constantly on the attack. And in doing so, they often end up distorting the news.

What would have been wrong with saying that Vander Zalm, once again, quelled a revolt? You don't have to like or support the man to report the truth.

True there were some Socreds who advocated a leadership review, but they didn't get anywhere. The *Times-Colonist* story quoted only one person in favour of a review, Ken Tuininga, president of the Socreds' Port Coquitlam constituency association.

The story quoted three people who were opposed to it and yet, it ran a headline saying that support for a leadership review was growing. In fairness I should mention that the word "growing" was in quotation marks, indicating that someone, in this case Tuininga, said it.

### Can't incorporate wishful thinking

I'm not saying that most Socreds are happy with Vander Zalm's leadership, but I am saying that the idea of a review is rather dead, not growing.

I can understand that a lot of media types wouldn't mind a leadership review. It would be a good story to cover, but to incorporate that wishful thinking into the news delivery process is unprofessional at best and downright dangerous at worst.

Of course, the media can only distort a story if someone brings it up in the first place. It wasn't the *Times-Colonist* headline writer who said he wanted a leadership review. That was Tuininga.

When all is said and done, a lot of Socreds wouldn't mind a different leader at this point, but they certainly would mind the messy process of removing the incumbent.

Unless the Social Credit Party has an overwhelming death wish, it should quit heaping scorn on its leader. The future for

## Support teens

To the Editor,  
Lynne Richardson, in her letter of December 5, asked the public to respond to Parks and Rec's decision to terminate beer gardens in our parks. As the parent of a teen, and as an employee at Lady Minto Hospital, I am only too well acquainted with the abuse of alcohol on this island.

Parks and Rec members need to be commended for having the courage to be the first public body on this island to say "enough is enough." It's time adults became role models for the generation behind them; it is only too bad that sometimes we have to be forced to be the example.

So, now, mom and dad can't drink in the park, and Johnny and Susie have no excuse to drink in the park, so what will Johnny and Susie do for "fun"?

This brings me to the real point of

my letter. I was solicited this week, via the mail, for my "direct support for ArtSpring." You have to be kidding! Do you know who you're talking to? It's me, Min, defender of anyone who has "teen" behind their age. How many teens will ArtSpring represent? Isn't \$1.2 million too much money for a project mainly for adults, when our young people don't even have a drop-in centre, much less, God forbid, a swimming pool or a skating rink (which all ages could participate in).

Forgive me for being so forgetful but just how much of that windfall money actually went towards a viable alternative for our youth? Someone here is making a big mistake in the way they represent our precious young people. I pray that we don't ever have our eyes abruptly opened.

MIN WENDEL,  
Vesuvius

## Hearing Problems?

Our hearing aid specialist, Doug Koeslag, will be conducting hearing evaluations in our Ganges office on Friday, Dec. 21, from 10 am-3 pm. If you feel the need for hearing assistance, give us a call because...

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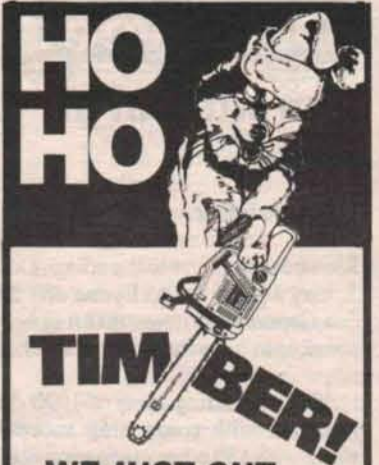
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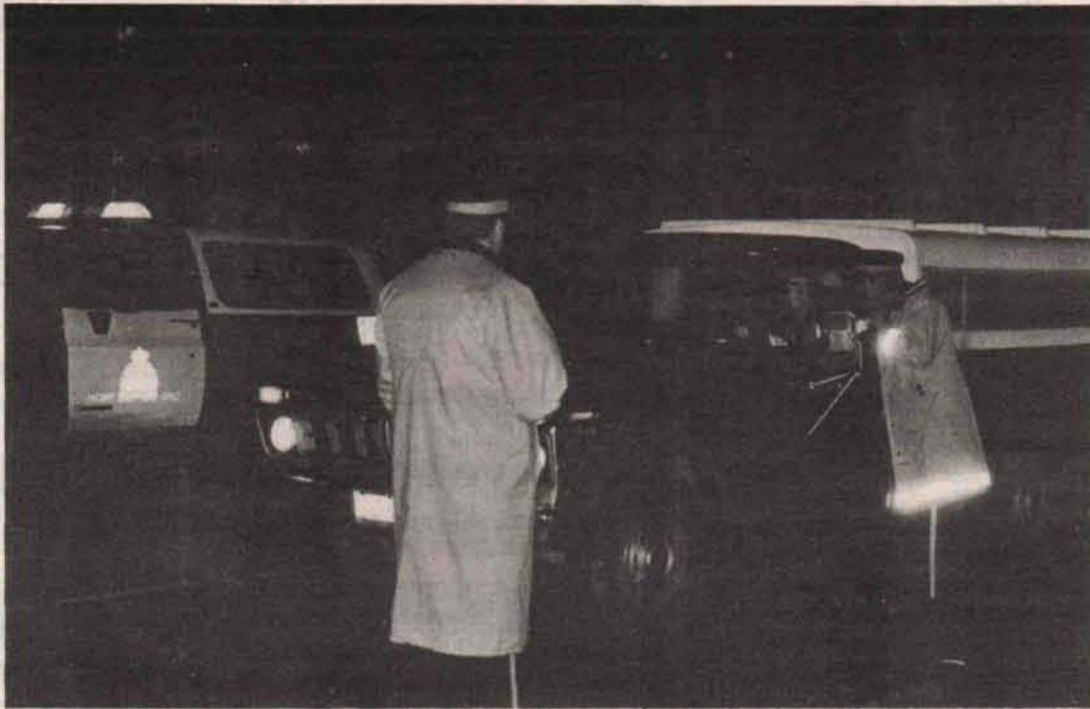
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# NEWSBEAT



**INVESTIGATION:** The annual Christmas CounterAttack program kicked-off last weekend with local RCMP setting up roadblocks in various island locations. Here RCMP Constable Brian Brack (left) and Auxillary Constable Terry Horrocks check northbound traffic on Fulford-Ganges Road for impaired drivers and motor vehicle act infractions.

Driftwood photo by Derrick LUndy

# LETTERS

## "Cure-all"

To the Editor,  
The Federal Ministry of Fisheries is presently engaged in a major revamping on the commercial fishing industry. One of the cure-alls is supposed to be a smaller fleet, and believe it or not, more fish farming.

In Norway, all fish farms must have 51 per cent fisherman ownership. Controls are very strict, yet Norway is in the middle of an environmental disaster. Alaska has banned fish farming after many years of study. There have been several outbreaks of disease here in B.C. as well as in Washington, Oregon and California.

In other words, if the Skeena and Fraser Rivers some day soon were to be poisoned by their source to the sea, like the Norwegian rivers, it would be by far the biggest environmental disaster in North American history. The accumulated losses could run into billions of dollars over the future years.

Canada's west coast is still "fairly" unspoiled. We have to act now to stop a bunch of "paper experts" from destroying it. Norway's coast line is much longer than B.C.'s. If fish farming destroyed the wild salmon there, surely the same disaster can and likely will repeat itself here. It will not only be the thousands of jobs in the commercial industry that will be lost, but sports fishing for salmon will also be history.

Fish farming in B.C. has made it on the back of the commercial fishing industry. In Denmark, where mandatory marking of products is in place, wild salmon brings twice the price as the farmed salmon. Here it is the other way around. The fishermen receive as little as \$0.90 per pound, yet it is supposed to cost \$2-plus to produce a pound of farm salmon. Where is the logic?

Had the money spent on fish farming gone into enhancement, the country would be far better off. Most of all, we would not have an environmental time bomb hanging over our heads.

I urge the media (the only thing the governments seem to respect) to

take up its responsibility to let people know what is going on. Surely a handful of corporate barons should not be allowed to expose the rest of society to the risks we are presently facing.

**I. STRAARUP,**  
Ganges

## Thanks

To the Editor,  
I would like to thank everyone who supported 4-H in the December 1 Quilt Raffle. Thanks to those who bought tickets and those who sold them. Thanks also to Joyce Scott and the craft people for letting us display the quilt and sell tickets at the Fulford

Craft Fair.

4-H, for those who don't know (as I didn't before I became involved), is an agriculturally based club for young people seven years to late teens, whose motto is "learn to do by doing."

The nine girls in the craft group did just that. They learned to make a quilt, choosing colours and fabrics, designing their own squares and doing all the hand sewing, plus taking part in putting it all together.

The winner of the raffle was Marg Sharkey, but I think all of us who took part in any way are winners.

**NANCY WIGEN,**  
Craft Co-ordinator, 4-H

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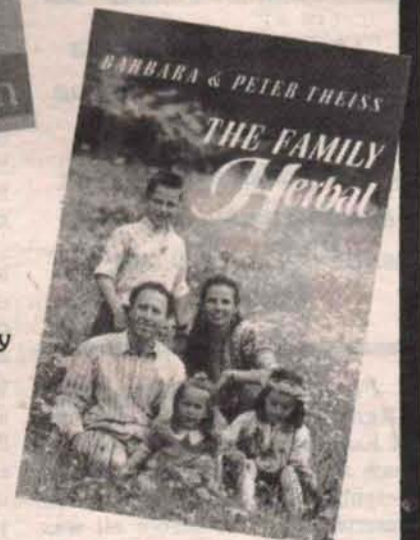
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OPINION

# Real threat is not oil crisis but use of an obsolete fuel

The tragi-comic farce now occupying the world stage is depressing evidence that our leaders have yet to recognize the real threat to civilization.

By PETER PENTZ  
Guest Columnist

Iraq, a country over-militarised by means of the petro-dollars that are its sole wealth, seizes the oil-fields of its neighbour Kuwait, whose feudal rulers depart in haste. The world's great powers unite in solemn condemnation of Iraq and its ruthless boss, Saddam Hussein.

