

# Driftwood

## Island Living Real Estate

SECTION  
**B**

### Charlie Brown, there is a Great Pumpkin *Ask Salt Spring Island gardener Tom Little and he'll tell you all about it*

Just in case Charlie Brown asks, the Great Pumpkin is alive and well and living in Tom Little's Salt Spring Island garden. So is the great squash, the great beet, cabbage, corn, potato... the list goes on.

By Jim Black  
*Driftwood Reporter*

It seems just about everything Little grows in his garden ends up being either one of the larger specimens of that variety one is likely to see or at the very least a perfect example of what garden produce should look like. All produced without the aid of any over-the-counter type fertilizers. The only kind of fertilizer you will find in his garden is the "barnyard" variety, mixed with a little water to make an interesting concoction known as manure "tea".

Obviously the plants must like it. In this year's Salt Spring Island Fall Fair, Little won first prize for the biggest pumpkin (213 pounds), the biggest squash (130 pounds), biggest beet, cabbage and a number of other prizes. Enough so that he was awarded a trophy in the field crop division for most points accumulated.

But for Little prizes are secondary, he just plain likes to grow things.

"I guess you say it's sort of a passion of mine. As far back as I can remember I've always enjoyed growing things. It gives me a lot of pleasure."

Tom and Mildred Little settled on Salt Spring about four years ago. When they purchased their home the backyard was, according to Tom "a jungle".

"It was pretty thick back there. I wanted to put in a garden so we just got to work and cleared it out.

The clearing out also included removing two trees which were about six feet across at the butt.

Today there is no sign of "the jungle". In its place is a nice little orchard of apple, plum, cherry and pear trees. Along side of that is a 50 foot long trellis which supports a number of kiwi trees, both the male and female variety. This year's crop is not quite up to snuff, compared to last year, Little remarked.

"It looks like I'm only going to get about 1,500 kiwis this year."

Last year he harvested more than 2,000 of the sweet, furry, brown fruits. Along with his quite exotic kiwis, he grows most of the normal things one would find in a

garden — tomatoes, onions, potatoes.

All of this has come to be in just four short years. "I've had to travel around quite a bit to get enough manure for the garden. I've made a number of trips over to Van-

couver Island to pick up truckloads of the stuff."

A quick walk through the garden confirms there has been some extensive work done to be able to produce such a bountiful

crop. The soil is a rich black loam, quite different from when Little started his garden. Some of the produce he grows is sold, but most of it is either stored for home consumption or given away to friends and neighbours.

"I've sold some of my banana squash to the Ganges Village Market. But I have to pick them when they get to 35 pounds. They don't want them if there any bigger than that."

The other squash he grows is the Hungarian Squash. It was one of these behemoths which weighed in at 130 pounds at the fall fair. Besides that huge one, the Littles have grown quite a number of other Hungarian Squashes, on a slightly smaller scale. Most of them weigh in around the 30 to 50 pound range.

According to Mildred Little even the big ones are very tasty. "I was quite surprised the first time we tried one of the big ones. I always thought that taste was sacrificed for size, but not in this case. It actually tasted quite delicious."

The Great Pumpkin however, will not be eaten at least by the Littles. Earlier this week it was taken from the pumpkin patch and moved to the lobby of the Harbour House Hotel in Ganges where, once it has been prepared, will be the largest jack-o-lantern to grace the island for this year's Hallowe'en. But that most likely won't faze Tom Little, next year he'll probably grow two monstrous pumpkins — just for the fun of it.



**GREAT GARDENER:** With Hallowe'en arriving Thursday, Tom Little has disposed of his Great Pumpkin which was on display at the annual Fall Fair in September. His garden delights include kiwi fruit produced on their spindly trees. See smaller inset photograph.



Driftwood photos by Jim Black



Your weekly guide to  
**GULF ISLANDS PROPERTIES**

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# Galiano must deal with garbage disposal

A meeting was held October 22 to consider the island's future handling of household waste. Gathering at the site of Galiano's present solid waste and recycling centre were Gary Kadatz of Macmillan Bloedel Ltd. (owners of the property on which the centre is situated), Alan Summer and John Creveiro of the Capital Regional District, Jim Scoones, Frank Hillier and Bill Lucey of the Galiano Ratepayers Association; Bill Callaway, Ron Way and John Sibbald of the Galiano Club and a representative from the regional office of the Ministry of the Environment.

By ALISTAIR ROSS  
Driftwood Correspondent

As a result of Tuesday's meeting, a mail-out to island householders announces the present landfill will be closed on October 31. The closure will necessitate plans for cleaning up the site, sloping and shaping of the area and provision of ground cover and vegetation. A layer of clay will be required to seal the area and a second layer (topsoil) will be needed before planting can be done.

