

## \$7 million price on affordable housing project

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

Non-profit housing is not cheap. By the time the Village Green housing project runs its course, the provincial government will have paid more than \$7 million to build, maintain and rent out the 24 town-house units.

Approval of \$2.7 million in provincial money for the Salt Spring Community Services Society project is just the start of a long-term government commitment, according to Amy Jaarsma, acting general manager for the Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC).

The CRHC, which has developed 35 such projects on southern Vancouver Island, is advising the community society on the creation of the first non-profit housing complex on Salt Spring.

Jaarsma admits the process is complex. It starts with an application to the B.C. Housing Management Commission, outlining a budget and demonstrating there is a need for non-profit housing in the area.

Until 1993, the federal government picked up two-thirds of the cost for non-profit housing with the province kicking in the remainder. Now, with federal cut-backs, the province pays the entire cost, Jaarsma said.

As a result, very few projects are gaining approval. The Salt Spring project was initially placed on a priority waiting list and then approved when plans for some other projects failed. "It's been quite a long process," Jaarsma remarked.

The province provides interim funding to get the project under way but the long-term mortgage will be held by Canada Mortgage

and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) direct lending. This is also a new program instituted in the past year, Jaarsma explained.

In the past, CMHC guaranteed the loan but the money was borrowed from private lenders. Starting a year ago, CMHC began borrowing all the money required for housing projects across Canada and lending the money to individual projects at more favourable interest rates.

Once the project is completed, the biggest operating expense is repaying the mortgage, Jaarsma said. This cost is not covered by rents, which are set at 30 per cent of each tenant's income, so the B.C. Housing Management Commission provides a continuing subsidy.

The total of the subsidy depends on the income of the tenants. However, Jaarsma said tenants in non-profit housing seldom earn or receive more than \$20,000 a year.

"There are some who are much closer to \$10,000," she said. A maximum income level is established for each project by B.C. Housing. In addition, tenants are rated on a point schedule with those in greatest need given priority for units.

"People on income assistance with families will qualify," she observed. So will working people with low incomes, especially if they are paying a substantial part of their income in rent or are living in substandard accommodation.

The project's ongoing costs also include an operating budget. Jaarsma said those costs — not including the mortgage — of an eight-year-old, 24-unit CRHC pro-

HOUSING A4



### Wow! Turn on the water!

Fire hose at the ready, acting fire chief Daniel Draper is all set to fight a fire at Ganges firehall last Wednesday. Daniel and four other elementary school students spent the day with the fire department to

learn about firefighting and fire prevention as part of the fire chief-for-a-day program. Daniel was also chosen to visit the Victoria fire department.

Photo by Tony Richards

## Teachers against letter grades

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

The ABCs of education are making some local teachers and parents see red. A recent Ministry of Education directive that students in Grades 4 and 5 receive structured written reports with letter grades has caused teachers at Fernwood and Fulford Elementary Schools and parents at Salt Spring Elementary School to voice their concerns and their opposition. School trustees received three letters at their regular monthly meeting last Wednesday.

"There is no educational justification for letter grades," is how Fulford teachers expressed their distress at the new reporting procedures for Grades 4 and 5. "The whole question of letter grades . . . must be

reviewed."

Fernwood teachers cite "contradictory and confusing" information from the ministry and "distress and frustration" at trying to satisfy the directions handed down by the government.

District superintendent Mike Marshall said there was "pressure" on the ministry from a number of districts in the province to change the reporting guidelines which were introduced earlier this year. Trustee Ken Lee said allowing schools to delay implementing letter grade reporting until the spring would buy time to deal with the concerns raised by teachers and parents.

TEACHERS A2

## Scorpions no. 3 in B.C.!

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys soccer team won bronze last week to become the number three team in British Columbia.

The Scorpions played five games and won four at the B.C. championships in Abbotsford, a tournament which drew 16 of the province's best soccer teams from high schools with enrolments under 750.

Island soccer fans this week were hailing the Scorpions' win as a significant achievement for a local team.

• Details—Page B8



THANKS, COACH! Scorpions said thanks to coach Doug Pearson Monday by throwing him in high school pond. Cree Binkley was there to help Pearson out.

Photo by Tony Richards

# This Week

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## Fair Change

Island Savings was buying U.S. cash on Tuesday at the rate of 1.3342

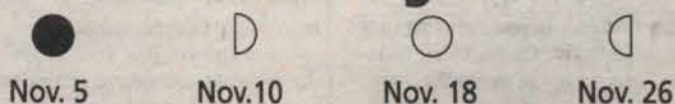
## Weather

HIGH: 10 Normal: 10 LOW: 1 Normal: 1

PRECIPITATION: 50 per cent chance of rain Wednesday, 30 per cent chance of showers Thursday

OUTLOOK: Wednesday will be cloudy with sunny periods with a chance of rain. Thursday will be mostly cloudy with showers. Friday and Saturday will see periods of rain, with windy periods Saturday.

## Lunar Cycle



## Lottery Results

	DRAW DATE	NUMBERS
<b>Lotto 6/49</b>	Nov. 12, 1994	21-28-35-40-45-47 B19
	Nov. 9, 1994	06-19-20-31-43-48 B33
<b>BC/49</b>	Nov. 12, 1994	01-05-08-10-22-42 B04
	Nov. 9, 1994	08-09-10-17-19-24 B26
<b>Extra</b>	Nov. 12, 1994	15-23-39-61
	Nov. 9, 1994	11-36-37-59



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16	0945	8.4	SU	1305	8.9	
WE	1435	10.1		1620	9.4	
	2155	2.7		2355	2.1	
17	0550	10.4	21	0815	10.9	
	1035	8.7	MON	1400	8.7	
	1500	9.9		1650	9.1	
	2220	2.3				
18	0630	10.6	22	0030	2.3	
	FRI	1125	8.8	TUES	0850	11.0
	1525	9.8		1450	8.5	
	2250	2.1		1725	8.8	
19	0705	10.8	23	0110	2.7	
	1215	8.9	WED	0925	11.0	
	1550	9.6		1545	8.2	
	2320	2.0		1810	8.4	

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## News

Increasing in Driftwood January 1, 1995.

Paper prices in recent months and added for January 1 and February 1, 1995. It has been advised by its printer, Island Publishers Ltd.

In making the announcement this week, Driftwood publisher Joyce Carlson said, "Price increases are now holding where they were soft up until this year."

"We are letting our readers know now about the coming increase. Any subscription renewals received

The... plus GST... who handle single issue sales for the Driftwood will receive more for each copy they sell.

"We work hard each week to put out an informative newspaper and we believe it remains good value for money spent," Carlson said.

## RCMP REPORT

Black ice caused two separate accidents on Salt Spring this week. An island woman struck a Hydro pole near Cedar View trailer court on Fulford-Ganges Road about 8:40 a.m. Saturday, Ganges RCMP reported. The driver received whiplash-type injuries. A few minutes later, a van also struck black ice on Fulford-Ganges Road near Blackburn Lake. The driver and two young passengers were unhurt in the accident, which caused about \$1,000 damage.

In other police news:

- A vehicle parked at Harbour House Hotel Thursday night was broken into and items taken. Police are still investigating.
- A 19-year-old islander prohibited from driving a motor vehicle was caught driving Friday. He will appear in court in December.

## TEACHERS

From Page A1

But Gulf Islands Teachers' Association representative Larry Field said the crux of the matter is that "teachers do not support letter grades" for the primary grades. "The board is being asked to provide leadership to teachers and parents who are in opposition to that. Buying time is not the issue."

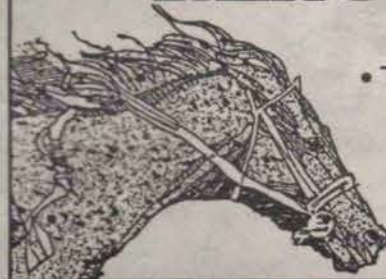
School trustees voted to allow schools to "consider their next report to be formal or informal at their own discretion" after consultation with parents and teachers.

"With all the research that I've ever read, letter grades have never had a positive effect on student achievement," Fernwood principal Bob Brownsword said Monday.

"We're going to do a good job, but people who are implementing these changes want to see more research and they want more lead-time to talk about the changes and how they will be implemented."

The first of five report cards of the school year are due out to parents this month.

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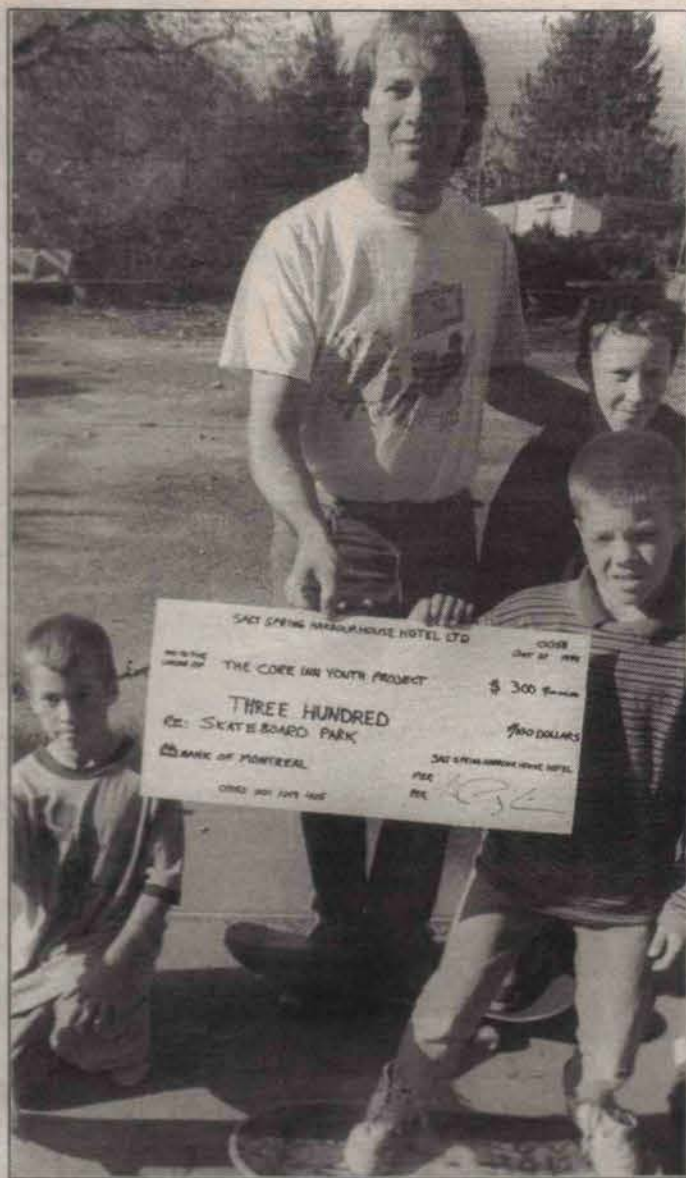
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### Set to skate

Tim Sturup of the Harbour House Hotel holds a cheque as big as a skateboard as the first corporate donation to the new skate park behind the Core Inn. Accepting the \$300 cheque are skaters Hal Sheter, left, Mason Bennett, with his hand on the cheque, and Noah Harmer.

Photo by Tony Richards

## Frazer's spending second to Hunter

A successful bid to become better known was behind the \$54,236.34 spent on the 1993 federal election by Reform Party candidate Jack Frazer.

According to figures released by Elections Canada, Frazer's costs were only exceeded by those of incumbent Lynn Hunter of the New Democratic Party. Her campaign cost \$59,920.22.

"We tried to keep campaign costs to a minimum," Frazer said Friday. But election signs were expensive as was the advertising and an extensive radio campaign.

Frazer said the campaign was designed to give him maximum exposure in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding since he was not known throughout the area. He was running against a well-known incumbent.

The Conservative Party fielded a well-known candidate, school trustee Marilyn Loveless, and were thought to be a threat since they had won the riding in the past, Frazer said. "We did what we thought we had to do to win the campaign."

His campaign raised more than was spent. Contributions of \$80,877 were given by 278 donors.

Hunter had contributions of

\$57,909 from 448 donors.

The bid to elect Marilyn Loveless cost Conservative supporters \$43,293. The campaign received \$54,441 in donations from 170 backers.

Liberal Alex Phillips received \$18,779 in donations from 79 backers. His campaign cost \$22,071.

Judith Rayburn of the National Party received \$15,625 in campaign funds from 91 donors and spent \$14,303.

Canada Party candidate Arleigh Rolind had campaign contributions of \$810 from two people and spent \$830.

Independent Bob Ward collected \$800 from four donors and spent \$743 on his campaign.

The lowest election budget came from Natural Law Party candidate Andy Guest, who received \$710 from five donors and spent \$674.

The Reform Party, the Progressive Conservative Party, National Party, Natural Law Party and Bob Ward's independent campaign all spent less than they received in donations.

The New Democratic Party, Liberal Party and Canada Party campaigns overspent their donations.

