

Mary E Davidson
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Fulford, BC
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08/01/90

Gulf Islands Driftwood

The Islands Trust announces its revised budget proposal . . . Page A2

The Chamber of Commerce discusses proposed ArtSpring . . . Page B1

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR, NO. 9

50 CENTS

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1990

Weldwood looks at logging Mt. Bruce acreage

Proposed plans to log the easterly slope of Mount Bruce have raised concerns on Salt Spring Island.

Weldwood of Canada Ltd., which owns approximately 305 hectares of forest on the slopes of the mountain, is considering logging about 100 hectares of the property.

Weldwood woods manager

Sandy Grey told the *Driftwood* Monday the company is pursuing plans for the logging operation in light of access to the mountain and the positioning of the logging roads.

"There hasn't been a final decision to log yet," he said.

The decision, he indicated, could be made within a couple of weeks.

Weldwood currently has equipment on the island awaiting that decision. The forestry company is talking with the Islands Trust about the operation and may hold public information meetings when a decision has been reached.

Grey said the area in question contains old growth and second growth

trees. Weldwood's holdings on Mount Bruce can be seen from the highway in the Burgoyne Valley.

The property begins on the slope approximately behind the Fulford Firehall and continues northerly, stretching up the side of the mountain and over the crest.

Nick Gilbert, Islands Trustee for

Salt Spring said Weldwood had spoken to the Trust about logging on Gabriola Island but had not formally talked about logging Mount Bruce.

"I'm not clear about the visual impact on the Fulford valley," Gilbert said as he expressed concern about the stability of the slope once the trees had been removed.

CLUC will request tenure application

The Crown Land Use Coalition (CLUC) passed a motion at its general meeting Thursday night asking the Capital Regional District (CRD) to apply for tenure on most of the crown land on Salt Spring Island.

The province is expected to release a report at the end of next month outlining what should be done with the approximately 2000 hectares of provincially-owned park land on the island.

Speaking at a "round-table" meeting last Friday, regional director Julia Atkins said members are concerned that if a local body does not apply for tenure, some other private groups would. Sources say two logging companies have already expressed an interest in some of the land.

Atkins said the best option would be turning the property over to the community — the second best would be having it administered by the Islands Trust.

The coalition agreed, however, the CRD should apply for tenure because it is more politically recognized, and has more political clout.

If the province did agree to turn the land over to the CRD, Atkins said, the property would be administered by the parks and recreation board which is keen on leaving it in its natural state.

The coalition, in the meantime, will be holding a public meeting tomorrow night (Thursday) to discuss the recommendations contained in a local study done by land-use consultant Linda Adams.

An information flyer some of the points covered in that study was distributed to homes late last week.

Trust agrees to up its application fees

The Islands Trust will recoup some of its planning costs by increasing rezoning application fees.

Following a lengthy debate at an Islands Trust Council meeting, held in Victoria February 23 and 24, trustees passed a motion to adopt a proposed fee schedule with one amendment.

If the bylaw passes on April 1 (when the Islands Trust gains its autonomy), islanders applying for rezoning of their property will pay a \$900 fee if the application requires creation of a new zone. The \$900 fee will also apply if the application is to change zoning from one zone to another and includes a change to the text of the zone's description.

An application to change zoning from one zone to another without a change in zone description, will cost applicants \$600, as will an application to change the text of a zone without an actual zoning change.

If the application requires an amendment to the Official Community Plan or Part One of the Rural Land Use Bylaw Amendment (not applicable to Salt Spring), an additional \$200 payment will be required.

Official Community Plan Amendment Applications (including Amendment to Part One of the Rural Land Use Bylaw) will cost \$600.

Fifty per cent of the application fee will be refunded if the application does not proceed to public hearing, or if it is withdrawn prior to public hearing.

TURN TO PAGE A2

Depot location sought

The Solid Waste Committee is looking for a new home for its recycling station.

Speaking at a "round table" meeting last Friday, regional director Julia Atkins said the recycling station has to be out of its current home on Rainbow Road by the end of March. She said the committee is looking at three potential sites, the Magee Sawmill site (on Beddis Road), the Eric Booth industrial property and the Blackburn dump.

She added, however, that the Booth property may be too small. It was also suggested the group may

TURN TO PAGE A16



Salt Spring's Mel Sumner did not win any medals at the B.C. Winter Games, but the 69-year-old offered some stiff competition to other competitors.

Winning was not the point

Salt Spring's Mel Sumner skied competitively against stiff opposition at the recent B.C. Winter Games in Penticton.

"Of course I didn't win any medals," Sumner said. "But that's not the point, really."

Sumner is 69 years old and skies one-legged.

Nine years ago, following a battle against cancer, Sumner had his left leg amputated at the knee. Five years ago, he learned to ski on one leg.

He removes the prosthesis and dons the right ski with two outriggers for stability and swoops down the slopes. He competes in both the slalom and the

giant slalom. Sumner learned to ski through a rehabilitation program offered by the Disabled Skiers Association of B.C. The group skies the hills of Vancouver Islands.

At Penticton, six of the disabled skiers from the Vancouver Island group faced 18 other hand-capped skiers for the medals.

Sumner was the only athlete from Salt Spring competing in the Winter Games.

"Where were the rest of the people?" he asked.

The B.C. Winter Games are open to athletes of all ages from 13 to, in his case, 69.

APC agrees to recommend duplex change

The Salt Spring Islands Trust is moving to shrink a loophole in the Community Plan which could have doubled the proposed population of the island.

The first step in closing the loophole was taken last week when the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) agreed to recommend a change to the Community Plan,

limiting duplexes to the Residential 1 area of Ganges and the Rural Residential area of Maliview at Fernwood.

Duplexes will no longer be allowed in areas zoned Rural, Rural Residential 1, Rural Residential 2, Rural Residential 3, as well as Uplands and Forest zones. However, the duplexes built in those zones prior to adoption of the amendments

would be considered "permitted uses."

The changes to the community plan would permit only one single family dwelling on parcels of land less than 1.2 hectares (3 acres). If the parcel is larger than 1.2 hectares, a seasonal cottage not larger than 54 square metres (602 square feet) would also be allowed.

Duplexes would be allowed on

parcels of at least 1,675 square metres (18,030 square feet) or larger if the area is serviced by a community sewer. Currently, only the Ganges core and Maliview have community sewers.

A change in the definition of a comprehensive development area also allows the Trust to eliminate density trading for duplexes.

With the duplex provisions in the

community plan and the zoning bylaws, it would have been conceivable for the population to grow to 30,000 residents, double the proposed 15,000 as laid out in the current community plan.

Limiting duplexes to specific areas would help bring the natural population growth into line with the proposed growth.

Rezoning prices increase

From Page A1

The Islands Trust currently charges \$300 to amend a zoning bylaw and \$50 for a bylaw requiring amendment to the Community Plan.

Under the new fee schedule a development variance permit will cost \$250 compared to a previous fee of \$50, and a development permit, previously issued free of charge, will cost \$300.

As Gabriola trustee Susan Yates noted, the fees represent a "drastic increase." However, she added, the Trust has a lot of catching up to do, and "everyone else around us is not frightened of charging fees."

As debate on the schedule got underway, Islands Trust vice-chairman and Hornby island representative Carol Martin proposed it be amended to note that applications requiring more than one zoning change would be charged as separate applications.

She and several other trustees hoped this would address the extra costs in planning for comprehensive developments.

Saturna Island trustee John Money spoke adamantly against the fee schedule, insisting the structure represents a double taxation to residents.

(Property owners within the Trust area will see an increase in taxes paid to the Islands Trust, after it gains autonomy on April 1. See related story.)

Money said the \$900 fee is excessive to a small business and the schedule will discourage people from going the "right route," causing them to over-expand a home industry.

An amendment proposed by Martin to drop the \$900 to \$600 and the \$600 to \$400 was later voted down.

As trustees noted, the increased value of land due to the rezoning would cover the \$900 fee.

Gabriola Trustee Jack Sickavish noted that when a planner (and staff) spends a week or more on a project, the Trust should be able to defray some of those costs. (Islands Trust manager Cynthia Hawsworth said the fees will in no way cover all the costs involved in researching, advertising and documenting a zoning change.)

"Instead of recouping the money through blanket taxation," Sickavish said, "it seems appropriate to tax the people using it."

Compared to prices charged by other land-use planning bodies the proposed Islands Trust fee is slightly higher than average.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) charges \$500 for zoning and Community Plan amendments and development variance permits cost \$100. In the Cariboo, it costs \$650 for a zoning change or Community Plan amendment. Zoning changes in the Central Kootenay Regional District cost \$1,100.

In Whistler, developers are charged a rate reflective of the number of work hours put into the application: a cost which is usually substantially higher than figures quoted above.

THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: For the week beginning Monday, February 26

Sunny Monday and Tuesday with increasing clouds by Wednesday. Showers are expected throughout the weekend.

HIGHS: 13 degrees C.

LOWS: 0 degrees C.