Selective existing nearby wells will be monitored annually by CRD after an initial review of current information on them has been studied.

After October 31, islanders can take their household refuse to the following disposal areas — all of them off-island — Laidlaws at 2057 Mills Road in Sidney where there is a charge of two dollars a bag (to a maximum of 35 pounds per bag) or Hartland Landfill on Hartland Road in Saanich. The cost there is \$10 dollars for anything between 30 and 180 kilograms.

Recyclable materials such as bottle, newspapers, cans and cardboard can be left free of charge at the Hartland site, or at Sandown Harness Raceway at the corner of Glamorgan and McDonald roads in Sidney.

The Ratepayers Association is currently negotiating to have a drop container located near Sturdies Bay for Island waste collection. It may be possible to have several drop boxes located at sites scattered over the island for the convenience of those who live in other areas. Costs and usage will of course determine the feasibility of providing these conveniences.

## GALIANO ISLAND *Scene*

### Polling stations

A resident of Galiano's more populated south expressed surprise that northerners had their own polling station in the recent provincial election. North Galiano has had a separate polling station in provincial and federal elections for many years. It is only in Islands Trust and Capital Regional District elections that they (the northerners) must travel the 22 kilometres to exercise their democratic rights.

Until a few years ago the North Galiano polling station was traditionally located in the parlor of the late Devina and Harry Baines' home. There the crackling and hissing of the woodstove dominated the chatter of neighbours as they arrived to vote. The smell of the soup pot in the kitchen gave a very special ambience to the place and the day.

For the last few elections, the polling place has been in the now improved and more suitable North Hall. It has lights and a telephone, heat, washrooms, and a ramp for the handicapped.

But voting in North Galiano can still be rather special. The poll clerk on duty last week knew by sight all but three of the voters. The scrutineers know one another; they knew the operators of the polling station and most of the voters as well. The usual high turnout of voters (over 85 per cent) cast votes, and considering the "Joneses and the Smiths" were on holiday, the "Browns" had voted in advance poll and the Weeds and Kolossofs no longer lived in the area, the percentage vote was really much higher. Perhaps the results of an election is not as important as the act of voting. Who is to say?

Certainly this was the case for one gentleman. A fisherman, he found himself in Porlier Pass and unable to get back to Vancouver in time to vote. Earlier, when passing a freighter anchored north of Thetis Island, he had been flagged by the crew and asked if he could get one of their men to a dentist. So on his arrival at the Spanish

Hills Store in North Galiano, the fisherman asked help from its owner Rob Evans. He phoned island dentist, Dr. Schuh, who fortunately was on island. It just happened to be Dr. Schuh's day on Galiano and yes, she could see him. So down-island went Rob with his passenger on his mission of mercy.

The end result: the fisherman cast his absence ballot, a candidate in one of the lower mainland's many ridings got one more vote and the chap from the freighter got rid of his toothache. Yes there is something to be said for rural life and for islanders and island living.

### Bridge continues

Bridge lessons given by Basil Benger at the North Hall are now complete. The now knowledgeable players plan to continue to meet at the Hall each Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. to put into use their improved game skills.

### Twentieth Annual Sale

Galiano Weavers and Spinners are holding their 20th annual Christmas Sale of

Work at the South Hall on Saturday, November 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tea and goodies will be served on the stage area of the Hall.

Featured at the stalls will be weaving, crocheting, embroidery and knit goods - all made on the island.

The main prize in the raffle this year will be a double-bed size quilt made by the members. The design features a "green" Galiano surrounded by blues. A border of brightly coloured maple leaves edges the design. A large stuffed animal is the second prize.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and can be obtained at the sale or ahead of time from guild members. They will also be available on Friday mornings from members stationed at Galiano's main shopping area.

### And farther North

The same day, Saturday, November 9, the 12th annual North Galiano Christmas Craft Fair takes place at the North Hall - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Christmas candy and baking, weaving, sewn items, Christmas crackers and decorations and endless variety of items to use, eat or wear - all arranged in market-style boutiques. There will be a refreshment area in the kitchen for hungry visitors. The Craft Fair should be better than ever. Don't miss it.



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# Ten tips for safe trick and treat *Pumpkin carving*

Hallowe'en should be a happy and safe time for all children go trick or treating in their neighbourhoods. To help facilitate this, The Stay Alert, Stay Safe organization offers a 10-point safety program.

Formed four years ago the organization's aim is to develop and promote an on-going national program of education and awareness for both children and adults.