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## MPs reconsider cuts

Reconsideration of the 10 per cent voluntary pay cut taken by Reform Party MPs is backed by Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Jack Frazer.

"I don't think it's been particularly effective," Frazer said Friday. When the issue comes before the caucus, he will advocate abandoning the voluntary pay cuts.

Frazer said he had not campaigned on the 10 per cent pay cut but joined the program after he was elected. Initially, he donated the \$536 per month to local charities.

"My reason for not giving it to the receiver-general is I don't think the government spends our money wisely," Frazer explained.

The donations went to organizations like the War Amps and the United Way, and to support cancer research and local students attend-

ing various forums.

After surveying residents, Frazer found most wanted his 10 per cent to go to the receiver-general. Since September, the money has gone back to the government.

He pointed out some Reform Party members have been unable to join in the voluntary pay cuts because they had children at university or had already taken a pay cut by becoming an MP.

He was disappointed that no MPs from the other parties had adopted the idea. "We feel like we're spitting in the wind."

Although he feels the caucus should abandon the 10 per cent pay cut, he said the idea could be reviewed once the government starts cutting social programs. At that point, he said, voluntary pay cuts would show Canadians that MPs are joining average citizens in tightening their belts.

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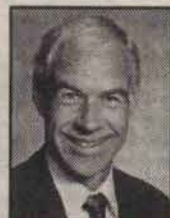
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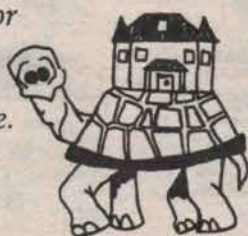
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# HOUSING

From Page A1

ject in Victoria are \$320 per unit per month or \$92,160 a year.

The ongoing subsidy required for Salt Spring's Village Green project is impossible to estimate, Jaarsma said, since interest rates may change before construction is completed and the tenant mix will determine the subsidy.

However, Jaarsma said the usual subsidy is two-thirds of the market cost, dropping to half the market cost in some cases.

Figures from Village Green builder Bob Jawl of Pharamond Projects Ltd. support Jaarsma's estimate. Although Jawl felt the CRHC operating costs of \$320 per unit were high, he estimated each of the townhouses would have to be rented for \$985 to cover the cost of a 10 per cent, 25 to 30-year mortgage on the project.

Developer Ron Kubek, who has put together townhouse complexes on southern Vancouver Island, came up with similar figures. Assuming the CMHC could obtain an especially low interest rate, he suggested each unit would have to be rented for \$970 just to cover costs.

Based on an income falling midway through the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range cited by Jaarsma, a tenant earning \$15,000 annually would pay \$375 per month rent, leaving \$610 to be picked up by the provincial government.

Projected across 24 units and over 25 years, this \$610 monthly subsidy would total \$4.392 million. Added to the \$2.7 million construction cost, the total exceeds \$7 million — or almost \$300,000 per unit. These figures do not include the as-yet-undetermined operating cost for the project.

The totals demonstrate the problem with trying to build affordable rental housing, Jawl observed. In Victoria, townhouses like those in Village Green would rent for \$1,150 per month — but would more likely be sold for \$200,000 each.

**Interest rates may change before construction is completed and the tenant mix will determine the subsidy.**

"That's why there hasn't been any rental housing built," he added.

Village Green has the further advantage of low land costs. The property on which the townhouses will be constructed is owned by the Catholic church and is being leased to the community society for 60 years. Jawl noted the lease

price is significantly below market value and is included in the \$2.7 million cost of the project.

Meanwhile, work is proceeding on Village Green, he said. A revised capital budget has been approved by B.C. Housing and a road access plan is being sent to the Ministry of Highways for approval.

Work is under way on drawings for the project's sewage treatment plant and the architect is now starting on drawings for the units, Jawl said. A covenant is being prepared for the property to lock in its use for non-profit housing.

Once the covenant is completed, Jawl expected the Salt Spring Island Trust Committee to give final adoption to the bylaw permitting rezoning to multi-family.

"I anticipate the start of physical construction will be in the summer of 1995," Jawl said. Village Green will be about the 15th non-profit housing project built by his company. Jawl expects the townhouses will take six months to complete.

The project includes four two-bedroom units, 12 three-bedroom units, four four-bedroom units and four one-bedroom units. Two of the one-bedroom units, one two-bedroom unit and one three-bedroom unit are designed to allow wheelchair access.



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## Weldwood sells division but keeps local real estate

The sale of one of its divisions by Weldwood of Canada Ltd. will have no effect on the ownership of the company's land holdings on Salt Spring.

Bob Wilmont of the company's property division said last week that its 745 acres on Mount Bruce remain in Weldwood's hands.

The forest company announced last week the sale of its coastal division, comprised of two sawmills, some related operations and its annual allowable cut on the coast. The purchaser is International Forest Products Ltd. Both companies are based in Vancouver.

Weldwood had its Salt Spring property listed for sale earlier this year for \$1.8 million. The property was the site of a protest in 1990 against Weldwood's logging plans. Later, in August 1990, 13 pieces of logging equipment, including skidders, log loaders and trucks, were sabotaged when sand was placed in the oil of the machinery's engines.

Damage was estimated at more than \$200,000 to the equipment, which was being used to log the Weldwood land. A police investigation failed to yield any charges.

The company also owns land on Gabriola Island. It, too, is unaffected by last week's announcement.

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# Park transfer okayed

Mouat Park will be transferred from B.C. Parks to the Capital Regional District (CRD) in the new year. The regional board unanimously agreed to take on the park as a community park administered by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

Last year, the regional district was notified that the 58-acre park no longer met B.C. Parks criteria for a provincial park. Through the years, community uses such as the Ganges sewer treatment plant, ArtSpring and the recycling centre have taken space in the park.

Improvements worth some \$15,000 will be made to the park in the next two years by B.C. Parks to bring it up to community park standards. This includes the cost of relocating toilets and tables within the campground, installing a park caretaker pad, and painting and staining toilets, tables and signs. The survey costs and fees associated with the transfer of the park, estimated at \$11,500, will also be paid by B.C. Parks.

In other regional district news:  
 • Salt Spring Island director Dietrich Luth said the liquid waste composting facility in Burgoyne Valley was "running on course." CRD operations manager Jim McFarland said two new lagoons had been dug for sewage and septage sludge. They were soon to be put into operation. The district has applied for permits for composting, which would not start before summer.

McFarland said the \$100,000 approved by islanders in a referendum in 1993 for the new facility has been spent. About half was spent on ground water monitoring and environmental studies and half was spent on capital work, including a new security fence. Operating costs of the facility are to be paid through a tipping fee and an annual parcel tax, also approved through the referendum.

• The Ganges sewer committee is still waiting for a response to its application for a federal/provincial infrastructure grant to increase the sewer's capacity.



## Islanders remember

A large crowd braved threatening skies Friday for Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ganges. At top, police, Legion members and air cadets line up on parade across from Centennial Park. Above, taking the salute were, from

left, World War I and Vimy veteran Stan Akrigg, air force veteran David Floyd, navy man Bill Monahan and the army's Vic Sampson. Akrigg, 95, won the Military Medal before reaching his 17th birthday. Photos by Tony Richards

# Province to fund second nurse

"Desperately needed" provincial funding for a second home care nurse was announced last week by Health Minister Paul Ramsey.

Health planning committee spokesman Gordon English welcomed the announcement but noted it came too late for two islanders, now deceased.

Two patients at Lady Minto Hospital recently wanted to spend their last days at home but were unable to because of a nurse shortage.

"They could have died at home under the palliative care program," English said, but had to remain in Lady Minto.

The \$91,982 allocation will fund the nurse's position for one year, English explained, and includes administration and other costs associated with it. Although the money is only for a year, English said it was likely the ministry will continue to fund the

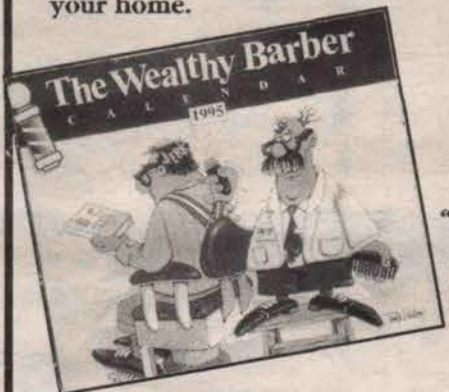
position beyond that term.

"Generally when they fund a full-time equivalent (position) they continue to fund it."

The home care nursing program is operated by the Capital Regional District health department.

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# Library associations throwback to days of volunteer support

Provincial legislation is written for libraries which have paid staff and are financed by taxes, according to Chris Pepler, assistant director of the Library Services Branch.

Throughout B.C., 98 per cent of the population is served by libraries with paid staff, he points out. "We're talking about writing legislation for the vast majority of libraries."

He is aware that the Salt Spring Public Library Association has difficulty with some of the

requirements in the new Library Act and he has spoken with association members about their concerns.

But he points out that only a small part of the act deals with public library associations. First established in 1919, he said the associations are "a throwback to the days of community volunteer efforts which are not supported by taxes."

Under the new act, no more public library associations can be formed. Libraries are now a

municipal service financed through municipal taxes.

The act also prohibits public library associations from owning property. The Salt Spring association owns its Ganges property and can continue to keep the structure, but other associations will no longer be able to purchase their own property.

Pepler said the restriction exists because public library associations have no access to the tax base. Such associations survive on donations, gifts and government grants. "That's a pretty tenuous basis on which to acquire property."

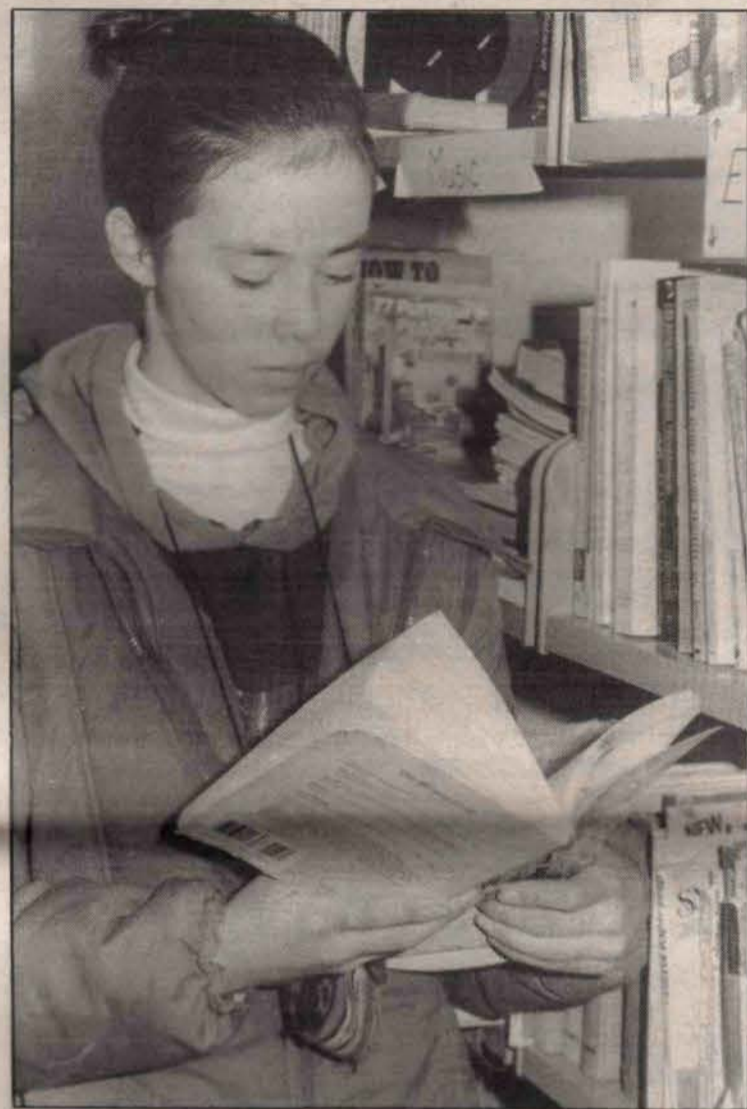
He pointed out there is a wide disparity in library service offered throughout the province, yet people have certain expectations about the service.

One difference is that a few library associations, including Salt Spring, charge a membership fee for those borrowing books. One part of the act prohibits the charging of membership fees.

Pepler said that section of the act has not been proclaimed but will eventually be put into effect.

"Virtually the entire province is getting free library service now," Pepler said. "Because public library service is free to most British Columbians, it should be free to all."

Salt Spring library board chairman Tony Burrige predicts losing the membership fees will cut the library budget by one-third.



**LOCAL INSTITUTION:** The Mary Hawkins Library is a well established institution on Salt Spring but it does not fit the provincial government's view of public libraries. Here, Sarah Walsh examines the goods at the library's weekly book sale, held every Saturday morning.