Chance of precipitation 0 per cent through Wednesday, 70 per cent Friday and Saturday.

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Budget increased

The Islands Trust Council has approved a draft budget, totalling close to \$1.7 million.

Representatives from the 13 islands within the Trust area gave their approval to the draft budget at a Council meeting held February 23 and 24 in Victoria.

The figure, which has increased approximately \$115,000 since a draft budget was approved at the December Council meeting, represents moneys derived from the government and local tax levies.

Of the total proposed figure, the Islands Trust is requesting the government supply some \$607,311.

If the proposed budget receives ministerial approval, approximately \$1,060,418 will be paid through local taxes.

Islands Trust manager Cynthia Hawsworth said it is impossible to determine how this will affect individual taxes. Increases in taxes will vary from island to island, she added, and some people — those cushioned by the homeowners grant — will not see any increase in their annual tax bill.

Hawsworth said the actual tax increase will not become apparent until the surveyor of taxes determines it according to the assessment base.

The budget must receive approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs prior to its implementation.

Most of the increases from the December figure have occurred due to staffing increases, Hawsworth said.

Establishing its own budget is one of the features given to the Trust through new Islands Trust legislation (Bill 78), which becomes effective April 1.

Although the Trust's new autonomy will increase the rate of local taxes, Islands Trust chairman

Nick Gilbert told the *Driftwood* islanders will see the benefits of autonomy through improved planning capabilities, especially in the area of long term planning.

Gilbert said the Trust tax levy will still be lower than both the amounts taken by the Capital Regional District and the school district.

He said most people he has spoken with do not oppose the tax increase. Individuals in the low income bracket will only marginally

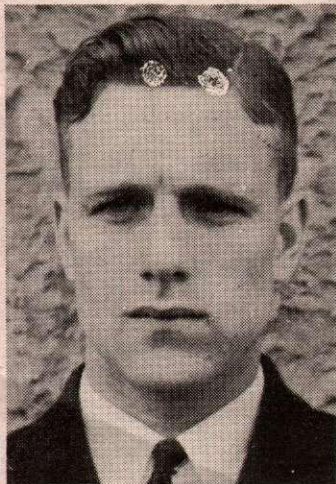
feel the effects, he added, and those with a higher property assessment are generally willing to pay the extra money for assurance of the Trust mandate to preserve and protect.

A breakdown of the proposed budget anticipates a total expenditure of \$212,000 for legislative services (honorariums and expenses (etc.) for the Trust Fund Board, the Trust Council, the Executive Committee, local Trust Committees, and Council Sub Committees); and \$10,000 for costs incurred by Advisory Planning Commissions, the Board of Variance and other advisory boards.

Under the section General Administration, the Trust expects to pay \$25,000 for elections; \$75,000 for administration services; \$114,400 for financial services; \$212,300 for clerical and secretarial services; \$70,000 for legal services; \$10,000 for personnel services; \$113,800 for office premises; \$123,500 for office operations; and a further \$10,000 miscellaneous costs.

Under the heading Land Use Planning Services, the following costs are expected: \$89,000 for mapping services; \$592,000 for planning services; and \$44,700 for enforcement regulations and services.

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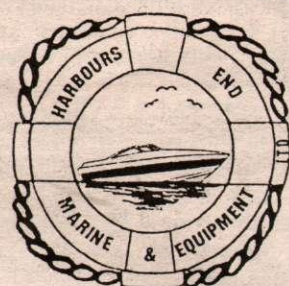
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FEB.					
28	0010	5.1	3	0225	8.8
WE	0645	10.9	SA	0755	11.0
	1315	3.9		1600	2.2
	1950	9.3			
MAR.					
1	0050	6.5	SU	0055	9.8
TH	0705	11.0		0340	9.6
	1405	3.0		0830	10.7
	2115	9.2		1705	2.1
			5	0220	10.4
2	0135	7.7	MO	0550	10.0
FR	0730	11.1		0910	10.3
	1500	2.5		1810	2.1
	2255	9.4			
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			TU	0800	9.7
				1020	9.8
				1910	2.2
			7	0350	10.8
			WE	0905	9.1
				1200	9.4
				2005	2.4



537-4202 Harbours End, Ganges

Grenades removed from a residence

Ganges RCMP blocked off Fulford-Ganges Road for approximately 10 minutes last week while three hand grenades were exploded at the Horel pit.

The hand grenades were removed from the attic of a Scott Point residence by two bomb disposal members of the Esquimalt Armed Forces last Wednesday.

Two of the grenades were found last Tuesday when a B.C. Tel employee undertook a wiring job at the residence. A third was found the following day.

Two of the hand grenades were of World War One vintage and the third is from the World War Two era.

In other police matters, local RCMP attended two motor vehicle accidents last week.

On February 24, a passenger sustained minor injuries following a two-car collision on Fernwood Road. The drivers of both cars were from Victoria.

The 33-year-old driver of the first car was charged with following too close behind another vehicle when he rear-ended the car in front of him.

The first vehicle sustained \$1,500 in damages, while the second will cost \$500 to repair.

The woman who sustained minor injuries was a passenger in the second vehicle.

Police also attended a collision at the intersection of Lower Ganges and Hereford road on February 26.

A total of \$1,200 was sustained by the two vehicles involved. There were no injuries and police did not lay charges.

Police were called on to direct traffic when a van caught fire at the top of Ganges Hill last week.

The incident occurred at approximately 4:45 p.m., February 22. A police spokesman said the fire started when oil leaked onto the engine.

There were no injuries.

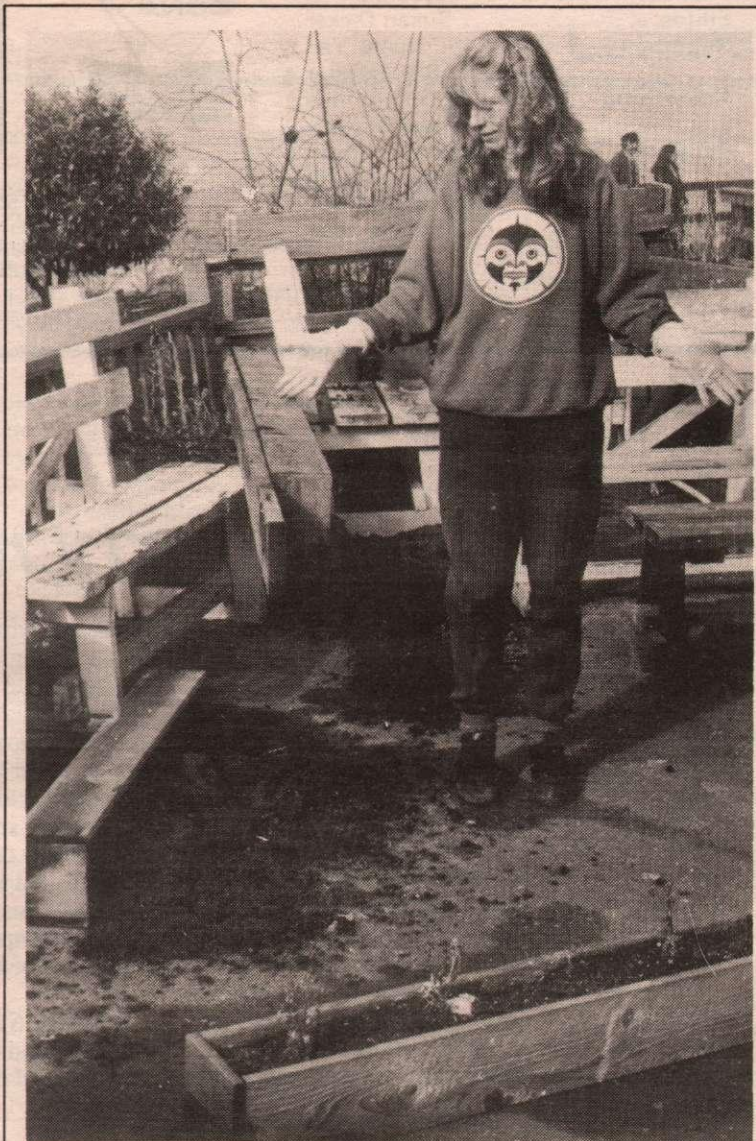
Evening blaze doused

Prompt response by the Salt Spring firefighters prevented what could have been a serious fire Monday evening.

The firefighters responded to a 911 call to douse a blaze on the shake roof of Say Simard's Lee's Hill home at 8:50 p.m. Fire chief Les Wagg said an area of the roof, slightly less than a square metre, had been ignited by embers from the chimney.

The fire also caused structural damage to the roof trusses and an estimate of at least \$2,000 was put on the fire damage. There was slight water damage to the interior of the dwelling as well.

The fire was spotted quickly and the emergency phone number, 911, was called. Wagg noted that the emergency service was "very fast and effective."



Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Vandals stopped at the Cottage Tea Room -- but not for lunch. Gloria O'Hara expresses amazement at the damage caused during the night.

