



FOLLOWING THE EFFLUENT: Sophisticated computer equipment aboard this workboat was tracking the movements of dye released through the Ganges sewer system late last week. At right, Dale McCullough of Seaconsult Marine Research monitors the on-

board computer. Small black box at left is the Global Positioning System unit, which plots the boat's position using signals from satellites. Below, left, crew raise the Dragonfly to the surface. At right is Seaconsult president Don Hodgins.

Photos by Tony Richards

Tracking dye will reveal movement of effluent

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

Any questions about the movement of effluent from the Ganges sewer outfall should be answered next month as a result of surveys in the harbour last week.

A device called a Tracer Data Acquisition System was towed around the harbour for three days, monitoring the concentrations of a red, fluorescent dye placed in the sewer system.

And according to the president of Seaconsult Marine Research Ltd., the firm contracted to conduct the survey, the dye will indicate what happens to bacteria from the sewer system.

Don Hodgins said the device — called a Dragonfly — has a fluorometer that measures con-

centrations of the dye after it leaves the outfall, near the mouth of the harbour. The fluorometer, along with apparatus that measures salinity and temperature, feeds data through a cable into a computer aboard the workboat used to tow the device.

The Dragonfly, which measures about three feet across, also contains a pressure transducer. By measuring the water pressure it sends a signal to the computer on the tow-boat to indicate its depth. That depth can be adjusted by the operator of the system, who uses a joystick to adjust the angle of the Dragonfly's fins.

Essentially, the system seeks out higher concentrations of the dye and, with the help of a Global Positioning System, a satellite-

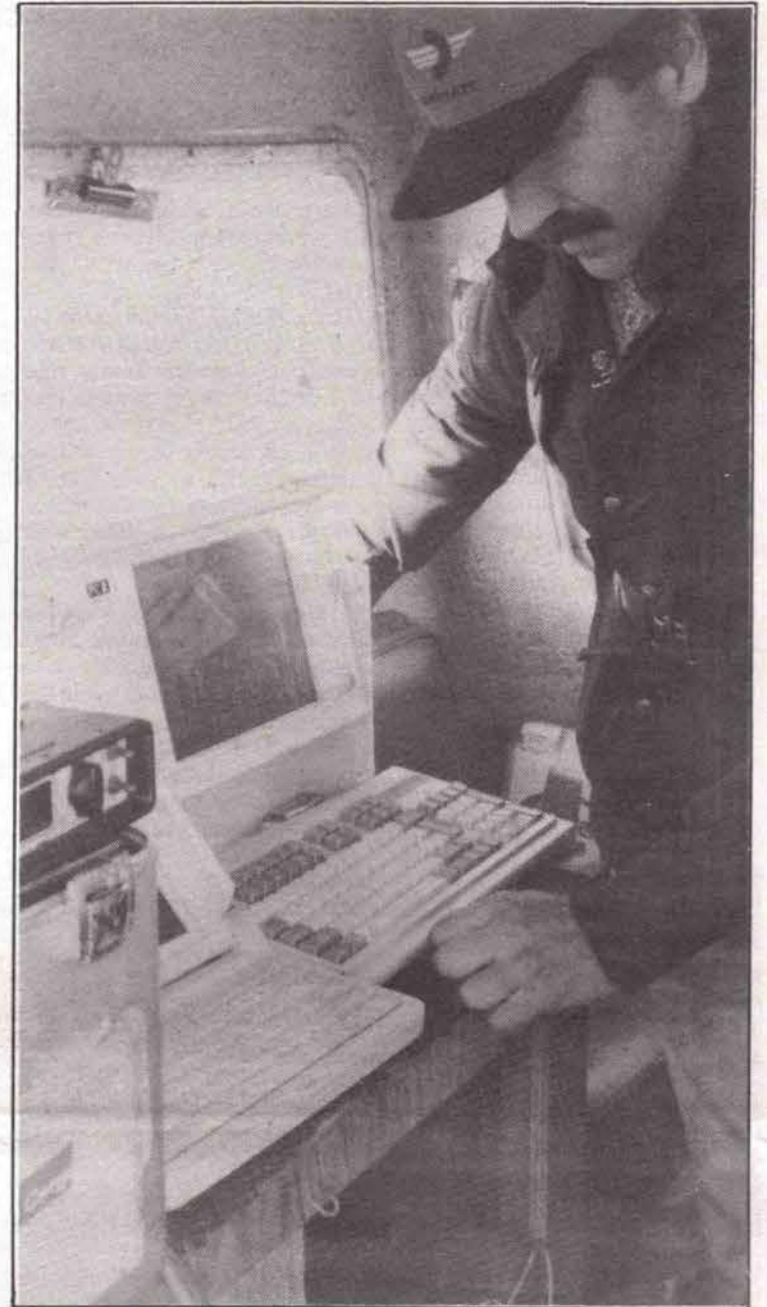
based navigational aid, plots geographically the concentration of dye in the harbour waters. The data will be used to produce a map of the harbour showing what happens to the sewer effluent.

"It's pretty safe to say the bacteria coming out of (the outfall) will follow the dye's path," Hodgins explained.

One of the concerns that has been expressed about the Ganges sewer outfall is the effect of tides and wind on effluent. Last week's testing took those conditions into account.

"We selected this period of tides as a worst-case scenario," Hodgins said, noting that strong winds, both southeast and westerly, were prevalent during the test period.

The Tracer Data Acquisition



System is one of only two or three competing systems in the world, according to Hodgins.

His firm designed it in 1988 to do a study of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Iona Island outfall.

While the Dragonfly is good for depths up to 50 or 60 metres Seaconsult has a larger version for deeper waters.

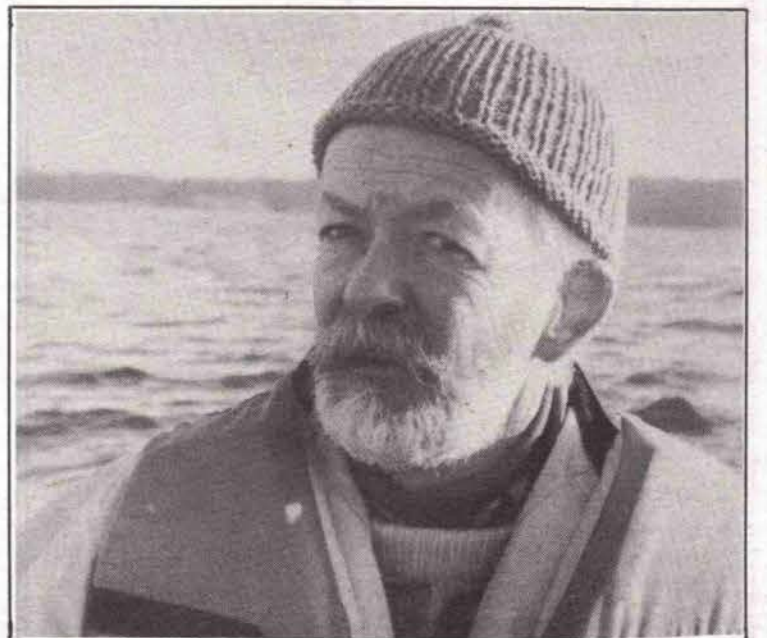
Seaconsult has done more than 20 other similar jobs in Canada, many of which have been for pulp mills. In fact, Hodgins says, they've done every pulp mill on the coast but that at Crofton.

The company's primary contribution to the Tracer technology is the software used to analyze the Dragonfly's data.

The parts that make up the hardware are individually available and used in other applications, Hodgins said.

Seaconsult has offices in Vancouver and Newfoundland and employs about 25 people. By coincidence, Hodgins has a weekend home on Salt Spring Island.

Final results of the company's work in Ganges will be provided to the Capital Regional District next month.



Look inside for Light-Up Specials

Attitude key for students juggling work and school

By JAYA POLDEN
Driftwood Staff

For some students at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), holding down a job that requires 15 to 20 hours a week means lower grades and could lead to dropping out of school. Others, meanwhile, are able to maintain high grades and participate in clubs and sports as well. The deciding factor? It all boils down to attitude.

Students revealed during interviews last week that it's not uncommon to work 15 to 20 hours a week. But according to Statistics Canada, students working 20 hours a week or more run a much higher risk of turning in poor academic performance and dropping out than students who work less.

On the other hand, Scott Bergstrom sees it differently: "It all depends on the attitude of the student."

Bergstrom is a career counselor at Gulf Islands Secondary and works with students in the Career Explorations and Co-op programs. A lot of his time is spent dealing with students' futures. "I've talked to kids that want to quit school and go into Pathfinders because they work so much."

But he also says he's talked to

students who work 20 hours a week, participate in sports and clubs and maintain A averages at the same time. The difference, he says, lies in priorities.

Stuart Fergusson, a Grade 12 student at GISS, makes his top priority school. He works 30 hours a week at Thrifty Foods but maintains a B average and is happy with his marks. He says that if he was doing badly in a course he would stop working so much but admits, "I don't see why I wouldn't get straight A's if I didn't work."

Tami Wesley is also a Grade 12 student and she works for her parents at Workwear World. She puts in 18-20 hours a week and agrees it's hard to stay on top of school, especially at the end of term, and work at the same time. "I usually work every day after school until five," she says, "then I go home and do three to five hours of homework."

There are times when she's too tired to do her homework afterwards but if it ever came down to it, she wouldn't let work get in the way of school.

Students in other grades are not exceptions in these situations but Grade 12s seem to be the most affected. As one student put it, "Once

you get into Grade 12 you get so much homework that having a job affects you a lot."

It seems as the grade level goes up, so does the impact of a job. To deal with this many students cut back or stop working altogether, with a resulting improvement in their marks. "I worked 18-20 hours a week last year," one Grade 12 remarked. "Now I'm only working on Saturdays. My marks have shot up because of it to an A average."

These students are the lucky ones. Unfortunately, there's a flip side to the story. Those students who haven't pushed work on to the backburner and put school first risk poorer grades or being tempted to drop school in favour of earning more money.

Work only seems to pose a problem when students give it a higher priority than school. Time is spent working instead of doing homework. When they get home they're too tired to do their homework well, if at all. This can be discouraging for students and can lead to dropping out.

So why are students working so much if it's affecting their grades? The number of employed Canadian students between the ages of 17 and 19 has risen sharply since the 1970s from 37 per cent to 50 per cent. This does not include students who work on an irregular basis. The reason for this increase is a stronger desire for independence, and societal expectations.

The majority of students say they need money for personal things such as clothes, cars and entertainment. Others say they're saving for college and university. The latter situation is ironic in that to pay for college or university one must work, but if one's grades suffer because of it then it would be more beneficial to be poor.



STUDENT AT WORK: Gulf Islands Secondary student Tami Wesley rearranges stock on the shelves at Workwear World. Wesley works up to 20 hours a week. Photo by Tony Richards

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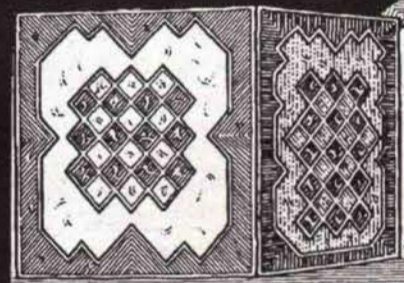
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Ducks, salmon benefit from changes to stream

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

While last summer's Islands Trust policy statement had many people worried about environmental intervention on private property, a project completed last week by the Salt Spring Salmon Enhancement Society has shown that land stewardship is not a pipe-dream.

Four landowners on Vesuvius Bay Road have given their blessing and help toward a newly constructed branch of Duck Creek, complete with three good-sized ponds for ducks. Dave Simmons, Jacqueline Thomas, Bert Fraser and Doug Adams have all allowed

the new water course to run through their properties, society president Kathy Reimer said. Simmons even offered the services of his tractor.

"Almost all the creeks in the Gulf Islands are on private property," she said Friday. "We think the people of Salt Spring who always help with our projects set a fine example of environmental stewardship and other communities should pay attention and follow suit."

"The result of having such a co-operative group of land owners is going to be a fine sustainable fishery resource for future generations to enjoy and be proud of."