Led by the U.S., military forces are rushed to the area. Even Canada makes its token contribution. Appeals by the exiled Kuwaiti rulers for the occupying Iraqi army to be ejected by force are ignored, at least for the present. Iraq, after all, is not Grenada, nor even Panama; and Saddam Hussein's claim to be championing millions of poor Arabs against American and other big-power bullies is dangerously popular in the Muslim world.

**"We must soon cease burning oil and other fossil fuels, unless we are willing to risk climatic damage."**

Instead, Saudi Arabia is persuaded to invite U.S. forces onto its territory, to provide defence against a suicidal attempt by Hussein to add Saudi oil-fields to his collection. Around Iraq the soldiers, sailors and airmen seem likely to fry a while in the summer sun, checking their weapons while they sweat in their gas-protection armour.

More realistically, economic pressure is proposed, with almost universal agreement, to get the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. Import and export sanctions against Iraq are approved by the U.N. If the economic boycott is strictly adhered to this time by the nations that now promise it, the effect on Iraq could well be spectacularly effective.

It is at this point, however, that solemn officialdom becomes patently absurd.

**"The obstacle to human survival is the combination of human ignorance, greed, global over-population stimulated by poverty and reluctance to take action . . ."**

For it is clearly not the simple illegality of Iraq's forcible recapture of Kuwait that has got the world in such an uproar. If Kuwait and its neighbours were still the barren deserts they were before oil was found, Iraq's invasion would hardly have won a headline. It is plainly nothing but the supposed threat to world supplies of that sacred commodity, oil, that has caused the huge and enormously costly response. What, then, is this awful threat?

At the first and most superficial

the resultant glut forced the drop in oil prices which ruined many Third World producers like Mexico and led to much moaning in Alberta. Immediately before invading Kuwait, Iraq was pressing for reduced output by all OPEC members to restore higher prices.

Second, there are many other sources of oil outside the Middle East. Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria and many other debt-ridden producers could rapidly increase output to meet any real short-term need. (For reasons which will become clear, such dubious, expensive and long-term potential producers as Canada's Hibernia off-shore fields and the Albertan Tar-Sands can be dismissed as irrelevant.)

Far more significant is a relatively new factor which the world's scientists have been spelling out for more than two years, and which the current Suzuki/CBC radio program "A Question of Survival" has been shouting in our ears. Their message is clear: we must soon cease burning oil and other fossil fuels (coal, natural gas), unless we are willing to risk climatic damage that makes this planet uninhabitable for our children's children.

To prevent global over-heating we need to reduce production of CO2 (carbon dioxide) from fossil sources by at least 50 per cent within the next 15 years, and the balance before 2050. It seems the atmosphere has had as much as it can take without increasingly painful penalties becoming irreversible and ultimately fatal. The irreplaceable supplies of oil should be reserved for use by our descendants as "feed-stock," to make the myriad of benign and useful chemicals on which our civilisation sensibly relies.

Now the comic fact is that energy-gluttons like us in North America can eliminate 50 per cent of our oil-burning with no pain at all: we need only stop wasting half of what we pay for, and become as energy-efficient as the Japanese or the Swiss or the Germans, all of whom live quite as comfortably as we do. Furthermore, as Jim Fulton (NDP critic for the Environment) keeps pointing out, by introducing the measures that will be our first steps to CO2 reduction and a chance of survival, we in Canada could in fact save ourselves a tidy \$150 billion over the next 15 years. In the U.S. the savings would be proportionately greater.

Where, then, is the crisis Iraq is supposed to have caused? Evidently Saddam Hussein is counting on the oil-consuming world to remain fixed in its old and potentially fatal belief in the absolute necessity for burning oil.

What the world should be saying to him is surely simple: "Your action in grabbing Kuwait was not only criminal, it was stupid. It has made us aware of our foolish addiction to oil.

We can easily do without yours now, and you can expect even more difficulty than other oil-producers in selling much in future. As a fuel, oil is about to become obsolete . . . If you get your troops out of Kuwait

quickly maybe we and your compatriots will forgive and forget."

How to get on without fossil fuels is no mystery. The technical outlines have already been widely discussed — by the relatively few people seriously interested. Our own (Federal) Standing Committee on the Environment will be publishing shortly a preliminary blue-print. Indeed, we do not have a technical problem. The obstacle to human survival is the combination of human ignorance, greed, global over-population stimulated by poverty, and reluctance to take action today in order to avoid penalties 20 or 50 years in the future.

In the light of our behaviour to date, and current official responses to the Iraq "crisis," the prospects for our descendants do not look very bright. Maybe there are enough people about with the knowledge and the determination to do whatever it takes to keep this pretty planet habitable. But they need to hurry!

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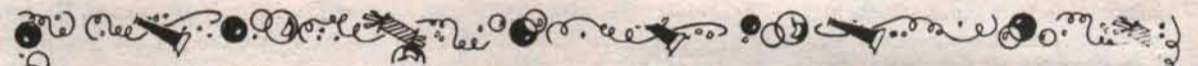
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Arlene Dashwood

NEWSBEAT



**CLEANING UP THE CLASSROOM:** Surrey Inter-A students ensure Duck Creek on Salt Spring flows freely. The youths removed a log-jam blocking the fish route from St. Mary Lake. Six mainland students came to the island for an environmental field trip last week. Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy.

# Off-island students work for educational purposes

Salt Spring's salmon enhancement group weathered last week's torrential rains with a little help from a team of off-island students.

Seven students from the Inter-A program at Surrey's Len Shepherd Secondary School in Surrey were on the island with teacher Bill Hayes for a week-long environmental field trip.

In addition to learning salmon enhancement skills with Kathy Reimer, students blazed a trail near Duck Creek and cleared the creek of debris that was blocking a spawning route.

Student Kevin Relitz told the *Driftwood*, "It's hard work. I think I have hurt every bone in my body this week. But it's fun."

The Inter-A (short for Integrated Academics) program is a pilot project incorporating many elements of the education ministry's Year 2000 plan, although it was started six years ago before the official study into education took place in the province.

Hay says the program started when "some teachers got together and made what we thought would be a model classroom."

Participants currently range from Grades Eights to 11 and do classwork in large groups at an individual pace, achieving "levels" of subject mastery. About 100 pupils or one-third of the student body at their school are in the Inter-A program.

Student Karrye Griffin explains one of the program's characteristics. "You don't just sit and listen to a teacher. We are in school right now." She sees her teachers as "more like just organizers."

Field trips like the one to Salt Spring form a significant part of Inter-A schooling. As Hayes says, "if you put a bit of flexibility into the (education) system, the classroom can be wherever you are," and "the environment can be a tremendous teacher."

On Friday morning, the Cusheon Lake salmon enhancement building looked like a science lab as the Surrey kids tested water samples under the guidance of Hayes and Reimer.

Inter-A is neither a remedial program nor one solely for advanced students. Ages and levels are mixed in Inter-A, so students ideally learn from each other. Reimer says she observed "a strong sense of teamwork" among the group, and says "they learn from each other and they listen to each other."

Griffin says the mixed level struc-

sibility aspect of the program as well. The kids have to work together, do fund-raising for field trips and plan and cook their own meals while on trips.

Each student paid \$100 to make the Salt Spring trip, another factor Hayes sees as evidence of their commitment to the program. No public school funding is provided for Inter-A field trip activities.

Inter-A's information pamphlet describes "process" as a key aspect of learning.

"Students employ inquiry, co-operation, organization and reasoning skills to seek information pertinent to their study and interests from a wide variety of sources."

Inter-A philosophy espouses that "in a world of information, students need to learn how to gain, interpret and present information effectively.

Process learning is important for the skills developed will be useful long after today's facts have faded in importance."

Clearing a Duck Creek log jam in the pouring rain last week gave students a taste and skills for salmon enhancement work they can carry with them indefinitely. Grade Eight student Brad Smart was undaunted by the difficult experience. He says he and classmate Cory Maudiniuk now plan to work on a creek near Cory's house to make it hospitable for spawning salmon.

Salt Spring is the other beneficiary of the Inter-A program. Reimer says the work makes it possible for Duck Creek's cutthroat and steelhead trout to travel unimpeded to the ocean, and one of the community's trails has been improved for island hikers.

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**NEWSBEAT**

# Islanders question panel on solid waste issues

A consensus of where to dump Salt Spring waste — on or off island — remains elusive following a public meeting held Monday evening.

Conditions at Hartland Road landfill site prompted many questions. Loft Houghton began with a query of how the Capital Regional District would handle space problems at the Saanich dump.

CRD engineer Mike Williams explained expansion plans involved use of Heal Lake. He said the regional board was looking for a solution to the problem and asked its engineering department to submit a report to the directors by January 16, 1991.

Options open to the CRD include carrying on at Hartland or finding a new site for the regional garbage dump. Williams noted if Hartland could be expanded, the site could be used for 30 more years. As recycling efforts expand, the site life could be expanded to 50 years.

Proposed filling of Heal Lake has created considerable controversy.

Ron Spencer expressed concerns about how much time was left before Hartland is filled if the Heal Lake controversy could not be solved.

Williams said a combination of waste reduction and raising the maximum height of the dump to 174 metres could extend the site life by two years. If the height went to 176 metres, another year could be added while a height of 181 metres coupled with the reductions through recycling and composting would allow use of the site until 1995.

In answer to a question from John Ellacott concerning how tipping fees could cover costs of recycling initiatives when the amount of refuse going to Hartland is reduced, Williams outlined the proposed tipping fee increases.

Tipping fees charged at Hartland to contractors dumping there currently sits at \$30 per tonne. As of January 2, 1991, the fee rises to \$45 and increases to \$65 per tonne in July. It gradually increases to \$120 per tonne by 1993. Any increase for the following years, Williams said, would depend upon how much would be needed to cover the initiatives.

