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Driftwood

Wednesday, December 28, 1994 Vol. 35, No. 52

Your Community Newspaper

GANGES, B.C. 75 cents

Membership sales needed to replace library user fee

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

There's no such thing as a free library.

That's the message members of the Salt Spring Public Library Association want to get out to island residents starting January 1.

Under legislation just proclaimed by the province, after that date the association will no longer be able to charge its \$10 annual fee for adult members. According to section 46 of the new Library Act, a library board cannot charge for basic library services to residents and electors of the service area.

For the library association, elimination of the \$10 user fee will reduce its budget by one-third, or approximately \$22,000. But the association hopes residents will voluntarily pay \$10 to join, thus preserving the library's income.

Lois Slotten, vice-chairwoman of the library board, called a special meeting of the board Thursday to discuss how the change will be handled.

Since the library is manned by volunteers and the heating and building maintenance costs cannot be cut, she predicts that reduced income will result in fewer acquisitions of new books and materials.

"There's no such thing as free library service," she observed.

As defined under the Library Act, basic services include admission to the library, use of library materials in the library or borrowing of library materials, including hard and soft cover books, maps and charts, computer diskettes, video tapes, records, newspapers, pamphlets, photographs and periodicals.

At Thursday's meeting, board members discussed providing basic service at no charge but offering a greater range of services to those users who purchased memberships in the association.

Treasurer Michael Wheaton suggested the acronym FLU, or Free Library Users, to identify those residents who use the library without purchasing memberships.

But he warned board members that they might not be able to establish two different levels of service, one for FLUs and one for association members. If the association contravenes the Library Act, the group could be closed down.

Wheaton and some other board members wonder if that is the goal of the provincial library service.

"I think they're just waiting for us to put one foot wrong," Wheaton said.

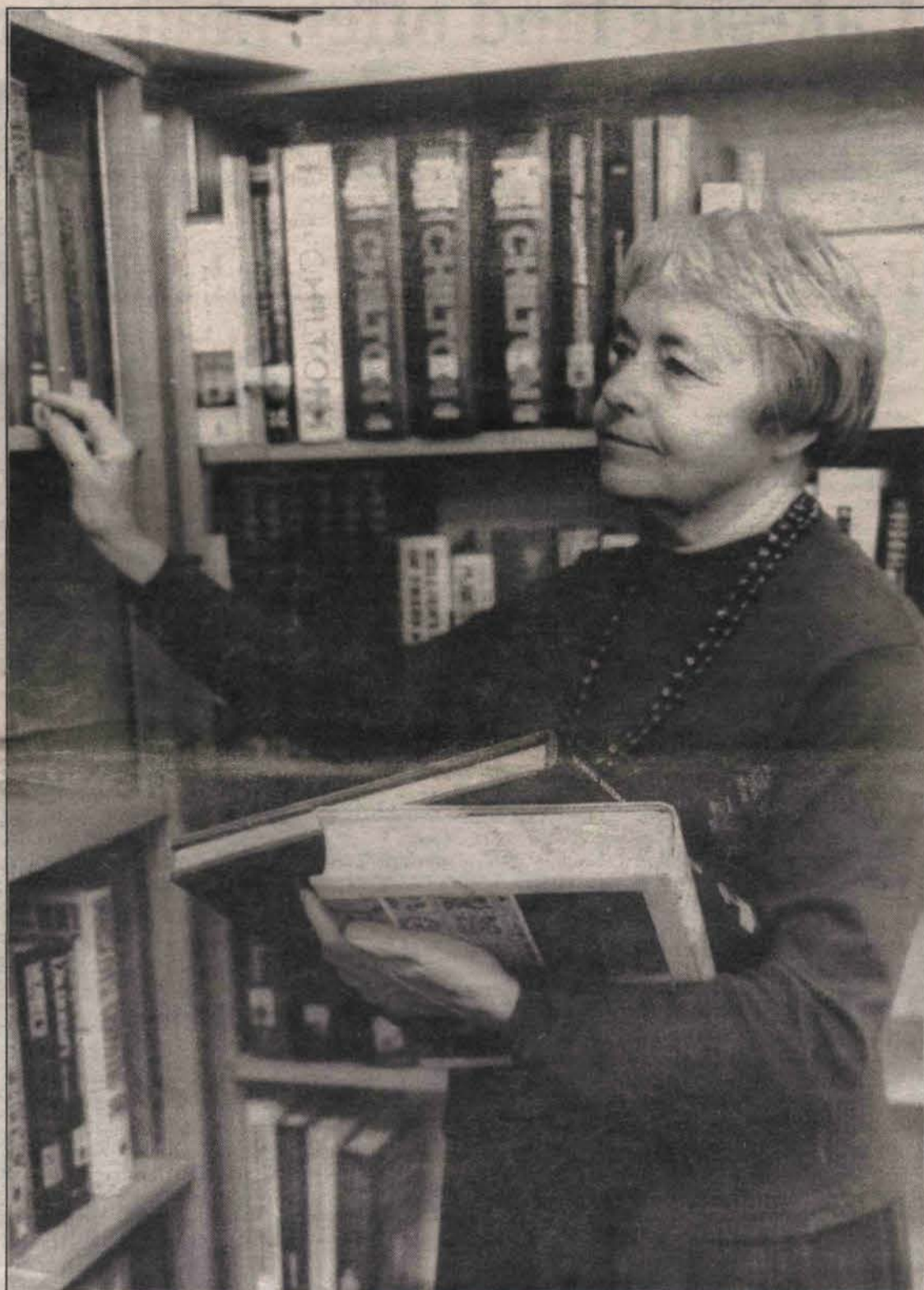
He offered to write the library services branch for a ruling on whether the association can levy a charge for inter-library loans on FLUs but provide the service free to association members.