Duck Creek has two branches, she said. One comes out of St. Mary Lake, but domestic water use has meant this branch is dry in the summer. The other branch comes out of a beaver pond behind Portlock Park and joins the other closer to Tripp Road. Springs in the area keep some water in the creek all summer.

The new creek bed, which has rock-lined facing and three rock-lined rearing ponds including one with a small island in it, will ensure a more adequate water flow than was possible before. The fish will also no longer have to use the ditch alongside Vesuvius Bay Road.

Reimer said she has been planning the work for years. Some of the money needed for the rehabilitation came from a casino night fundraiser and a BC 21 grant for the wages. Environment Canada's Environmental Partners Fund also helped pay for her work force, which included full-time assistant Dave Cowell and part-time assistant Surge Taylor.

Cowell had done stream rehabilitation work in Ontario before coming to Salt Spring Island and has been working for the Salmon Enhancement Society for more than a year.

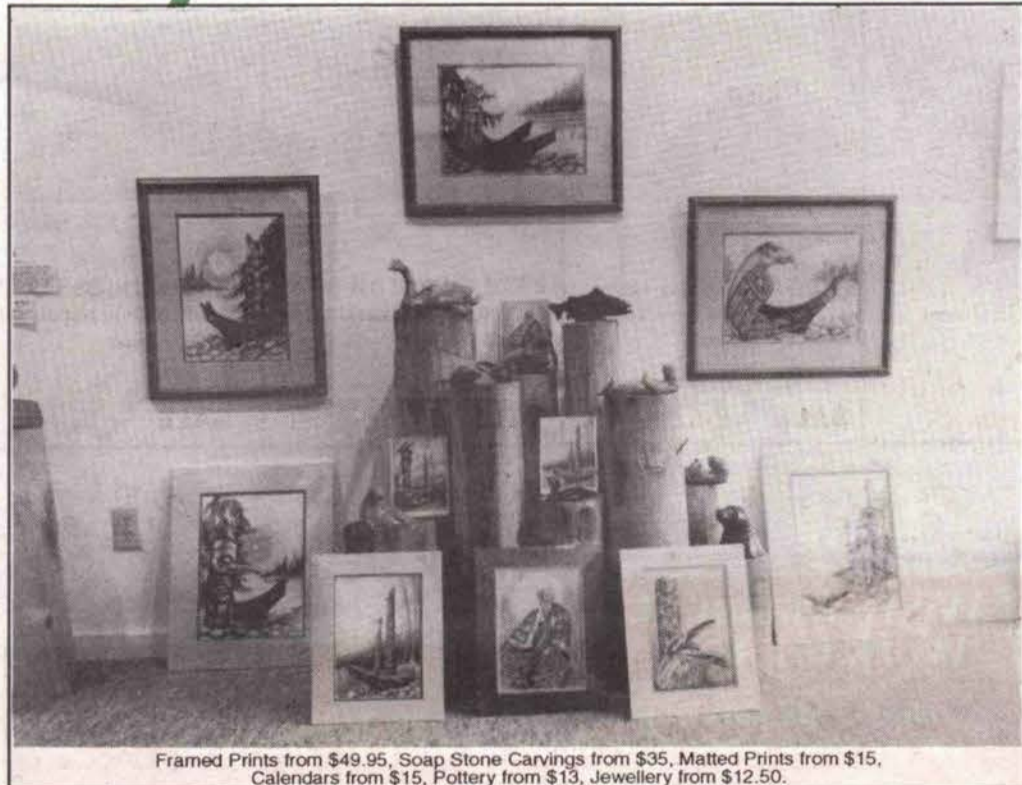
Taylor is one of a number of part-time helpers Reimer calls on for her projects all over the island. He likes being outside, Reimer said, and is good at building work, especially with the rock.

The other major players in the project were Ken Tara and Dennis Howard of Ken Tara Excavating. They dug the new channel with a backhoe, saving many hours of manual labour in the muddy marshland.



NEW DUCK CREEK: Salt Spring Salmon Enhancement Society president Kathy Reimer, left, surveys the muddy but finished results of stream work with employees Surge Taylor, centre, and Dave Cowell.

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'Salt Spring's rainfall could support 50,000'

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

There is no shortage of water on Salt Spring.

But there is a shortage of affordable water, according to a panel on water held at the Ganges Activity Centre last Wednesday. The third in a series of fall forums on sustainability, the event was organized by the Sustainable Salt Spring Community Roundtable.

Panel members Kim Rink of Vancouver-based Eco-Tek Wastewater Treatments Inc., Mike Larmour of North Salt Spring Waterworks and Tom Wright of the Water Preservation Society all stressed that a shortage of water is not enough to deter development.

Rink pointed out that his company's aquatic treatment system could allow development in areas where it was previously impossible due to water shortages. "We're trying to make water clean — by doing that, we're maybe allowing some development to go ahead that shouldn't go ahead."

A geologist, Wright said Salt Spring technically has enough water to support a population of 50,000. The annual rainfall, which Larmour said ranges from 25 to 55 inches, was described by Wright as equal to 11 times the volume of St. Mary Lake.

If all the rainwater were collected, there would be enough potable water to support a population of 500,000, Wright said. However, all but one-tenth of the total rainfall either runs off or evaporates, leaving enough water to support a population of 50,000.

"Fifty-thousand is not that far down the road if you keep doubling the population," he added.

A shortage of readily available water will only increase costs, not halt development, Larmour said, leading one audience member to remark that a water shortage would only increase the "wealth threshold" for people living on the island.

"The tendency is to use the cheapest water supplies first," Larmour noted. For many, the least expensive solution is a well, but Larmour and Wright both observed that Salt Spring is not a good site for wells.

Wright explained that there is no true aquifer on the island. All of the underground water is contained in joints and fractures of rock, so pools of available water tend to be small. "There's not a great deal of water under the ground — less than people may think."

Since rock is not porous any contamination — such as leaks from a septic field — can be picked up as the water flows through the rocks. "I think everyone has a

reason to be quite nervous if they're on a well."

Larmour agreed there is little underground water. A study on island wells showed most are drawing from low levels of ground water.

North Salt Spring Waterworks draws water from St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake. Use of both is controlled by the provincial government and a permit is required to draw water from either lake, Larmour said. Although there is ample rainwater to meet Salt Spring's needs, Larmour noted, 70 per cent of the rain falls in the winter while the greatest demand for water is in the summer.

To meet the growing need for water service on Salt Spring, Larmour said North Salt Spring Waterworks has obtained a provincial permit to raise the level of Maxwell Lake by three feet. He added that the waterworks may not be able to renew the current permit to obtain water from St. Mary Lake, since the lake is also under fisheries

WATER B6

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Flushing away a resource

Sewage water is not waste water.

Whole cities are flushing away a valuable resource which could be treated and recycled, says Kim Rink of Vancouver-based Eco Tek Wastewater Treatments Inc.

At a sustainable development panel on Salt Spring last Wednesday, Rink outlined the solar aquatic treatment system, developed by John Todd, which he is trying to bring to B.C. communities.

He is already working on a system for Mill Bay and would like to use the concept to create neighbourhood-based systems in Vancouver. The system allows communities to treat sewage and produce re-usable water, alleviating water shortages.

"In Vancouver, it rains cats and dogs all winter, yet the city faces a water shortage," he said. At a certain population level, Rink noted any community will face a water shortage regardless of the amount of rainfall.

Instead of flushing away waste water, Rink says communities could treat and recycle the water using techniques similar to those used by nature.

To a plant, waste water or sewage is full of nutrients. The

aquatic treatment centre builds on the ability of plants to use those nutrients by filling the treatment tanks with plants and aquatic vegetation. "We try to mirror what happens in nature. It's a very low-tech method."

The tanks are enclosed in greenhouses, to give the plants optimum growing conditions. "Odour is controlled completely by the plants," Rink said. The microbes used to break down the sewage in the water thrive in the atmosphere created by the plants, Rink added.

"Microbes do most of the work, as they do in other systems."

Screens, a sand filter and an engineered marsh complete the job of cleaning the water. "We are imitating what a natural wetland does," Rink said. However, the greenhouse system only occupies about 10 per cent of the space which would be required for a natural wetland to treat the same amount of sewage.

In one of the pilot systems now operating, the aquatic system broke down some diesel fuel which shut down a conventional treatment plant, Rink said.

"Diesel fuel is, after all, just squished down dinosaur," he remarked.

Heavy metals poured into the waste stream cannot be handled by microbes but are removed from the water, Rink said. Tests have revealed the metals bound up by the roots of cattails and willows. The best method is controlling disposal of such products at the source, Rink said.

Rink says the treatment and re-use of waste water is best accomplished through small, local plants. "We would like to go around Vancouver, slicing the pipe, and putting in neighbourhood treatment plants."

The system can also be adapted for industrial waste. Rink said one treatment plant is breaking down waste from an ice cream manufacturer. The nutrients in the water support the growing of food crops. "It's a beautiful jungle atmosphere," Rink said.

The treatment and re-use of waste water through such natural processes is in its infancy, Rink noted. In the future, he expected the process to develop to the point that the present odorous sewage lagoons and outfalls will become obsolete.

"We should have a (waste) Disneyland—hopefully in 20 years—to show what it was like."



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SHARING A DRINK: Kim Rink shares a drink with one of the potted trees supplied by Foxglove Farm and Garden Supplies to landscape the inside of the Ganges Activity Centre for last Wednesday's forum on water use. Photo by Valerie Lennox

WATER

From Page B5
jurisdiction.

Larmour said many people in the community are aware of the limited water supply so are quite conservative in their water use. The water district has always tried to encourage water conservation.

Rink remarked that conservation is the first recommendation his company makes when working with a community on disposal of waste water. Low-flush toilets and shower heads which reduce water flow are inexpensive ways to limit water use.

Rink remarked that island communities echo the urban sprawl outside major cities, with widely spaced homes instead of clustered homes in small villages.

If homes are together in an area, it is possible to arrange joint sewage and septate treatment and there is the possibility of recycling the treated water back into the community for re-use. "Once you've cleaned the water, everything opens up to you," Rink said.

Wright said failing to control the use of water is not practising good stewardship of a resource. Although microbes can clear sewage from water, they cannot handle the hazardous chemicals which can contaminate the water supply.

Rink urged overall community planning to determine the desired level of growth for Salt Spring. If there is no holistic planning, Salt Spring will be "all roads and five-acre plots," he said.

"Shop the world for ideas and apply them here," he suggested.

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Electronic monitoring ordered for three local Clayoquot protesters

Three Salt Spring residents convicted of criminal contempt for their part in the Clayoquot Sound protests last summer are now serving their sentences at home under the electronic monitoring program.

Myranda O'Byrne and Nova Elson were sentenced to two weeks of electronic monitoring and were fined \$250.

Anne Pyke was fined \$500 and sentenced to 15 days.

Judge Richard Low had recommended the protesters apply to serve their sentences through electronic monitoring.

He based his November 15 sentences on the pleas entered by the defendants and whether they apologized to the court for their conduct.

Both Elson and O'Byrne received the minimum sentences and fines after pleading guilty to

criminal contempt and apologizing to the court. Although Pyke apologized to the court, she says the apology was lost during the proceedings. She pleaded guilty to civil contempt.

Pyke, a single mother, noted that the electronic monitoring system allowed her to leave her home to go to work and to do the tasks, such as grocery shopping, required to maintain her household.

Profile finds islanders older

Gulf Islanders are older, more likely to be married and have lower incomes than residents of other parts of the Capital Regional District (CRD).

A demographic profile prepared by the CRD and published in *Trends*, a review and analysis of local economic trends, also says the islands are the fastest growing part of the Capital Region. Between 1986 and 1991, the population of the Gulf Islands grew at an average annual rate of almost five per cent, compared to 2.5 per cent in the region as a whole.

Since 1991, the rate has fallen to about four per cent per year, which is still more than twice the Capital Region's growth rate.

As of June 1, the CRD estimates Salt Spring Island's population at 8,520 and the Outer Islands at 3,860. The number of households on Salt Spring is estimated to be 3,600; on the Outer Islands, 1,870.