Later in the meeting, Williams explained costs of expansion at Hartland would be \$16 million. If the site had to be moved to another location, costs would rise to \$42 million. He explained to the *Driftwood* that while expansion costs are built into the tipping fees, costs for moving the dump would be capital costs and would come from taxes.

Kathy Scarfo noted the Blackburn dump would be closed at the end of 1991 at which time dealing with garbage would be up to islanders. She wanted to know if the CRD would continue to help cover costs of the recycling on Salt Spring and the closure of the island dump site.

Williams said the board would consider continuation of recycling grants but would have to take a close look at helping to pay for closure of Blackburn.

Ted Oldham from the Ministry of the Environment noted the closure of the Blackburn dump was "driven by concern for the watershed." He said "like it or not" the CRD is responsible for the dump, but added the ministry has money available to help with closure costs.

Pat Massy expressed a concern about possible contamination of ground water as a result of a landfill on the island.

She sought assurances that if a garbage site is selected on island, that there would be "no pollution whatsoever."

the tax amount. As a recycler, he claimed such a method of assessment was unfair to people like him who lived in homes with a higher value.

Williams agreed and added that if recycling reduced the amount of waste to be disposed, the cost would similarly be reduced. Higher assessment, he said, would mean the home owner paying a larger amount and not necessarily users.

Blackburn dump operator Norman Twa said a professional engineer had priced a dump site for him at \$500,000. Williams would not comment on an estimate of a "fellow engineer" but did note that by current standards a dump could not be started at those costs.

Grant Anderson, an engineer with the firm of Gartner-Lee Ltd. which has carried out consulting work for the solid waste committee, said costs his company had submitted were "ball-park figures" based on experience at other sites. Costs did not include a liner for the dump site or for leachate management which, he said, could cost up to \$5 million to treat before disposal through a sewer outlet.

Dave Borrowman asked for confirmation of a circulating statement that if recycling were increased on Salt Spring, remaining refuse would fit into two trailers each week.

Williams stated he could not confirm the statement because he was not

aware of the statistics involved.

Claiming he could answer the question, Deitrich Luth gave as an example Ganges Village Market which compresses a week's worth of refuse into a 20 cubic foot container.

"And that's just one store," he said. "Whoever came up with two trailers a week needs his head read."

Kathy Reimer said the salmon enhancement group monitored water quality below Blackburn Road dump regularly to ensure there was no danger to fish. So far, she noted, there has been no contamination from leachate.

She questioned the figure of \$1,253,600 in the flyer which had been listed as the total cost per year

for a Salt Spring dump. That worked out to close to \$18.8 million for the 15 year period mentioned, she said, and resulted in a greater cost than a dump in Maple Ridge.

Such figures, she stated, "scared the daylight out of a bunch of old age pensioners on Salt Spring, including my mother-in-law."

Glenn Sargeant asked Williams if the CRD is trying to cut down on the amount of waste going into Hartland, why does the region insist on having Salt Spring garbage going there.

Williams explained the CRD wanted one central landfill site with one set of liabilities.

"I am not insisting that your garbage go there. That's your decision."

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**NEWSBEAT**

# Vandals strike Ganges stores

Signs and trees were the latest victims of vandalism in Ganges village over the weekend.

A decorated Christmas tree outside Changing Habits and Cookie's Clothing in the Mouat's Harbour Building was pushed over and damaged some time Friday night. A sign advertising the stores as a food bank donation and toy drop-off was removed, torn and thrown into the adjacent parking lot.

The following evening, 20 Christmas light were removed from the same tree and broken after being thrown against the stores' windows and doors.

Co-owner of Changing Habits, Angie Bell, told the *Driftwood* Tuesday "putting anything up and outside is kind of disheartening" when it is vandalized in this way.

However, she said the tree will remain outside as a Christmas

decoration and to advertise the stores as a place to bring food bank and Santa's workshop toy donations.

"We don't like to be pressured by anyone to take it down," said Bell.

Also sometime on the weekend, the graphic logo from Island Savings Credit Union's sidewalk sign was torn off and later found in Mouat's parking lot. Manager Jack Davidson said the piece will be more securely attached to the sign after it is restored.

# SOLID WASTE

From Page A1

landfills you are talking about risks to our health," he said. The largest concern, he explained, is that precipitation falls onto garbage, dissolving soluble constituents and creating toxic leachate which can get into the groundwater.

A secondary concern is the creation of methanol gas, he said, particularly if it gets trapped underground.

Anderson said a landfill's site is the most important environmental consideration. "If it is located properly, and if you have taken precautions in siting, you are going to go a long way towards protecting your environment."

A clay based site is best, he said, as it provides "a natural geological barrier" to leachate escape.

New types of landfill designs, incorporating clay or plastic membrane liners into which waste is placed, drain pipes and "perimeter control systems" all help reduce environmental hazards, he said.

Ministry of Environment representative Ted Oldham then explained provincial government policy respecting landfills.

He said Section 16 of the Waste Management Act governs solid waste disposal in the province and on Salt Spring. According to the act, waste management is the responsibility of regional districts, he said.

"The ministry's position is that regional districts should have ultimate control and be legally and financially responsible for any landfill" and "it is their responsibility to develop and implement a solid waste management plan for the regional district," said Oldham.

He said the ministry is "not sup-

porting private individuals having control over municipal refuse sites," and "the CRD is required to administer such things as tipping fees."

Oldham emphasized the Blackburn dump would be closed by December 31, 1991, and said "financial assistance is being made available (by the ministry) to assist in closing a site."

Capital Regional District engineer Mike Williams spoke on current CRD policy respecting solid waste disposal and changes at the Hartland landfill site.

The CRD's waste management plan, he said, "sets out that there should be one landfill, that is, at Hartland Avenue."

"If you remove yourself from this

policy, I would recommend to the board that all costs of a landfill (on-island) be borne by the residents on this island." "The region as a whole," he continued, "will not be expected to take risks on your behalf, except at Hartland."

He said the CRD aims to cut by 50 per cent the amount of solid waste sent to Hartland by 1994/95 through increased recycling initiatives. These will include large-scale composting, expansion of the blue box program, a white goods removal service and a public education program.

Hartland is currently financed through taxes, Williams said, but will go to a user-pay system which it hopes will "bring the costs home to them (users)."



## YOU'LL FIND FRIENDLY SERVICE IN SIDNEY!

Sidney By-The-Sea rekindles the Spirit of Christmas past by providing a level of service that only a small seaside town can. Join in the Christmas in Sidney Spirit as you stroll down Beacon Avenue and remember a time when Christmas shopping was a pleasure!

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Sidney By-The-Sea has plenty of Free Parking!

## SHOP SIDNEY ON SUNDAY!

For your convenience, stores in Sidney will remain open on the last two Sundays before Christmas - December 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Santa House Hours

**DECEMBER 8 - 22**  
**WEEKDAYS 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.**  
**SATURDAYS 10 - NOON • 2 - 4 P.M.**  
**CLOSED SUNDAYS**

Set a day or two aside

## Season's Greetings

to all our island friends!

For your convenience, we will be open the following hours for Christmas shopping:

Monday, Dec. 17-  
 Sunday, Dec. 23  
**9 am-9 pm**

Monday, Dec. 24  
 (Christmas Eve)  
**9 am-5:30 pm**

Christmas Day  
**CLOSED**

Boxing Day  
**9 am-5:30 pm**

Thank you for helping to make our first year a great one.

## EMBE BAKERY

Monday-Saturday 4 am-5:30 pm

### Christmas Hours

**OPEN**  
 Sunday, Dec. 23 till 4 pm  
 Monday, Dec. 24 till 5:30 pm

**CLOSED**  
 Dec. 25, 26 and 27.

**THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

PREMIUM QUALITY AT REGULAR PRICES

Foot of Ganges Hill 537-5611

**SIDNEY BY THE SEA**

**THE FRIENDLY**

**SHOPPING DESTINATION**

NEWSBEAT

# School trustees discuss future role of technology

Technology will play an important part in education of the future and the Gulf Islands school district is planning to join the advances.

School trustees received a report, *Technology in the Curriculum*, prepared by the Gulf Islands Instructional Technology Advisory Team and the GI Computer Using Educators Association.

The report outlined how technol-

ogy can be used within the structure of the new curriculum currently being put in place.

The report suggests teaching use of technology such as facsimile machines, computers as well as programs to allow access to data banks will benefit both the student, teacher and the school district administration.

For the administration, technol-

ogy could be used at budget preparation time, as the budget is being spent and for budget communications between the school board office and the various schools.

In classroom use, technology could be used as an "expressive tool" in the primary, lower intermediate, upper intermediate and graduate programs. Refined use of technology, such as a research of informa-

tion management tool would be of value to the advanced programs.

The report is not intended to list required uses of technology or as being static.

"It is a progressive document that points the direction in which technology will be used in the Gulf Islands to enable the learner and it will change and be modified in response to the needs of the learner and the

learner's ability to achieve the goals of education," the report notes.

David Eyles questioned the implications of the report as to possible future expenditures of money. He was assured the report had been received for information only.

He then agreed to a motion noting "approval for what has been done so far."

# Unified chorus needed on transportation talks

Creating a solid transportation chorus from a multitude of voices is the latest aim of Salt Spring's transportation committee.

At its regular meeting last Wednesday, members discussed the matter of communication between islanders and government transportation authorities, noting several groups have dealt with transportation issues in recent years.

Now that the B.C. Ferry Corporation appears willing to listen to Salt Spring concerns and an official meeting between the B.C. Ferry Corporation and the transportation committee has been set for early next year, members feel a coalescing of groups is both sensible and necessary.

Salt Spring Islands Trustee Bob Andrew told the meeting that with a number of different groups examining transportation in isolation from each other, "there is obviously a lack of understanding of the power of this committee."

The lobbying work of residents groups, a completed Chamber of Commerce study, an Advisory Planning Commission road standards study underway and two transportation task forces recently at work are some of the separate efforts which have been undertaken on Salt Spring. The Salt Spring Island Transportation Committee is mandated by the Islands Trust to deal with and be the island's representative for transportation matters.