Vandals strike Mouat's

Once again, vandals attempted to change the face of Ganges.

The focus of their efforts this time was the dockside by Mouat's Trading, particularly the Cottage Tea Room and O'Hara's Fresh Fish. They struck at night between Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23.

Benches from the patio of the Tea Room were hurled into the harbour. Planters in the area were damaged or destroyed. Tar paper covering the outer wall of the Tea Room where new siding is being installed was torn down.

Flower boxes were ripped from the fence around the patio and broken. Water was poured into the gas tank of O'Hara's familiar yellow

fish wagon. The vandals used paper and books in an effort to start a fire near the Coast Guard station.

"The rage is just unbelievable," commented Gloria O'Hara, owner of the fish shop.

Ganges RCMP are continuing their investigation into the matter.

ANNOUNCEMENT



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Mental Health worker needed

Mental well-being should be priority

The director of the Salt Spring Community Centre says she applied last March for funds to bring a mental health worker to Salt Spring Island.

Close to one year later, Barbara Jordan-Knox has heard nothing final on the request.

Jordan-Knox says an increasing number of Gulf Island teenagers are experiencing severe emotional problems. This, combined with the shortage of counsellors available to help them locally, makes the delay unfortunate and inexcusable.

Speaking at a health forum last week, Jordan-Knox said counsellors at the Community Centre and elsewhere on the island are noting severe, previously unseen behaviours, particularly among teenagers. These range from extreme eating disorders to an increased frequency of suicidal tendencies. While the island has one health nurse, two community health workers and a handful of counsellors, there is no one specifically working in the area of mental health.

This means many teenagers and others who need long-term, specialized help, are not getting the attention they need.

In an effort to solve some of these problems, the Community Centre has launched a parent-peer counselling group and plans to offer a course designed especially to help young women in the 14 to 20 age group.

Furthermore, individuals concerned about the situation plan to meet at the Community Centre next Tuesday to see if they can find other solutions.

While the courses and meeting will help the situation, it remains important that trained professionals are brought to the island.

If the reason for the funding delay is a shortage of funds within the Ministry of Mental Health Services itself, then the government must allocate more resources to that department.

A healthy future, after all, means more than having the right industry, the right constitution, the right trade agreement — it means having healthy people.

OPINION

Traditional party not pretty

To the Editor,
 "But boozy after-grad parties are tradition."

So, in their day were slavery, child labour, white supremacy, and non-citizen status for women and minorities.

Police, hospital staff, and other crisis workers "traditionally" gear up for extra work during grad weekends. We'd really rather have it business as usual. It's not a fun tradition to phone a kid's parents to tell them their celebrating 17-year-old was in a motor vehicle accident or was found passed out on the beach or thought he could jump the distance between two moving vehicles.

Sometimes kids are funny when they come in drunk through the hospital doors. Most of the time they're not. They're out of control of themselves. Sober, they'd be embarrassed to see a replay of

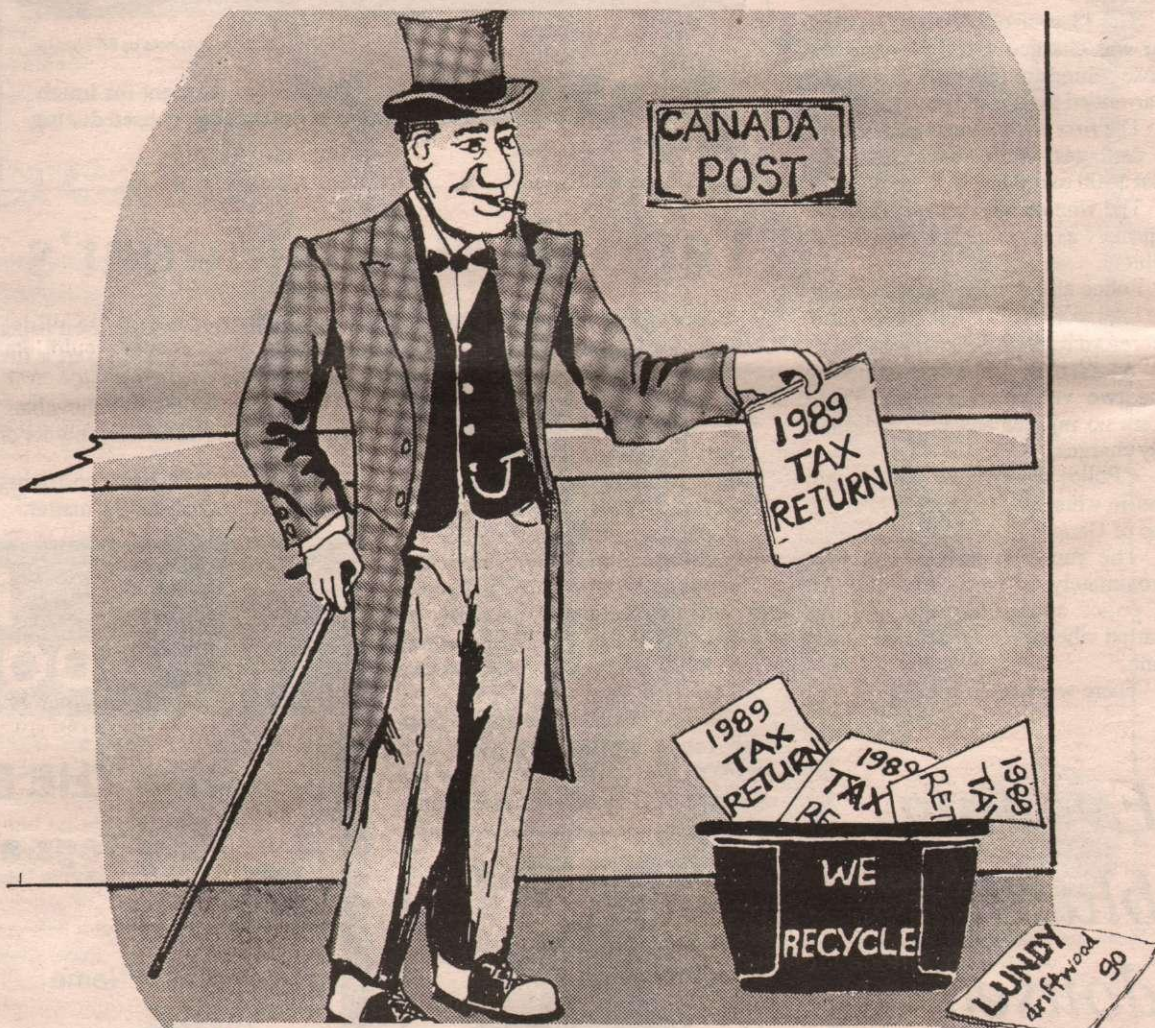
themselves vomiting, belligerent, foul-mouthed and staggering. They don't make it to the bathroom with inevitable results.

You may have noticed I haven't used a gender-specific pronoun in the description above. The girls are fewer but still show up in the same state.

Not your kids? Not if they haven't been drinking, snorting, smoking or shooting up.

Need I say on behalf of all health care workers, dry after-grad is a tradition we'd like to see initiated here this year. The hospitals, car wreckers, insurance companies, ambulance and RCMP don't really need the business.

VONNIE SIMPKIN, RN,
 Gulf Islands Chapter,
 Registered Nurses Ass'n of B.C.



Recycling movement gains popularity

Add sparkle to your paper: make up the news

To the editor,
 My Wednesday began early when I woke with a burning bout of hot air, accompanied by a touch of verbal constipation. Things only got worse and the appearance of your newspaper did nothing to improve my day.

After searching island stores — unsuccessfully — for a product to rectify my ailment, I decided to write you a letter, hoping to alleviate the pain.

Incidentally, during my frustrating search for this particular product, I noted a disturbing number of "Green" items, cluttering local store shelves.

Now I can name 22, possibly 22 and one-half, people who care about the environment, but the rest...?

I mean what is the point of worrying about trees, dioxins and the ozone

Off the Record

SUSAN DICKER



add that I dislike the colour green.

Parking in Ganges is certainly a topical concern. I was unable to find any parking space near (within 25 feet) of my destination, so I slid into an available spot at the top of someone's driveway. Now I wasn't going to be any longer than one-half hour, and if anyone is in that much of a hurry to get out of his driveway, he should not be living on Salt Spring, where we cherish a slower lifestyle.

cause when I returned, they had ticketed my car! When will the police stop working against the community?

As I mentioned above, the appearance of your newspaper did nothing to improve my day. The Islands Trust, the CRD, the environment, MLAs, MPs, court and crime made up your headlines. Where is the news?

Instead of giving up evenings to

views and making inquiries, your reporters should be out there creating the news. And if there are no murders, bank thefts or scandalous government dealings then *make it up!*

Give your paper some sparkle.

Personally, I think the single most important issue facing this island is the availability (or lack thereof) of brand name products in local stores. If we see something advertised on television, we should be able to purchase it here. We live on an island, not a separate planet. Why haven't you addressed this issue?