The CRD also says that census data show an older population in the islands. The proportion of people aged 65 and over here is 24 per cent, compared to 19 per cent in the whole Capital Region. Only seven per cent of islanders are aged 15 to 24, and nine per cent 25 to 34. In the CRD as a whole, these figures are 13 and 16 per cent respectively. At 45, the average age of Gulf Islanders is five years older than the CRD average.

Other differences are:

- The proportion of islanders over 14 who have never been married is 19 per cent; in the CRD generally, 27 per cent are single.

- Only 21 per cent of private dwellings in the islands are rented by their occupants, compared to 38 per cent in the region.


- Average household income in the Gulf Islands is \$33,420, compared to the region's \$41,672.

There are also differences between islands:

- There are more single people on Salt Spring, Galiano and Saturna islands.

- Average ages range from 42.6 on Salt Spring to 55.1 on Mayne.

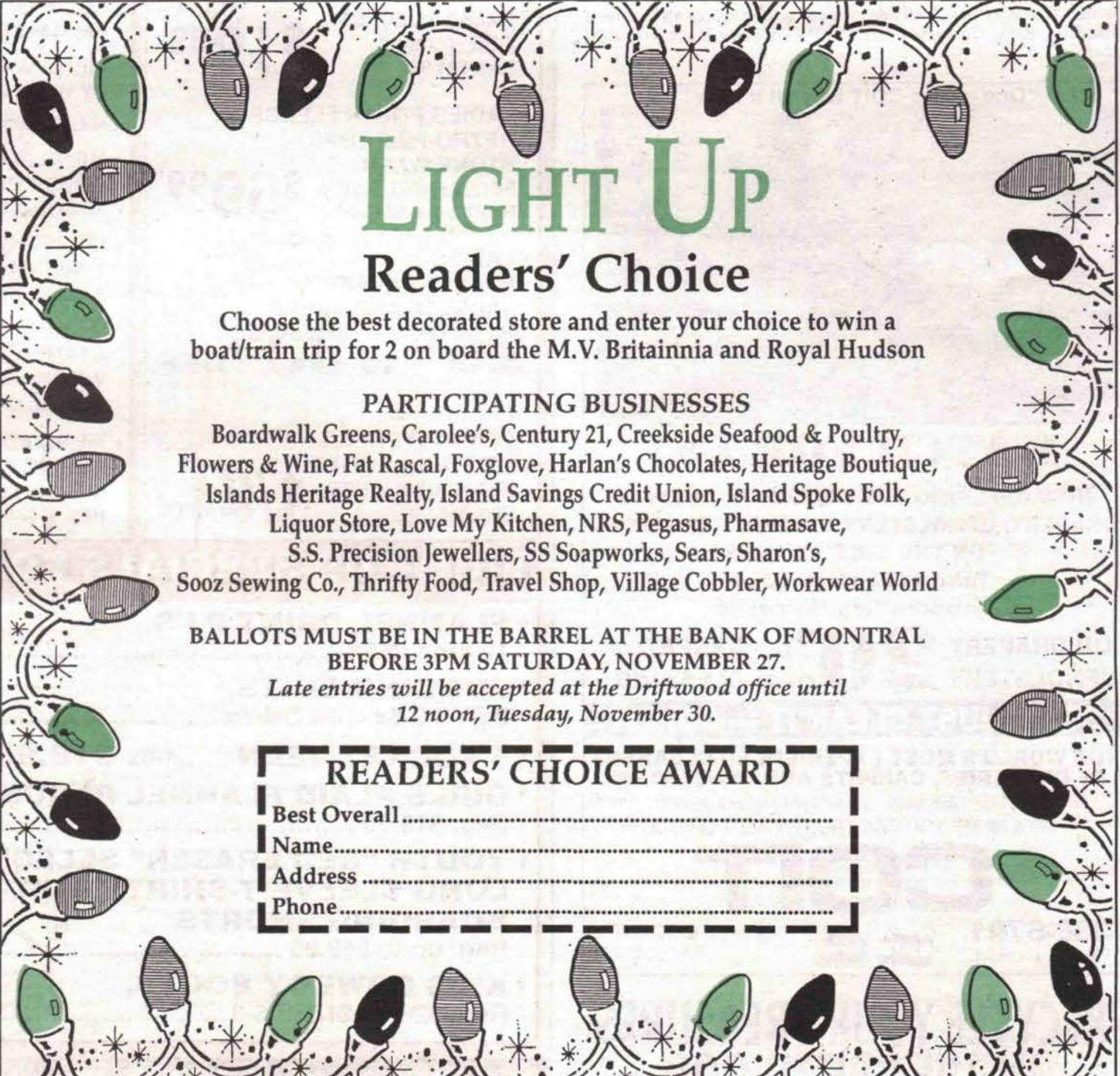
- Mayne Island has a higher proportion of homeowners as opposed to renters than the other islands.



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Saturna students to Mayne?

Saturna Grade 7 students may be getting up a little earlier to get to school if plans are finalized to have them attend school on Mayne Island.

The students now attend a kindergarten to Grade 7 school on Saturna, but parents on the island have approached the school district suggesting the Grade 7 students take the 10-minute water taxi trip to attend the Mayne Island school.

Superintendent Mike Marshall said he is working with Saturna

Island parents on the option. One advantage of attending Mayne Island school would be a wider range of electives for the Grade 7 students.

In other school district news: Certificates of appreciation have been presented to outgoing school trustees Marg Billsten of Mayne, Jim Macdonald of Galiano and Charles Bazzard and Grace Byrne of Salt Spring.

The retiring trustees attended their last school board meeting

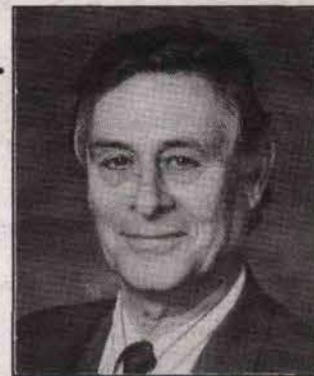
November 10. An increase of \$25,105 in the district's capital budget was approved by trustees November 10, following receipt of the additional funding from the provincial ministry of education. The money was approved to cover additions and renovations for Pender Island school.

The equipment for the Pender Island Pathfinder program has been installed and training of staff on the program is under way.

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biz briefs

Two changes have taken place recently at a local property management firm.

Explorer Property Management has become Island Explorer Property Management Ltd., following incorporation as a company a month ago.

Meanwhile, Wilf Holshoe, formerly with Canada Trust in Vancouver for 15 years, has joined the firm as a nominee under the Real Estate Act. He will be looking after seasonal rentals, according to owner Dan Pippin.

Island Explorer Property Management operates out of K.I.S. Offices Services, McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, and can be reached at 537-4722.

The Fieldmouse Gallery has switched to winter hours.

The gallery, located at 233 Wildwood Crescent on Salt Spring, is open Saturday and Sunday only, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Owned by Pat Wright, the Fieldmouse Gallery shows works by Michael Hames, J. Sharkey Thomas, Carl Brenders, Basil Ede, Fritz Hug, Ralph Thompson and others.

The gallery can be reached at 537-2835.

Patrons of the restaurant at Kings Lane Recreation can now watch the bowlers while they eat. Manager Ruth Hume reports that three four-foot-square windows have been placed between the restaurant and the bowling lanes.

Another change has been the introduction of a children's menu with eight choices.

Hume took over the business October 1, which she says employs "six fabulous people."

West coast Mediterranean is the flavour of a new restaurant in Ganges.

Pomodori, located next to Harbour Low Cost on Fulford-Ganges Road, has a decor which chef-owner Mirjana Vukman describes as "funky country inn." She also says it would make Laura Ashley "turn over in her grave."

Pomodori is licensed, seats 41 and has a dress code in effect: patrons are advised to wear clothes.

Vukman trained at the Cordon Bleu cooking school and has been in the culinary business for 20 years.

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Storage facility meets some strict regulations

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Ross Vezerian is not a firefighter but he knows as much about fire prevention as any member of the fire department, and perhaps a good sight more.

His knowledge of fire-proofing comes from constructing a commercial building after the introduction in January of a new provincial building code. Salt Spring Mini Storage on Upper Ganges Road, with 62 units of a planned total of 192, opened Saturday.

"It was scrupulously designed," Vezerian said last week. "An architect inspected every step of construction. It was also monitored by the building inspector.

"The architect also had to submit a report about the design, defending the building's adherence to all sections of the code."

Salt Spring Mini Storage has operated from the Home Design Centre for the last three years. The idea of storage units on the island has wide appeal, from residents coming here to build, moving from large homes to small ones or living away for a year and renting homes out. Tradespeople like the idea of a central island drop-off point and regular, inexpensive storage space.

Some people, Vezerian said, just want to take control of their boxed-up spare room or basement. He has units to suit all needs, from a four-by-eight-foot inside-access closet to a 16-by-eight outside-access garage.

But the best laid plans, and the obvious need, did not speed up construction of the new facility. In September 1991, Vezerian began the process of planning, designing and approving the 192-unit, four-building site.

He described the process he went through to design an economically viable facility as a "Chinese jigsaw," meeting restrictions imposed by the Islands Trust, the Advisory Design Panel and the new B.C. building code.



Ross Vezerian

Setbacks of 50 feet on the lot dictated placing of buildings; construction of a run-off containment pond affected total site coverage by the buildings and road surfacing.

He described the process he went through to design an economically viable facility as a "Chinese jigsaw," meeting restrictions imposed by the Islands Trust, the Advisory Design Panel and the new B.C. building code.

But the most stringent and comprehensive regulations were contained in the 583-page B.C. building code for new construction. Architectural technologist Diane Harris was employed on the project from start to finish and guided construction through the

new building code regulations.

Occupancy is one of the first considerations in designing a commercial building, Harris said. Floor space and building height depend on the use of the structure and sprinkler system installed. There are 12 different classifications, such as for schools and restaurants.

Building materials, exterior and interior construction, size of doors and windows, width and length of corridors and width, height and direction of swing of exit doors are all covered by parts of the building code, Harris said. Insulation, ventilation, smoke detectors, emergency lighting, stair tread width and height and plumbing are covered by other code specifications.

"The list seems endless," Harris said.

The restriction on the size of doors and windows — 28 per cent of wall area — was significant for this business which required doors to access storage rooms. Some outside units needed doors large enough to store cars, boats and other large items.

When the design was started in 1991, Harris relied on the old B.C. building code to guide her. But before plans were given their final stamp of approval, the building code changed. The drawings, and the building plans, had to be redone.

A new 45-minute fire protection specification was particularly significant. Originally, each storage unit was to have a strong wire-mesh roof, open to the roofing structure above, Harris said. This helped save money on heat, light and ventilation for the whole building. That all changed in January.

"We had to have gypsum on the ceiling (of each storage unit)," Harris said. "The heating, ventilation and lighting had to be completely redone.

"Most of (the code requirements) make sense," she said. "They say they're put in for your protection but a lot of them are just

stumbling blocks."

So Salt Spring Mini Storage has walls of double-thick gypsum, rather than plywood. Doors are solid-core with steel frames. Walls are made of steel-enforced concrete blocks. There are fire extin-

guishers, fire exit signs, panic lighting and panic handles on exit doors.

Nearly three-fifths of the units are rented already and construction of phase two will start within the next six weeks.

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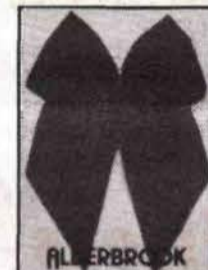
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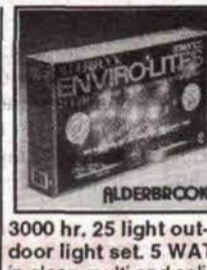
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B.C. Ferries report notes high cost of island runs

B.C. Ferries' money-losing service to the Gulf Islands is under examination along with other routes, according to a report issued Friday by the ferry corporation.

Less than half the cost of service on the Gulf Islands routes is covered by passenger and vehicle fares. According to B.C. Ferries, a vehicle fare on the Vesuvius-Crofton route is subsidized by 13 per cent and a vehicle on the Fulford Harbour-Swartz Bay run is subsidized by 16 per cent.