One of the programs most successful components in helping to streetproof children has been the Stay Alert, Stay Safe mascots Bert and Gert. Working in close co-operation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the federal Solicitor General's Department, educators and a major department store chain, young schoolchildren have become familiar with Bert and Gert.

Here are their tips for a safe Hallowe'en.

1. Wear make-up instead of a mask so you can see properly.
2. Go trick or treating with your family or friends. Make sure people know the route you will take.

**Bert and Gert know how to have a safe and happy Hallowe'en.**

3. Make sure an adult checks the treats before you eat them.
4. Walk - don't run; and look both ways before crossing the street. Trick or treat on one side of the street, then

the other side.

5. Only trick or treat at homes which have their lights on.
6. Don't go anywhere with a stranger.
7. If someone invites you alone into a house say "no thanks".
8. Use a flashlight to help light your way.
9. You will walk more easily and have less chance of falling if you wear a short costume.
10. Make certain that you know where the block parent homes are in your area.

Halloween should remain an enriching and pleasurable childhood experience. If parents and children follow the safety tips laid out by Bert and Gert Alert, it can remain that way.

North Galiano's annual pumpkin carving extravaganza took place on Sunday afternoon, October 27, at the Community Hall. The little ones arrived with their pumpkins, often with mom and dad or granny trailing behind to carry the tools required and perhaps a discarded coat or sweater.

Being carved were petite pumpkins, round pumpkins, yellow and orange pumpkins and some of rusty hue. The largest pumpkin was the one brought by the Robertson family. Father Stuan, Mom Pam and young Dylan all worked on it with dad doing the carving with a sabre saw. The pumpkin was grown by Dylan's Grandfather Welch in Chilliwack.

Sarah Anne Koster's pumpkin came from the family garden at Retreat Cove. If it had been shown at

the Garden Club it would have taken a first prize, it has such perfection of form and shape.

A first-time carver was Sara Salai from Hungary. She arrived in early September Sara is staying at Bodega Resort. A physical education instructor she is here to improve her spoken English and is always eager to participate in island activities. Jack-o-lanterns are new to Sarah and so were pumpkins. She did a fine job of carving hers - observing from others what could and should be done. She had fun. In fact everyone had fun.

After the carving was done there were pumpkin cookies and juice for the children and later a ghostly chocolate, a Hallowe'en roll-up whistle and a balloon. Pumpkin pie with whipped cream and coffee seemed to keep the adults happy.



**Hey kids!**

Colour this cartoon with Bert and Gert and drop it into the Driftwood office by 5 p.m. Friday, November 1. We'll have a draw from all the entries and the winners will receive a \$10 cash prize.

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AND CANADIAN TIRE WISH CHILDREN A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN



## Country Gourmet

JOHN EDWARDS



This is not a review, although it should have been...

Guided by an ill omen, or perhaps by downright lies, the Conehead relay team, to which your columnist belongs, limps into a waterside restaurant on Nanaimo Harbour.

After two days of road racing, the runners, whose captain of course owns a fast food restaurant somewhere, are in a state of ravening exhaustion. We smell of tiger balm and beer. And we are desperately hungry.

It is a measure of our naivete that we expected to be fed, if possible before the provincial election.

A glance around the expensively furnished building should have dispelled all hope. Lavish designer menus cluster in sad heaps while people drink with uncommon zeal (even for Nanaimo), stopping now and then to pick absently at bowls of salty peanuts and chips like huddles of inebriated parrots.

Our waitress expertly disguises her disinterest in, and possibly ignorance of, all food. Instead, she delivers floods of devastating smiles along with beer in truly miraculous quantities. We Coneheads obey local custom and copy the parrots.

"What about the loaves and the fish?" One of us gurgles from the depths of a pint. But she doesn't get the allusion. We are drinking on empty so we summon the manager before things get, as Arnold Schwarzenegger might say, terminal.

This person is slick and competently incompetent. The team now resembles human flotsam. We beg. We cajole. One member is so reduced by circumstances that he falls upon her alligator? crocodile? aardvark? shoes and grovels in unseemly fashion.

## Flick of the foot

The manager shakes him off with a practised flick of her foot. She promised to fill our orders instantly. How can we doubt her? Even though the place is packed with diners (laughter) she will phone down and insist that the over-worked chef (jeers) put our order first in line (monstrous untruth). She vanishes.

Nothing happens. Of course.

We throw the wretched menus into a corner. Abandoning ourselves to fate we semaphore the waitress with the wolfish smile and order more B vitamins, but she is steps ahead of us and already has the pitchers filled.