Andrew said "there should be a drawing together of all transportation committees into this one."

He later told the *Driftwood* that when new B.C. Ferries president Frank Rhodes first came to Salt Spring "he didn't have any idea who he should talk to." He said Rhodes has since confirmed the transportation committee is the group he will directly communicate with.

Acting and past chairman Danny Evanishen said "the problem was that nobody was listening to any group so everyone was spouting off in the wilderness."

Andrew offered to handle the contacting of representatives from various groups to get "a far broader spectrum" of transportation concerns. He also said discussing common problems with residents of other Gulf islands is important.

Del Dewolfe, who operates the local Loomis Courier service and rides the ferry to and from Swartz Bay several times a day, attended the meeting as an interested community member. He also noted the proliferation of groups and said "I thought we had a transportation committee that spoke for the people."

Speaking as someone "whose business depends directly on the

ferry service," Dewolfe said "I would like B.C. Ferries and other transportation outfits like the Ministry of (Transportation and) Highways to hear a consensus from this island."

He said commuters want their concerns to be heard and that transportation committee meetings could be held in the evening in order to accommodate them.

Evanishen replied that the committee was completely flexible with respect to meeting times.

People or groups wanting their voice added to the committee should contact Bob Andrew at the Islands Trust office (537-9144) or at 653-4625.

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### Christmas in Sidney 1990

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Plenty of Free Parking!

### SIDNEY SANTA HOUSE

You can visit Mr. Claus at his Sidney Santa House inside Snapdragon Nurseries on Beacon Avenue.  
Photography by Sooter Studios.

### Santa House Hours

DECEMBER 8 - 22  
WEEKDAYS 1 P.M.-4 P.M.  
SATURDAYS 10 - NOON • 2 - 4 P.M.  
CLOSED SUNDAYS

Set a day or two aside

Buying a Computer?  
Buying software?

**NEWSBEAT**

**HEAD OF THE CLASS:** New school board chairman Marg Billsten (right) and vice-chairman Charles Bazzard discuss local board matters at last week's regular meeting. Billsten and Bazzard were elected to head up trustees following last month's school board elections.

Driftwood photo by Bill Webster



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364 Lower Ganges Rd.  
 (next to GVM)

**Ruling could impede safety**

Gulf Islands Secondary School operates an enthusiastic rowing club but some people believe the safety of rowers on St. Mary Lake could be compromised due to the electric motor only ruling.

A recent meeting of the Gulf Islands school board aired concerns about the safety of the rowing club using the lake. The high school rowers need to be accompanied by a safety boat as they practice their use of the sculls.

New regulations restricting use of the lake to electric motors and thus prohibiting use of a gasoline-powered safety boat have caused concern for the safety of rowers.

The rowing club applied for relief from the federal ministry of the environment. Ken Stewart, of the conservation service enforcement branch, explained the situation to the Driftwood.

The rowing club would be allowed to have a gasoline-powered boat standing by in case of emergency, he said. The boat would have to wait at the shore and only be used in an emergency.

The regulations provide for use of a powerful emergency safety boat, he explained, and the needs of the rowing club fit that category.

Stewart went on to explain that if a safety boat were required to accompany the rowers, the group would have to apply to Ottawa for a wider exemption from the restrictions.

At the school board meeting, Charles Hingston said he would "hate to see that program go down" because the EMO restriction.

Sergeant Larry Wendel of Ganges detachment RCMP said he had not been informed of the exemption for the rowing club.

He said it would make sense to allow them to have a stand-by power boat.

**WILLIAM MANFIELD**  
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Victoria Residence 386-0463

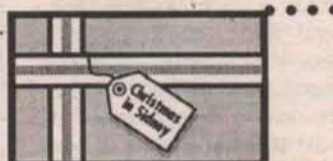
**Christmas Winter Market**

at the

**Farmers' Institute**  
**Saturday, Dec. 15**

**9:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**COME SEE SANTA!**



**SIDNEY BY THE SEA**

**THE FRIENDLY**

**SHOPPING DESTINATION**



**SHOP SIDNEY ON SUNDAY!**

**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**FRIENDLY SERVICE**

Join in the Christmas in Sidney Spirit and remember a time when Christmas shopping was a pleasure!

**SELECTION**

More than any mall! Sidney By-The-Sea combines a wide variety of independent shops and services with unmatched convenience and atmosphere.

Set a day or two aside and experience a Christmas Shopping Destination that is without equal!

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Elementary, my dear Watson... just describe the location of **Changing Habits** in 10 words or less and we could win \$200.00 in loonies! But we must hurry...the Finders Keepers Contest ends Dec. 19!

**Pre-Christmas SALE...**

**20-50% off EVERYTHING IN STOCK**  
 (except socks & accessories)  
**UNTIL DEC. 24**



NEWSBEAT

*Typewriter of*  
**BILL WEBSTER**



A fond memory from youthful antics revolves around frequent visits to the town garbage dump.

Dumps weren't called landfill sites or solid waste reclamation depots in those days. We spoke a simpler version of the Queen's language. A spade was known as a spade and a garbage dump was where useless things were dumped.

We, intrepid youth, went there regularly to search for treasure. We knew we were close when we saw paper and what-not scattered along the trail or clinging to the trees.

They weren't much into beautifying the dumps in those days. Garbage was garbage and the only time it got buried was when the dump moved to another location.

The piles held neat things as well as rather large rats and many, many mice. We would see raccoons, skunks, squirrels, chipmunks, porcupines and the odd black bear feasting on leftovers.

I once found an alarm clock which actually worked. It was a bit dented and scratched but it ticked until a certain curious youth took it apart to investigate the tock.

Good stuff such as a kitchen table with three legs, and an overstuffed chair with exposed springs were sitting there for the taking.

A friend of mine found a apparently unused hockey stick. The blade was taped neatly and the end of the handle sported a large knob of tape. He kept that hockey stick safe for the entire summer. When the hockey season started, he had the stick. For two minutes into the first game of the season, he was proud of the new stick. Two minutes, that's all it lasted before it was broken.

From such tragedies is character woven.

Other garbage dumps of interest cropped up later in life. In Etobicoke, the western fringe of Metro Toronto, the deep thinkers found a perfect (almost) solution for disposing of garbage. They piled it in a high pile and called it a ski hill. Problem was, once the garbage started fermenting, snow would melt very quickly.

The deep thinkers solved part of the problem by driving pipes into the garbage pile to vent the gas which also served as flares for the hill. When the streets of the borough were ploughed, snow was transported to the park for deposit on the hill.

Meanwhile, when the typewriter plied his trade in London, Ontario, another story of another garbage dump brewed. Many years ago, when London lacked size to sprawl across the country-side, most of the development took place on the north bank of the Thames River.

The burgher masters decreed garbage should be dumped in a ravine along the south shore of the river. It was. Over many years, garbage gradually filled the ravine.

As people increased in number, more space was needed and the city moved south of the river in earnest. The garbage dump had been covered with rocks and dirt from road building and the area turned into a sub-division.

As years passed, people living in the area began complaining about the smell which permeated their basements and issued from the ground whenever they dug too deeply.

Seems the rotting garbage, as any self-respecting rotten garbage will do, began emitting methane. Vent pipes were hammered into the ground around houses and the odour slackened to a mere whiff. Needless to say houses in the subdivision sold rather cheaply.

But that's the result of dumping garbage without thought for the consequences.

**Straw vote deadline extended**

A deadline set for the return of a questionnaire forming part of the solid waste flyer on Salt Spring has been extended to Thursday, December 21.

A cut-out portion of the flyer distributed by the island's solid waste committee asks islanders for their choice of either an on-island landfill or direct haul to Hartland Road landfill. It asks the "vote" be returned by December 15, 1990.

However, after concerns were expressed at the solid waste forum on Monday night that a December 15 deadline was too soon, Bob Andrew agreed to a December 20 extension. Regional Director Julia Atkins informed the *Driftwood* Tuesday the committee subsequently decided to extend it one more day to the 21st.

Jack Frazer told the meeting a stringent deadline "precludes discussion" through the *Driftwood* and other means.

Atkins and Andrew said the committee's feeling was that a longer deadline would result in questionnaires being lost or forgotten about during the Christmas season. Atkins also stressed the straw vote was not particularly significant except "to take the temperature of the community to see how people are feeling at this time."

Further discussion will take place, she said, and a referendum eventually held to finally settle the issue.

Atkins also said Tuesday that discussions with Ministry of Environment personnel after Monday's meeting confirmed Salt Spring would have to pay both recycling and Blackburn reclamation costs if an on-island landfill was chosen, thereby increasing on-island landfill costs outlined in the flyer.

She estimated this would add 25 cents per bag to cover reclamation costs amortized over a 15-year period and 35 cents per bag to finance a recycling program.

**THE SPORTS TRADERS**

NEW AND USED DISCOUNT SPORTS

Allan Mellett, President and Director of Franchise Operations (Head Office Victoria) is pleased to announce the

**GRAND OPENING**

of SALT SPRING'S LARGEST FULL LINE SPORTS STORE...

**THE SPORTS TRADERS OF SALT SPRING**

Paul & Ann Heggeler, owner-operators, cordially invite you to **DROP IN.**

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Christmas in Sidney 1990

**SIDNEY BY THE SEA**  
**THE FRIENDLY SHOPPING DESTINATION**



**SHOP SIDNEY ON SUNDAY!**

DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

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Join in the Christmas in Sidney Spirit and remember a time when Christmas shopping was a pleasure!

**SELECTION**

More than any mall! Sidney By-The-Sea combines a wide variety of independent shops and services with unmatched convenience and atmosphere.

Set a day or two aside and experience a Christmas Shopping Destination that is without equal!

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**Meeting stresses support for local recycling efforts**

Support for recycling efforts on Salt Spring was clearly expressed at a public meeting on Monday.