Vehicle fares from Swartz Bay to the Outer Islands are subsidized by 64 per cent. The subsidies increase for those using the 10-ticket books of commuter passes for vehicles, reaching 75 per cent for the Outer Islands, 37 per cent for Vesuvius-Crofton and 39 per cent for Fulford-Swartz Bay.

Similar subsidies exist for foot passengers using the 10-ticket books: 40 per cent at Vesuvius, 75 per cent for Swartz Bay-Outer Islands and 42 per cent for Fulford Harbour.

B.C. Ferries is now examining the use of vessels throughout the

system to achieve the most cost-effective service. "We face the tough challenge of maintaining a cost-efficient service in the '90s," said Michael Martin, president and chief executive officer of B.C. Ferries.

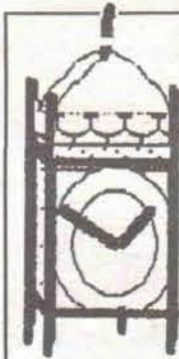
"We think it's more important than ever to let our customers know how much each ferry trip costs and to show them that the fare they pay covers only a portion of those costs."

Only the Vancouver Island and

mainland routes are self-supporting. All other routes are subsidized — by over one-third on mid and north coast routes and by over 80 per cent on Sunshine Coast routes.

Public input will be invited into B.C. Ferries' search for cost-cutting measures.

"The corporation is looking at every opportunity to improve cost-effectiveness but service changes will not be made without consultation with our customers," Martin said.



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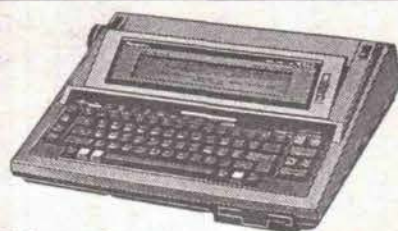
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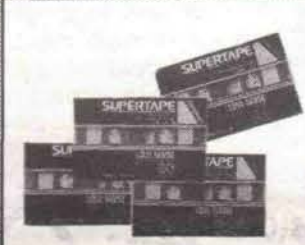
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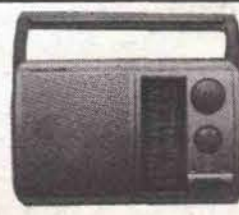


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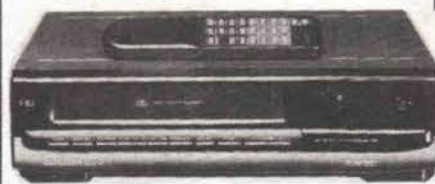
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Photo by Graeme Thompson

BURGEONING BUSINESS: Anne and John Millerd are the owners and operators of Sea Change Seafoods, which specializes in selling high-quality smoked salmon in island-made cedar boxes adorned with native art. The firm has been in operation since 1985.

Salmon in cedar boxes has fuelled local firm's success

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

A rainy November in 1985 spawned Salt Spring's Sea Change Seafoods. Work was slow in the construction industry for carpenter John Millerd, but being adept at making smart little boxes out of cedar, he hit on the idea of putting high-quality salmon in a box and selling it as a Christmas gift.

It worked. And business grew. This year, John and Anne Millerd and six other employees at Sea Change have sold more than 75,000 salmon products in 10 different lines. They have recently expanded their business to new premises at the end of McPhillips Avenue in Ganges.

"I think essentially why it's been successful (is) it's something that's distinct to this area," John said, "between the cedar box and the smoked salmon and the native art look."

"I think people are looking for beautiful things. It doesn't matter how delicious the salmon is, people want it to look delicious."

The salmon does look delicious. The small cedar boxes — made on-island by Salt Spring Box Design — are beautiful to look at. Custom-designed Haida-inspired images are silk-screened onto the lids. The salmon, meanwhile, is smoked by a company on Quadra Island.

Art is a very important component of the total product. While salmon is the kind of product that starts out expensive anyway, Sea Change has a policy of investing money in artwork for its products.

"We spend a lot of money on artwork and with artists and graphics designers," Anne said. A special project for a client anniversary next year has led them to commission a piece of First Nations art just for that client.

"That's an example of how we're trying to do high-end product," she said. "It's a really nice, pretty box. People will keep it and even put it on the wall."

Their products are sold across the country in specialty gift stores — including some high-profile, high-volume ones in Banff and Niagara Falls. Eatons and The Bay carry their products, too. There is even one store in Vancouver specializing in selling salmon to overseas tourists and has boxes specially made just for them.

Sea Change has come a long way since 1985 when they began

with only one cedar box containing two tins of salmon. Now they sell four, eight and 16-ounce packages of salmon, unsmoked and smoked, in cedar and cardboard boxes.

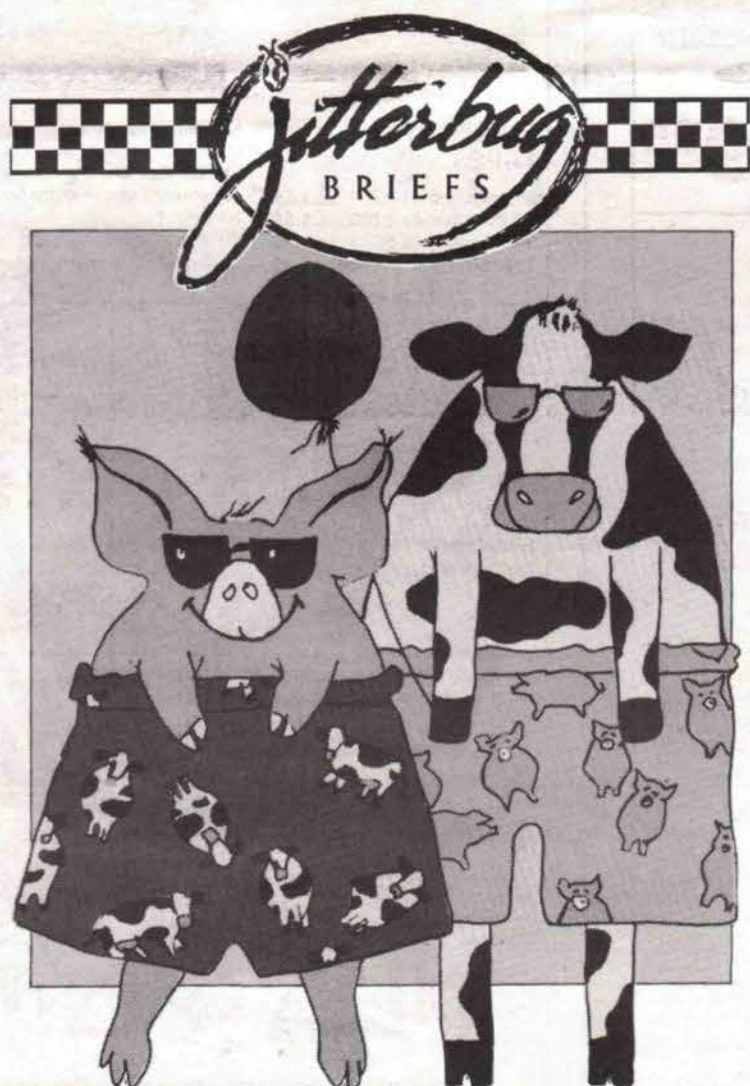
While they use coho and spring salmon, most of their stock is sock-eye.

"Everybody knows it," Anne

said. "It's the reddest, the darkest in colour. It's quite firm. It's rich in oil."

It's not lox, she added, which is salmon that is smoked enough to flavour it but not cooked. Sea Change salmon is cooked and

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SWINGIN' ON A SALT SPRING STAR: Star is the name of this small hobby horse made by Drew Clarke from a Mini Minor tire. Four-year-olds Alex Gold, above, and Nicole Chisholm, right, were among those invited to test the horse at Hilltop Daycare last week.
Photo by Graeme Thompson

Island man gives new life to old tires

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

The best thing recyclers can normally do with an old tire — unsustainable, non-renewable object that it is — is fill it with dirt and plant potatoes in it.

But Salt Spring resident Drew Clarke has fashioned something else, something quite fantastic, with a pair of old retreads.

He started making his rubber hobby horses after seeing an article in the *Province* about a man who got the idea from a news story from Florida. Clarke said he thought if other people could do it, he could too.

"They're cute," he said. "The kids get a good safe work-out. They bounce up and down and learn about balance."

"They're a riot."

He calls the hobby horses Retyrd Horses and said if there is a demand for them, he will fill it. He is also considering colourful saddles and nosebags — which he will call Horse Attyre.

The horses come with a lifetime guarantee, something the original tires did not have. He has been testing the first two prototypes at Hilltop Daycare where screams and laughter from critical four-year-olds could be construed as top marks.

Clarke says making the hobby horses is a process of trial and error. He takes an old tire and adds binder twine for mane and tail and washers and carriage bolts for eyes. An inner tube and some contact cement make ears and nostrils. In half a day, a childhood heirloom is created.

Prince is the larger first-born, fashioned from a steel-belted radial. Star followed close behind, made from a Mini Minor bias ply.

"They attract kids like flies," he said, and he was right. Clarke's only problem with making these on any scale is finding a workshop. A small barn or large shed would be just right, and he said he may even be able to employ some others. Clarke can be reached at 537-2602.

Carolees & Michaels

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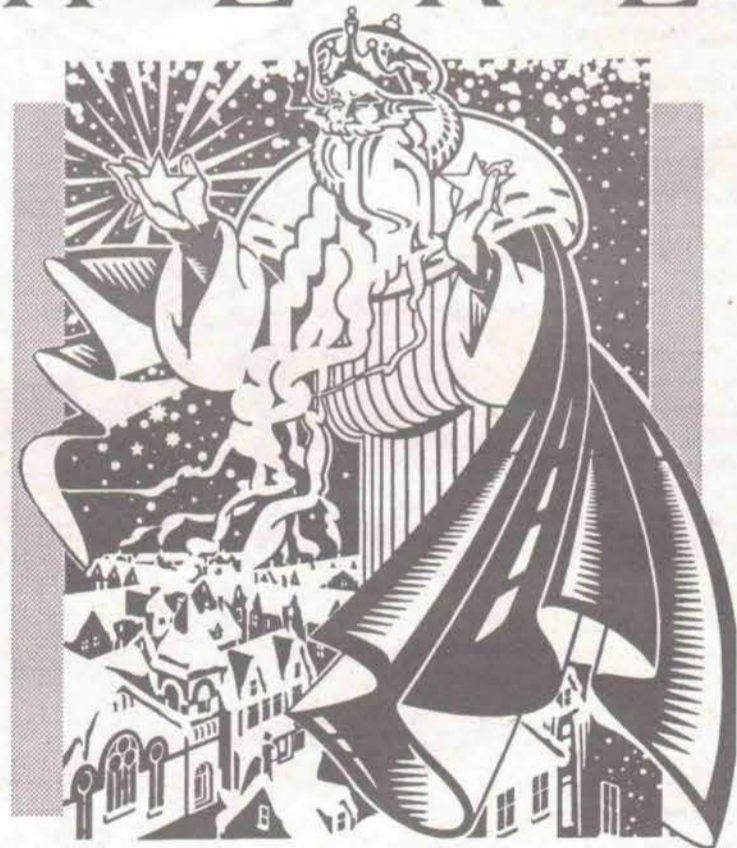
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Gulf Islands
Driftwood
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SALMON

From Page B11

smoked. Lox is soft and fleshy and most often served in thin slices while Sea Change salmon is more solid and flakes with a fork.

Their product is not necessarily superior to lox, Anne is quick to point out, just different. Unlike lox, their vacuum-sealed goods keep for years without refrigeration. Tourists can buy it, put it in their suitcase and take it home with them; they can also mail it home or to relatives and friends.

It is more versatile than lox, until it is opened. Then it gets eaten about as quickly.

One of the growing sides of the business is the corporate gift. Companies, especially ones dealing with overseas clients, are catching on to the idea of giving a B.C.-made gift.

"The very first Christmas we made this really nice cedar box," Anne said. "John took it around to some accounting firms, law firms

and forest companies to replace the perennial (Christmas gift of a) bottle of whisky.

"Now companies can place orders and have their corporate logo silk-screened on the box as well, to make the gift even more personal.