Photo by Valerie Lemnox

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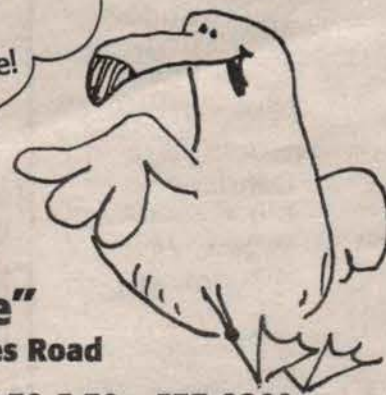
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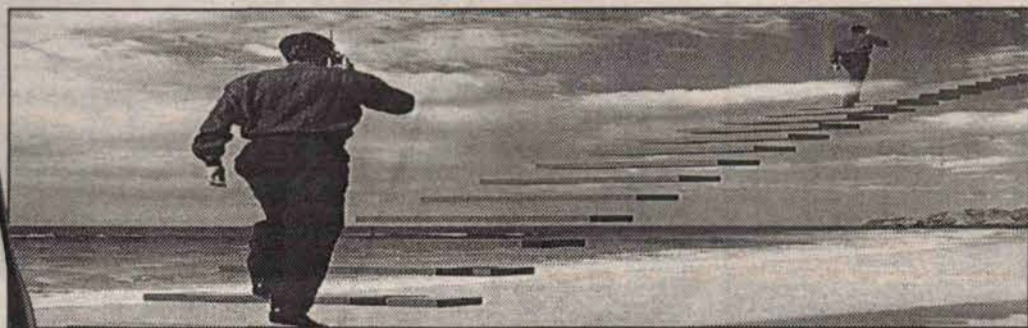
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# Rustlers open fire on sheep

Sheep rustlers raided an isolated flock on Saturna Island last Thursday, stealing two animals and leaving nine wounded.

Under the broad noonday sun, four men, all from the Lower Mainland, drew up to a beach near Taylor Point and fired an undisclosed number of shots into a flock of sheep. Two were killed outright and were dragged on to a fishboat, alleged to be the Aegean Sea.

A neighbour on Taylor Point who heard the shooting called police and identified a suspect vessel, which was apprehended in Active Pass by Pender Island RCMP, with help from the Canadian Coast Guard and crew from a passing B.C. Ferries vessel.

Two domestic sheep carcasses, already dressed, and a rifle were found aboard the fishing vessel. Four men were charged

with offences under the Firearms and Wildlife acts and are to appear in Sidney court in December.

Jim Campbell, owner of the sheep, said Monday he could not remember a similar incident of stealing domestic animals, except for a steer which may have been shot by someone 25 years ago. People have come to Saturna to hunt the feral goats which roam the more remote parts of the island, but the hunters who arrived Thursday did not shoot goats.

"These people landed in a small field where there were 18 to 20 sheep," Campbell, said, although he was not an eye-witness to the event. "They fired away at them with a shotgun and dragged two carcasses right off the field in a hurry without gutting them or cleaning them."

The shots were heard by

Taylor Point neighbour Hank Schachte, Saturna correspondent Gail Trafford reports. He phoned his neighbour Campbell and then dialled 911. By the time Campbell walked the two miles from his home to the field, the thieves had made off.

He found signs of blood near the beach and the remainder of his Suffolk ewe flock in the woods. Some were bleeding. All were agitated, which is not a good state to be in for pregnant ewes. One of the wounded sheep later died.

"We're delighted with the speed with which the RCMP moved in," Campbell said. "But the idea that someone would come in and fire on a flock and wound nine to get two... It's a disgusting performance."

He said he hopes the crime is dealt with severely.

# Storm pounds Fulford Marina

One boat sank, one boat floated away and three islanders went for impromptu swims as they fought to secure their vessels at Fulford Marina last week. Tuesday's high winds heralded the islands' first winter storm and the Salt Spring marina was the hardest hit.

"It was like a millpond at 2:30," Fulford Marina operator Eric Manchester said after the big storm. "By about 5 it was howling."

Six-foot swells and 60-knot winds buffeted the head of Fulford Harbour for several hours and broke apart the concrete-bedded docks at the marina. A 35-foot commercial fishboat took on water and sank. It was refloated the next day. A pleasure boat snapped its line and disappeared into the night, only to land relatively safely on a sandbar at Drummond Park.

Boat owners were phoned by Manchester and came down to secure their vessels. Three people, including Manchester, were tossed into the water while trying to negotiate their way along the unstable docks. There were no serious injuries.

B.C. Ferries came to the rescue after 8 p.m. by docking the Bowen Queen at its Fulford berth and leaving it there for the whole night. The action was taken after Manchester called the Rescue Coordination Centre which asked the ferry corporation to do what it could to assist. The ferry acted as a breakwater against the brunt of the wind and its floodlights provided light for the marina and boat owners, since the marina had lost its power.

Manchester said he understood Fulford traffic was redirected through Vesuvius and that Salt Spring-bound Swartz Bay traffic was rerouted to Long Harbour via Village Bay to replace the cancelled 9:10 sailing.

No other major damage was reported as a result of the storm. Many Salt Spring Islanders on the south end were without power for 45 minutes or an hour, B.C. Hydro's Mel Williamson said.



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## What use the law?

A columnist on this page last week raised a question over the type of punishment meted out by a local school after students were found smoking marijuana, and wondered if it fit the crime.

But there is another, perhaps more important question: if a criminal act has been committed, should not criminal charges follow?

We expect many would answer that question with the reply that smoking pot is hardly a serious offence anymore, and criminal charges would not be justified. Indeed, we suspect that would be the majority view.

To pursue this question with the thoroughness it deserves requires that we ask ourselves, what is law and its purpose? Our favourite definition: The authoritative regulation of social relations. In simple terms, laws came into being as humanity began to gather in ever-larger groupings, discovering along the way that, while it was beneficial to live together, to do so required a system that would ensure we could cohabit amicably.

In other words, laws have been and are created by and for the people. But such a statement today attracts ridicule and scorn. In modern terms, some laws are okay, others are not. For how long can society survive under a system in which we can pick and choose?

We find ourselves in an era where many laws are fashioned in far-off places by people we do not know with motivations we cannot fathom, and in many instances with an ideological bent which we cannot support.

Closer to home, laws are made by local bodies such as the Islands Trust and the regional district, but many of us disagree so strongly with regulations set forth that ignoring them has become an acceptable part of life.

The tax system is another case in point. Many Canadians disagree strongly with the weight of the tax burden (and with the manner in which the money is squandered) and do what is necessary to avoid paying.

We are becoming a nation of scofflaws.

The law against the smoking of marijuana is an ineffective law, as witnessed by its widespread use. But that does not make the practice legal. From tax avoidance to speeding, laws are being broken by more and more people every day. But they remain laws: designed and defined by and for us, the people.

Meanwhile, a group of students broke the law recently but their punishment will not, as far as we can determine, include penalties imposed by a court of law. Where does this leave them? Growing up secure in the knowledge that society's laws are there for us to pick and choose, obeying those we see fit to obey and scorning those with which we disagree.

We do not fault the school any more than we fault ourselves, our society, for this state of affairs. But we believe some public discussion of the broad question of the authoritative regulation of social relations is essential to the future well-being of our society.

## More soccer heroes

Earlier in the soccer season we wrote with admiration of Salt Spring's soccer heroes, the supporters of organized youth sports who do more than just cheer from the sidelines. The coaches who do so much for our children are joined now by a group of youngsters who play soccer under two different banners.

The Scorpions, Gulf Islands Secondary School's (GISS) senior boys soccer team, do not look much different from the Kicks, the community team that plays against teams from southern Vancouver Island.

Last week in Abbotsford, the Scorpions won four of their five games to earn a bronze medal in the B.C. championships for schools their size. This is no small achievement.

There are 69 such schools in British Columbia and 16 of them — including GISS — sent teams to the tournament. The Scorpions won a well deserved third place.

This is the same team that last year won the District Cup under the Kicks banner, making it the top team in its division. Once again, we salute the coaches who have helped make a great team, but ultimately the accolades must go to the players themselves.

Congratulations to them all for a terrific season as the Scorpions. And may the rest of their season as the Kicks be as fruitful and rewarding.

NEW SIGNS ARE READY FOR  
POT HOLE SEASON



## The power of zoning for housing

The preliminary report by the Trust-appointed Housing and Accommodation Task Force makes a number of recommendations to increase the availability of affordable housing on Salt Spring. Most of the recommendations, (e.g. legalizing all seasonal cottages as permanent residences, permitting in-law suites in all residences and permitting additional residential floors on commercial buildings in Ganges) would have the effect of significantly increasing density and population allowed under the existing community plan. As the recent public workshop on population suggests, a significant proportion of islanders feel that potential population of an estimated 18,000 allowed under the current community plan may already be too high.

The Driftwood suggests that a ceiling on population is a "sacred cow" that is due for slaughter. I contend that any community, particularly one located in the environmentally sensitive Trust area, has the right to limit the scale and nature of development. But by limiting growth, do we inevitably create an exclusive haven in which only the wealthy can live? Not necessarily.

The housing task force is correct on identifying the need for more affordable and more diverse (i.e. more rental) housing on the island. Unfortunately, the task force made no attempt to measure the extent of the problem, leaving the impression that their recommendations, taken as a whole, represent a sledge hammer solution to an issue that may only require a fly-swatter.

For example, there may be on the order of 100 individuals or families requiring more affordable housing on Salt Spring, as indicated by the list compiled by the community society. Of these, many have found their own solution to the housing crisis by simply sharing accommodation. The freeing up of tourist accommodation for local residents could help these families, for example, by enforcing B&B regulations and by requiring dwellings to be used either as full-time B&Bs or full-time residences.

In the long term, however, any solutions to the housing "shortage" by simply increasing the supply



VIEW  
POINT  
BY GARY  
HOLMAN

of housing ignores the basic reality of the virtually limitless demand that drives land and housing prices on Salt Spring. Increasing supply may, in the short term, reduce rents, but in the longer term the potential demand

from a surrounding population of 1.5 million will inevitably drive rents higher.

The only way in which to ensure lower than market-driven rents will be to insulate a certain proportion of our housing stock from market forces. The conventional way of doing this is by financially subsidizing low-cost housing. The task force rightly suggests that senior governments will be increasingly hard-pressed to find any funding for low-cost housing. But their conclusion that government can therefore play no role in assisting with affordable housing ignores another, perhaps even more powerful tool that our own local government can exercise — the power of zoning.

With the cooperation of property owners, the Trust has the authority to literally create "free" land, which could then be developed by the property owner or transferred to co-operatives and housing societies for various types of affordable housing.

The Trust could limit density increases, theoretically to zero, by entering into such arrangements largely on the basis of density transfers. Believe it or not, there are property owners on Salt Spring who are willing to downzone. The Trust could also encourage downzoning by allowing clustering of development, which is less costly to service, or by reducing the legally required park dedication. By adding a small percentage requirement (say an additional one per cent dedication), the Trust could develop a land bank or fund for other amenities such as transit that could be used to mitigate the social costs associated with population growth.

By creative application of the Trust's power to zone, we could achieve a certain proportion of housing stock permanently dedicated to affordable housing, and provide the infrastructure to cope with the impacts of growth, without sacrificing the community's expressed desire to limit our ultimate population.

Gary Holman writes from Fulford Harbour.

**There may be 100 individuals or families requiring more affordable housing.**

Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**



1994  
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Published Wednesdays  
at Ganges, B.C. by  
Driftwood  
Publishing Ltd.  
328 Lower Ganges Rd.  
Box 250, Ganges, B.C.  
V0S 1E0  
Phone: 604-537-9933  
Fax: 604-537-2613  
Vic. Direct: 604-655-1619  
Office Hours  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm,  
Monday to Friday

President Frank Richards  
Publisher Joyce Carlson  
Managing Editor Tony Richards  
Assistant Editor Susan Lundy  
Reporters Valorie Lennox, Gail Sjuberg,  
Graeme Thompson  
Advertising Jeff Outerbridge  
Damaris Rumsby, Carol Pering  
Claudia French, Linda Pickell  
Mary Lou McLean  
Office Patti Gregson, Lorraine Sullivan  
Peggy Kerry, Alice Richards,  
Catherine Trudell, Liz Jones  
Production  
PRINTED WITH  
SOY INK

Yearly Subscription Rates  
Southern Gulf Islands \$27.82\*  
Elsewhere in Canada \$56.52\*  
6 months Elsewhere in Canada \$37.45\*  
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Publications Mail  
Registration No. 0803  
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Memberships  
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# SALT SPRING SAYS

**We Asked: Should marijuana be decriminalized?**



**Mike Dafeo**

Yes, it's the saviour of the world. Hemp for life.



**Bronwyn Hogan**

Yes. One acre of hemp produces as much paper as four acres of trees.