I am also interested in the respiratory systems of Fernwood-area moths and to this date, I have never seen an article on this subject in your newspaper.

With a population base of less than 12,000 people in the Gulf Is-

land, you should have an interest in every issue.

As for your re-design: I certainly don't like it. Not that I liked your archaic style of the past either (you may recall I wrote a series of letters on that subject several months ago). If you must change (something which should, in general, be avoided) I would prefer a change slow enough to prevent me from noticing it.

I helped produce a news-sheet in the fifth grade, so you can't tell me it is a difficult task to publish a newspaper.

I feel much better, having written this letter: my morning ailments seem to be disappearing.

I realize it is unlikely you will print this letter; however, if you don't, I will accuse you of suppressing the voice of the community. (If, on the other hand, you do print it, I will deny writing it.)

Opinion

Capital
Comment

HUBERT BEYER



VICTORIA — Once a year, millions of finance ministers from coast to coast are aghast at the incompetence of their colleague in Ottawa.

The moment the federal budget is introduced, the average Canadian of voting age turns into a fiscal wizard whose talents have unfortunately not been called on to solve the nation's financial problems, and who is damned mad about this sorry state of affairs.

Last Tuesday was no exception. Michael Wilson, the inept wimp, once again had brought down a budget anyone with a floating-eight-decimal-calculator could have improved on. Hell, my eight-year-old grandson thinks he could have done better.

So do Premier Vander Zalm and Finance Minister Mel Couvelier, both of whom were more than a little perturbed by the federal budget.

The usually soft-spoken premier became pretty agitated, using words such as deceitful, outrageous and terrible to describe what he thought Wilson had done to poor British Columbia. Why was Wilson so nasty to British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario? Obviously, the scoundrel was penalizing success, the premier replied to his rhetorical question with reference to our province's fine fiscal record.

Couvelier equally soured by budget

"We haven't caused all of the problems they're suffering from. Yet, when it comes to addressing those problems they sock it to largely three provinces," the premier said.

Couvelier was equally soured by the budget which will tap B.C. for an additional \$120 million next year alone by cutting back on transfer payments. He also wasn't amused by having to rewrite his own budget which was just about finished.

Well, guys, that's what you get for bragging about balanced budgets and rainy-day funds. Both the premier and Couvelier must have rubbed the boys in Ottawa the wrong way, which shouldn't surprise anyone, least of all the premier who has alternately ridiculed and blasted Ottawa on numerous occasions for not being able to balance the books.

Ottawa, he repeatedly mused, should follow British Columbia's example. Well, Ottawa did. When former premier Bill Bennett gave us restraint, he socked it to us in spades; when Wilson brought down his budget, he did likewise.

Came back with a Robin Hood budget

You can't really blame Wilson for what he did to us after having his nose rubbed in our balanced budget and \$1.2 billion B.S. Fund once too often. So he came back with a Robin Hood budget, taking from the rich provinces and, if not giving to the poor, then at least not taking any more from them.

I don't think that's so bad, really, and aside from my western patriotic duty which seems to demand some public manifestation of loathing and despising on my part, I don't believe Wilson's budget deserves all the brickbats that are thrown its way.

True, he probably could have cut some more fat, particularly from the defence budget. What with communism in Europe quickly becoming an historic oddity, who needs all those Canadian soldiers overseas? Isn't it time for some peace dividends?

So why the sudden anger?

But by and large, the budget is at least an attempt to get the rising deficit under control. While aiming for a \$28.5 billion deficit may not appear to be so great to those of us who have to live within a budget, it's better than a \$32 billion shortfall which would have been generated, had it not been for Wilson's cuts.

And who should help get the federal house in order, if not those provinces that can afford it? New Brunswick certainly isn't in any shape to help out.

I should also mention that Mulroney and his Tories are Vander Zalm's and Couvelier's soul brothers, good conservatives one and all. Why the sudden anger?

And finally, it isn't as if British Columbia were called upon to help balance the books of some third-world country. This is Canada we're talking about, and no matter who pays what, in the end it all comes out of the pockets of Canadians.

Perhaps those who say that Canada is not a nation, but a common-interest group are right. Sarcasm aside though, I can see no reason why the premier is so upset, unless, of course, he's setting his sights on the political advantages that may accrue from the budget.

A little Ottawa-bashing has never hurt any premier. So, on reflection, the Vander Zalm's outrage may be motivated as much by political strategy as genuine anger. After all, finding the additional \$120 million won't be all that difficult.

Couvelier has about \$1.2 billion stashed away in his Budget Stabilization Fund, fondly referred to as the B.S. Fund. The interest on that fund alone will pay for the cuts in transfer payments. Of course, Couvelier could always raise taxes to make up for the shortfall.

Ban glass panels

To the Editor,

Five years ago when we built on Salt Spring we opted for glass panels on the sundecks instead of the more conventional wooden design. We did this to secure unobstructed views and better shelter from winds.

Glass panels have proven to be a big mistake and I would advise your readers not to consider this option for sundecks. In fact, I think that glass panels should be banned by the building codes.

While providing good vision, glass panels give little shelter from the wind and are difficult and time consuming to clean. However, more importantly, the glass panels have proven to be very destructive of bird life, especially hummingbirds.

After trying with hardly any success to reduce the bird kill by hanging owl figures at strategic places and pasting hawk silhouettes on the glass panels, I did achieve apparent success this past summer by covering each panel with black, plastic netting. The netting has small 1/2-inch mesh and is the type used to hold insulation in place under buildings.

I really wish we had never decided to use glass panels.

HAROLD HALVORSON,
Ganges.

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Driftwood photo by Bill Webster

Fernwood Elementary School recently underwent expansion, but the number of pupils attending the school keeps growing. These Grade Six students learn about running computers in the hallway because there is no other available space to house the class.

Pender Islands residents rally against Bedwell development

Action is continuing on North and South Pender Islands to organize residents against plans to renovate Bedwell Harbour Resort.

The four property owner groups on North and South Pender are being drawn into the controversy which would see the area around the resort heavily developed.

Concern stems from zoning bylaw which would allow up to 225 units for the site.

While the plans for expansion have not yet received final approval, Pender Islands Trustees have commented that the proposal meets the letter of the Community Plan and the zoning bylaws. But the four Trustees have not offered approval of the plan. Conor Pacific Canada, a Vancouver based merchant bank, revealed plans to expand the current 15 units on the property to a total of

82 units. The concern of residents stems from the zoning bylaw which would allow development of up to 33 per cent of the four hectares of commercial zone on the property. This could translate into 225 units for the site.

The group organizing opposition to the scope of the plan have indicated that legal action against the developer would fail and they are attempting to "evoke the moral sense of the developer."

Robert Nowack, chairman of Conor Pacific, has said he will cooperate with Pender residents to ensure their concerns are met. The Pender residents committee claims that so far, there does not appear to be much consultation being carried out.

Disappointment also enters the concerns of residents. The provincial representatives, Terry Huberts and Mel Couvelier, have both been contacted but have not commented on the situation.

Lynn Hunter, federal member of parliament for the area has, however, offered support.

As plans to oppose the scope of the development proceed, organizers are gathering signatures on a petition to prove the width of opposition, not to development of Bedwell Resort, but to the potential scope of the deal.

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Meeting will scrutinize local harbour "control"

The care and control of Ganges Harbour has become a local issue, creating wide interest on Salt Spring.

Small Craft Harbours Branch, a department of the federal ministry of fisheries and oceans, bears nominal responsibility for most of the government wharves. However, a recently instituted policy aimed at increased efficiency and lower costs allows for the formation of local management committees to take care of the federal facilities.

The Salt Spring group, currently composed of five fishermen and a representative of both the Chamber of Commerce and a group of other commercial users, is busy arranging incorporation of themselves and considering expanding the committee to include another member of the community.

The committee has received applications from the Islands Trust as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission among other groups. The added member will represent the community-at-large.

The local management group is meant to reflect the concerns of harbour users, which is why the fishermen are heavily represented. Their mandate is not to decide development issues for the six Small Craft Harbours facilities on Salt Spring but to manage them.

Small Craft Harbours controls the wharves at Fernwood, Vesuvius, both the Ganges docks, Fulford Harbour and Burgoyne Bay. The status

of the wharf at Musgrave landing is not entirely clear but it had been under the control of small craft harbours branch.

The wharfinger, stationed in Ganges, would come under the direction of the management group

A public meeting will be held on the issue on Saturday, March 3 in the music room at Salt Spring Elementary School, beginning at 2 p.m.

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Smarmy?

To the Editor,
First came the Ganges Uglification Project (G.U.P.), which whispered warnings in our ears by annihilating any visible signs of life in the downtown core (i.e. greenery), and replacing it with a few apologetic, token shrubs.

Then came Grossland, larger than life, and the feeding frenzy of condom-minimums ("building to make Salt Spring a safer place.") Now we have the *Driftwood*, once the pillar of community, pulling a Michael Jackson.