"Any company that's big enough to want to give a handsome client gift or a handsome employee gift can think about this kind of gift," she said.

"A lot of corporations deal quite a bit with overseas customers," John said. "They want to express their gratitude to the overseas client with something that's British Columbian."

John spends a lot of time on the road meeting with clients and advising new ones which products would sell best in their market. Anne and another employee visit shops close by to set up displays and answer questions consumers have about the salmon.

The Salt Spring business employs six people besides the Millerds. They box the salmon, silk-screen the lids, shrink-wrap the boxes and ship the products by courier.

"Salt Spring is our home," Anne said. "It's expensive to operate in terms of couriers and ferries. But to lease or rent a place in Vancouver would be expensive."

• *Sea Change Seafoods is inviting islanders to an open house Saturday at 152 McPhillips Avenue.*



THE ASSEMBLY LINE: Jill Bartle silk-screens box lids for Sea Change Seafoods in Ganges. Fish-related Haida designs are the most common motif put on the island-made containers.



SMOKED SOCKEYE: Smoked salmon arrives in vacuum-sealed packages of different sizes from a plant on Quadra Island. Sharon Sykes opens a box of four-ounce packages of smoked sockeye.

Photos by Graeme Thompson

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GARDEN • DESIGN



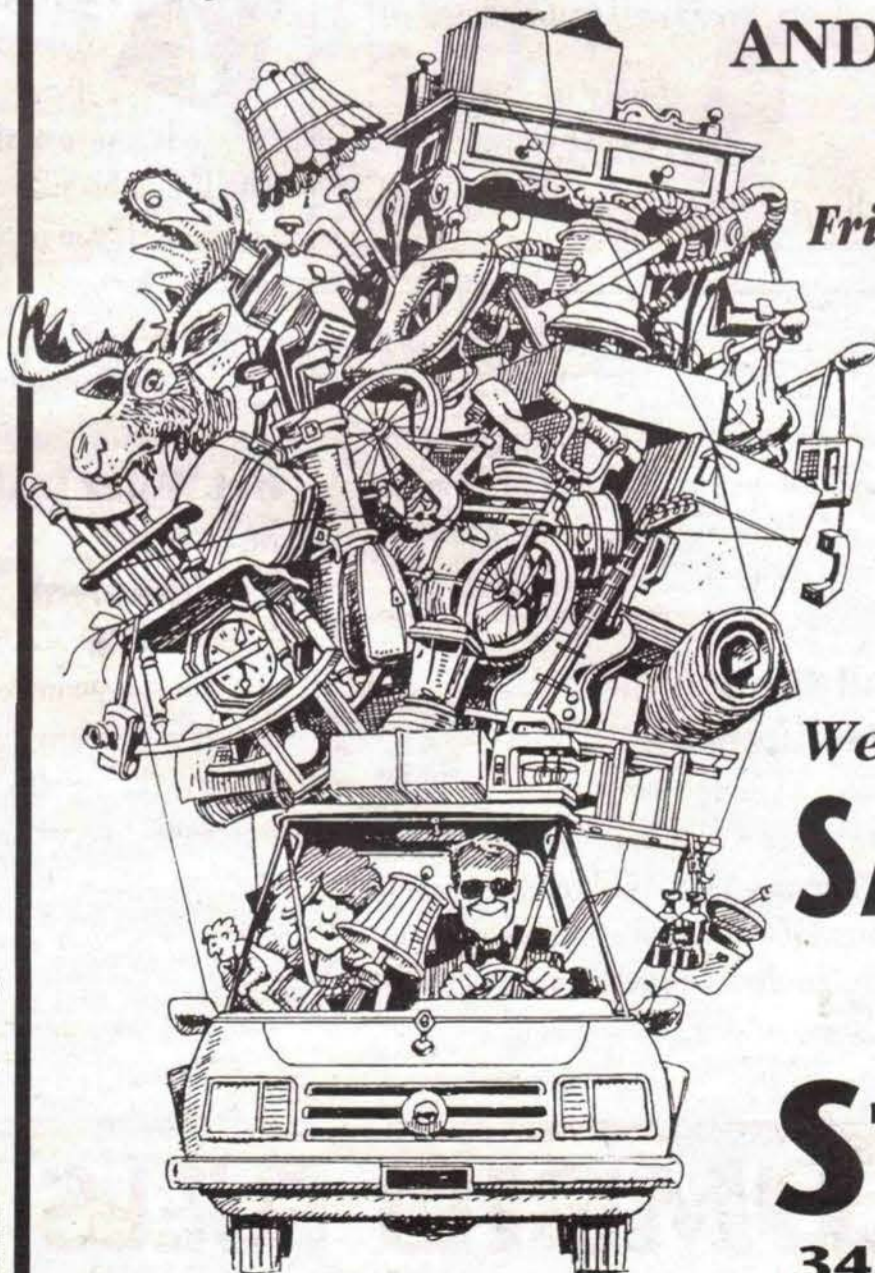
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B14 • Wednesday, November 24, 1993

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benefits include: •Five Year Parts and Labour Warranty •24 Hour Emergency Service •Oil-fired burner replacement payback period up to 12 years less than Natural Gas •Quality Lincoln Furnaces and Aero Brand Burners.

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* Offer applies to residential customers only.

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File photo
LOOK WHO FLEW IN: Santa Claus arrives at Ganges Harbour aboard a seaplane for last year's Light-Up celebration.

Christmas comes to Ganges with Light-Up Saturday

Ganges village will take on a festive look this weekend with the annual Light-Up store decorating contest taking place.

This year's prize for Readers' Choice is a trip for two on a popular boat/train day trip. It includes the M.V. Britannia and Royal Hudson steam train for a six and a half hour combination trip featuring the scenery of Howe Sound. The winner has until September 1994 to take the trip, which runs from June 2 to September 19, Wednesday through Saturday.

Driftwood readers are encouraged to cut out the ballot on Page B7 of this issue. A list of participating stores is included in the advertisement. Readers will be given extra time this year to make their choices and have until noon on Tuesday, November 30 to submit their ballots to the *Driftwood* office. If they have already decided by 3 p.m. Saturday, they can leave their ballots at the Bank of Montreal where a barrel will be located.

Mystery judges will be on the streets Friday night to make their selection of winners in three

categories — originality of theme, best use of lights and best use of materials. Ribbons will be awarded Saturday.

Light-Up festivities include the arrival of Santa Claus via a Harbour Air seaplane and photos for children at the Bank of Montreal, where they will receive hot chocolate and oranges from Ganges Village Market and candy canes from Pharmasave.

Street entertainment includes Tuned Air singing at the dock, the Raging Grannies, also at the dock, Flutations outside Tone's Espresso

Bar, and Nova juggling between Salt Spring Precision Jewels and the Bank of Montreal.

Tom Gundy will be on hand with his horses, Buddy and Ben, to provide hayrides around the village core between 1 and 3 p.m.

A complete schedule of events and times can be found on Page B24 of this issue.

The weekend is the first of three major Christmas events that include the fourth Annual Festival of Lights Childrens' Parade on December 3 and the arrival of the Christmas Ship on December 11.

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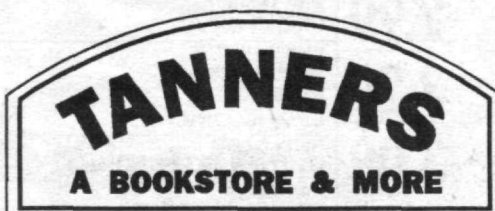
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Student plans career in journalism

Jaya Polden has been getting a taste of journalism, thanks to the Career Explorations Program at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS).

Polden is a Grade 12 student at GISS and for the past week has been working at the *Driftwood*, conducting interviews and writing stories.

Polden has wanted to be a journalist since Grade 8 when her English teacher first inspired her to write.

She is hoping to gain a headstart in journalism during her last year at GISS through her position as editor of the high school's yearbook.

As a result of her work experience she is also initiating a GISS news section to appear in the *Driftwood* every second week.

The opportunity to have hands-on experience in the workplace is



Jaya Polden

one made available and actually required of all students in the Career Explorations Program. The course is designed so students can

explore career options.

At times students discover it is not the career they want to go into. But sometimes students are inspired and gain a sense of direction they did not have before, Polden said.

Career counsellors Scott Bergstrom and Maggie Allison are the course facilitators. Allison says the course is popular with students.

In fact, it has the second highest enrolment — with 70 students — of any course at GISS. English, which is compulsory, has the highest.

"It's been great," Polden said Tuesday of her work experience. "I've learned a lot and even though I've been working hard, this experience hasn't deterred me at all. If anything it has made me more inspired to pursue journalism be-

cause now I know what it's like."

After graduation she hopes to attend Carlton University in Ontario or Concordia University in Quebec.

"The spider looks for a merchant who doesn't ADVERTISE so he can spin a web across his door and lead a life of undisturbed peace."
— Mark Twain —

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Educators still in dark over Year 2000

Year 2000 is out — but Gulf Islands educators still don't know what will replace the controversial education program.

Today (Wednesday), school superintendent Mike Marshall will be in Victoria for a meeting of the provincial ministry of education and all the school superintendents in the province. He expects to meet with both Education Minister Art Charbonneau and the deputy minister.

On November 16, Premier Mike Harcourt and Charbonneau announced the end of the Year 2000 program, although Charbonneau said some elements of the program would be retained.

Marshall hopes to find out what part of the program will be kept and which parts will be changed at this week's three-day meeting in Victoria.

"I don't know how much is rhetoric and how much is substantive."

Already announced is the elimination of anecdotal report cards and a return to the Kindergarten to Grade 12 designation, replacing the Primary 1, 2, 3 and 4 designations brought in with the Year 2000 primary program.

Only the primary program was introduced in Gulf Islands schools, Marshall said. The intermediate and graduation programs were never implemented province-wide, although some of the intermediate program options were tried on a pilot basis.

The parents of students in the primary grades will receive structured report cards with written comments; letter grades and written comments will be used for Grades 4 to 12.

But without more information, Marshall said, he is not sure how significant the changes will be or when the changes have to be made. "The booklet they've sent out is not very specific as to dates and time lines."

He notes some aspects of the primary program have been very successful and should be retained. The district has launched its own review of the program to determine how much students are learning.

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Desperation was vital for beating drinking

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Making choices — that was the answer for 34-year-old Riley, who spent 30 years of his life being beaten by an addiction to alcohol.



The first blow was growing up in a dysfunctional home, the child of an alcoholic. Later, as a teenager, he began drinking and using pot. Adopting the role of a rebel, he dropped out of school and left home.

Although he found jobs as a construction worker, he had trouble staying employed. "I didn't want to work. I was lazy, uninterested, a bit apathetic. As the years went on — I was a lot apathetic." As the years went on he also became an alcoholic, repeating the family pattern.

By the time he was 27 he discovered he could no longer handle the hard drinking life. "My party constitution had packed it in." With the physical changes came the start of a personal reassessment. Then a relationship fell apart and Riley began to fall apart as well. "For about three years, I didn't bother getting up to deal with life."

For months at a time he spent most of his time in bed. The depression would lift for a short time and then descend again. He even stopped drinking. "I was incapable of getting a job to get the money for booze." He felt he could not manage his own life.

Just as Riley was beginning to realize that he needed help, a friend



CHOOSING A PATH: A Salt Spring Islander finds many more options open as he plans a drug-free future.

mentioned a program available through the Salt Spring Community Centre. Desperate to escape the ongoing cycle of depression, Riley contacted the centre and counsellor Patti Locke-Lewkowich.

Riley now sees that desperation as a vital step in his rediscovery of himself. "You have to be desperate for change," he says. "You have to hit bottom and want to change the patterns of your life."

He was accepted into the Victoria Life Enrichment Society's month-long residential program. The voluntary program calls on

participants to work hard in order to rebuild their lives. "Any work that is done there is done by the participant. If you want to be there, you're going to get better."

Through a series of small and large group therapy sessions offered by the program counsellors, he learned about himself and about the impact of growing up in a family marred by alcoholism. "I hadn't been aware that these issues were there or that they had been bothering me."

But the most important thing he learned was that he could take responsibility and control of his

own life. "I have a choice — no matter what happens in my life, I have a choice. I am not powerless. I am not a victim."