Bob Andrews, chairman of Salt Spring Island Solid Waste Committee, told the meeting a curbside pickup of recycled goods was planned for the island. Costs of pickup would be covered for at least three years by grants from federal and provincial governments as well as the Capital Regional District, he said.

If islanders had to cover the cost of pickup themselves, it would come to approximately \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value per household, he added.

CRD engineer Mike Williams ex-

figure of 10 per cent of waste being recycled seemed to be an upper limit — the drop box and curbside pickup would help increase that total.

The recycle people face a problem with contamination of goods, he noted, which would be corrected with a pickup system. Recycled goods become "contaminated" for instance when green glass is broken in with clear glass or glossy paper is mixed with newsprint.

Rick Laing, co-ordinator of recycling on the island, offered as another reason for pickup that it would benefit those seniors on the island who cannot make it to the drop boxes.

Dietrich Luth asked why con-

**CAROLEE'S AND MICHAEL'S**  
**Pre-Christmas SALE**  
is on now!

**NEWSBEAT**

**Chamber recruiting members**

Two recently-elected members of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce have resigned their positions.

The nominating committee has been reactivated to recruit new candidates for the positions. An election will be held at January's board meeting to fill the two vacancies.

Past president Glen Moores wrote a letter to the board stating work commitments preclude his participation as a director. However he will continue to chair the Sea Walk Committee as a chamber representative.

Wynne Davis resigned as a director following a committee structure change in the chamber's representative to the Advisory Planning Commission.

At last week's chamber board meeting, committee chairs gave their initial reports or outlined proposals for the coming months.

Chairing the various committees

will be Elli Thornberg, accommodation; Dee Kinney, APC, brochure and membership; Hans Hazenboom, building and construction; Don Harrison, community services which includes transportation, ferries, highways and waste management; Joyce Carlson, education; Neville Atkinson, emergency measures and harbours and marine;

Doug Hack, finances and professional; Sandi Ballantyne, tourist information centre; Helen Tara, publicity; and Sharon Crouse, retail merchants. Plans call for a motivational seminar in January or February, a continuation of the successful home-based businesses and marketing sessions and more input from the retail sector.

A membership drive will take place in the next few weeks when continuing and new members will be approached regarding their participation in the chamber.

Kinney says there are 170 members currently and her goal is to break the 200-member mark early in the new year.

President Sherry Irwin says she is excited by the enthusiasm and ideas being generated by the board, and looks forward to a very active chamber this year.

**Gas cost higher on island**

Gasoline prices are poised for a climb depending upon what happens in the Middle East.

On Salt Spring, consumers pay more than the average price paid in the rest of the province.

For instance, regular unleaded gas sells on average for 67.5 cents per litre on Salt Spring, while the provincial average sits at 64.9 cents/litre.

Other average prices on the island consist of top-line unleaded gas at 72.5 cents and diesel coming in at 61.5 cents.

The Petroleum Resources Communications Foundation recently issued a breakdown of who gets what from the price of a litre of gasoline. Prices vary from province to province with B.C. motorists paying the most and residents of Alberta paying the least at an average 55.7 cents per litre.

In B.C., gas costs break down into four recipients: the federal government, provincial government, producing province and industry.

Given an average price of 64.9 cents per litre, industry keeps 37.7 cents with the dealer holding on to 4.2 cents for each litre pumped. Various taxes imposed by the federal government take 12.6 cents with the province claiming 12.8 cents. The province where the gas was produced gets another 1.8 cents of each litre.

In July, prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, unleaded gas sold for 60.3 cents on average in Vancouver.



**GET GLOWING:** Bank of Montreal employee Lana Clarke adds a light to the Christmas tree monitoring donations to the Food Bank Christmas hamper drive. A light is added to the tree for each \$10 donated. So far, (by Tuesday) \$898 had been collected which translates into 89.8 bulbs on the tree.

Driftwood photo by Gail Sjuberg

**The Salt Spring Disarmament Group has sent the following message to the Prime Minister:**

**DEAR PRIME MINISTER:**

1. Armed conflict solves no problems in the Persian Gulf or elsewhere. On the contrary, it creates human, social and environmental damage on a grand scale.
2. Sanctions against Iraq must be allowed ample time to bring results.
3. The Canadian government should be taking action on the Gulf crisis only with Parliamentary approval and responding to public discussion.
4. Negotiations must take place eventually under U.N. auspices, and should be pursued with an aim to bring true stability to the Middle East.

**We urge the reader to clip this statement, sign and send it to**

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# NEWSBEAT

## Police step up enforcement as CounterAttack kicks off

As the Drinking Driving Counter-Attack Program kicked off last week, police across the province set a target, aiming to stop 700,000 vehicles and reduce the number of drinking driving casualties in B.C.

Being impaired while driving ranks as the most serious, most costly and most deadly crime in the province.

Statistics indicate that while 70 people will be murdered in one year in B.C., 200 people will die in traffic accidents involving an impaired driver. An additional 6,000 people will be injured in alcohol-related accidents.

B.C. residents pay more than \$130 million each year in medical, insurance and law enforcement costs associated with drinking and driving.

Close to 15,000 individuals will go to court to face criminal charges stemming from impaired driving. Of that number, one in five will end up in jail for an average stay of 50 days.

Costs which cannot be calculated involve the death or injury of the drunk driver's innocent victims. The human tragedy covers victims, their families and close friends who pay an immeasurable price for a crime they did not commit.

Since its inception in 1977, CounterAttack has an average yearly record of saving 30 lives, preventing 850 injuries and saving \$10 million in medical, insurance and legal costs.

While CounterAttack is primarily a police program, every citizen can take part. Information obtained from the Ganges RCMP detachment offers suggestions on how to be a sober driver.

• Make a decision to be a sober driver during the holiday season and

### New plan for treating lice-ridden youngsters

Treatment of children with head lice has changed to add compassion to the ingredients.

The message comes from Ann Geddes, director of health promotion for the Capital Regional District.

Despite rumours to the contrary, there have been only six children with lice this school year, according to Salt Spring Elementary School secretary Yvonne Fee.

Under the new CRD policy children with head lice are not isolated and kept at home. Parents of children found to be infested with lice will be notified and given information about how to treat the problem.

Treatment for children involves use of a shampoo, brand name Kwel-lada is recommended, and a cream rinse, brand name Nix suggested. The child is able to return to classes the following day.

"We trust and believe that parents know the treatment and carry it out," said Geddes.

Infestation by head lice does not occur primarily to any particular seg-

stick with that decision regardless of who pressures you to have a drink.

• If you intend to party with a group and haven't made the decision not to drink, make sure someone in the group is the designated driver.

• If on the other hand, you aren't part of group with a designated driver, stash some money in a safe place and do not spend it for any purpose other than cab fare if there is a risk of driving while impaired.

• If you attend a party at a friend's home, make arrangements with your host or hostess to spend the night if the need arises. Otherwise arrange for a member of your own family to pick you up after the party is over.

• Don't ignore someone who attempts to drive while impaired. Be vocal, let him know you have concerns about his ability to drive. If your friends are talking at you, listen to them.

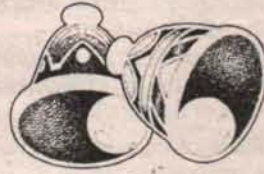
• If you are the host, arrange for

non-alcoholic beverages to be available for those people who do not want to consume alcohol. Be prepared to have a guest spend the night if he is no condition to drive.

• Office or company parties are fun but be prepared to ensure that the people you work with get home safely.

"If you drink and drive, you become part of the problem at which CounterAttack aims. Don't drink and drive and be part of the solution."

The CounterAttack program runs until January 8 and local RCMP members plan to hold numerous roadblocks throughout the island during the Christmas season.



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# 86% said "Yes."



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Every year we ask people who made property damage claims if they were satisfied with the service they received. Last year, once again, the vast majority said "Yes."

As far as injury claims are concerned, most people chose to settle their disputes through their adjust-

To nobody's surprise, people also want courteous service. And 95% of respondents agreed that's what they got from our claims staff. The same percentage believed that sufficient time was taken to deal with their claims. And, despite the intricacies of claims adjusting, 81% of claimants said, yes, their settlements were fair.

These responses suggest we're doing many things right. And this year we're working even harder at

## 1991 DIRECTORY 1991

Lions Club of Salt Spring Island

### Business & Professional Listings:

We will be mailing/delivering information packages (price list, layout sheet, purchase order form and instructions), to our advertisers beginning January 2nd 1991. If you would like to be on the mailing list for the info package, please call us at 537-2000.

### Personal Listings:

The "Black Boxes" with personal listing forms will be going into the banks and post offices on January 2nd 1991. Watch the Driftwood January 3rd for more information on how to get your new listing added or your current listing changed.

Questions? Call us at 537-2000

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Seminar discusses crime prevention

Bounced cheques are the bane of business, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars in revenue every year across the province.

**Flo Fraser will conduct December 19 seminar**

Salt Spring Island is not immune to the problem as Flo Fraser has found out through her business — Gulf Islands Collection and Bailiffs. She has learned more than a few tips and will be passing them along to business operators at a seminar December 19.

Protection from NSF cheques, break and entry, shoplifting and over extended credit will be covered during the evening which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel.

Merchants here still use the honour system, says Fraser, a 21-year resident of the island.

"It's good to have faith in people but it just doesn't work anymore. There are people who abuse that faith."

Members of the RCMP detachment will be in attendance to explain their Crime Prevention program and how expanding upon it could help this community.

Sergeant Larry Wendel says some parts of the Crime Prevention program have been implemented on Salt

Spring. They include auxiliary constables, Marine Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, school visitation program with CounterAttack and the bike rodeo. He hopes to expand Neighbourhood Watch in the new year.

In addition, Wendel says he wants to set up a Community Advisory Committee some time in early 1991.

"We want people to bring their concerns to us, tell us how they visualize police activities for the island."

Anyone interested in attending the December 19 seminar is invited to come out for the session directed by Fraser and her daughter, Cathy, who runs a branch office in Sidney. There is no charge for the evening.