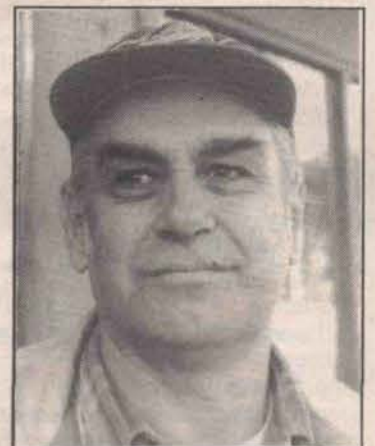
**Nicole McIntyre**

It's fun to do illegal things so maybe it should stay illegal.



**Joyce Hartwig**

No, because it leads to other things. They don't get high enough on it and they start something else.



**Don Cunningham**

No, I don't believe in mind-altering drugs, when you see what they can do. I don't go with drugs.

## Letters to the editor

### Appalling rag

Driftwood, I'm appalled! You truly are the "rag" many people say you are!

To make light of such a serious issue as drug abuse among our teenagers is disgusting!

Re: The comic in your November 9th issue. Don't tell me it's just a coincidence that your staff member Susan Lundy has an article in "View Point" right below your cartoon claiming we must get drug use among our young people into perspective. After all she says, "The decriminalization of marijuana is likely imminent." Mrs. Lundy, the drug marijuana is still illegal. No matter what your opinion may be! Even the legal drinking age is 19 years. These were students between the ages of 14 and 16. Drug use is a major problem among our youth today. It's not just in our high schools anymore. Drugs are being pushed in our elementary schools at an ever increasing rate.

The workplace, pro sports, the Olympics all call for zero tolerance to drug use. So why should it be so surprising that Gulf Islands Secondary School calls for zero tolerance to drug use among its students?

PATRICIA BYRON,  
Woodland Drive

### Abuse victim needs help

I am writing on behalf of Gail Barclay. Gail is a survivor of abusive and brutal human experimen-

tation by American, British and Canadian medical experimenters, and as such suffers with an extreme condition of post traumatic stress disorder. The horrific and terrifying personal torture to which Gail was subjected would fill many hundreds of pages and have a deeply profound effect on anyone who attempted to comprehend the magnitude of her suffering. What she has been made to suffer is, in all fairness to Gail and with respectful consideration to the rest of humanity, without limitation, perhaps the most horrific cruelty that any single human being could be made to endure.

I am proud to represent Gail, to be part of her life and her healing process and as such I feel it appropriate in asking you to assist her, in respect to her needs at this time, by making a donation to the Barclay Family Trust Fund, at Island Savings Credit Union, which is administered by Art Simons and Marg Cass.

In those hours and days when Gail was abandoned to suffer this incomprehensible brutality and bloodshed none of us were there to help or to even acknowledge that we cared, because we didn't know. But today we have the

opportunity to demonstrate our caring and to reassure Gail of the merciful and loving nature of our humanity by helping to supply her basic material needs.

DAVID BARCLAY,  
Fort Street

### Traffic hazards

I was standing at the bus stop with my daughter and her friend at about 8:45 the other morning when a bright, shiny, enormous new garbage truck came barreling down Ganges Hill and turned on to Beddis Road. It was going way too fast and proceeded on around the first big corner right in the middle of the road at precisely the time when a school bus could have been coming the other way. This is a huge vehicle for our roads and should be driven with extreme caution, especially when our school children are out on the roads.

In another incident I was turning left from a side street in Ganges in the dusky morning light and from out of nowhere there was a car in front of me that I had not seen at all. Fortunately we were both going slowly and both were able to stop. However, if that car's lights had been on in the dimness, there would have been no difficulty in seeing it. If we all used our headlights when-

ever there was any question about visibility, our roads would be a much safer place.

And cyclists. We read about how badly you fare on Salt Spring roads. And it's true, there are a lot of inconsiderate, or inattentive and just plain too-fast drivers here. There are also cyclists riding two abreast, or wobbling well out from the shoulder, or pretending to be a car zooming through traffic in downtown Ganges. For an extra few hundred you could get a state-of-the-art, fat-wheeled 15 or 20-gear mountain bike and ride on the (someday to be paved) shoulders. The extra work will be great for

the heart and lungs, and the reduction in stress would add five years to your life. But to ride on the pavement on our roads? You'd increase your life expectancy by giving up riding and taking up smoking.

GORDON KEEL,  
McAllister Road

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## Times have changed for B.C.'s foresters

**VICTORIA** — No other professional organization has been yanked more rudely from its ivory tower in recent years than that of the professional forester.

Sometimes kicking and screaming, the professional forester has been dragged into the 20th century, in which his world is no longer ruled by how many board-feet of dimension lumber the forest will yield, but how he can help preserve not only our forests but viable ecosystems for the future.

I am admittedly somewhat exaggerating. Most professional foresters have always been aware of the importance of our forests as living organisms. No forester worth his salt has been solely concerned with fibre production.

But in British Columbia, in the past, the forester was under intense pressure to play the game of the political masters who, in turn, were often pawns in the hands of the large forest companies.

It was a Social Credit government that devised the term "sympathetic administration," where monetary interests were allowed to override environmental, social and ecological considerations.

Things began to change, albeit slowly, during the final years of Social Credit. The environmental movement had become too strong to be ignored, and politicians took remedial lessons in such topics as bio-diversity, ecosystems and wildlife preservation.

But it wasn't until the NDP came to power that the pace of change quickened. Shortly after taking office, Premier Harcourt began moving his troops to several fronts. He brought in new and tough environmental legislation with fines of up to \$1 million.

He gave the order to double British Columbia's protected areas to 12 per cent from six per cent. And he appointed the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) to come up with land use plans for the province and end what he called the "valley-by-valley battles" between the forest industry and the public.

And while some foresters have voiced reservations about the arbitrary figure of 12 per cent of the province's land base that is to be set aside for parks, and some aspects of the new Forest Practices Code, they have, by and large, responded positively to the fresh wind that blows through our forests.

In the last issue of Forum, a newsletter published by the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters, the organization deals with the implication of the Protected Area Strategy and the Forest Practices Code.

Association president David Raven observes somewhat whimsically that the new code, still untried and untested, "will go a long way towards renewing and intensifying our profession's respect for those in the legal profession."

Bill Bourgeois, vice-president of forest policy with Lignum Ltd., and former CORE associate, points out that while there is no biological support for preserving exactly 12 per cent of the province's land base, it is probably a justifiable social goal.

Bourgeois warns foresters that "the traditional forestry approach of resisting change or new ideas until the last minute must be thing of the past, if we are to raise the public perception of our profession."

In a thoughtful treatise, Tony Wong, who has just completed joint Masters degrees in Natural Resources and Environmental Management and Business Administration at Simon Fraser University, stresses that even setting aside 12 per cent for protected areas may not be enough in some cases to ensure the long-term integrity of specific ecosystems.

"Let's not fool ourselves. If we want recreation areas, 12 per cent is a politically acceptable goal. However, if we are truly concerned with long-term ecosystem integrity, biological diversity, and the productivity of managed forests, let's determine the minimum network of protected, special management, and intensive forestry area required to meet this objective and then assess the costs," Wong says.

"By aiming for an arbitrary 12 per cent, we risk falling short of the objectives of a protected areas strategy by imposing costs today without commensurate benefits in the future."

Wong is adamant that protecting enough land to ensure long-term ecological viability doesn't eliminate the forest industry.

"The majority of forest workers in British Columbia will retain their current jobs. Their children will be able to work in forestry, perhaps some not in logging, but as forest technicians, land managers, and in new forest-based enterprises."

Wong obviously has no difficulty accepting change. He sees it as a challenge rather than an obstacle. And I have no doubt that the majority of his colleagues will join him in becoming trustworthy stewards of our forest in the new age.

### CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



## More letters

### Not the bad guys

Referring to the November 9th front-page article by Graeme Thompson entitled, "Can islands be a community? Health group may find out." I am one of the Saturna representatives and I would like to provide a little extra information that will show Saturna representatives are not the "bad guys" his article suggests.

1. The meeting was scheduled to end at 3 p.m. We left at 2:20 p.m.

2. The water taxi couldn't be guaranteed. (Our alternative by two ferries would get us home at 8:10 p.m.)

3. The cost of the water taxi would have been \$180 of public money as opposed to \$20.

The subject "shopping spree" was not introduced by any member of our team. We know that one of the principles of medicare is the right of residents to go to the hospital of their choice. We appreciate the ties we have with Lady Minto as we do those of Saanich Peninsula Hospital.

The people of Saturna I represent have sometimes asked, "Don't we count?" All we want is to make a real contribution and have our transportation difficulties recognized and considered. Our chair, Elma Maund, is very responsive and the rest of us are a team.

Yes, I was "adamant" we visit Saanich Peninsula Hospital before Christmas. Much work remains to be done. Our mission is "To coordinate community health planning and lay the groundwork for the establishment of a South Gulf Islands Community Health Council." The Ministry of Health has said it wants these councils to be in place by the end of March 1995. We are in a very tight time frame.

I hope the foregoing gives a more balanced view of our committee and that I am confident we have the collaborative will to achieve our mission.

PAMELA BROWN,  
Saturna Island

### Terrorism

O.K., I apologize for pointing out the disparity between the text and the picture in that ol' article (Driftwood, August 3). And, after 30 years as a vegetarian, I don't think I could eat moose brains if you threatened me with a gun. Also, may I point out that Mr. Bennett's and Cartwright's letters show the hostility that exists between even the "Good ol' Boys" that live on the island and persons who don't agree with hunting — imagine how threatened I would feel if armed people were saying these things to me in the solitude of the forest around my home, brandishing guns at me?

Please forgive me about the bull in the living room crack, though very graphic it was a trifle unkind. Yet sirs, the very point of my let-

ter was that if you go to where the black bears and moose are, you can call it hunting.

However, on populated Salt Spring Island, it is rural terrorism. SHIRLEY MITCHELL,  
Ganges

### Tasteless

Having admired both the content and format of your newspaper for the past eight years, I was really dismayed at the very crass ad from Islands Heritage Realty in the November 9 edition of the Driftwood. The full page of houses and lots for sale, beneath the "Lest We Forget" banner, was truly the most tasteless ad I've seen in a long time.

SUSAN YATES,  
Gabriola Island

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# More letters

## Why pack useless meeting?

I too, must thank you for publishing my humble scribbles and indeed for the deft and gentle touch of the blue pencil, trimming some of my more fractious comments (Driftwood letters, November 2).

The first sentence of Mr. Klenman's most recent letter led me to believe he had assumed the mantle of royalty, but further reading made it clear he writes for his clique.

More important is the shift from conjecture in his letter of October 26, ("... can and will have, I suppose...") to the factual sounding opening sentence of his letter of November 2. Does he know something our trustees don't, although they do adamantly deny the existence of this industrial zoning plan in a letter also printed November 2? Is this just personish enthusiasm on Mr. Klenman's part, or is it perhaps a bit of scaremongering prior to a meeting dismissed as a public relations exercise?

I find it interesting that a group

of people have announced that they plan to, basically, pack a public meeting which has been dismissed as useless. (And angry too! Perhaps as suggested in an unrelated letter, conflict resolution counselling might help.)

Perhaps there is a plan to industrialize the inner harbour, I don't know, I'm as skeptical as the next guy about politicians in general. Maybe we can get the facts, or at least clear the air a bit at the meeting of November 15.

**BILL LUKER,**  
Margoline Drive

*P.S. When does a clique become a claque?*

## Three stripes with a cane

I agree that suspension from all sports, etc., for the duration of the term is an improper punishment (Driftwood View Point, November 9).

When I was at school — some years ago — punishment normally consisted of three to six stripes from a cane on your bottom — covered only by pyjamas or

underwear — depending on the severity of the crime. It hurt — was quickly over — and was remembered, so that the culprit was discouraged from repetition. He was then free to continue his normal life, and sports.

Surely, I suffered from three stripes on a few occasions, and am confident that it is the best form of punishment for the young, provided, of course, that it is properly controlled.

**HANK ROTHERHAM,**  
Lower Ganges Road

## Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 300 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name.

Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

We encourage those of you with computers and modems to write to us care of Raven Net.

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# Island can guide development of tourism, speaker tells community plan workshop

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

Islanders don't want more tourists — but they want those who do come to stay longer and to show up all year round.

That was the major conclusion from an Official Community Plan workshop on tourism, held November 1 at the Anglican Centre.

Islands Trust senior planner Linda Adams said the workshop drew 38 people to a discussion on tourism issues and opportunities. Group discussion identified five major issues.

The first is to encourage visitors to come throughout the year, instead of the current summer influx.

The second is to ensure the character of the island is preserved.

The third is to fit tourism to the community instead of adapting the community to fit tourism.

The fourth is the need for a bus integrated with the ferry service and the fifth is to encourage fewer visitors who stay for a longer period of time.

Participants also wanted to preserve the peace and quiet of the island by discouraging noisy manifestations of tourism such as power boats. Adams noted people working in the tourist industry feel peace and quiet is one of the reasons people come to Salt Spring.