Those never-ending receding hills are symptomatic of minimalist Nart

at its worst. However, if yuppification is your goal, then you've hit the nail on the head! Yes, you have found the ideal smarmy, inoffensive, tasteless logo of the future and will go down in my blossoming book of Worst Decisions Ever Made — and just for good measure I'll put yours right after my favourite big hit "The Sewer".

Congratulations! (No wonder Tony and Alice are leaving the island!)

LINDSAY LEWIS,
Ganges

P.S. Would all those in favour of this plastic surgery, please raise their hands. I've yet to meet one person.

Room for criticism

To the Editor,
Mr. Layard's response to my letter re: "vehicle inspection," left a lot of room for criticism with broad generalizations about "law and order" being upheld by the local police force. What is their mandate or "their motto" anyway? And why do they import off-islanders to impose fines here? Not one of the 186 violations cited was signed by one of the big guns here. Shouldn't they first issue a warning, then fine?

Statistically, less than 2 per cent of accidents are caused by vehicle

defects and most people are pretty responsible about fixing things that may cause a hazard.

A lot of people hide behind the patriarchal attitude of "law and order" to maintain their distance from solving local problems and issues, or policing their own community. We need a "kangaroo court" once a month here to settle grievances, debts and find solutions for problems, like they do in Africa. The King meets with local tribesmen at regular intervals and they sort things out to everyone's satisfaction.

Although, I might wish to support the police force, I hate "authority figures" who do what they're told under the illusion they know and do what's right.

There's a humorous movie called "Flashback" that satirizes this subject very well.

Finally, somehow I doubt the duty policeman would appreciate me accompanying him on the job for two hours, as Mr. Layard suggested, let alone forty-eight; I might re-arrange "the Force."

SUE HISCOCKS,
Ganges

Offensive

To the Editor,
Your Letters section is a favourite with many *Driftwood* readers. Through its columns we achieve an interesting overview of what is im-

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News

Local trustee says parts of new legislation should be looked at

Salt Spring Islands Trustee John Stepaniuk told a meeting of the Community Planning Association (CPA) he is concerned over the long term application of Bill 78, the new Islands Trust act.

By SUSAN DICKER
The Driftwood

Stepaniuk spoke at the association's February 20 meeting after Marc Holmes presented a history of the Trust and Trust Chairman Nick Gilbert spoke on the new legislation.



John Stepaniuk

Under the new act, which gives the Trust autonomy as of April 1, the Council as a whole — all 26 island representatives — sits at the top of the Trust hierarchy. It can reject any bylaws contrary to the Trust policy statement — something which has yet to be drafted.

Under the former legislation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs was called on to approve or reject bylaws.

The chairman and the executive committee (two vice-chairmen) sit under the council in the new hierarchy. Previously, the entire executive committee sat with the two local trustees to vote on local matters. Under the new legislation, only one executive committee member sits with the two local trustees.

Stepaniuk told the meeting he

received a memo on January 10 which stated the new legislation "further provides that the executive committee will review local bylaw amendments and may reject them if they are contrary to the trust policy or object."

Stepaniuk feels that on islands represented by a local trustee and a trustee who is an elected executive member there is the appearance of conflict.

"The local trustees enact a local bylaw, fully endorsed, then the executive member takes the bylaw to Victoria to review, and possibly reject, on the basis of general policy."

"The long term implications of this should be fully understood. Future elections to the Trust executive could become very political."

In other words, Stepaniuk is concerned that a local trustee on any island, who is also an executive member, can carry his or her interest one step beyond the second local trustee.

"I wouldn't want to be put in that position," Stepaniuk later told the *Driftwood*.

Politically, he added, the temptation might be to stack the executive with either pro- or anti-development members.

There are two ways to overcome this problem, he said. First, on the islands where a trustee is elected to the three-member executive, the community could elect another trustee.

Another solution would be to return to the former method, where all three executive members sit with the local trustees for bylaw approval on the local level.

Addressing another concern, Stepaniuk told the CPA meeting that achievement of Trust objectives will require the "utmost co-operation" with the ministries which control matters of forestry, transportation, mining, economic development, watershed protection and pollution

control.

Stepaniuk further indicated that the Islands Trust's draft budget provides for administration and plan-

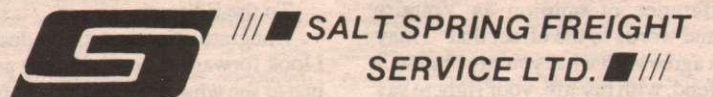
ning structures at the management level; however, at the local level there is no provision for technicians and planners with sufficient funding and time to carry out the "more thorough evaluation necessary to satisfy" concerns.

Stepaniuk noted Salt Spring's population has risen from 6,200 in 1986 to approximately 7,600 today. The ratio of young people has increased considerably, he noted.

"Up to now planning has not considered cultural and recreational needs of the island. . . . The goals and objectives of our Community Plan are sound, and present a challenge to all of us to work towards achieving them."

"The Islands Trust has to concentrate its budget on the needs of the communities, in particular, areas such as Salt Spring which are undergoing considerable changes in such a short time."

Stepaniuk later acknowledged that draft budget changes introduced at last weekend's Trust Council meeting addressed some of these concerns.



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Move is examined

The Community Planning Association (CPA) will consider the feasibility of moving the Islands Trust office from Victoria to Salt Spring Island.

Association chairman Sid Wigen told the group's annual general meeting, held February 20 in the high school band room, a study group formed from the board of directors would consider the feasibility of the move and report on the subject within the next month.

Later in the week, association member Max Soder told a Capital Regional District (CRD) "round-table" meeting the CPA is concerned that if the Trust continues to maintain an office in Victoria, it will alienate itself from the people it represents.

However, local architect Hank Schubart told the "round-table" meeting he is concerned that if the Trust moved its office here, Salt Spring would come to be viewed in the same manner as Victoria. Schubart suggested another idea might be to establish Trust offices on each of the Outer Islands and equip them with their own staff.

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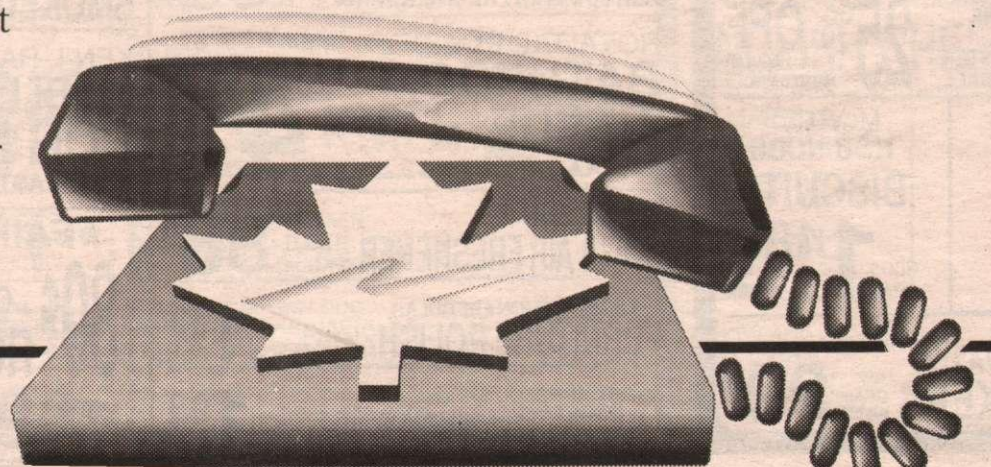
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Two impaired driving charges net jail term

A Ganges man was ordered to spend 30 days in jail and pay \$850 in fines after pleading guilty to two counts of impaired driving in the February 13 sitting of the Ganges provincial court.

The court also suspended his driver's licence for seven years.

Thomas Schlegel, 25, was charged after two separate incidents which occurred last summer.

Crown counsel Edward Ormheim told the court that on the night of June 23, Sergeant Larry Wendel and Constable Brian Brack of the Ganges RCMP detachment were driving west on Vesuvius Road when they saw a vehicle drive over the centre

line and onto the shoulder of the road. The officers followed the car which continued to drive erratically for some time before the driver stopped.

Schlegel was taken to the RCMP station where he was offered use of the telephone to obtain a lawyer. Instead, the court learned, he attempted to call Switzerland. He was given a breathalyzer test and charged with driving while impaired.

Ormheim also told the court that on July 30, Constable Gary Styles was driving on the Lower Ganges Road when he saw a black Ford speeding toward him. Styles chased the truck which continued to veer

over the centre line, reaching speeds of 130 kilometres per hour.

After following the truck for seven kilometres, Styles slowed down but left his lights on. Eventually the truck went out of control and drove into the ditch. Styles reported noticing a strong smell of alcohol when Schlegel left the truck. The accused was taken to the detachment office for breathalyzer tests and later charged with impaired driving.

Defence counsel Mayland McKimm told the court the first incident occurred after Schlegel had spent the evening drinking with friends at Sea Capers.