Following presentations by Fraser and RCMP representatives at the Wednesday meeting, questions will be solicited. Fraser hopes to provide answers to assist people in attendance.

Fraser has agreed to be part of Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce's education committee and work on future seminars for the benefit of business operators.

One thing she wants to see come out of the seminar is a "fan-out" alert system for notification of NSF cheque writers. Such a system works successfully in other communities and she would like to see one implemented on this island.

# Annual bird count planned

Local birders will continue a winter tradition when they venture into island woods this Sunday.

Counting birds for pleasure and ecological reasons has been a tradition in North America for about 50 years, and is a Trail and Nature Club initiative on Salt Spring.

Chief coordinator of the 1990 Salt Spring Island bird count is Glen Moores. He says the search for winter birds originated when people went on a "hunt" to capture their Christmas dinner. Just getting people out for a walk at this time of year is now a good reason to stage a count, he says.

Moores explains that in other jurisdictions only a handful of people would be responsible for an area the size of this island but "because there are so many people interested here," counting areas are relatively small.

Twelve event coordinators have signed up about 70 people for the December 16 count.

Counters will need to identify birds spotted and mark their findings on a survey sheet which can be obtained from Moores' accounting office in Ganges.

He says it is a good idea to carry



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Please Note

# HOLIDAY SEASON

Publishing Schedule  
Deadlines:



For paper published:

**DEC. 12** ..... Regular Deadlines

**DEC. 19** ..... Regular Deadlines

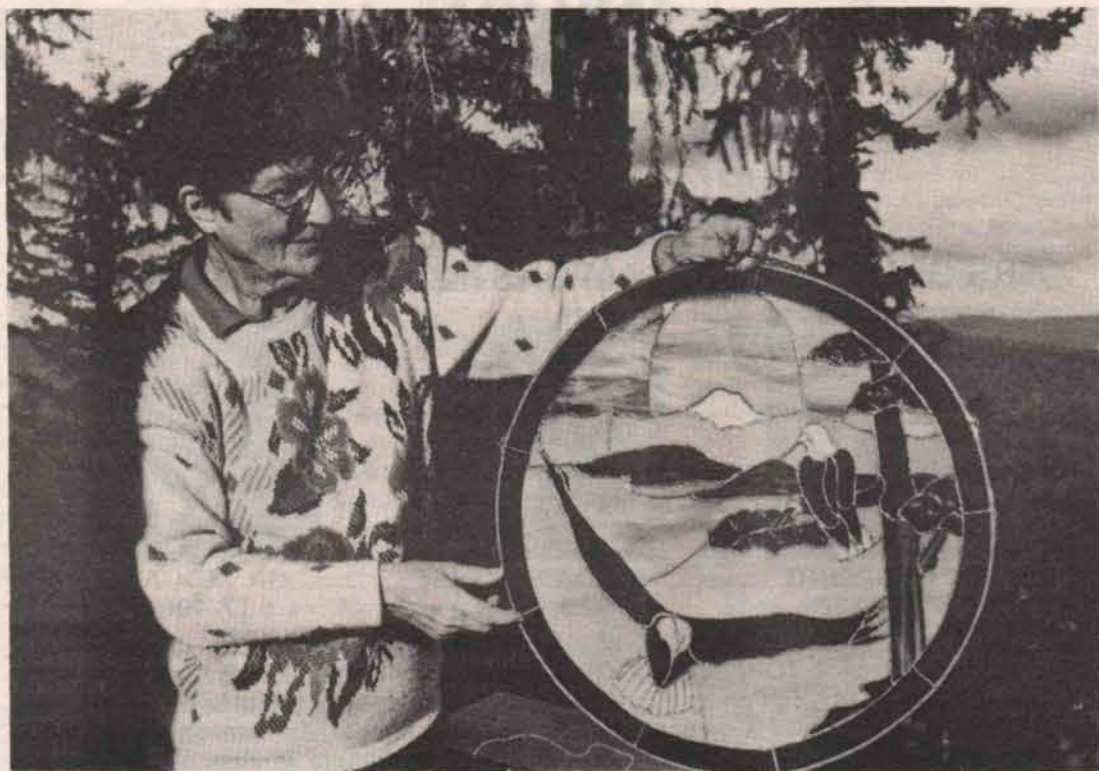
**DEC. 26** ..... Display: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 4:30 pm  
Real Estate: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 3:00 pm  
Classifieds: Thursday, Dec. 20, 4:30 pm  
Too Late to Classify: Friday, Dec. 21, 12 noon

**JAN. 2** ..... Display: Thursday, Dec. 27, 12 noon  
Real Estate: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 3:00 pm  
Classified: Thursday, Dec. 27, 4:30 pm  
Too Late to Classify: Friday, Dec. 28, 12 noon

**JAN. 9** ..... Regular Deadlines

# Driftwood

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Biz Stratton with stained glass project

Driftwood photo by Gail Sjuberg

## First glass project proves a success

A request which inspired an artistic attempt has rendered glittering results by Salt Spring resident Biz Stratton.

After attending a one-day workshop in stained glass making, offered this fall by islander Jack Clements, Stratton tackled her first glass project — a large round scenic containing two eagles, a tree, islands, the ocean and Mt. Baker — using details and techniques of a veteran glassmaker.

Stratton chose the comprehensive piece after one of her daughters, Nancy Pendergast, asked her to make something artistic for the door of her counselling office in Michigan. She wanted it to include images of both Mt. Baker and eagles.

For the Mt. Baker inspiration Stratton needed only a cloudless day. The Washington volcano feels like it can be touched from the Carlin Road property she and husband Mort have owned since 1970. Her stained glass work even captures a plume of smoke rising from the mountain.

Watching the colours and textures transform with changing light on the glass, Stratton notes "it has as many moods as Mt. Baker."

A postcard of a San Juan Islands artist's rendition of eagles gave her the idea for the birds' positions, one resting in a tree and one in flight.

While this was Stratton's first glassmaking venture, she is not a novice craftsperson. She also weaves, paints, pots, knits and quilts. "This is just one more challenge," she says.



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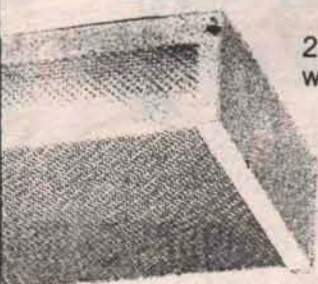
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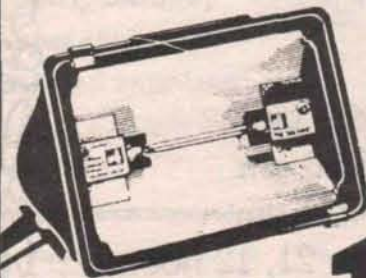
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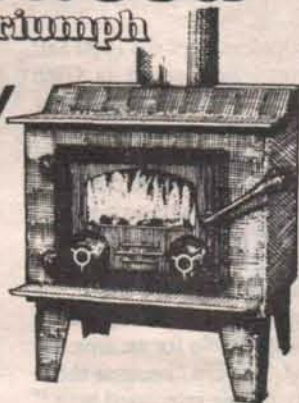
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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



**GOTTA SING, GOTTA DANCE** - Students of Gulf Islands Secondary School entertained enthusiastically for two nights last weekend. They played music, danced up a storm and showed thespian poise in skits, much to the delight of sold-out audiences. Drama, dance, and miscues added to the enjoyment of the presentations. *Driftwood photos by Bill Webster*

## Students entertain audiences

Gulf Islands Secondary School students sang, danced, played and acted out at their Fine Arts Performance on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Standing-room only audiences attended the two shows with over 150 Grades Eight to 12 students at their best in a variety of entertaining roles.

The band, led by music teacher Tone Prosk, opened the show with four pieces, including Liszt's *Hungarian Dance No. 7* and an upbeat Christmas medley.

Huth, which enhanced the hilarity of the play.

Dancing dominated the second half of the evening, with 55 dance class students displaying seven dynamite dance routines. Choreographer and teaching assistant Catherine Gay gave a solo performance. *Cold Hearted* was choreographed by student Selena Leavitt, and Melissa Canales was the choreographer of *Blackcat*.

Five drama club students provided more humour with a skit, and Brad Magnus recited an original

A flute trio of Jaya Polden, Andrea Satzinger and Tia Stevenson played *Intrada* together, followed by the "F" Block Players performing the jazzy *Sneaker*.

The Powder Blues Band's *Doin' it Right* was sung by Andrea Gaetz and Sarah Gallagher, with Ritchie Mullins and Steve Lococo accompanying on guitar, Jon Ward on drums and Neil Kerrigan playing bass.

An original composition by Ben Swan, featuring the guitar work of



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## All smiles at clothing co.



Staff at Mouat's Clothing Co. really C.A.R.E.!

This Saturday, Dec. 15, Mouat's Clothing Company is celebrating its 2nd birthday. Store manager Mary Paul says "We try very hard to bring islanders the unusual, and while it's hard work, it's also a lot of fun." "We're extremely proud of our store," she added, "and the positive response from customers to our merchandise. It is this strong support from islanders in particular which has allowed us to return something extra to the community."

Earlier this year Mouat's Clothing Company began

donating one dollar from the sale of every "PLAN-IT" t-shirt to Salmon Enhancement and one dollar from the sale of every "GUMBOOT" sweatshirt to the Salt Spring United Way campaign.

"These programs are continuing," says Paul. She urges islanders to support the cause of their choice by purchasing new "PLAN-IT" sweatshirts or the colourful "Gumboot" sweatshirts.

"It's our way of saying we C.A.R.E. (Customers Are Really Everything)" says Paul.

"Everyone is invited to come in and celebrate our birthday this Saturday, and while you're here have a piece of Stella's homemade Christmas birthday cake!"



Gift Certificate

MOUAT'S

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Seasonal videos stocked for Christmas vid kids

By JOHN MASTERS  
Video Reviewer

In anticipation of the holidays, expect your local video store to be well stocked with tapes for young children. Here's the seasonal look at what's new on the kid vid shelves.