Participants also heard a presentation from Simon Fraser University graduate student Robin Wark, who is working on a tourism growth management study for the Salt Spring Trust Committee.

She discussed four issues and related how other communities had handled the problems.

For example, in Vancouver, bed and breakfast operations are required to meet certain safety standards. In Whistler, the location of bed and breakfasts is controlled through zoning to prevent clustering of too many together.

In Maine and Victoria, zoning limits bed and breakfast operations to certain areas. Size limitations are established through regulations on the Sunshine Coast, in Saanich and in Vancouver.

San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara in California require bed and breakfast operators to practise water conservation.

On Salt Spring, bed and breakfast operations are seen as fitting within the island spirit since they are small-scale, low-investment, intimate and welcoming, Wark said. But there has been considerable growth in numbers over recent years and there is fear of uncontrolled development of bed and breakfast operations.



## OCP REVIEW

Campgrounds are another local issue identified by Wark. Many residents feel camping has little impact on the island. This is especially true if the campers do not have a vehicle. However, current campgrounds are often full, leading to problems with illegal camping.

Wark wondered if there should be more opportunities for tent campgrounds on Salt Spring.

In the Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Sunshine Coast regional districts, regulations govern campgrounds.

Non-vehicle tourism is encouraged in Oregon, Maine and Washington with a network of cycle campgrounds and trails.

She also touched on the need to educate visitors about local issues, including water conservation and fire hazards. Wark felt tourists are generally perceived as "nice people" but they may act inappropriately because they are not familiar with local problems.

In Maine and on Galiano Island, information is included in tourist brochures. Guides which encourage cycling and kayaking can encourage that form of low-impact tourism. In Whistler, signs are erected advising visitors about local conditions.

Crowding and congestion was the final topic tackled by Wark. Overcrowding in Ganges, ferry line-ups, parking and road congestion were among the problems she identified.

In Whistler, there is a transit system and development is focused to encourage pedestrian and transit use, Wark observed. Port Hardy tourist accommodations arrange van pools and the San Juan Islands encourage cycling.

Increasing capacity, such as adding parking, does not usually solve the problem, Wark observed. If there is more parking, the usual result is more cars coming into town to fill the parking lot.

She promised further details in her report, due in the next month. However, she noted that overall the tourism industry seems "rather nebulous and confusing, with many different individuals involved."

The community can guide the development of the industry, she

said. Whistler and Aspen have incorporated tourism management in their community plans. The San Juan Islands have a specific plan to manage tourism.

If no action is taken to develop the industry, the industry will not remain at its current level but will develop on its own, she added. "Without planning, this develop-

ment may or may not be of a form most desirable to the community," Wark noted.

The final workshop in the Official Community Plan series will be held November 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Anglican Centre. Under discussion will be the future of upper Ganges village. All residents are welcome to attend.

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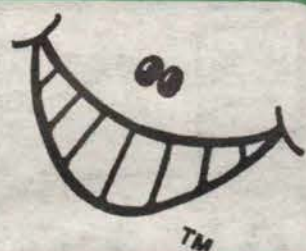
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**Beaver at work**  
 Eight-year-old Meaghen Toole gives a beaver demonstration on willow tree next to St. Mary Lake on Salt Spring. Situated near Blue Gables Resort on North End Road, the tree will likely get entangled in utility wires when the beaver finishes its work. Meaghen's father Mark of Blue Gables reports there is a beaver lodge across the lake from his property.  
 Photo by Tony Richards

## Marrying Filkow not in cards as Chalmers to close company

At least two stories have been circulating on Salt Spring about Arvid Chalmers' plans following a decision to close the Pemberton Holmes real estate office in Ganges. But neither is true, Chalmers told the Driftwood last week, though the real estate office will close at the end of the year. One story had him marrying lawyer, carpet dealer and fellow comic Sid Filkow and moving to Galiano, while the second was that Chalmers planned to take up acting on a full-time basis. However, Chalmers plans to continue selling real estate, working out of his home as Arvid Chalmers Ltd. It was lease renew-

al time on the company's premises that prompted Chalmers' decision. "I'm never in the office anyway," he said. "The way we're doing business is changing very quickly." Chalmers said realtors are always in touch through their pagers. As far as his business is concerned, little comes through the office door, he said. "Most of my business comes out of who I know." A familiar figure on island stages as stand-up comic, auctioneer and MC, Chalmers bought the Pemberton Holmes Ganges office in 1989, about 15 years after the Victoria-based firm opened a

branch here. Chalmers has worked out of that office for 17 years. Of the seven sales people in the office, two are retiring and four are moving to other real estate firms. One of the realtors who will retire is Ann Foerster, with whom Chalmers has worked for 17 years. "That's longer than most relationships last on this island," Chalmers observed.

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# Fundraising seen as priority as ArtSpring set to meet

Fundraising tops the list of what a small sample of ArtSpring members see as the main focus of the next year for the Island Arts Centre Society. The organization will elect seven members to its nine-member board at the annual general meeting next Tuesday.

Tilly Crawley, who helped spearhead a drive for bylaw and other changes earlier this year, wants to see "new blood" on the board to accomplish fundraising goals.

"We need to elect some new members with a strong business background to find ways and means of finishing the building," she said last week. "The board needs some people who are very well aware of the financial aspects of business and this kind of (arts) operation."

She also wants to hear board members talk about financial planning for the arts centre when it opens, including a "viable, estimated annual operating budget" based on experiences of other, similar arts centres.

Society member Heather Horne echoed Crawley's concern for business-oriented board members.

"We urgently need good people, business people, people who know how to raise money and get the thing built," she said.

A good business plan — which has not yet surfaced publicly — which can be used to garner cor-

porate donations, is one matter of business Horne wants to see addressed at the meeting.

Bob Burbidge hopes the event will draw members together rather than throw them apart on distinct "sides." He also said a business plan was something that needed to be completed in order to access the kind of money needed to finish the building.

"The vision of the arts centre is superb," he said. "It's an environmentally safe industry, though I don't like to call it an industry. People will come to the island just to see a show."

The Banff School of Fine Arts started the same way as this, he added.

Nominations committee chairman Arvid Chalmers said fundraising will be the main thrust of the board's efforts for the next year.

And he wants to see the building open in 1995. While it may take \$500,000 to put all the "bells and whistles" into the building, he said it will take a lot less than that to make it ready to open the doors, now that the drywalling is done.

"It's very close right now to bring it to a usable space," he said. "It's definitely the best performance space on the island. Let's use it."

The meeting will be held at Ganges United Church at 7:30 p.m.

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## Photo appeared in Victoria College annual

A Victoria College basketball photograph published in the Driftwood August 31 first appeared in the college's annual of 1927-28.

Dr. Peter Smith of the University of Victoria's classics department found the team photo

in the annual's sports pages, along with an account of the team's achievements during the year.

"The women's basketball team has had a very successful season under the able leadership of Johnny Foubister and Ian MacQueen," the annual reported.

"The team wishes to take this opportunity of thanking them both for their splendid coaching."

Coach Foubister later moved to Salt Spring Island, where he was principal of Salt Spring School for many years.

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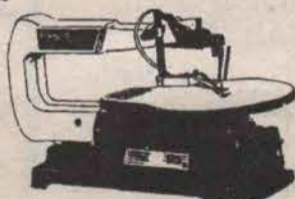
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# School trustees hear parent's plea for bus

School trustees heard a parent's plea for a renewal of school bus service on Cranberry Road last week, but there was no move to reverse the scheduling decision which goes into effect at the end of this month.

Parent Patricia Donnelly was "angry" to learn from her child and not the school district of the board's decision to stop driving up Cranberry Road. The service was to have stopped November 1, but given the opposition of the three affected families and six students, the date was postponed.

Donnelly said the road was safe enough for driving but not for walking, especially in the dark of the winter mornings as children made their way down to Old Divide Road before 7 a.m. She was angry not to have had proper notice of the changes and time to think about how her family would be affected.

"It only affects six students," she said, "but it affects them a great deal."

But manager of plant services Rod Scotvold said the changes were "primarily a win."

"We ended up with a better, much more efficient service," he said Thursday. "Sixty-five more students are using the system. It didn't work out for the kids on Cranberry Road, but I felt we had a 98 per cent win."

He said "operating constraints" for the district buses were the main reason the schedule had to be changed this year. The buses are reaching their physical capacity and shifts in student numbers from elementary to high school made it worse this year.

The district has six buses on Salt Spring, one on Galiano and two contracted buses on Pender and Mayne.

The changes to the old bus route include a two-kilometre extension down Mansell Road, which took on 20 students. An extension along Beddis Road took on 12 students, a 1.3-kilometre extension took on 15 students, and a 4.7-kilometre extension took on 18.

"Our bus system could not begin to address these places," Scotvold said.

The School Act allows districts to address transportation needs, secretary-treasurer Ken Starling said. The district submits its bus routes to the ministry each year. But the ministry has guidelines to follow. Children from kindergarten age to Grade 3 should be able to walk up to four kilometres to get to school or a bus stop, according to the ministry. Older children should be able to walk up to 4.8 km.

There should also be at least eight students served by any one bus route.

Parents of children who live more than 3.2 km away from a bus stop can apply to the school district for a gas subsidy to drive a child to

school or the nearest stop.

Donnelly said this provision assumed "parents have the money for a car to drive them in and ... that parents have the time to drive them there."

School board chairwoman Allisen Lambert closed the discussion by apologizing on behalf of the board for the delay in notifying the affected families of the changes. She said the problems of the six children who live up Cranberry Road "may be beyond the control of this board."

Beyond the control or not, the busing issue will resurface next year when the Middle School opens in Ganges.

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## Long walks not uncommon

Trustees from the Outer Islands sympathized with parents from Cranberry Road who will lose bus service for their school-age children at the end of this month. But that sympathy did not extend to renewing the service.

Salt Spring trustees also remained quiet during a presentation by a local parent at the monthly board meeting last Wednesday. They know that long walks, cycles or drives are not uncommon for island children.

On Salt Spring, school buses do not travel up Charlesworth Road, Fort Street or Reynolds Road, to name only three. Students who live on those roads must get to Fulford-Ganges, Walker Hook or Beaver Point roads, respectively, to get the bus. On South Pender there is no bus at all. There are only seven school-age children on that island.

Ministry of Education guidelines for bus transportation, where a district provides it, stipulate that routes must serve at least eight children. That is why Cranberry will lose its bus at the end of the month and why no bus crosses over the bridge to South Pender.

"I can really sympathize with the people up Cranberry," Pender trustee Jean Maberley said last week. "But I also realize there are all kinds of ways of getting kids to school. There are other groups of kids in the district larger than the Cranberry group with no bus service."

North Pender has a contract bus service, like Mayne Island, which is due to end in June. There is one 54-passenger bus for the 100-plus students who go to school on North Pender. Another 40 go off-island to secondary school.

On Mayne Island, school trustee May McKenzie said the majority of students use the school bus, which is contracted out to a local company. The bus also picks up children at Hope Bay who come to school from Saturna.

On Saturna Island, there is no bus, trustee Lorraine Campbell said. Most of the 20 students at the school live fairly close to it. Those who do not have their parents drive them. Campbell said some of the parents do get a subsidy for gas.

She added that of the students who have to go off-island to school — either to Mayne Island for Grades 7, 8 and 9 or to Salt Spring Island for Grades 10 through 12 — some walk to the ferry terminal, some ride their bikes, some are driven and some drive themselves.

Both Campbell and Maberley said they would like to see a Salt Spring bus pick up high school students. The walk to the new school from the government wharf in Ganges is farther than it was to the old high school.

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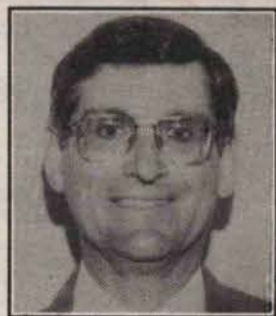
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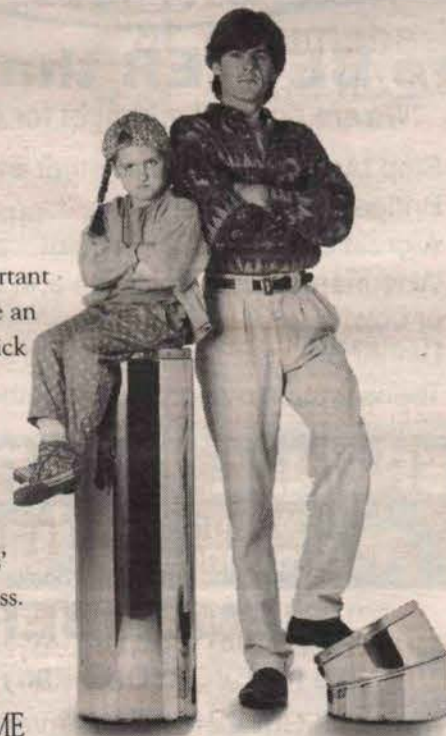
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**Toy shopping**

Justin Barnes checks out Discovery Toys' display at the third annual Shop at Home Faire. The event was held Saturday at the Anglican Centre.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

# High school may be among 40 on network

Some 40 educational institutions across the province will be linked by a new multi-media learning network by the end of next year, BC Tel's Discovery Learning Services said last week.