Gloomily I gaze through the windows at the view. Or try to. A piece of concrete deck overlooks the enormous log booms which clog up the harbour before they are manufactured into tissue and the Vancouver Sun. Yet on this deck is a truly astonishing sight.

Eight men in their burly 20s sit eagerly around a table which is laden with jugs of margaritas. Perhaps they are a family of tough hartebeests on guard at the last water hole in the Kalahari. One hartebeest suddenly yells "Herb!" With incredible speed they jump off their chairs and throw themselves down on all fours under the table chanting "Herb!, Herb! Herb!" After a minute of this, and at an unseemly signal, they get up and return to the serious business, it becomes clear of roasting one of their order, whose is presently to ascend into the state of holy matrimony.

## Mystifying performance

Now I approve greatly of herbs, but this performance is mystifying. Since the only herb I am likely to receive in this establishment is verbal. I go out and wait for a lull in the confused roaring of the stags.

"What is this herb to which you allude so joyously?" I inquire with an earnest voice.

"EH? Whaddya say DUDE?" shouts a beefy man who must play psychotic lacrosse for the Timbermen. His tome implies that, fortunately for me, this is a happy occasion and just this once innocent bystanders who ask real dumb questions are allowed to be complete idiots without punishment.

The groom wobbles over and beams into my eyes from an uncomfortable distance.

"How come you runners don't do the herb or nothin?" he says in an injured tone. "Don't you wimps ever read the Far Side? That cartoon with cows eating herbs? You gotta do the Herb or we'll be — off."

Within seconds all the Coneheads are instructed in the mysteries of the Herb. We chant under our table, then we join the lacrosse players (they really are the terrible Timbermen) under theirs. The waitress turns up the voltage whenever she comes near with fresh supplies. In the end we get invited, or rather ordered, to the wedding. It will take place on the Royal Hudson in two weeks, just after they have annihilated a rival lacrosse team on the mainland. I'm sure the whole train will be "doing the herb" before the happy pair arrive at Squamish.

Much later it is pointed out to me that the herb of which these gentlemen are so fond is not basil, or parsley, or oregano. Not even lovage...

I can't recommend the restaurant for dinner, because it never came. The decor is so/so early log boom with sea lion sound effects. The only wine is a grand cru de Labatts. On the other hand, I think you will agree that the natives can be charming once you get to know them and their dialect is, well, extraordinary.

Don't worry, the herbs in this recipe won't put your guests under the table — although my column might. They will, however, keep you at it until the salad is finished.

## Apricot, Orange, and Basil dressing

1/2C butter, melted	1T cinnamon basil, chopped finely
Rind of one small orange, ground	1C apricots, sliced demurely (how else?)
1/4C vermouth	1/4C parsley, chopped

salt & pepper, garlic cloves, parmesan

Combine and serve over a salad of mixed greens (lettuce, spinach, dandelions, a few nasturtium leaves, etc., but no under any circumstances THE herb). Sprinkle with Parmesan. Use the garlic as punctuation. Full stop.

## Four people appointed for Pender parks and rec term

Three reappointments and one new appointment were made recently to Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission.

Jean Rodgers, Charles Harris and Michael Schneider were renamed to the commission and David Underhill was appointed for the first time.

Underhill has a 42-year association with Pender, and now that he is retired he expects to be spending more time on the island. Underhill, a former civil engineer and land surveyor, said he likes sports, the out-

doors, hiking, and walking.

"I was asked to join," he said Thursday. "A guy has to do his civic duty."

Appointments were also made to the Magic Lakes Estates Water and Sewer Committee at the Capital Regional District meeting Wednesday. Those appointed to a term expiring January 1, 1993, are George Abram, Bill Baird and Philip Newell.

Appointments expiring January 1, 1994 are Mert Ladell, Doreen Ball and Richard Morden.

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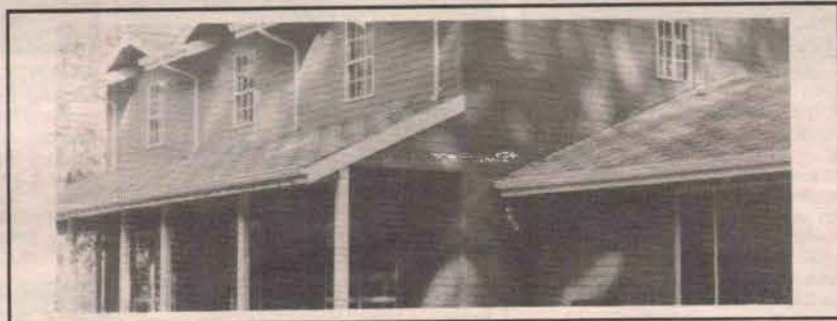


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