He decided to drive home because

the people he was drinking with were drunk and it was his truck.

In the second incident, McKimm said Schlegel had been at the Harbour House with his common law wife and had called a cab when the couple left the bar. However, the couple had a fight before the cab arrived and Schlegel decided to drive home.

McKimm said Schlegel would lose his job if he went to jail and that

he had already paid for repairs to his truck.

In commenting on the case, Judge R.E. Hudson said the function of the court was to comment on the driving and some of the circumstances were extreme.

He suspended Schlegel's licence for seven years, ordered him to spend 30 days in jail (to be served on weekends) and pay the court \$850.

Islander found guilty of theft

A Ganges man was put on probation for four months and ordered to perform 20 hours of community work after he was found guilty of taking a sheet of plywood from a local lumber yard.

Defence counsel Edward Ormheim told the February 13 sitting of the Ganges provincial court that Thomas Schlegel, 25, and a 27-year-old co-accused, took three sheets of plywood from Windsor Plywood after paying for only two pieces. The charges against the co-accused were later dropped.

A witness for the Crown told the court that on the afternoon of March 23, Schlegel told him he needed two sheets of plywood. After sorting through the pile, he helped the two men load one sheet. Then Schlegel went in to pay the bill.

The co-accused loaded the second and returned to the truck. The witness said Schlegel complained about the price of the wood. After being in the truck for a few seconds, the two men got out, loaded a third sheet and drove away.

Another witness said he told Schlegel the plywood cost \$27.95 a sheet when he paid the bill. He said he remembered Schlegel ordering two pieces.

Taking the stand in his own defence, Schlegel said he asked about the cost of the plywood when he first went to the lumber yard and was told it was about \$20 a sheet. He said after choosing two sheets of wood and helping to load one, he told the co-accused to pick up a third while he paid the bill.

When he returned to the truck and discovered the co-accused had not

loaded the third piece, the two men took a third sheet and drove away.

Schlegel said he had not checked the receipt because he remembered ordering three sheets. A copy of the receipt could not be found when RCMP later checked the truck.

Ormheim said the key was whether Schlegel had seen his copy of the bill, which Schlegel denied. However, one witness said he had seen Schlegel examine the invoice when he left the office.

In reviewing the case, Judge R.E. Hudson said the witness seemed credible. He said he thought Schlegel was upset at the cost of the lumber and took a third sheet to make up the difference. Schlegel was sentenced to four months probation and ordered to perform 20 hours of community work.

KEVIN T. WILKIE, D.T.C.M.
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REGISTRATION FEES:

- T-Ball & Coach Pitch **15⁰⁰**
- Little League **23⁰⁰**
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All newcomers must produce a copy of birth certificate on registration!

GIRLS' SOFTBALL

This year we are forming a girls' softball league. Come on out and fill out a registration form on March 3.

Ages 9-15
Registration Fee \$22



On behalf of the Salt Spring Minor Ball Association we thank the following for their support last year:

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Entertainment



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Artsen

LYNDA LAUSHWAY



Paintings by Michael Robb are on display at the Gulf Jewels Gallery in Ganges until March 10.

The exhibit is comprised of nine paintings, mainly acrylics, but also some oils.

This is work of Robb's done over the last seven years. Robb brings an interesting and eclectic background to his work. He has worked as a sculptor, graphic artist, jeweller, cabinet maker, architectural designer, glass blower, and painter. These varied skills bring a unique quality to his artwork.

The paintings are rich with Robb's personal symbolism. The viewer is drawn to try to understand the meaning of the symbols and their juxtaposition with both animate and inanimate scenes.

Recurring images of stars, electric cords and various elements of nature lend an air of mystery to the work.

"I just let my mind wander . . ."

Robb considers the basis of his work to be a "graphic daydream," and these paintings often do embody a dreamlike quality.

"I just let my mind wander . . ." explains Robb.

He also derives some of his images from actual dreams. He feels that ideas and symbols are the strength of his work, and considers art to be the combination of ideas with whatever technical ability the individual possesses.

Robb sees a lot of our local artists as good technicians but lacking in ideas and innovation.

Robb's graphic training is evident in the clean, flowing lines of his work as well as in the crispness of colour and design. His colours are usually bright and fresh, choosing softer pastels in many of the paintings.

Architecture is important to Robb and much of his work includes carefully designed architectural settings, with attention to light and shadow.

Images could set one thinking

He uses the window to frame the painting in some cases, directing attention to the focal point of the work.

The frames in this show are an interesting addition. Robb's woodworking background combines with his artistic skills to make the frames integral parts of the artwork, sometimes using the frame to divide the painting into sections.

The most recent painting in this body of work is entitled "Commuter." The imagery depicted is a female figure clad in business clothes, entering a pyramid-like walkway that leads to beautiful clouds and mountains.

The combination of these images could set one thinking for a long period of time. Added to this is a multi-coloured bird, flying into the painting from the figure's right-hand side, creating an evocative combination of ideas and symbols.

It is refreshing to see an artist dare to let his mind run free and expose it for public viewing. You have two weeks left to stop by the Gulf Jewels and take a look — maybe even question some of your own reality.

BCIT introduces new student award system

The British Columbia Institute of Technology recently introduced a new awards program aimed at students entering the first year of study at the Burnaby college.

Called the President's Entrance Award Program, it will allow BCIT to make available up to 60 awards to secondary school graduates each year. Each award covers the tuition at BCIT for a year.

BCIT president John Watson explained the idea: "This award program has been established to reward excellence and encourage high achievers to take up the challenge of BCIT's technology and trades program."

Criteria for consideration for the awards include high academic achievement combined with ongoing participation in school and/or com-

munity activities. Applicants must be entering BCIT directly from secondary school.

The application forms are available to students through the counselling office.

Hiking schedule announced

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club has released its March program. All activities meet in Centennial Park at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated. Organizers recommend participants become involved in car-pooling.

MARCH 6

HIKE: Mt. Erskine with Linda Quiring.

WALK: Isabella Point area with Harry Pickstone.

MARCH 13

Wildlife cruise on *M.V. Bastion City* from Nanaimo. For reservations phone Nancy Braithwaite at 537-9335 or Norah Ray at 537-5172. Members only. Take 9 a.m. ferry from Vesuvius.

EASY WALK: Leader's choice by Marjorie Beggs.

MARCH 20

HIKE: To Nose Point with Vera Petapiece.

WALK: Leader's choice with Margaret Pragnell.

MARCH 27

HIKE: Shawnigan Lake area with Michael Lax. Take 9 a.m. ferry from Vesuvius.

WALK: Southey Point area with leader Athena George.

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Pre-register for **MARKETING ART** now! Class Mar. 10.

Wed., Feb. 28:
WEIGHT CONTROL with Dr. Peter Bennett, 7 pm, Lancer Bldg.

Sat., Mar. 3:
BOOK COLLECTING—THE HISTORY OF BOOKS
1-5 pm, S.S. Elementary School Library

FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP Beaver Pt. Hall, 2-5 pm
JIVE & JITTERBUG WORKSHOP Activity Centre, 7-10 pm

HELD AT SENIORS FOR SENIORS—All Welcome!

Mon., Mar. 5:
KNITTING & CROCHET 2:30-4 pm, Corinne Greenbaum

Tues., Mar. 6:
PAINT OR DRAW with Adrien Town, 1:30-3:30

Thurs., Mar. 8:
WALKING SOFTLY IN THE WILDERNESS

Sat., Mar. 10:
SAM HAMILL POETRY WORKSHOP & READING
S.S. Elementary School Library