Gulf Islands Secondary School, as the province's newest and most up-to-date high school, may be one of those 40.

The network, which BC Tel calls "community connections," is a fibre-optic, full-motion video and interactive media link. "People are linked to people," is how the phone company's Brian Wesley described the system. People in different rooms, communities or countries will be able to talk to one another and see one another instantaneously.

Educational institutions will be the first beneficiaries of this new technology, including B.C. schools. One school from the Interior has been on an undersea safari with Royal B.C. Museum divers. The children could see everything as it appeared to the diver with the camera. They could ask questions and hear his responses, without ever leaving the comfort of their own room.

"The vision I had," Wesley said, "is that it offers a wonderful opportunity for people to enjoy a lifestyle that is unique and different but at the same time link to other parts of the world."

Salt Spring Island may get the new technology if a fibre-optic link is made from Sidney to Ganges. BC Tel engineers are "looking into it," Wesley said.

The first phase of the new community connections program is expected to start in the new year. Future phases will expand the network to other institutions, community centres, businesses and even private homes.

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<b>GR. "A" &amp; "U" limit 1 bag per customer</b>	<b>FRESH NO M.S.G. ADDED</b> <b>Beef Sausages</b> 4.14kg <b>1.88</b> lb	<b>BONELESS FAMILY PACK</b> <b>Chuck Blade Steaks</b> 4.14kg <b>1.88</b> lb	<b>FRESH BONELESS SHOULDER BUTT Pork Steaks</b> 3.48kg <b>1.58</b> lb
<b>PREV. FROZEN</b> <b>Clam Meat</b> 2.68lb <b>.59</b> 100g	<b>MAPLE LEAF reg. or Wise Choice SLICED SIDE</b> <b>Bacon</b> 500g <b>2.59</b>	<b>FRESH CUT</b> <b>Beef Stew</b> 4.81kg <b>2.18</b> lb	<b>FRESH</b> <b>Ground Pork</b> 3.48kg <b>1.58</b> lb
<b>FROZEN GR. 'A' MATURE</b> <b>Ducks</b> 1.94kg <b>.88</b> lb	<b>CUDDY CHICKEN STRIPS</b> <b>Chicken Nuggets</b> 1kg <b>9.88</b> box	<b>FRESH BONELESS CENTRE CUT</b> <b>Pork Chops</b> 7.89kg <b>3.58</b> lb	<b>FRESH BONELESS CUT FOR SWEET &amp; SOUR</b> <b>Pork Cubes</b> 4.14kg <b>1.88</b> lb
		<b>FRESH BONELESS CENTRE CUT</b> <b>Pork Roasts</b> 7.67kg <b>3.48</b> lb	

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<b>PUREX PILLOWY SOFT</b> <b>Toilet Tissues</b> 8 rolls <b>2.57</b>	<b>GENERAL MILLS CEREAL</b> <b>Cheerios</b> 425g <b>2.57</b>	<b>VENICE BAKER COUNTRY GOOD</b> <b>Bread</b> 567g white or 60% w/wheat <b>.87</b>	<b>NABOB DELUXE ORANGE PEKOE</b> <b>Tea Bags</b> 120's <b>3.78</b>		

<b>SCOTTIES FACIAL TISSUES</b> 300's <b>1.37</b>	<b>GENERAL MILLS HONEY NUT CHEERIOS</b> 400g <b>2.67</b>	<b>BETTY CROCKERS MUFFIN MIX</b> 200g pouch <b>.59</b>
<b>SCOTTIES PAPER NAPKINS</b> 60's <b>.97</b>	<b>OVALTINE DRINK MIX</b> assorted 400g <b>2.97</b>	<b>ADDED TOUCH CAKE MIX</b> assorted 520g <b>.99</b>
<b>DELMONTE in syrup FRUIT COCKTAIL</b> 398ml <b>1.17</b>	<b>CADBURY assorted envelopes INSTANT HOT CHOCOLATE</b> 11's <b>1.87</b>	<b>CROSS &amp; BLACKWELL MINCEMEAT</b> 455ml <b>2.59</b>
<b>AYLMERS TOMATO JUICE</b> 48oz. <b>1.37</b>	<b>WESTONS D'ITALIANO CRUSTINI ROLLS</b> 8's <b>1.57</b>	<b>BAKERS BAKING CHOCOLATE</b> 170g-225g <b>2.37</b>
<b>DOLES PINEAPPLE JUICE</b> 48oz. <b>1.57</b>	<b>DARES CHOC-FUDGE OR CHIP COOKIES</b> 500g <b>2.87</b>	<b>FRYS PURE COCOA</b> 500g <b>4.87</b>
<b>ALPHA CREAM HONEY</b> 1kg <b>3.47</b>	<b>DARES SHORT BREAD COOKIES</b> 400g <b>2.47</b>	<b>ALOHA assorted cut COCONUT</b> 200g pkg <b>.77</b>

<b>PARAMOUNT RED Sockeye Salmon</b> 213g <b>2.67</b>	<b>KRAFT 225g Macaroni &amp; Cheese Dinner</b> <b>.67</b>	<b>KRAFT Single Slices Cheese</b> 500g except deluxe <b>3.37</b>	<b>KRAFT 907g Monterey Jack Mozzarella or Colby Cheese</b> <b>7.17</b>	<b>KRAFT Cheez Whiz</b> 500g asst. <b>3.67</b>	<b>BECEL Sunflower Oil</b> 1L <b>2.17</b>
<b>A.B.C. ORIGINAL LAUNDRY POWDER</b> 8L <b>3.97</b>	<b>MCLARENS IMPERIAL CHEESE</b> 250g <b>2.47</b>	<b>ASTRO reg. or light YOGURT</b> assorted 500g <b>1.37</b>			
<b>PALMOLIVE GEL DISHWASHER</b> 1.4L <b>3.87</b>	<b>SWISS KNIGHT VARIETIES PORTION CHEESE</b> 227g <b>2.49</b>	<b>ISLAND FARM carton VELVET ICE CREAM</b> 1L <b>1.78</b>			
<b>FANTASTIK SPRAY CLEANER</b> 700ml <b>2.87</b>	<b>QUAKER READY TO SERVE OATMEAL</b> 325g-470g <b>2.09</b>	<b>FROZEN McCAIN CONC. ORANGE JUICE</b> 355ml <b>.97</b>			
<b>GLAD LASTING MIST SPRAY AIR FRESHENER</b> 9g <b>3.17</b>	<b>PEEK FREANS DELECTABLE CHOC-CHIP COOKIES</b> 400g <b>2.59</b>	<b>FROZEN McCAIN PEAS OR MIX VEG.</b> 1kg <b>2.17</b>			
<b>KAL KAN assorted CAT FOODS</b> 170g tin <b>.47</b>	<b>NESTLE MINI PUDDING</b> 4x142g <b>1.59</b>	<b>PILLSBURY assorted 4's frozen PIZZA</b> 370g-385g <b>2.57</b>			
<b>W.C. ABSORBENT CAT LITTER</b> 10kg bag <b>4.17</b>	<b>ROYALL CANADIAN LUNCHEON MEAT</b> 340g <b>1.99</b>	<b>STOUFFERS FROZEN LASAGNA</b> 286g <b>2.17</b>			

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**GREAT FOOD & FUN FOR EVERYONE**

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

Every art lover should want a spot on Jack Avison's Christmas card list.

Avison hand-paints the cards he sends. Brush strokes and the blending of colour which draw on a lifetime as an artist make each card a collector's piece.

To Avison, these four by six-inch cards are like a hobby compared to his serious work. Fascinated by the mingling of ink, paint and water, the cards are an opportunity to experiment.

Almost invariably, he later discovers the card has been framed and is on the recipient's wall. "These little ones are smashing little paintings," he admits, almost sounding surprised by how effective the tiny works are once they are framed.

Typical is a recent small painting he made for his wife's birthday. Entitled Rock Flowers, the blending of jewel-toned watercolours has a magical quality, as if amethyst, topaz and lapis stones had put forth frost-edged blooms.

The same magical quality touches much of Avison's work. "I enhance the magic of the day," he says. "A lot of my work is imaginary and completely abstract in part."

Memory of Yorkshire Moors is typical of a remembered image enhanced by Avison's vision. The interlocking hills are formed of feathery strokes of blue and green and purple. Heather and bluebells and deep springy moss is suggested without actually being delineated.

"The most magical thing there is — is a paint box," he says. "The most exciting thing I ever discovered was colour."

He recognized he had an unusual affinity for colour while working as a sales manager for a worsted spinning plant in England. One of the most demanding jobs associated with the industry was that of colour matcher — a person able to look at a swatch of fabric and determine exactly how to dye threads to reproduce it.

Some fabrics were composed of many different colours of thread. If the colour matcher missed one shade, the fabric would not be an exact match. "We, at one time, had over 30 blacks," Avison points out.

At that plant, Avison recalled, only two of the 2,000 employees saw colour the same way. One was the plant's colour matcher and the other was Avison.

Avison retired from the plant when he was 62, after 46 years with the company. He had also spent six years with the armed forces, a period he now describes as "one of those unpaid holidays."

He came to Canada and to Salt Spring in 1980, to embark upon what he observes as a very busy retirement. "Retirement is only for those who have nothing to do."

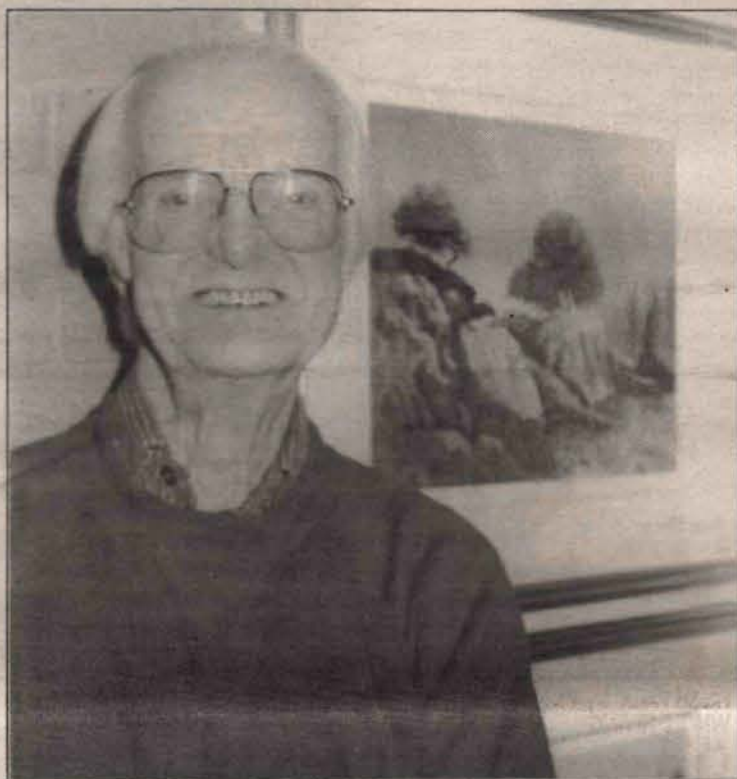
But even while working full-time, he seized every opportunity to practise his art. "All that time, any spare time I had, I drew and I painted."

Although he attended art colleges in Bradford and Newcastle, he recognizes most of his skills were self-taught. "Most of it was experimentation on my own behalf and an intense desire to get the most I can out of it."

He now tries to pass on as much of his knowledge as he can to other painters. "Everybody's a protegee," he remarks, a day after

# PAINTING LIFE

*Jack Avison finds magic in a paint box*



**AFFINITY FOR COLOUR:** Painter Jack Avison, whose work can be found all over the world, finds excitement in colour.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

presenting a demonstration to the local painter's guild. He has also taught classes and welcomes questions from younger artists.

Theme is one of the most important aspects of a Jack Avison

painting. He often starts with a sketch which captures the mood of a day. Sometimes he will use a photograph which suggests a certain theme.

"Then I develop that theme

into a painting," he explains. "The subject matter has got to give me a kick in the butt."

Perhaps because he puts something of himself into each painting, he is reluctant to give any of them up. "All my paintings are paintings that I want to live with."

But reality intrudes. "I'd have to get a bigger house if I didn't sell anything."

His work is found in collections all over the world. Locally, it can be seen in the Naikai, Ewart and Pegasus galleries.

For the next two weeks, starting on Friday, his work will also be on display at Alfresco Cafe in Grace Point Square. A reception will be held Saturday, from 7 to 9 p.m., with refreshments served and the artist in attendance.

Avison says he welcomes opportunities to meet those who purchase his work. "It's a very nice feeling when people come back after a few years and say they'd like another."