The board formed a committee to look into different areas of library service and determine what changes might be made to differentiate between paying and non-paying users. They agreed to issue two different colours of library cards to make it easier to implement different services. A salmon shade will identify FLUs.

Slotten remarked on the poor timing of the government announcement. The library association was advised December 13 that it could not collect a library service fee after January 1.

Slotten said the library had

LIBRARY A4



FILLING THE SHELVES: A healthy acquisitions budget allows the Mary Hawkins Library to purchase volumes like these held by library vice-chairwoman Lois Slotten. But she predicts

that budget will be the first to be cut if residents do not support the association by buying memberships.

Photo by Valorie Lennox

Frequent floaters celebrate season

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Like medieval monks in winter, they rise before the sun.

In darkness they set forth on their day's work, travelling for miles along Salt Spring's twisting roads. At the end of the trail, their only sustenance may be a cup of questionable coffee from the vending machine on the Bowen Queen.

These are the frequent floaters — Salt Spring residents who commute daily to jobs on Vancouver Island. Assembling early each morning on the 6:30 a.m. sailing of the Bowen Queen from Fulford Harbour to Swartz Bay, they develop a camaraderie strong enough to draw "graduates" back to see their friends.

Last Wednesday, Stan and Marie Teitge were on board for the group's annual pre-Christmas potluck breakfast. Commuters for two years, they are now retired and describe themselves as frequent floater "graduates."

Stan Teitge used to work as an architectural

draftsman for a Victoria company. Marie Teitge was an office manager for Victoria Hospice.

The breakfast they attended was one of four potluck breakfasts held throughout the year. To mark the December 21 solstice last Wednesday, a bountiful collection of breakfast pastries, mandarin oranges and Christmas baking was spread out on a table next to the ferry's Christmas tree.

Frequent floater potluck breakfasts are also held on the summer solstice and on the fall and spring equinoxes. The breakfasts are open to all-comers or — as a poster on the ferry announced — to the commuters and all those who put up with them.

Commuter Paul Minvielle said the spring breakfast draws the largest number. He estimates 60 people are regulars on the 6:30 a.m. sailing. However, due to Christmas holidays, only half the usual number were aboard last Wednesday.

Last year's breakfast was enlivened by

singer-songwriter Valdy, who happened to be aboard the ferry. He brought out his guitar and sang for the passengers.

Minvielle, an editorial writer for the Victoria Times-Colonist, takes credit for dubbing the group "frequent floaters." He has been commuting since 1979 but says there are people in the group who have been doing it even longer.

But, he joked, "We don't get frequent floater points."

Pam and Robert Brodgesell are another pair of "graduates" who came aboard for the solstice breakfast. Until recently, Pam Brodgesell worked for the library in Sidney and Robert Brodgesell worked at Central Saanich municipal hall.

During her commuting days, Pam Brodgesell used to get up at 4:45 a.m. every day.