When he first faced his problems, he found he was always asking himself *why* he had to deal with so many difficulties. But then he realized there was no answer to that question. He chose a better question.

"If I have a problem, I don't ask *why*, I ask *what*. What am I going to do about it? That helps me realize that I have a choice."

He also learned to give himself positive feedback through a series of affirmations. "I learned to change my self-talk," he says. Before attending the program, he would deny his own ability. If faced with a new challenge, he would tell himself that he was not good enough to succeed.

Now, he says, when faced with a challenge, he tells himself: "It can be done and I can do it." As a result, he accomplishes much more. "I am not the same person. Even I notice it."

His other affirmations are equally positive. Each evening he reminds himself that he has had a good day and will have another good day tomorrow. It is almost like a chant, he says. "I am happy — I am well — I believe in myself."

"It's just a blatant form of brainwashing, really," he jokes. Daily repetition of these affirmations builds self-esteem and confidence. Although he recently discovered an injury which will keep him off construction crews, he is enthusiastically researching new career options. In the past, he says, such a setback would have sent him back to the bottle or into a depression.

Alcohol is no longer one of his choices. "I don't drink — I don't do drugs." Involved in what he describes as "a beautiful relationship after eight to 10 years of absolute hell," he finds the affirmations are a self-fulfilling prophecy.

He is part of a small self-help group, the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, which meets at the community centre. The

The ultimate decision rests with the user. Only the individual can drug-proof themselves."

group is very dynamic, he says, and deals with alcohol and drug dependencies as well as the emotional problems which often fuel those dependencies. "It helps. I've watched it help a lot of people."

The best help, either to guard against addiction or to beat an addiction, comes from within. Although family, friends and professionals can provide help and support, Riley says the ultimate decision rests with the user. "Only the individual can drug-proof or alcohol-proof themselves."

For someone already dependent on drugs and/or alcohol, Riley says there will be no cure until the person's desire for a better life outweighs their fear. For the addict, change is risk; for the recovering addict, it is opportunity. "You have to take the risk and the opportunity to change."

Education is key to resolving drug abuse

In 1965, over 60 per cent of men smoked cigarettes: by 1990 only 31 per cent of men were smokers. The decline was caused by education, which created a widespread acceptance that tobacco is harmful to health.

The reduction in tobacco smoking, says Ganges RCMP Const. Pat Wilkinson, illustrates the best way to deal with drug and alcohol abuse. "If we can do the same with drug use, we've got the problem licked. Education is the only way to win the drug war."

At a personal level, every potential user has to be convinced that drug abuse will have a negative impact on his or her life. The only way to get rid of "pushers" is to eliminate the customers.

"If we can educate Canadians as to the hazards and effects — if the demand is not there — producers will stop sending the drug."

The RCMP is devoting more effort to education and has established a new position, Drug Awareness Coordinator, to encourage further education in schools and among adults. "Alcohol is included. It's a drug," Wilkinson remarked.

Police are often asked by parents to describe the symptoms of drug abuse. But by the time parents are pawing through drawers looking for roach clips, it is often too late.

"You have to deal with the situation before it becomes a problem," Wilkinson said. Parents who maintain an open attitude, pay attention to their children, promote a healthy lifestyle and care enough to set firm guidelines are less likely to raise teens who seek solace in drugs.

"Children won't ever admit it but they love discipline," Wilkinson said. Without firm guidelines, children face a chaotic world on their own and can easily feel overwhelmed.

For those who have friends or relatives who succumb to the lure of drugs, the Gulf Islands offer a variety of resources. The Salt Spring Community Centre offers counselling and hosts support groups, thanks in part to United Way funding.

There is an excellent network of self-help groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Alanon and Narcotics Anonymous, notes Patti Locke-Lewkowich, who recently completed a three-year term as the alcohol and drug counsellor at the community centre.

"The islands are a mecca for other alternatives. There's so many other choices people can make."

Lewkowich has also been impressed by the peer counselling program at Gulf Islands Secondary.

Island young people are impressive — "I think they're the most outgoing, spontaneous kids" — and can influence their peers not to abuse drugs and alcohol.

Lewkowich has also participated in "interventions" where family and/or friends work together to encourage the recovery of someone who is drug or alcohol-dependent.

That sense of personal responsibility is one of the most attractive aspects of life on the Islands, Lewkowich said. "People here have a real sense of community and band together to find solutions to problems."

Sea Change Seafoods



Open House and Sale

Saturday, November 27th, 9 am - 3 pm

Taste our Smoked Salmon!

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152 McPhillips (At the very end of the street) in Ganges

Gifts from the Sea

Time to put away the shorts

It was so cold that "Purolator George" Sloane traded in his short pants for long ones earlier this week. Old man winter delivered an unexpected nip Sunday night with a sudden drop in temperature and a light snowfall.

An Arctic high-pressure ridge which streamed south from the Yukon and passed over the Lower Mainland and Georgia Strait is blamed for the snowfall.

Weather specialist George

Sasaki said the ridge picked up moisture crossing the strait, and from a moist low-pressure area in the atmosphere over the island. Snowfall ranged from a trace in Victoria to 5 cm in Nanaimo and up to 10 cm on the Lower Mainland.

With the snow, the Arctic system also brought unusually low temperatures, down to minus eight degrees at Victoria airport Monday night. Sasaki said temperatures will slowly become warmer during

the week and should reach normal levels by the weekend.

Normal temperatures for this time of year are lows of two degrees Celsius and highs of eight to nine.

However, there is still a chance of more snow. A system moving towards the islands is expected to produce precipitation by the weekend. If temperatures are still below normal, islanders may see a trace of snow.

Telethon without TV planned by ArtSpring

A celebration of generosity will take over Mahon Hall December 4 when the Salt Spring Arts Centre Society holds its "chairity" auction.

"It's going to be Salt Spring's telethon, without the television," ArtSpring public relations officer and chairity night co-MC April Curtis said.

"Everyone who would like to make a donation or who would particularly like to pledge for a chair in the theatre is encouraged to come."

She said recent tours of ArtSpring have already resulted in islanders making pledges for chairs. About 200 theatre seats are up for grabs — for donors of \$1,000 — for the main theatre space in the island arts centre. Each donated seat will have an inscribed plaque attached in commemoration of the donor.

Project architect Robert Hassell said the theatre seats the society has its eye on are old seats which have been reconditioned and re-upholstered.

They have steel frames and backs, wooden arms and an automatic seat-up feature — required by fire regulations.

"They are indistinguishable from new ones," Hassell said, "and they are the most cost-effective we could find."

New theatre seats can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$300 each. The reconditioned seats that may

end up in ArtSpring are in the \$135 range. Total cost of buying and installing the 264 theatre seats is estimated at \$35,000.

"This is it. These are the chairs that are going in," Curtis said. Once the 264 chairs are pledged and installed with their name plaques, there will be no others.

When the chairs are pledged and installed, the days of artists stacking and hauling chairs will be gone too. Curtis said that was one of the necessary but back-breaking aspects of show business in small communities.

Everyone is encouraged to attend — tickets are \$5 — to pledge a chair, a paving tile, or a whole room. Islanders can buy ArtSpring memberships, or donate volunteer time.

"Every contribution is appreciated," Curtis said. "We're happy to receive any amount and in any way."

For those who have other commitments December 4, pledges can be made in advance by phoning 537-2125.

All donors' names will be read out at the chairity auction. Donors may also phone Mahon Hall — at 537-5211 — between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to make a pledge December 4.

"Don't stay away if you're not going to pledge a chair," Curtis adds, "Come and enjoy it. It's going to be a thoroughly entertaining evening and community event."

Runners off to national meet

Four Salt Spring cross-country runners will be competing in the national championships in Vancouver Saturday. Chantelle Huth, Jennifer James, Cara Herman and Zoe Bennett qualified to represent British Columbia at last weekend's meet in Kelowna. Huth's time in that five-kilometre event was 20 minutes, 14 seconds.

This is the first time in the Salt Spring Track and Field Club's short history that a member has qualified for the national championships. A national team will be picked to compete at the world championship cross-country meet in Lisbon, Portugal.

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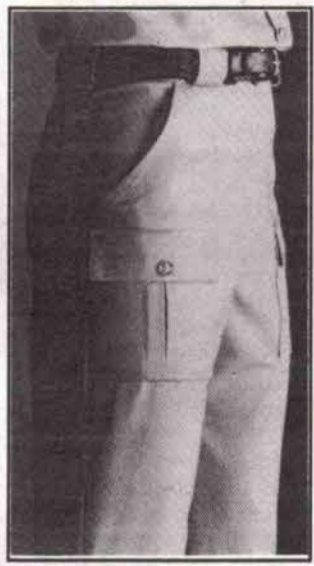
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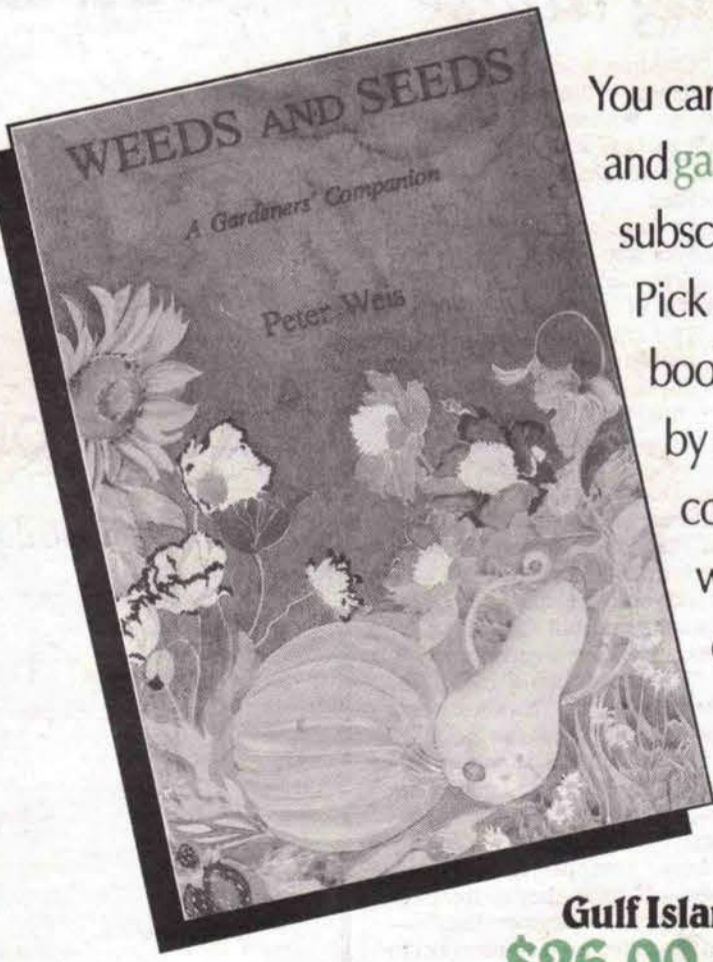
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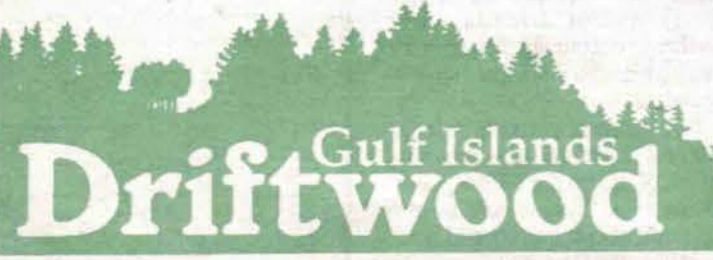
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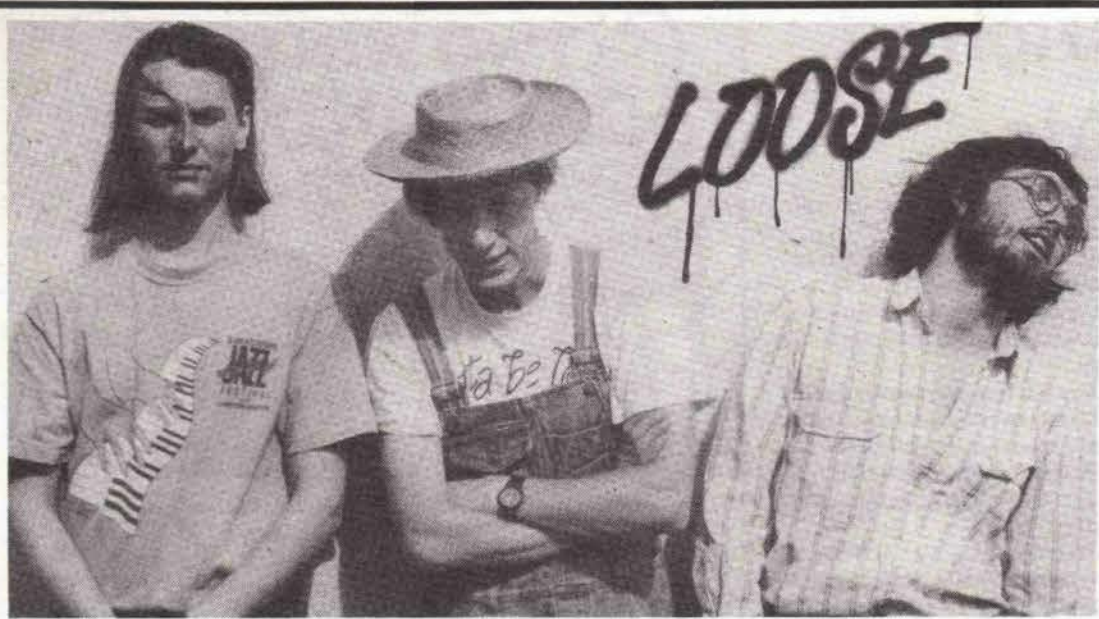
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BE PREPARED TO POLKA: You could call them alternative, but be prepared for a polka, was a warning that came with promotional material for this weekend's entertainment at Moby's, a band called Loose. Described as an original band with an original sound, Loose is expected to "rock, roll, funk and thrash its way gently through the night." The band will appear Friday and Saturday.