He guards the value of his

work by refusing to allow mechanical reproduction of his pieces. "There is not a print of any of my work anywhere in the world," he observes. Although his refusal to allow his work to be reproduced limits his market and means he is not as well known as he could be, he feels

he has an obligation to those who have purchased his original works over the past 30-plus years.

"It would be breaking faith with all the people who have purchased my paintings," he adds.

He still owns some of his work which dates back to the 1960s. Examining these paintings, he can trace the influences and evolution of his art.

He finds he is the harshest critic of his own work. "My art is still evolving," he says.

"My experiences of the past have brought me to the point that I now know how much may be accomplished. I'm trying to go as far up that path as I may.

"I'm trying to paint life."

**"The most magical thing there is — is a paint box," he says. "The most exciting thing I ever discovered was colour."**

## GREENWOODS FUNDRAISER EXHIBITION, SALE & AUCTION

Friday December 2nd and Saturday December 3rd  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

**FRIDAY - live entertainment 1:00 - 3:00**  
featuring: ANDERSON - MCCAULEY - THOMAS TRIO

**SATURDAY - live entertainment 2:00 - 3:00**  
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*Decadent desserts, tea and coffee will be served*

Saturday at 3:00pm there will be an auction,  
conducted by

**Auctioneer Extraordinaire Arvid Chalmers,**  
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Friday tickets will be honoured at Saturday Auction

Admission tickets, \$10 each, will be sold until  
November 25th at:  
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Raffle tickets will be sold at Greenwoods and G.V.M. on  
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Seven artists - Plus Tea Room

# ENTERTAINMENT

## This week at the Cinema

**ROAD TO WELLVILLE:** A film tribute to Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the ubiquitous flake but also purveyor of amazing medical quackery at his Battle Creek Sanitarium. Anthony Hopkins stars with Matthew Broderick, Bridget Fonda and John Cusack in this tale of turn-of-the-century medical madness. 14 years, some nudity, suggestive scenes and very coarse language. Friday to Sunday, 7 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, 9 p.m.

**SECOND BEST:** Set in Wales, this is the tale of the relationship between an asocial 42-year-old played by William Hurt and a 10-year-old boy he adopts. The man and the boy both have problems, which inevitably get resolved by the end of the movie. Beautiful Welsh scenery can be expected. Mature, occasional violence and suggestive scenes, Friday to Sunday, 9:15 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

MOVIE BUCKS ARE GIVEN OUT MONDAYS ONLY.

## Island Video Hits

1. City Slicker 2 .....(-)
2. Flintstones .....(1)
3. Little Big League .....(-)
4. Four Weddings and a Funeral .....(3)
5. Even Cowgirls Get the Blues .....(-)
6. With Honours .....(-)
7. Guarding Tess .....(2)
8. Jurassic Park .....(7)
9. Baraka .....(10)
10. Back Beat .....(8)

## On Tap at the Pubs

**MOBY'S** .....Friday Night Live, Nov. 18  
 .....Salt Swing 'n' Dixie, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
**HARBOUR HOUSE**.....(Pub) Thirst N Howell, Nov. 18, 19

## Out and About

**NOV. 18,** .....Quartetto Gelato, Activity Centre, 8 p.m.  
**NOV. 19,** .....Word Weaving, Anglican Centre, 7:30 p.m.

## Community TV Schedule

Nov. 19, 3 p.m. ....Keep Fit  
 Nov. 19, 3:30 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop  
 Nov. 21, 11 a.m. ....Keep Fit  
 Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m. ....Islands Trust workshop

Check TV noticeboard for programming announcements

## Three poets to read for ArtSpring

By **GRAEME THOMPSON**  
 Driftwood Staff

Three Salt Spring poets not often heard outside their own living rooms are to stage a benefit reading for ArtSpring Saturday at All Saints-by-the-Sea.

Alan and Hetty Clews and Bob Weeden will present Word Weavings at the Ganges Anglican church. Weeden and Hetty Clews are both members of the ArtSpring board.

The evening will include selections by such well known poets as T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost and Walter de la Mare as well as poems written by Weeden and the Clews.

"The reason I write poetry is the same reason I go for walks: the pleasure of the exercise," Alan Clews told the Driftwood last week. "Poetry is a mental exercise for me."

Hetty Clews has had poetry published and spent much time writing and reading poetry. As a high school and university lecturer in English literature, it was part of her work. E.M. Forster described poetry as "felt-thought" and that is in many respects, what she thinks it is too.

Weeden describes himself as an "amateur, casual poet" who has written poetry for years, both as a university lecturer in Alaska and a farmer on Salt Spring.

"Poems happen when I happen to be moved by something," he said.

Like the poem he wrote about three old men at a fair standing in a line identifying apple varieties. These old men were snapping their suspenders and chewing their tobacco as they took the proffered apples: slice, sniff, taste, chew. Knowing nods. A consensus. Out comes an apple name.

That wasn't an apple identification, Weeden recalled, but he immediately recognized the potential for a poem.

Islanders can hear Word Weavings Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is by donation; all proceeds go to ArtSpring.

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Grace Pt. Square

Salt Spring Tours-537-4737

## On The Bus

### Excursion Calendar

- Nov. 17.....Victoria Shopping Day -Every Thursday  
 48 Hr. advance ticket purchase required
- Nov. 24.....Ladysmith Festival of Lights  
 Parade, Street Entertainers, Fireworks
- Nov. 24.....Victoria Shopping Day -Limited Seating  
 48 Hr. advance ticket purchase required
- Nov. 26.....Nanaimo Shopping- Saturday Day Trip
- Dec. 13 / 14...Vancouver Shopping & Lights  
 Call Maureen at the Travel Shop 537-9911
- Dec. 17....."Miracle On 34th Street" - Matinee  
 McPherson Playhouse Victoria
- Dec. 24-26....Xmas at Qualicum College Inn  
 Get away for Xmas. 3 Nights, meals festivities  
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ALL PROCEEDS TO

ARTSPRING

Brought to Salt Spring by  
 Peter Bardon & Fitz Lee

# More colour in Jensen's latest work

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

Colour. LeRoy Jensen's latest works have moved beyond the blackish browns and greens which coloured last year's show. Clothes, where people wear them, have more than a hint of leaf-greens, and sky-blues and red.

Trailing more colourful clouds of glory, Jensen's paintings command attention as they normally do, and provoke a dialogue with the viewer. There is tension, the interplay of the weak and the strong, the resigned and the defiant, the long-suffering and the innocently playful.

And, as with every artistic exhibition, some paintings will appeal more to one viewer than another.

Premonition, one of the larger works on display, is one I liked best. It shows a large figure, with a strong suggestion of red hair, bent lovingly, protectively over someone smaller. Seen from 10 feet away or more, the swirling lines and dabs of paint take shape and draw you straight into the relationship between these two humans.

The single word in the title heightens the sense that the moving background, heavily bent head and encompassing arm of the one figure — a mother perhaps — are trying to protect the child from some circumstance which is unforeseen but foreseeable.

Woman from Benares was one of half a dozen intense gouaches in the show. More than one had already earned a red dot by the middle of the opening afternoon. Clothed in a threadbare shawl, reddish hat, black dress and a suggestion of white gloves, the dark-shadowed eyes of the woman tell the whole life story behind this Brechtian parody of perceived gentility.

Mother-and-child groups were also represented in two other paintings: Exodus, a sombre work showing a woman clothed in green and two children, marked by dabs of blue and red at her side; Joy shows a large hour-glass-shaped woman with red hair and blue dress tossing a baby playfully into the air.

Another painting which strikes the eye is The Orchard. A man is packing a box of fruit, bent over while two women take a momentary rest, standing up straight. The



**WOMAN FROM BENARES:** One of the many women caught in all their moods and ages by the brush of island artist LeRoy Jensen. His recent work is on show until November 26 at Gulf Island Picture Framing and Gallery.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

primary colours in the clothing — red, blue, yellow — perhaps echo the task at hand, providing for a basic human need.

There is a strong contingent of portraits in the show, too. Two gouaches, titled Sister, show women with small, pursed lips, long thin noses and small, dark eyes. An oil on the opposite wall, more imposing in size and effect, is the Wife of the Gladiator. Under her disarrayed hair stare eyes

which seem to look right through everything, including the viewer. They see the outcome of life's struggle, maybe not today, but maybe tomorrow. Does she accept what she sees?

It's hard to say. Yesterday I thought I saw one thing. But, tomorrow I am sure I would see another.

LeRoy Jensen's show continues at Gulf Islands Picture Framing and Gallery until Sunday, November 26.

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Seafood Restaurant

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# A musical Scot: Shoolbraid authors book of tunes

By TONY RICHARDS

Driftwood Staff

"No misprints!"

The stern warning was the last word in an hour-long interview, and it was issued in Murray Shoolbraid's thick Scottish brogue, an accent that has suffered little watering down over the course of more than three decades in Canada.

Driftwood editors and reporters have to come to know Shoolbraid over the years, the first meeting often coming after the sin (for which forgiveness is a long time coming) of placing the letter c within the surname of the Salt Spring teacher and writer. You only do it once.

With his piercing look and the sly grin beneath the long white beard, Shoolbraid looks very much like what one would expect a dour Scot to look like. Add to that the fact he comes from Fife, a county located across the Firth of Forth from the city of Edinburgh, and you have a vision of a Scot who's dour and stingy to boot.

But Shoolbraid shows evidence of neither during a brief talk about Scotland, emigrating to Canada and music. (The latter subject is another which has touched off communication between Shoolbraid and this newspaper. Misprints in at least one Christmas carol sheet generated a fully justified castigation of Driftwood staff for their ignorance about the lyrics of the carols.)

Instead there is pride, for Shoolbraid's music has been published — 60 Scottish dance tunes in all, a collection of jigs, reels and strathspeys written over the course of the last 20 years and more.

Leslie Braes is the title of the 50-page book of music for fiddle, mandolin and accordion, for Scottish country dance groups, and square dance and concert bands. Shoolbraid describes the book as "a sentimental monument to the family home" of Leslie, a town in the middle of Fife. The braes are the hillsides behind Leslie, where the writer was born in 1931.

"Fife has always been a bit of a unique place," Shoolbraid explained. It was the seat of the old Pictish kings and has always been known as a kingdom. It is also known for its inhabitants' ungenerous nature.

"Fifers are reputedly even more stingy than Aberdonians, who are notorious for that," said the Fifer himself, his voice rising in what could only be called pride.

Shoolbraid recalled the classic Fife postcard depicting a fundraising drive for charity. The first of two pictures depicted the campaign being carried out in the street. It was totally bare of people. The second showed the door-to-door campaign. The streets

## Gardner's Reel is top song

While Murray Shoolbraid of Salt Spring is proud of his new book Leslie Braes, he is no less proud of Andrew Gardner's Reel. Named after a neighbour and fellow Scot, the reel won the overall grand prize at an annual gathering in September of Scottish country dancers in Fort Worden, Wash.

Not only that, but some renowned musicians performed the reel at the Saturday evening ball. Shoolbraid said he was thrilled when "top-notch performers did my wee tune."

were full of people.

After schooling in Scotland, Ireland and England, Shoolbraid joined the Royal Navy, where he learned Russian as part of Britain's defensive tactics during the height of the Cold War. Later, after travelling to Canada in 1960 to visit a brother and sister in Vancouver, his Russian served him well: it was his second language at the University of B.C., from which he graduated with a Master of Arts in Slavic Studies.

Shoolbraid taught Russian language and literature for 11 years at Simon Fraser University, operated western Canada's first children's bookstore, and then moved to Salt Spring. But music played an important role in his life throughout that period.

"We've got music coming out of our ears," he says of his family of dancers and musicians. His great grandfather was the first dancer in the family and operated a dancing school in addition to plying his trade as a slater and plasterer. His father, an electrical

engineer, later operated the school and when he died, Shoolbraid's mother took it on. It is to his father that the book Leslie Braes is dedicated.

By the time he was 12, Shoolbraid was "able to play the piano a wee bit" and began providing accompaniment for the dancers.

So when he arrived in Vancouver to find his brother and sister heavily involved in Scottish country dancing, Shoolbraid became a part of it too. He has since played the piano with a number of bands, and currently plays with Barley Bree, based in Victoria.

Shoolbraid employs the doh-remi system for writing his music. Relaxing at home or sitting on a ferry, he can jot down the sounds on the back of a napkin or whatever comes to hand, translating it into sheet music at another time. The latter step may no longer be necessary, for Shoolbraid now has a keyboard with a "midi" system and accompanying computer and software. He can play his tune on

the keyboard and have the computer produce the sheet music.