Following up on its summer success with *The Jetsons: The Movie*, Hanna-Barbera Home Video (it's pronounced "bar-BEAR-a," by the way) has just released six half-hour collections of the cartoon series. Each should sell for \$14.95. There's also a 90-minute tape *The Jetsons: First Episodes*, with a sticker price of \$29.95.

Antarctic waterfowl are the focus of *Scamper the Penguin*, an animated feature *Billboard* magazine said provided "stunning scenes of Antarctica, a little ecological education, and healthy doses of good humour." Cineglobe's Just for Kids label distributes it; it should sell for \$24.95.

Ringo Starr narrates two new 40-

## Aliens at Island Cinema

When the creature moves from Vietnam to Los Angeles, death follows.

Danny Glover takes over as the alien fighter in *Predator 2*. The movie offers scenes from 1997 with various aliens victims including Gary Busey, Rueben Blades and Maria-Conchita Alonso.

*Predator 2* will be showing this week at Island Cinema from Friday, December 14 to Tuesday, December 18 beginning at 8 p.m. each evening.

Carrying a restricted rating, the movie features frequent violence and coarse language.

Watch for *Momma, There's a Man in Your Bed* coming soon.

## VIDEO Advisor

minute tapes from Strand VCI Entertainment starring Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. The animated shows are based on "The Railway Series" created by Rev. W. Awdry and first published in 1945. *Tenders & Turntables* and *Thomas Breaks the Rules* join *Thomas Gets Tricked* and *James Learns a Lesson*. Each should sell for \$19.98.

Also from Strand VCI come five cartoon adventures based on Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. *Mowgli Comes to the Jungle*, *The Adventure Continues*, *Alexander's Son*, *The Law of the Jungle*, and *A New Friend* each run 30 minutes and should sell for \$12.98.

For something particularly seasonal, MCA's Family Home

Entertainment label has re-released its four "Christmas Classics" cartoons, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, and *The Little Drummer Boy*. The first two run 53 minutes, the last two, 30 minutes. All sell for \$17.95 each.

And finally, Shelley Duvall, the actress who produced the impressive "Faeie Tale Theatre" series, has just come out with *Shelley Duvall's Rock 'n' Rhymeland* (Astral). In this 77-minute tape, Duvall and her friends go on a musical search for Mother Goose and come across Paul Simon as Simple Simon, ZZ Top as Three Men in a Tub, and Little Richard as Old King Cole, among others. The tape should sell for \$19.95.

### Just out

• *Henry V* (CBS/Fox). British stage wunderkid Kenneth Branagh, 29, directs and stars in this acclaimed version of Shakespeare's tale of the Plantagenet king and his campaign against France in the early 1400s. With Paul Scofield, Derek Jacobi, and Emma Thompson.

• *Ghost Dad* (MCA/Universal). Another box-office dud from Bill Cosby, but with more heart and warmth than his *Leonard Part 6* fiasco. This time he's Elliot Hooper, a widowed executive who dies in a car accident and gets to come back as a spirit to put his financial affairs in

order for his kids. Directed by Sidney Poitier. Should fare better on the small screen, Cosby's natural home, than it did in theatres.

• *Short Time* (IVE). A comedy about Burt Simpson (Dabney Coleman), a cop who's been told he's dying and who tries to get himself killed so his son can collect the insurance. With Teri Garr, Matt Frewer and a big car chase scene.

• *Ernest Goes to Jail* (Touchstone). Jim Varney once more as the bumbling Ernest P. Worrell. In this, his third movie, Ernest is mistaken for a crime boss and thrown in the slammer.

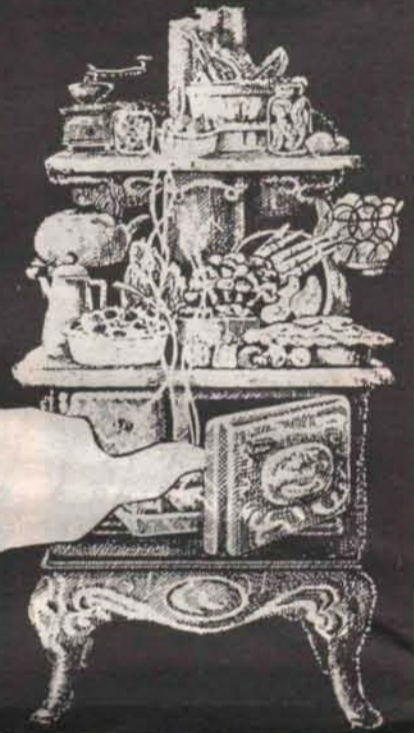
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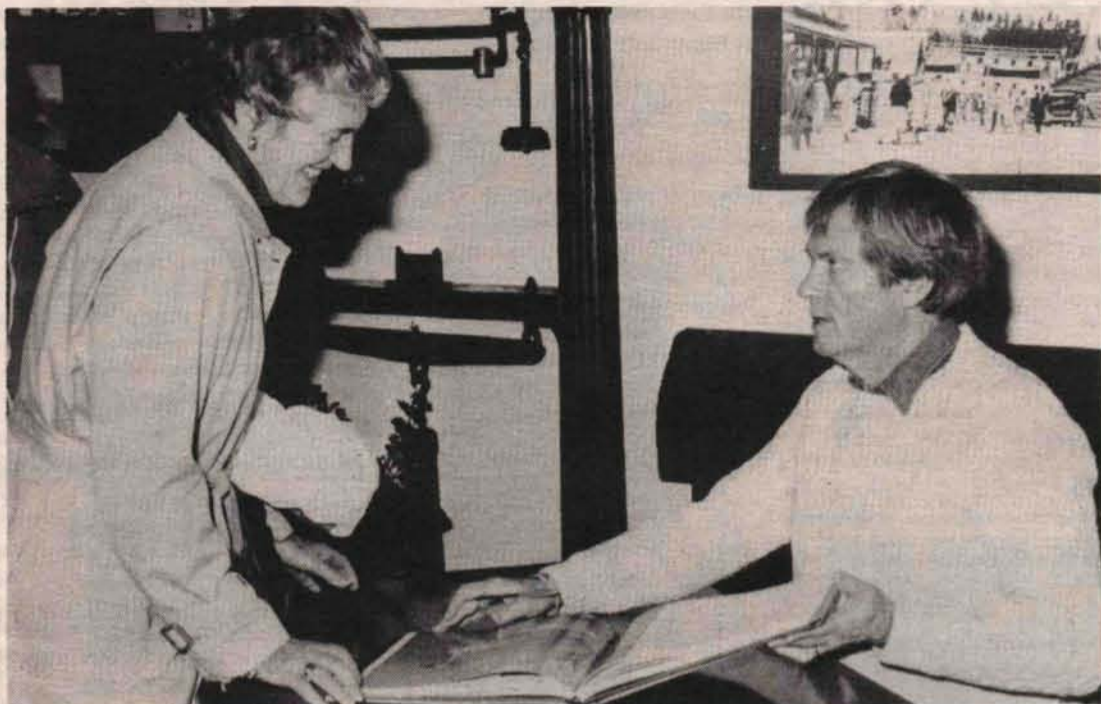


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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



**ARTISTIC AUTOGRAPHS:** Robert Bateman spent 90 days touring various North American cities to autograph his latest book and came home to sign some more. He visited fans at Volume II book store in Moutat's Mall, Saturday, and between autographs he paused to discuss one of his prints with Barbara Maguire. When asked if he's been busy, Bateman replied, "Busy? I've been to Toronto more times recently than I've been to Ganges." Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

## Readers Theatre presentation applauded by island audience

Laughter, reverence, humour and joyous carols of Christmas were all part of the Readers Theatre presentation in Ganges United Church on Sunday afternoon, December 9.

Eighteen members of the Readers Theatre Company, organized just a year and a half ago by company director Don Boyes, presented their first full concert, entitled "Visions of Sugarplums."

The writings of Dylan Thomas, Joyce Grenfell, Dr. Seuss, Kenneth Graham, Stephen Leacock, Menotti Sassoon and the Bible, along with some of our most familiar Christmas carols, were assembled and adapted by Salt Spring Island's

newest production group, Readers Theatre, which functions as a wing of Off Centre Stage.

This new company made an impressive debut with its Christmas program. The carols were accompanied by organist Mae George and the concert was supported also by a Recorder Trio, consisting of Maggie Schubart, Sheila Stacey and Carol Young.

The group played to a very responsive and enthusiastic capacity audience with its particular version of a collection of Christmas literature — all presented in the unique style of Readers Theatre.

## Bateman finishes hectic schedule

Robert Bateman has been autographing books for three months. When he returns home to Salt Spring, he autographs even more.

Bateman was at Volume II last Saturday to sign his name in his latest book *An Artist in Nature* by Viking Press. He was there for a couple of hours, writing his signature and greeting old friends.

In between autographs, he described his hectic schedule. When Viking began planning the book three years ago, Bateman told the publishers he would give them two months for a publicity tour.

The trip began September 25 and lasted for nine weeks to December 1. He insisted on having a few days at Hallowe'en for himself to paint his son Bobby's face.

"He's only 11 and there won't be many Hallowe'ens left," Bateman commented.

The first leg of the tour took him to Seattle to work on some prints; and then it was on to Cincinnati where he was sat in a warehouse signing 3,000 copies of his book for a chain store.

In Toronto he began the Canadian part of his travels which took him from Halifax to home. At one stop he signed 500 copies in three hours and wore the skin from his small finger.

Bateman commented on people sympathizing with him for what seems to be an exhausting schedule.

"I find it pleasant," he said. "It's a Peter Pan existence. I have no responsibility. Everything is taken care of. I find it very fulfilling," he added. "Everywhere I go I meet former students of mine."

Bateman was an art teacher for 20 years.

In Windsor, Ontario, he was greeted by a man he taught in Nigeria during the 1960s.