Wed., Mar. 14:
DANCE PARTY POTPOURRI - Learn Ballroom Dancing!
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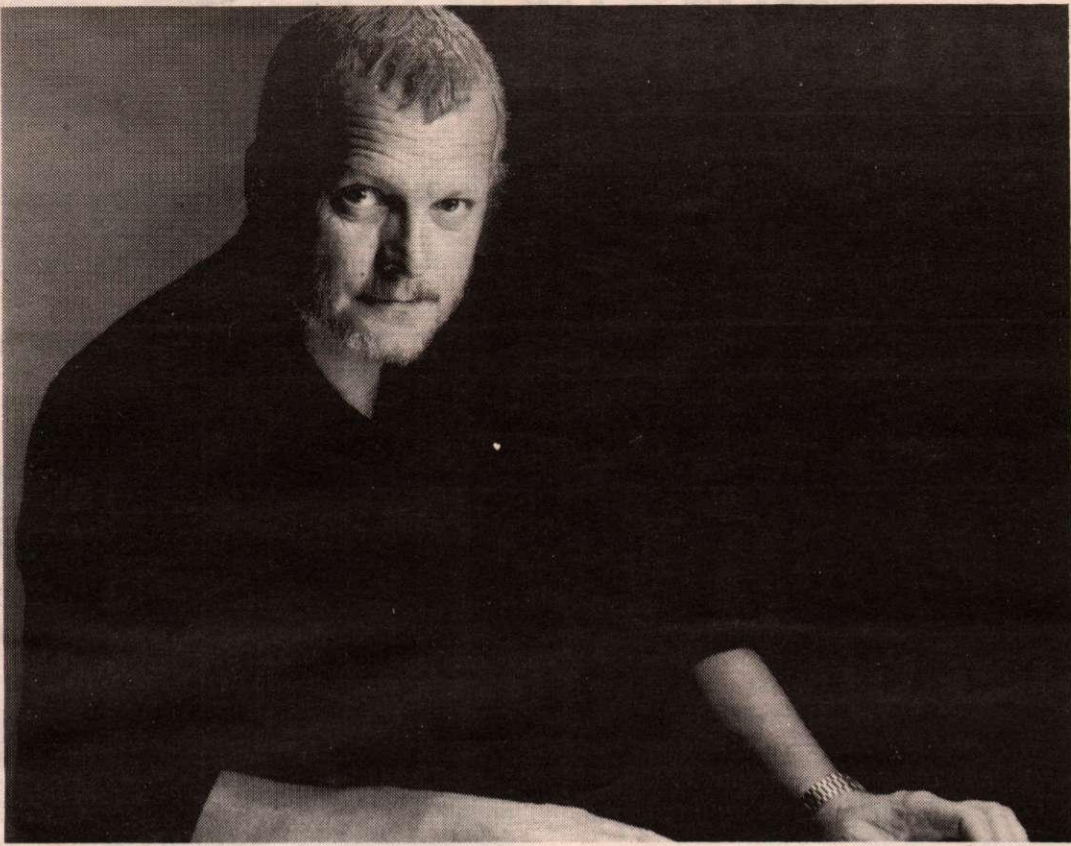
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Entertainment



Hamill reading scheduled

Poet Sam Hamill will be giving a poetry workshop and reading on Saturday, March 10 at the Salt Spring Library. Anyone interested in this all-day performance is asked to contact the Continuing Education office before March 2.

Hamill was born in 1942, "somewhere in northern California." Abandoned in northern Utah in World War Two, he spent the war in an orphanage before being adopted by a Utah farm family.

Most of his adolescent years were spent in and out of jails and living on the streets. In his late teens, Hamill enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to set his juvenile record straight and see Japan.

While serving on the island of Okinawa, he studied Zen Buddhist literatures and became a Conscientious Objector. During the 1960s, he attended Los Angeles Valley College and the University of California, Santa Barbara. A civil rights activist,

he opposed the war in Viet Nam, campaigning for the California State Assembly in 1968 on a democratic-socialist platform.

He has served as editor at Copper Canyon Press since 1972.

Hamill has taught in prisons, public schools, and universities and published a dozen volumes of poetry. He has also translated poetry from classical Chinese, Japanese, Latin and Estonian. Among his other awards are the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and a Pushcart prize.

His most recent books are *Basho's Ghost* and *A Dragon in the Clouds*.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop is asked to pre-register by calling the Continuing Education office at 537-2822. The cost of the workshop, which runs from 9 until 3 p.m., is \$25 which includes the evening reading.

In the meantime, Dido's African drum and dance workshops have been re-scheduled and will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 25 in Mahon Hall. Anyone interested in signing up for the two-hour workshop is asked to contact the continuing education office.

Poet Sam Hamill will conduct a workshop and offer a reading to Salt Spring Islanders, March 10, at Mahon Hall.

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 The Canadian Red Cross Society

Confusion is surrounding different art-related names

A meeting regarding the proposed art centre on Salt Spring last week cleared up some confusion surrounding those who are responsible for the centre.

The name of the centre will be Artspring. It will be controlled by the Islands Art Centre Society, a duly registered organization under the Society Act of the province.

Membership in the society is open to anyone — individuals or businesses.

The society operates through a board of directors elected at the annual meetings. The board is made up of 11 directors, six of whom are elected at large with the remaining five appointed by various groups interested in Artspring.

The Community Arts Council appoints two directors with the following groups appointing one director each: Parks and Recreation Commis-

sion, Festival of the Arts, and Off Centre Stage.



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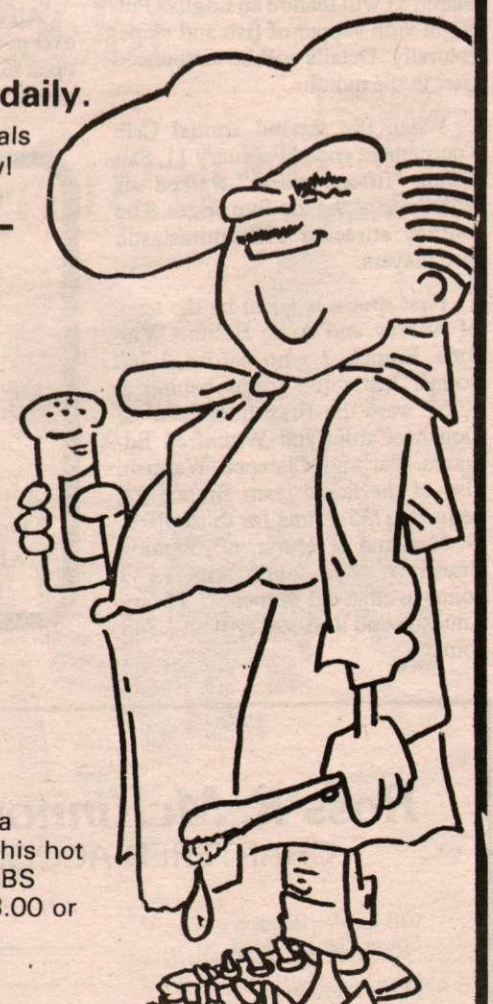
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ENTERTAINMENT

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Entertainment



Local musicians Rich and Famous will perform this Saturday night at the Beaver Point Hall. Show kicks off at 8:30 p.m.

Local band plays Beaver Point Hall

The sounds of "Rich and Famous" will rock the timbers of the Beaver Point Hall this Saturday night beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The members in the band come from across Canada and the music they put together has been described as a "highly charged" collection of original material from revived classics.

Setting the stage for the evening will be the group "Friends" which hails from the far north and plays a varied compilation of R&B and Rock n' Roll style blues.

Food and refreshment will be served throughout the evening and tickets will be available at the door.

LEGION NEWS

March will be another active month at the Salt Spring Legion.

By GORDON HUTTON
Driftwood Contributor

On Saturday, March 17, members and their guests will dance to the music of Les Four as celebrations of St. Patrick's Day gets underway. Beginning at 5 p.m., participants can munch Irish Stew on a bun. By 7 p.m. the music will start and last until...

To even things off, Saturday, March 31 will feature an English Pub Night with supper of fish and chips, naturally. Details will be announced later in the month.

When the second annual Crib Tournament ended February 11, Salt Spring "fifteen-twoers" walked off with three of the top five prizes. The tourney attracted 132 enthusiastic card players.

First spot was taken by the team of Aubrey and Anne Bolitho, Victoria Branch 7 who carded 1,760 points. Just three points behind at 1,757 were the Branch 92 team of Don McCardia and Winnifred Edwards. Pat and Clarence Warman, also of the home team Branch 92, pegged 1,755 points for third place. G. May and J. Reuter, of Victoria Branch 7, were fourth with 1,749 points to edge out Branch 92's Mary Knudson and Ron Stacey with 1,748 points.

Members of both the Legion and the LA are reminded of general meetings coming up. The Branch general meeting, restricted to members and associates, is set for Monday, March 5 at 8 p.m. The LA meets a week later, Monday, March 12 at 8 p.m.

Meat draws happen each Saturday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. March boasts five Fridays so the LA plan five Friday Suppers featuring, in order of Fridays, roast beef, baked ham, roast turkey, roast pork and the

favourite: smorgasbord.

All events at the Legion, with the exception of general meetings, are open to members, affiliates and their guests.

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A MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS OF SAANICH AND THE ISLANDS



Your MLA, the Honourable Mel Couvelier,
Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations

THANK YOU!

It has been my privilege and honour to represent you for the past three and a half years in the legislature. I have worked hard on your behalf and it is my sincere hope these efforts have been helpful to you, as a constituent.

DID YOU KNOW

As of March 1, 1990, our present riding of Saanich and the Islands is to be divided into two separate ridings. One riding will be known as Saanich North and the Islands, while the other will be known as Saanich South. This separation is one of the recommendations approved by the legislature following the Royal Commission on Electoral Boundaries completed in December, 1988 by Judge Thomas Fisher.

DECISION!

With this separation imminent it is now necessary for me to declare my candidacy for one of the new ridings. I have, therefore, decided I will seek the nomination in Saanich North and the Islands.

ROOTS!

This decision, while difficult to make, takes into consideration my family's long history in that riding. My great grandmother was a peninsula native Indian. My grandmother was born on Saltspring Island. My father, too, was born on Vancouver Island.

SIDNEY RESIDENT

Because I consider it essential to live in the riding which I represent, my wife Milly and I have made our permanent home in Sidney. Only through living in the constituency is one able to properly represent Saanich North and the Islands.