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Talley's Folly here for two nights

Described as "a no-holds-barred" romantic story, *Talley's Folly* comes to Ganges for two nights this week in a production by Beyond the Looking Glass Theatre of Courtenay.

Starring Kymme Patrick and former Salt Spring Islander Michael Armstrong, the play is set in Missouri in 1944. Matt is a Jewish accountant from St. Louis who has an affair with a protestant farmer's daughter from the mid-western United States.

After the affair, he returns to his work but writes to her daily. She writes nothing back and Matt returns to find out why.

Kymme Patrick has been the artistic director of Beyond the Looking Glass Theatre for the past five years. She attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in California before moving to Toronto to work in film and television, and on stage.

Armstrong has been seen on the Salt Spring stage many times during his 23 years of acting. He moved to Courtenay last year.

The director of *Talley's Folly* is Leslie Mildner of Vancouver, whose production last spring of *All*

Grown Up was reported to be a smash hit.

Tickets for the two Ganges performances, scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Activity

Centre, are \$10 (\$8 seniors and students) and are available at et cetera.

Talley's Folly is also being presented at Courtenay, Denman Island and Port Alberni.

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A school concert launched island choir Tuned Air

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

A contribution by parents to a Christmas concert at Fernwood School seven years ago was more than just a resounding success. It turned out to be the stage debut of a popular community choir, Tuned Air.

Salt Spring composer and Tuned Air musical director Bruce Ruddell had been asked by a small group of parents to help them make a parental contribution to the traditional Christmas concert.

But when the concert was over, Ruddell recounted in his Vesuvius Bay Road studio last week, no one wanted to stop singing. The practices continued and membership grew to about 60. The group became known as Tuned Air and now they are planning concerts in Vancouver and as far afield as Quebec.

Tuned Air is a big choir and a good choir, he said, for the size of population here.

"The development of any choir is a slow process," Ruddell added. "There's stuff we can't do, but we can give a show and make the audience feel really good about it. What else is there?"

Bruce Ruddell has been composing music and directing singers for nearly 20 years and has a reputation across the country and in every musical discipline.

He has been composer-in-residence for several years at the Vancouver Chamber Choir, one of the world's top professional choirs.

He has composed music for choirs, theatre, film and television and received the Golden Sheaf Award for best original score at the 1991 Yorkton Film Festival. He is currently working on a full-scale grand opera.

"We're kind of seeing trends, a position where there will be a lot more original work done and performed," he said. "There's more and more new music being written for a sizeable audience. We want it." Writing something vital, passionate and dramatic has led Ruddell to attempt something no other contemporary composer has done for nearly 25 years in Canada — write a new grand opera.

He says it is a great story, and dramatic. And it has attracted the



Bruce Ruddell

attention of one of Canada's leading opera stars, Judith Forrest.

A 90-minute concert presentation of the opera — called *The World is as Sharp as a Knife* — was performed at the Museum of Anthropology last year with a 40-piece orchestra, 25 singers, four soloists and 10 dancers and singers from the Sto:Lo Indian nation.

"Judith Forrest came up to me afterward and was very complimentary," Ruddell recalled. "She was interviewed in the *Sun* the next day and she went on and on about this concert. The report said she wanted to play the female lead.

"When I read that, I got her number and phoned to apologize. But she said 'Not at all,' and 'Can I sing the part for you?'"

The opera makes its world debut in Paris in 1995.

Intimations of such exciting projects were probably there when Ruddell came out of the University of British Columbia in 1976. Straight away he joined the alternative theatre company, Tamahnous Theatre, where he spent as much time on the stage as directing singers.

"It was a very exciting time," he recalled of the three years he worked full-time with the company. But his commitments had to change when he became the father of a baby daughter, Juno.

"Most composers don't have families," he said, without a trace of jealousy. "It's a 24-hour job. I have blocks of time (for composition). I write now between 7 a.m.

and 8 a.m., then it's kids stuff until 9 a.m. Then I work again."

Almost 11 years ago, the family decided to put down rural roots. They tried Mayne Island for two years and then moved to Salt Spring.

The island has been inextricably tied to his work here, and even Tuned Air have had an influence on commissions which may well become part of a Canadian musical repertory.

A project titled *Earth Prayers* involving the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Bach Choir, Vancouver Symphony and two world-renowned soloists, was inspired by Salt Spring's interfaith Earth Day service last April.

The experience was so powerful, it moved Ruddell to create this piece, which will play at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in April 1994.

But Tuned Air is playing an increasingly active role in Ruddell's work. As the choir matures, it is able to take on pieces that were previously out of reach.

This next year, Tuned Air will perform in a newly commissioned choral and organ mass for the opening of the new Anglican Centre. They will perform for a conference of B.C. educators at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver in the spring and tour Quebec — probably in 1995.

The relationship between Ruddell and Tuned Air is symbiotic and Ruddell embraces that. "It makes a lot of sense," he said, to have a choir on which to test musical pieces and musical ideas. "As a composer that's wonderful. Any composer would want a community to sing their music. That's why we are doing it."

And everybody in Tuned Air likes the opportunity afforded to very few community choirs across the country — working with a real professional on the cutting edge of Canadian contemporary composition.

• *Tuned Air are having their annual Christmas concert December 10 and 11 at the Activity Centre. Tickets are \$5 each or \$17 for a family. The program, which includes a good deal of recognizable material the audience can sing to, starts at 7:30 p.m.*

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Skateboarders hysterical favourite

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Comedy defines society's underdogs — by not ridiculing them. By that yardstick, it is clear that on Salt Spring power is held by the Capital Regional District, the Men's Movement and Kotex Corporation. Those were just some of the institutions which members of the Hysterical Society derided in an evening of comedy at Ganges last Friday.

The most entertaining skit for me — and an obvious crowd-pleaser too — was that by Brett Gaylor and Roland Kaiser about hitchhiking, skateboarding grungers. Their costumes were great — where did they get those ridiculous clothes?

But seriously, the skit was simple, universally recognizable in our microcosm and well done. Having rubber faces and pantomime stage direction really helped create humour where none was thought possible.

Shilo Zylbergold's King of the Sensitive New Age Guys was another highlight. I wonder how many islanders have taken eagle feathers and/or crystals off their rear-view mirrors since Friday. I particularly liked the rap lyrics and have spent the weekend humming *I cry real tears. I can show emotion. I stare for hours at the ocean.*

Thom Quine played an excellent MC — there will be a flood of applicants the next time an ad appears for lighthouse keeping. His 12-step program on "awakening the asshole within" was the butt of more than one comment after the show.

There were some good oldies among the skits: The Queen (Reid Collins), and Andre Crouton (Arvid Chalmers) and Chuck Ripsaw (Zylbergold again) in *Cooking with Power Tools*, and the men's movement meetings.

The CRD relationship enforcement officer skit with Collins and Chalmers will surely have led to a few queries at Victoria offices this week.

There were more than a few laughs at suggestions for curing the parking problems downtown, support for no-cost housing and a one-way traffic system to Fulford. And for those who like it, there was some toilet-bowl humour too. Or rather septic tanks.

Diane Andrews opened the evening with a hilarious flying feminine protection skit and followed later with a Singles on Salt Spring piece.

Larry Walske and Mary Williamson also took the stage, the former fascinating us with his tricks and antics, the latter amusing with stories of Newfoundland hospitals. Certain beef-steak promoting letter writers should heed the implications of the Williamson Equation and the hitherto unnoticed problems of insect flatulence.

All in all, the Hysterical Society proved once again they are indeed humour-nurturing warriors of an indomitable kind. Their mystical quest for people's funny bones had everybody feeling comfortable without visiting the hardware department. And the \$5,000 raised for the Core Inn youth project showed perhaps that more of us come from a caring sharing place than even we realize.

Painting is a language for local artist LeRoy Jensen

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

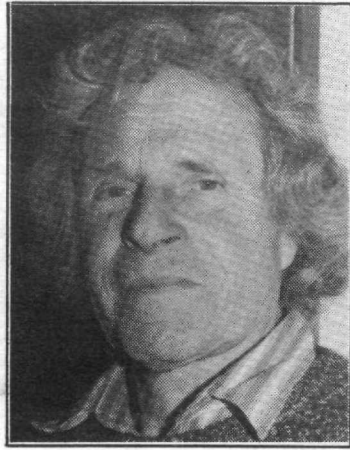
What is life? Why do people go to art exhibitions? The answer to both those questions is partly to be found at Salt Spring artist LeRoy Jensen's exhibition of recent paintings at the Manse Gallery.

Painting is a language, Jensen said, which expresses itself through rhythm, colour and composition. But he added there also has to be some spirit in it.

"The expression of the thing is much more important than the style," he continued. "I am trying to express something human."

Jensen has lived on Salt Spring Island for the last 12 years. He shows in the Winchester Gallery in Victoria and has not showed on Salt Spring for seven or eight years.

The current show of several dozen works is made up of smallish paintings — Jensen is known for some very large works — on themes from the sea and studies of



LeRoy Jensen

people, mostly female semi-nudes.

Titles, ranging from *Tired, Evening, Lonely, The Kiss, Free People, The Sick Child*, give an indication of the mood of the works.

Character studies generally fill the frame, with naked, curving

backs predominating and non-descript faces.

"Think of all the marvellous things the body tells us," Jensen said. "Whatever I've learned about myself is in relation to that. It's an extension of me."

Loose, full strokes and striking contrasts of colour demand an emotional response from the viewer. Translucent bodies seem to act in a sea of light-flecked chaos. The viewer looks, assimilates, reacts.

Though he has been painting for more than 35 years, he said his art does not stand still. He does not like to repeat himself.

"If something remains the same all the time I can't stand it," he said. "If there isn't something I discover new to some degree a little bit, it has served no purpose for me."

This exhibition clearly serves a purpose. It continues until the end of the week at the Manse Gallery on Hereford Avenue.

Song and dance at Beaver Point to aid Clayoquot protesters

A real song and dance is being staged Sunday to help the 16 islanders arrested at the Clayoquot blockade last summer. Billed as a family night of entertainment, the event will include music, comedy, poetry and dance in Beaver Point Hall starting at 7 p.m.