In Belleville he met a woman who was his mother's best friend when the two women were young and attending Acadian University. The woman presented him with a studio portrait of his mother at 18 years of age.

He also enjoyed meeting and greeting wildlife biologists along the tour. They discussed conservation issues and Bateman attempted to determine how he could help the various efforts.

Now he is home but not to rest. He is preparing work for a show in the Beckett Gallery in Hamilton, Ontario which is the main gallery for display of his work.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Exhibition prompted by violence and self-harm

Compelled by the convergence of two horrific events last December, a local artist raised some emotionally-taxing questions in an exhibit of work shown on Salt Spring last week.

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff Writer

In response to both the massacre of 14 female students at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal by Mark Lepine and the death of a close friend from anorexia nervosa and bulimia last December, Diana Thompson began doing art constructions and drawings depicting the pain of societal violence and self-harm.

People who ventured into recently vacated space next to et cetera Books and Stationery last week to view Thompson's solo show *Witness* would not have left unaffected.

Thompson's work takes this society's obsessions with violence and a perfect body image to their de-humanizing conclusions. Perhaps most immediately painful to look at in *Witness* is a disturbing large pencil drawing of a starving, hairless woman with her hands bound to a wooden structure behind her. She is



Diana Thompson's exhibition *Witness* was held on Salt Spring last week.

obviously helpless and in agony.

The constructions, many using plywood and other materials painted deathly grey, black or wine red, and tools of torture — wire, chains, nails and rope — seep into your consciousness. She has created a disturbing series of nine "Punishments," the first containing a dog's collar set next to scarred hands carved into wood and held in place by a labyrinth of wire.

The term "punishment" reminds viewers of Lepine's statement that he wanted to "punish feminists." And the planned and systematic execution of punishing acts to the self or others comes through strongly in Thompson's work. One cannot deny the inherent deliberateness of such acts.

Thompson has transformed two chairs, usual symbols of comfort and relaxation, into objects of torture, one fashioned with barbed wire on the seat and back, and another hued with a blood tone, four ropes and a gruesome spike in the middle of the seat.

Another construction shows beautiful fish swimming upstream about to be poisoned by pollutants in the water, and covered by a wire grat-

## Local artist raises some "emotionally taxing" questions

ing over them. Viewers are cut off from their aliveness.

In explaining this piece, Thompson says "people have this idea that when something happens to someone, it was their own fault."

In contrast, she says, when animals are victimized or killed, we do not see it as the animal's fault. A victim of violence "could be anything, or anybody," she stresses.

A series of three drawings called "Prisoner" depict different people huddled in a cage, progressively losing their skin to the point of being almost raw. They are protecting themselves from more pain, explains Thompson, and are in a state of "immediately holding onto what is left of yourself."

Thompson says she was actually repulsed at some points in the work and had to cover it up and go on to something else.

Being confronted with such strong images of cruelty and body harm gives one a shaky feeling. And Thompson is not exaggerating. People are bound and tortured by others, both physically and emotionally, and people starve themselves to death for fear of becoming undesirable. Thompson's work reminds viewers of the tremendous harm society can inflict, and that its results are horrific.

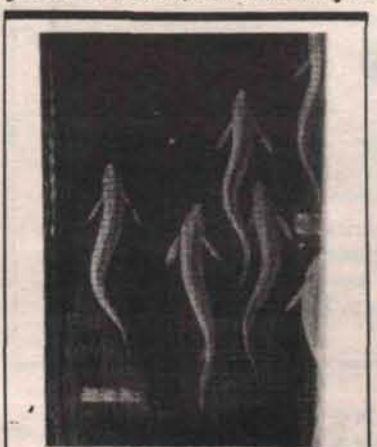
In her artist's statement, Thompson says: "It hasn't been my intention to shock. Rather, I have tried to examine something and the examination led me to connect ideas and images that I hadn't realized were implicitly linked. When describing anorexia, the degradation of body-image by pornography became obvious, and there are allusions to that here."

Thompson says in doing the work and reflecting on the December 1989 incidents, she became aware of "how fragile the human body is." As a result, the constructions and drawings incite a strong sense of the

powerlessness of the body when faced with blunt objects of torture or pain.

An image not present in *Witness* is that of a person engaged in hurting another. In explaining the absence, Thompson says much of the work was emotionally difficult and painful enough to produce and she simply could not bring herself to depict one person actively hurting another.

While women are most often subjected to violence, sexual brutality or



Fish swimming upstream are about to be poisoned by pollutants.

obsessions with body image, Thompson points out men are victims of similar pressure and of torture throughout the world, and two of her drawn figures are male.

She also says "I have attempted to dissect romantic ideas of the victim, the hero, the martyr and the concept of punishment (which is often simply revenge). I have attempted to portray cruelty, terror and punishment with a light that strips away any glamour, excitement or veneer of acceptability."

With words she has juxtaposed warm images with their opposites. "It's cold. Your bed." "A sign of their affection. A punishable offense." "She is desirable. She is not desirable." A drawing of a gaunt and

dying woman chained by her and society's addiction to a strict image of beauty makes her anything but desirable.

While *Witness* is disturbing to the core, it has another positive effect besides promoting thought and discussion on cruelty and body harm. If we are repulsed by images of bondage, torture and self-harm, then

we cannot believe them to be desired or acceptable elements of a society or relationships we want to create.

*Witness* does not contain decor for a *Better Homes and Gardens* living room. Thompson's aim was to incite an examination and discussion of painful and relevant issues and the success of her goal is obvious.

Her active presence at the show from opening night Wednesday through Sunday afternoon also enhanced the process and enlarged the experience of those who came to be their own witnesses.

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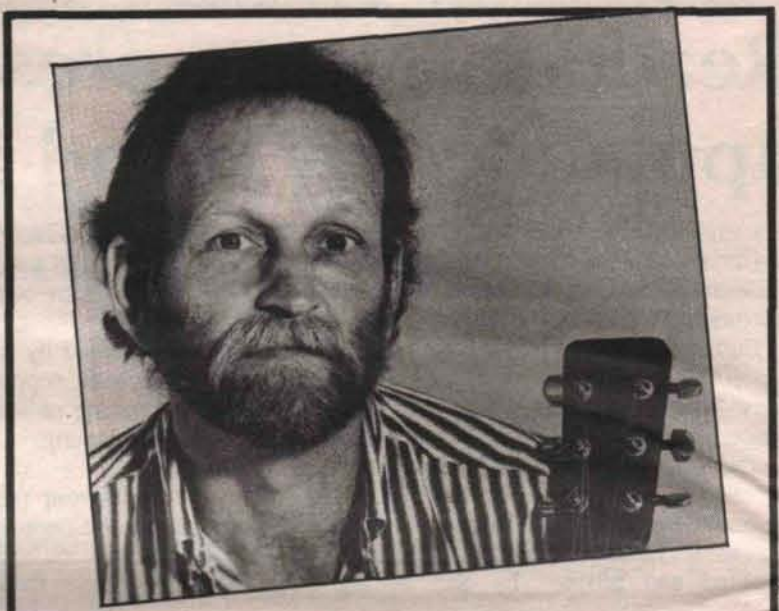
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**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

**Islanders can study "first-year" English**

A first-year college English course has been added to the menu of academic choices for Salt Spring islanders.

English 100 - An Introduction to British and North American Literature will commence in mid-January if an enrolment of 15 students is achieved. The course is sponsored by Camosun College and the island's Continuing Education office.

Course instructor is Fulford resident John Edwards, a multi-degreed teacher, author of *Roman Cookery* and the famed *Country Gourmet* newspaper column.

Edwards has previously taught for Camosun and North Island colleges and currently writes and teaches Grade Two pupils at Salt Spring Elementary School. He is also just completing instruction of Camosun-sponsored English 150 on Salt Spring, the other English course required for first-year college or university standing.

English 100 will focus on 20th Century writers, with a glance at the past to include a Shakespearean play, probably *Othello*. Some of the authors surveyed will be Dylan Thomas, Margaret Atwood, Margaret Laurence, T.S. Eliot, e.e. cummings, Alice Munro and James Joyce. All genres of writing will be examined.

Edwards says the course is for people who require first-year English credit for any number of degree and

diploma programs or for those simply wishing to study literature "with a little bit of rigour." A variety in student ages and experience is always welcome in classes, he says.

He points out the obvious advantage of having the course offered on Salt Spring. Academic interests can be commenced or supplemented without the demands of commuting.

Edwards says the offering of such courses is a benefit to high school graduates who want to commence academic pursuits without making the immediate lifestyle change of moving off-island.

Three college credits or 1.5 University of Victoria credits are given for successful completion of English 100.

Edwards studied under Lord David Cecil at Oxford University and has Master's degrees in Comparative Literature, English Literature and Classics.

The course will be discussion rather than lecture-oriented and some essay writing is required.

Course date and time will be determined by the schedules of students

The only prerequisite is Grade 12 English or the instructor's permission.

For more information or to register for the course, call Continuing Education at 537-2822 or John Edwards at 653-4594.

**RhythmToads are back**

The RhythmToads hop back on stage at the Harbour House Hotel this weekend.

The six-member group returns Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15. Don't try to label them because the music they play covers the spectrum from the Beatles to Talking Heads as well as some of their own creations.

Cheryl Fisher sings lead and strums rhythm guitar while directing the frantic antics of the rest of the group which has fun with the music.

Each member of the group offers vocal support, except drummer Mark Ponsford.

Joan Lett handles synthesizers with Bill Armstrong on lead guitar, Bert Menear on sax and Mike Keating on bass guitar. Dave Oxendale works on the production for the group.

Tap your feet from the opening chord and dance along until the finale. The music holds a high energy beat and harmonious vocals for an evening of entertainment.



Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

**Exhibition by Lorriane Sullivan opened this week at Pegasus Gallery**

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AT THE  
**MOVIES**  
AT CENTRAL HALL  
FRI., DEC. 14; SUN., MON.  
& TUES., DEC. 16-18  
8 PM  
**PREDATOR II**  
*Danny Glover*  
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