MY PLEDGE!

The next election will be difficult and will require the dedicated support of all those who cherish the right of free enterprise. It is a challenge and I pledge my full and undivided support to represent this constituency, if you provide me with that opportunity.

I am proud of the contributions I have made on your behalf as a member of this government. I am proud of the balanced budget. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing to serve on your behalf.

SUPPORT

Many of you have indicated your support for my campaign and I thank you. I look forward to hearing from all interested people and if you have any questions or concerns, be assured my door is always open. Stop by the constituency office at 2388 Beacon or call me at 656-0807.

Warmest regards,

Mel Couvelier, MLA
Saanich and the Islands

Entertainment

Wit and Whimsy

ARTHUR BLACK



A small item in the back half of the third section of my newspaper informs me that Burma isn't Burma anymore. Henceforth, whenever I have reason to refer to that nation in Asia, I am to call it "Myanmar".

I have two questions to direct at this topic:

(a) What the hell was wrong with a nice simple name like Burma?

(b) Why do we keep doing this to ourselves — renaming perfectly well-named things, I mean?

I grew up with imminently memorable names like Ceylon and Rhodesia. Gone, all gone. Now it's Sri Lanka and Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Well, I can understand why black Africans would be anxious to unshackle themselves from Cecil Rhodes and the white colonial past that name personifies — but what about other changes? Why did we have to swap the crisp "Peking" for "Beijing," or the elegant "Canton" for a wretched abomination like "Guangdong"?

The argument is that the new spellings more closely conform to the original Chinese.

New names for old places

Oh Yeah? Then I guess any day now we'll stop talking about "Germany" and refer to it as "Deutschland"? And no more talk about the "Japanese" — we'll call them the "Nihonjin." And of course everyone will cheer when we scrap "South Korea" and speak of that country as the natives do — Dae Han Min Guk?

The Russians, I suppose, could always teach us a thing or two about new names for old places. They're past masters at revising textbooks, plazas, regions, even entire cities (remember Stalingrad?) according to which former leaders have been declared out of favour, unmasked as Enemies of the People or simply declared non-persons.

Not that we have to go all that far afield to witness mankind's depressing penchant for redubbing things just when we're getting accustomed to them. We're pretty good at reclassifying landmarks right here in the Great White North. Remember Frobisher Bay? Gone. It's Iqaluit now. One of the great thoroughfares in downtown Montreal isn't around anymore either. Dorchester Boulevard est disparu. It's now Boulevard Rene Levesque.

Succumbed to a frenzy of jingoism

Just as well. Under Premier Bourassa's Nazoid Language Law those verboten English language street signs would have had to come down anyway.

And back during the war years, pro-British patriots in this country succumbed to a frenzy of jingoism and struck an entire city right off the Ontario map. Berlin was banished, to be replaced by Kitchener.

Did it work? Did banishing the Germanic "Berlin" in favour of the ever-so-English "Kitchener" turn the town into a little piece of Old Blighty?

Oh sure, no question. If you do not believe me, drop into Kitchener during their annual fall English festival.

You know — the one called Oktoberfest?

Mesopelagia one genius wanted to name it

We don't even know for sure where our own name comes from — Canada, I mean. Some historians say it derives from an Iroquoian word "Kanatta" meaning "Collection of huts." Others say it's a corruption of what Spanish and Portuguese sailors thought of the treeless and inhospitable Labrador coastline they could see from their fishing boats — "Aqui nada" — which translates "Nothing here."

Could have been worse. Back in the middle of the last century when our founding fathers were trying to pack this country into a snowball called Confederation, they had long and heated Meech Lake-style debates over what to call the place.

"Mesopelagia" one genius wanted to call it. Another one argued in favour of Niagarentia. Someone else thought Albonia had a nice ring to it.

We got "Canada" instead, thank God — but don't think that the name changers and title fiddlers are dead. Why, just recently, Toronto City Council outlawed the term "manhole covers." From now on it's nice, neutery, non-sexist "Maintenance cover" in Hogt — oops, make that Hog/Sowtown.

I can hardly wait for the Winnipeg City Council to join in the spirit of things and announce the new name of their province — Personitoba.

New time for OAPO potluck

The potluck afternoon tea of Fulford OAPO, cancelled because of snowy roads, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 6, at 1:30 pm.

Plans for this event were completed at the regular business meeting held February 20.

Members are encouraged to bring some goodies and enjoy an afternoon of music and talk. The program will include songs from the Fulford Elementary School Students, and a talk and dialogue with Terry Huberts, MLA for Saanich and the Islands.

Huberts will be ready to discuss seniors' concerns about health care, the environment, and other local issues. This will provide an opportunity to ask questions and hear government responses. In this way, members can show Huberts the OAPO cares about the quality of life for everyone in this province, and particularly on Salt Spring Island. Guests will be very welcome.

In other activities:

- Monday afternoon handcraft sessions have already produced a quilt and are continuing with other projects under the tutelage of Laura Roland;

- Saturday night card parties are in full swing. Call Nancy Patterson if you want more information.

Of special interest to all OAPO members on Salt Spring is the upcoming visit of Provincial President, Ms. Jo Arland. She will talk to a joint meeting of Ganges and Fulford Branches on Thursday, March 22, 1 p.m., at Central Hall.

Fulford residents are urged to plan ahead for car pool transportation with neighbours so that as many as possible can attend.



MEL COUVELIER MLA
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News

Club considers various plans of action

The local Sierra Club plans to ask the Islands Trust to ensure environmental impact studies be done on all new subdivisions and rezoning proposals on Salt Spring.

The group, which met last Thursday, says the process would allow for public input before development goes ahead.

The club also plans to send a representative to the Crown Lands Use Coalition advance public meeting tomorrow night (Thursday), advocating the remaining crown land on Salt Spring be reserved for "the public good rather than private profit."

During its meeting last week, members noted that Fletcher Challenge Canada will hold its

shareholders meeting in Vancouver on April 19. The group said its environmental position was presented by Randy Thomas in Auckland, New Zealand recently regarding the conditions at the Crofton Mill.

The group suggested the Vancouver meeting may provide members with an opportunity for a follow-up.

In other matters, the junk mail group is proposing to install a container in the lobby of the post office during "earth days" week in April and invite post office box holders to deposit their junk mail and flyers.

This will give the group some idea of how much junk mail is generated on the island every week. What will

be done with the mail has yet to be worked out.

The re-cycle paper group has drawn a list of businesses, organizations and crown corporations which it will write asking that re-cycled paper be used as often as possible in their operations.

Sue Hiscocks, of the lobbying group, proposes to ask the federal government to establish an environmental SWAT team composed of environmentally-aware members of parliament and other appointed experts. It's mandate would be to report to the minister of environment on issues relating to pollution, environmental disasters and other green issues.

Jim White informed the members that Environment Canada is soliciting tenders from paper mills for the production of non-chemically processed brown paper. Such paper has many uses and its manufacture is ecologically kinder than conventional, bleached, white paper.

Finally, a representative from the club will attend the forestry commission meeting in Vancouver on March 8 to voice club concerns regarding present forestry practices.

The next Sierra Club meeting is scheduled for April 5.

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Finding solution to solid waste could prove expensive to island

From Page A1

want to avoid Blackburn where there is a potential for future legal action.

One of the people attending the meeting suggested the group may want to look for a larger, possibly 160-acre site which would separate the recycling station from homes in the area. The group is hoping individuals in the community will offer other suggestions on where the recycling station could be located.

Atkins told the meeting it has become clear that finding a solution to Salt Spring's waste problem will be expensive. She said the cost of the proposed curbside recycling program (which would include curbside pick-up every two weeks) is estimated at \$300,000, \$150,000 of which would be needed for the capital and operating costs.

She estimated the program could cost taxpayers between \$35 and \$43 per \$100,000 assessed value more per year. However, she added, grant money may be available to cover all of the capital costs and some of the operating expenses. The group hopes to have all of those figures worked out before the issue goes to referendum, this fall.

Along with the high cost of starting a new recycling operation here, Atkins said, costs associated with cleaning up the existing Blackburn dump will also be high. She said initial estimates indicate a simple assessment of the site, including digging six to eight monitoring wells, could cost \$60,000.

The full reclamation costs could be as high as \$250,000, she added.

At this point, she said, no group has come forward to help pay for even the cost of the assessment. The CRD is reluctant to contribute because it did not sign the permit, the Ministry of Environment does not want to contribute because it could set a precedent and the owner of the property says he can not afford to do the work himself.

Atkins is considering dividing the cost of the clean up between all three groups — the \$20,000 that would come from Salt Spring could come from the Windfall Fund.

She said \$10,000 would have to be diverted from some of the

programs the money has already been designated for and the remainder would come from interest which has already accumulated on the fund.

However, it was suggested at the

Friday meeting, the owner of the property should be responsible for covering costs of the clean up. It was noted the property could in fact be turned into another profitable commercial operation.



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