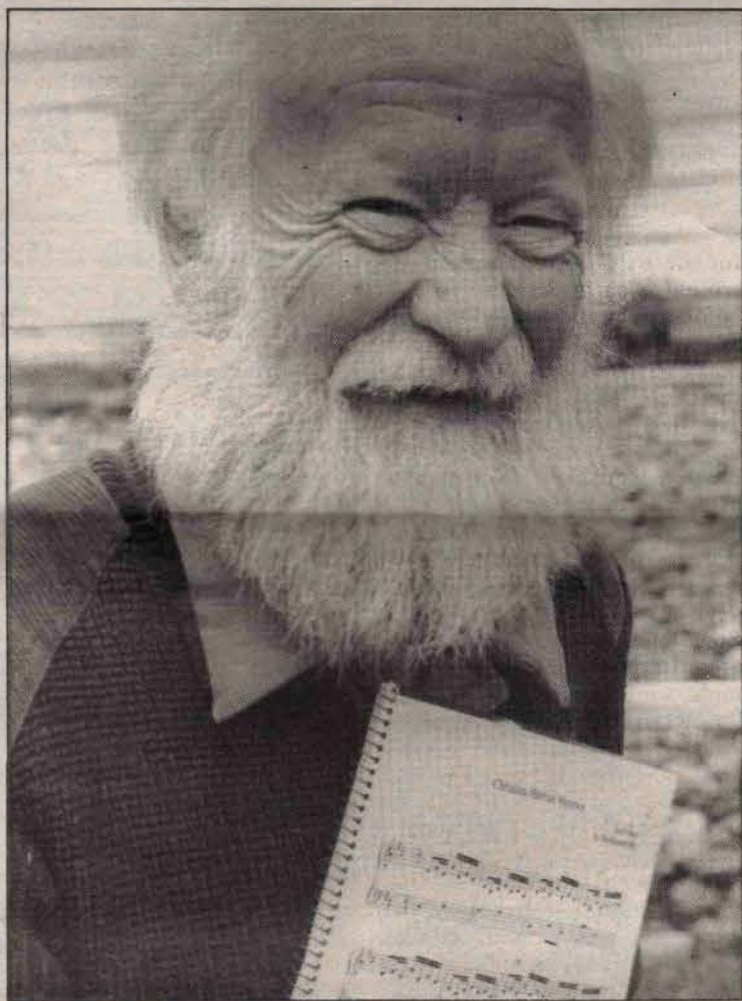
But that is the only acknowledgment he has made to contemporary influence. While we spoke in the kitchen of the Shoolbraid home on Pallot Way, son Rod strummed a guitar and offered the occasional observation. "I've been trying to get him to write jazz," he remarked at one point. But the younger Shoolbraid, a member along with his brother of the band Pogo and the Carrot Revolution, has not been successful in broadening his father's musical sights.

Indeed, his father notes he tries not to write "modern-sounding music." On the other hand, he tries "to inject cadence and a wee bit of syncopation."

Many of Shoolbraid's tunes are named after pals and people he's met. Several will be familiar to Salt Spring Islanders: Richard Pryce-Jones, Tara May, Dana Naomi Campbell.

Shoolbraid hopes the Halifax-based publisher of his book will include more of his music in the additional volumes that are planned. He says he's got enough to fill at least another book, and he is likely composing more even as this is written.

And while he does, this writer has some careful proofreading to do. He will probably read this story several times and he certainly will not entrust the job to the spell-checker. There shall be no misprints.



**PUBLISHED:** Proud composer Murray Shoolbraid holds a copy of his new book, Leslie Braes.

Photo by Tony Richards

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# Show offers stunning display of colour, imagination, talent

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

Islands that are foreign to the eye yet recognizable all the same. These are the Gulf Islands as depicted on a series of maps made by islanders and on view in a travelling exhibition called Mapping Cherished Island Places.

Some 21 islanders put pen and brush and paste to paper after participating in one of four island mapping workshops held this summer as part of the Southern Gulf Islands Bioregional Project run by Sheila Harrington. The goal of the workshops was to increase awareness of the five islands as a bioregion by identifying and mapping natural habitats and places of special interest to the land or community.

The exhibition is a stunning display of colour, imagination and talent, mostly by established island artists, it must be said. But more than this, one or two of the pieces succeed in jolting the viewer's own anthropocentric view of the world, his community, his very home. Those rosy development glasses will not sit so comfortably again.

Each map is different because each artist sees the world differently. The maps are done in pen and ink, watercolour or collage; they show Magic Lake Estates, Montague Harbour or Ruckle Park.

Andrew Gibson's map of his own acreage on Rainbow Road approximates a walkable map more than most. His has dotted lines for paths. Everything is surveyed and drawn to scale. But he has included features from the natural world rather than Hydro lines. Major trees are identified as to type and size. A place where a local boy ran into a hornet's nest is noted.

Bob Burbidge includes more historical information in his map of the old Crofton farm. The old Harbour House Hotel, which burned down more than 20 years ago, is included; the Crofton house which burned down last week in Vesuvius is also sketched in. There is a pond, though it has long since been filled in; a tree which fell to a local development is also included.

Lisa Friesen's map of Winter Cove and environs on Saturna Island is one of the most beautiful.

A designer by trade, she raided a stack of magazines for colourful pictures which she cut out and pasted together into a Saturna collage. Her sea, with its seemingly infinite and undulating shades of blue, is masterful.

Each of the others is worthy of note: Briony Penn's Fulford Harbour with its watercolour plants and animals; Peggy Frank's upper Booth Canal with its cornucopia of wildlife, including an unseen raccoon which leaves behind a trail of tiny handprints; Annamarie Dahlke's photo montage of Ruckle Park, her favourite part of the island.

But the most visually stunning of the maps was made by island artist, photographer and environmental activist Nina Raginsky. It is hardly a map at all. It is a multimedia, multi-seasonal, multi-dimensional view of Walter Bay and environs, which Raginsky calls home.

**Each map is different because each artist sees the world differently.**

Her map is contained in a "treasure box" because it contains all the treasures to be found and seen in Walter Bay through the space of the natural year. Four small lidded boxes decorated with plain brown paper contain dried strawberries on a bed of moss, clamshells small and large, shale stones and earth. Cards showing scientific drawings of tidal creatures like starfish and shrimp are included in the box.

But the real treasure is in a series of 14 envelopes, meticulously decorated with script and curlicues. Many of the envelopes contain photographs, beautifully composed and reproduced, some even tinted. One envelope has a copy of a Driftwood viewpoint Raginsky wrote July 27 this year, including the highlighted admonition that "it is up to each of us to tread gently, listen closely and to think more about natural values rather than property values." Another envelope contains a copy

of a neighbour's letter objecting to restrictions on dock construction in Walter Bay, in advance of last summer's foreshore zoning bylaw. Each envelope contains something which puts islanders and island development into the context of Walter Bay, and by extension, the whole island environment.

Pamela Williams has succeeded more than most in making clear the object of the exercise: to subvert the human view of land to the detriment of every other living thing. She started with a planning authority map of the part of the subdivision in which she lives, near Buck Lake on Pender Island. The winding drives and cul-de-sacs are prettily drawn.

To this Williams drew plants and animals living around and in her housing development. A ravine which carries the outflow from Buck Lake to the sea — which feature cannot be seen on the ordinary subdivision map — is lovingly included here, the source of much of Williams' nature-watching. A plaintive cry of alarm is sounded by her observation that she has not heard the owl for a year, nor the peregrine falcon for two.

The text which accompanies the map identifies the critical mass necessary to sustain life. In her neighbourhood, the critical mass for the wildlife is the point at which "clearings in the forest become isolated clumps of trees in an open, cleared landscape." How many islanders can look around their so-called paradise lots and say whether they are truly living in a forest clearing or an open cleared landscape? Not many, Williams painting implies.

The power of Williams' map is that one can see immediately how the natural order is trying to survive through the human one. Sometimes it succeeds — there are still deer and raccoons and birds; sometimes it fails, as with the owl and the peregrine falcon.

That relationship, between success and failure, between the natural order and the human one, is what this exhibition is all about. Islanders who want to understand their own role in the life of the islands should view these maps while they can. The show moves to Pender Island November 17-21, Mayne Island November 22-28 and Galiano Island December 1 and 2.



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# Society made dramatic difference for MS victim

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

For Linda, a single mother with two sons, 1988-89 had been a stressful year.

Wanting a better environment for her boys and hoping to establish herself as a professional weaver in an artistic community, she moved to Salt Spring, purchased a piece of property and started building a combination cabin and studio.

She was supporting the family, dealing with a recent break-up of a relationship and the death of a close relative.

So when she woke up one morning suffering from double vision and an odd numbness on one side of her face, she put it down to stress. A little rest would clear up the problem, she thought.

But rest didn't help. The attacks continued. Finally, four years ago, she was diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis.

A nurse, she discovered she could not return to her profession. She had to sell the property and the recently completed cabin. "At the time, there was a lot of fear," she recalled.

In her immediate family were two examples of multiple sclerosis patients. One aunt was in a wheelchair. The second aunt was able to lead a reasonably normal life.

Linda (not her real name) did not know which form her disease would take. When diagnosed, she had just turned 40. "It's supposed to hit people between 18 and 40."

She was responsible for supporting and raising two boys. She realized she needed help, especially when the boys began reacting to the strain.

"The kids tend to think every family is whole and healthy and

has everything. They felt they were really being shortchanged."

She couldn't afford professional counselling — one result of her illness was a reduced income — but help was available through the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society. For a year, Linda received counselling through the society.

**She was responsible for supporting and raising two boys. She realized she needed help, especially when the boys began reacting to the strain.**

The counselling helped her deal with the dramatic changes in her life: the increased physical restrictions, the reduced income and the fear of the disease. Her children also received some counselling to help them understand the changes in their life.

Linda notes it was the first time she had ever sought counselling. It was difficult to admit she needed help but the results improved her life. It is still frightening to be a single parent with M.S., but she and her sons have learned how to cope with the situation.

She also became involved in a parenting support group sponsored by the community society. Meeting with other people and learning about their problems helped Linda accept her own challenges.

"It's reassuring to know that there are people who have worse things to deal with than I have to deal with. It puts things in per-

spective," Linda remarked.

She has had no serious attacks for the past two years although she is careful to conserve her energy. She has learned that physical and emotional stress will bring on an attack.

"Because I'm a single parent, I feel that the amount of time and energy I have, I need to be able to give to my sons."

The Gulf Islands Association for People with Disabilities helped her apply for a disability pension, which she now receives. After selling her rural property, she purchased a small, single-level house in Ganges.

She has also resumed weaving and occasionally sells some of her work at craft fairs.

For the last six months, she has volunteered at the community society office one morning a week.

"Things had stabilized enough in my life so that I could put volunteer time in," she explained. She also feels good about being able to give some time back in exchange for the help she received.

"People who work there are quite incredible," she remarked. "There is a lot going on in the services they provide and the number of people they benefit is really quite impressive."

The society receives a signifi-

cant amount of its funding from the United Way. Linda hopes island residents recognize the benefits provided by the society and contribute to the current United Way campaign.

The difference the society's

counselling service has made in her life has been dramatic.

Despite the occasional physical symptoms of her disease, Linda stresses that her life with her teenage sons is good.

"I like my life now."

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**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Salt Spring Elementary students, from left, Leah Martin, Jen Walker and Jen Smith practise their public relations skills at Thrifty Foods last week, in preparation for helping shoppers Monday.  
Photo by Tony Richards

## 'We're not all bad,' say students involved in public relations ploy

Changing negative perceptions about youth was the purpose of an exercise which took a local elementary school class into a food store Monday.

Grade 6-7 French immersion students at Salt Spring Elementary School spent Monday morning serving food samples, packing bags and helping customers at Thrifty Foods in a bid to improve community relations.

"Adults think we're all bad and do nothing to help out in the community," said one class member before Monday's outing.

"We want to prove that we cer-

tainly do help people and that we're not all bad," echoed Leah Martin.

Teacher Elly Parker said Monday afternoon that teams of six students put in one-hour shifts at the store. It went so well that the students may do it again a few more times, she said.

"It all started out with this discussion we had, that so many people in the community only see the negative side of teens and adolescents."

Student Graham Outerbridge observed that youngsters are often judged by the clothes they're

wearing. Other students agreed that baggy pants have a negative connotation to many adults.

"They think if you wear baggy pants you're going to make trouble," one said.

## Workshop looking for toys to distribute with hampers

Over 100 needy Salt Spring children received toys at Christmas last year through the continuing efforts of Santa's Workshop.

And once again, workshop coordinator Bob Appleton is appealing to the community for donations of new or used toys.

"The children are still there," he says. "Please help us make sure that they have toys for Christmas this year also."

Toys are distributed annually with food hampers supplied by the Salt Spring food bank.

Santa's Workshop accepts donations of used and easily repairable toys — "not those beyond repair."

"We would be especially delighted to receive new toys," Appleton notes.

Four island locations have agreed to be drop-off points for toys this year. They include: North Salt Spring Waterworks District on Upper Ganges Road, Patterson's Store in Fulford, the Community Services Society centre (across from the RCMP detachment) and Mouat's Trading Co.

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