Featured will be Spanner in the Works along with Deb Toole; Chris Kodaly; Lynne Quinn; Bowler, Slater and Wilkie; and two choirs producing music which ranges from classical to rock. Arvid Chalmers and Diane Andrews will contribute their comic wit; there will be comedic songs by Keith McHattie and readings by Lynda Jensen.

Organizer Patricia Brown reported a positive response from all those approached to participate

in the show. More than 30 performers are donating their talent to the event, which is expected to run until 11 p.m.

Admission will be \$5 to \$10, depending on the individual's ability to pay. Donations of items for the peace camp or for the December 4 art and craft auction will also be accepted for admission.

Money raised by the event will go to defray the fines, legal costs and travel expenses incurred by the islanders who were arrested for their participation in the Clayoquot protest.

Over 100 islanders have participated in the protest and approximately 80 people have joined the Friends of Friends of Clayoquot Sound, which meets every second

week at Rodrigo's in Fulford.

The next fundraising event will be an arts and crafts auction and sale at Creekside on December 4.

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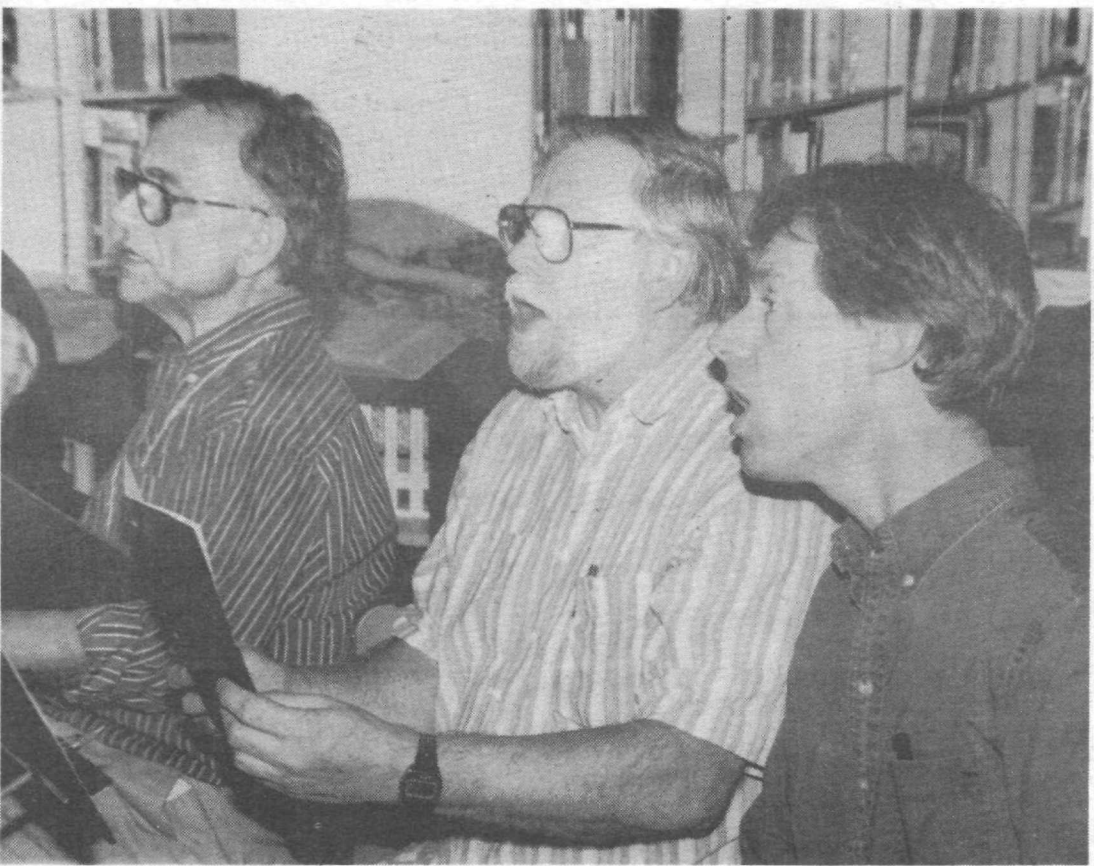
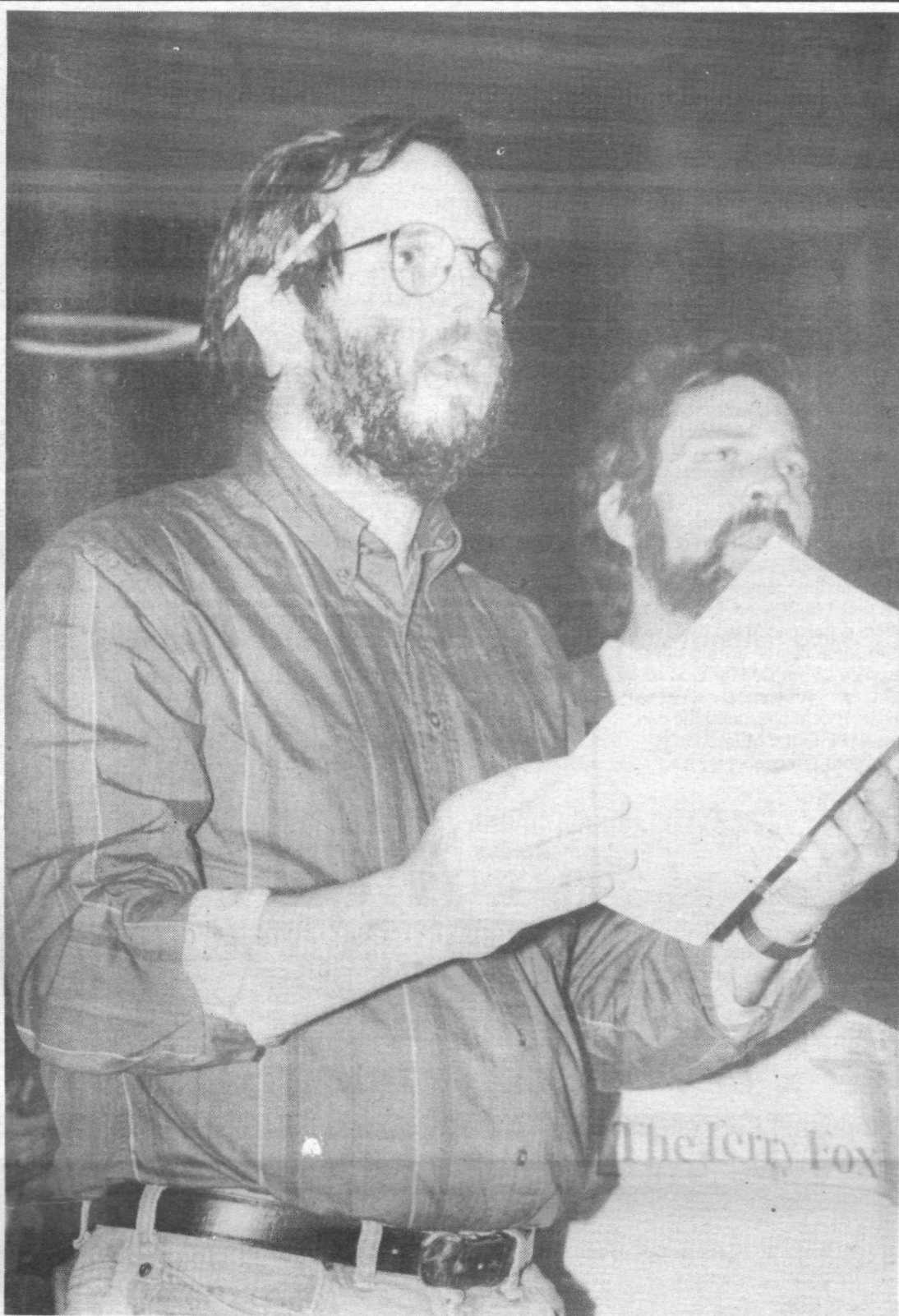
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TUNED VOICES: Woody Ensminger, top left, and Bo Curtis keep their eyes on Tuned Air director Bruce Ruddell during rehearsal last week. Above, from left, Claus Andress, John Beardsell and John Miller prepare for the choir's Christmas concert December 10 and 11.

Photos by Tony Richards

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THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Tim Burton is the author behind this eerie animated tale about a skeletal goblin king who hijacks Santa Claus. It may scare or confuse young children but the art direction is simply superb. Mature, may frighten young children. Friday to Tuesday 7pm.

DEMOLITION MAN: Wesley Snipes and Sylvester Stallone are the antagonists in this high-voltage SciFi thriller about an insane killer from the 20th century who escapes from a cryogenic prison and proceeds to terrorize a peaceful world of the future that can no longer deal with violence. This movie also doubles as a goofy send-up of political correctness and the combination actually works. 14 years, frequent violence, some very coarse language and occasional nudity. Friday to Tuesday 8:30pm.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
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| 2. Cliffhanger (-) | 7. Dennis the Menace(7) |
| 3. Sliver (4) | 8. The Dark Half (8) |
| 4. Indecent Proposal (1) | 9. American Heart (-) |
| 5. Posse (2) | 10. Frankenstein (-) |

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.....Sunday Dinner Jazz, Nov. 28, 6pm.

HARBOUR HOUSE (Pub).....Nigel Mack, Nov. 25, 26, 27
.....(dining room) Barrington Perry, Nov. 26, 27.

OUT and ABOUT

- Nov. 27Rod and Gun Club game dinner.
Nov. 27Christmas Light Up.
Nov. 28Angel Workshop.

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COUNTRY SOUND: Salt Spring's own bluegrass-country-folk band, the Barley Brothers, include, from left, Brian "Buck" MacDonald, Graeme Maltby, and David Roland.

Game dinner Saturday

This year's Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club game dinner will feature the live music of a local band, in addition to the usual fare of venison, cougar and other wild game dishes.

The Barley Brothers — Graeme Maltby on banjo, Brian "Buck" McDonald on acoustic guitar and mandolin, Tom Bowler on acoustic guitar and David Roland on acous-

tic bass — will play their blend of bluegrass, country and folk without amplifiers.

Country gems by Hank Williams, Jimmy Rogers and Johnny Cash will be featured along with little known country numbers by Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix and Howlin' Wolf.

The game dinner takes place Saturday.

Poet to read here Friday

Theatre Alive! is presenting another literary reading before Christmas at the Waterside Bistro. Poet, novelist and university lecturer Mary di Michele will read a selection from her work on Friday starting at 9 p.m.

Experienced as writer-in-residence in Regina, Toronto and Rome, di Michele is the author of *Necessary Sugar*, *Immune to Gravity* and *Luminous Emergencies*. Her biographical note in the *Who's Who of the Writers Union of Canada* says she is a poet first, but her poetry embraces the novel, the informal essay, and creative non-fiction.

She is currently a teacher of creative writing at Concordia University in Montreal. Music starts at 8 p.m., reading begins at 9. Admission is free.

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

The final fund-raising drive to finish the Artspring building is underway.

When completed, this facility will immediately become an important contribution to the identity of, and the quality of life on Salt Spring.

That the building will be completed is a given; when depends on the timely support of our community. The sooner it's finished, the sooner we, as artists, performers, and patrons can begin to enjoy this wonderful facility.

We at Saltspring Kitchen Co. encourage you to give this very worthwhile project your generous support.

Sincerely
CHRIS DIXON

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Brighten the Holidays

1993 LIGHT UP

Saturday,
November 27

- Santa's Arrival •
- Hayrides for Everyone • Hot Chocolate •
- Decorating Contest •
- Entertainment Galore •

- 12:45-1:05pm Tuned Air Singers at sea plane dock
- 1:00pm Santa arrives at seaplane dock via Harbour Air
- 1:05-1:15 Raging Grannies sing at sea plane dock
- 1:05pm Santa photos at Bank of Montreal
- 1:05-3:00pm Hayrides with Tom Grundy, Buddy & Ben
- 2:30pm Nova the Juggler,
between Glads and Bank of Montreal
- 3:00pm Readers Choice Deadline
- Listen for Flutations outside Tone's

**SANTA'S COMING
TO TOWN!**

*Meet him at the
seaplane dock at*

1:00pm