"The first bells are tolling," she joked, adding that the early hour sometimes made her feel like she was in a monastery and rising for

FLOATERS A4

INSIDE



PRINT-MAKING: Art meets science in Diana Thompson's favourite art form. **Page A15**

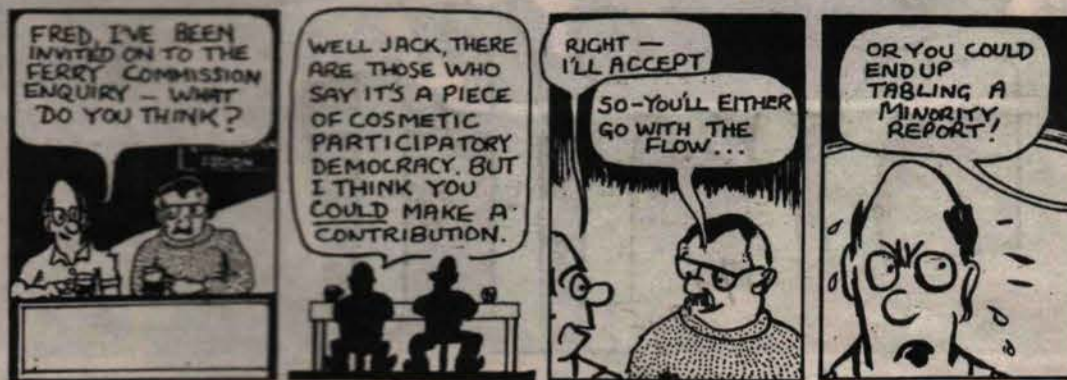
WHERE DID IT GO? The Driftwood looks back at 1994 with a week-by-week review. **Page B1**

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THE URBAN MORON

By Calvin Oakes



Lakeside land offer made for parkland—realtor

An offer to sell lakeside property to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission was made in the interests of adding to local parkland, realtor Allan Bruce said Thursday.

Bruce was responding to a story published last week about a pitch he made to

the commission for a 1.4-acre property on the north end of St. Mary Lake.

Bruce offered the land to the commission at a meeting December 12 for \$450,000. The property is owned by members of Dick Trory's family, who "don't really want to sell it," Trory told the Driftwood.

"It's not even listed."

Although the property's selling price was \$300,000 last June, Trory said another realtor had called on behalf of a prospective purchaser in California who was considering offering \$499,000.

The property has a 1,200-square-foot

house, 500 feet of lakefrontage and two docks.

"I don't care whether we sell it or not," Trory said.

Bruce said the property would be ideal for a park, and could provide a permanent home for the rowing club.

Post office investigates mail delays after five local letters go astray

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

How long does it take a letter to travel from Salt Spring to Salt Spring?

As long as three months, judging by Lisa Kelly's experience.

The new Salt Spring postmistress, Lynda Traer, is now searching for information to explain why five pieces of Lisa Kelly's mail went astray between September and November this year.

On December 9 Kelly received five letters, all of which were mailed before the end of October.

One was dated August 26 and came from Kelly's employer, B.C. Ferries. In the letter was a form which Kelly was supposed to have returned before September 22.

Next were two bills, both dated September 28. One was due October 21 and the second was

due October 23.

The delayed mail also cost Kelly a chance to participate in a work-related seminar slated for October 25-27. The letter was mailed October 11 and required Kelly to register by October 15.

Kelly's uniform requisition form for work was mailed October 20 and Kelly's response was due by October 31.

Once the delayed mail arrived, Kelly said, it took several phone calls to resolve some of the problems. "The carelessness of the post office in Ganges has caused me much grief and missed opportunity," she observed.

Although she had moved from North Beach Road to Sunset Drive October 1, Kelly said she filled out a change of address form at the post office and paid to have her mail forwarded. "I took the

steps to make sure my mail was brought to me," she said.

The move was the second time Kelly moved last year. She also moved in March.

Traer has spoken to Kelly and tried to track the path of the letters, several of which were mailed on Salt Spring.

She found the earlier change of address and payment for mail forwarding from March. Forwarding of mail from that move expired in July, Traer noted. "Our policy is four months."

After searching two boxes of address change requests, Traer has been unable to find the second change of address. She still has another bundle to search and plans to keep looking until she tracks down the problem.

"I'm just going to keep digging until I find out what happened," she said.

Developer considers new system

A sewer system which mimics the action of a swamp to purify water is being examined by Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. as a possible sewage disposal method for Channel Ridge Estates on Salt Spring Island.

Managing director Mark Lindholm said a decision would be made early in the new year on whether to pursue the solar aquatic system marketed by Vancouver-based Eco-Tek.

"We're not committed to it yet," he said. Proponents of the system claim the resulting effluent can meet Canadian drinking water standards. "If the claims are true then this is very, very exciting,"

Lindholm said.

He admitted the system is expensive but the quality of effluent could make it worthwhile, especially if the effluent can be recycled in some fashion.

The system is being studied in the eastern United States and the Ontario Museum of Science is now constructing a solar aquatic treatment plant, Lindholm said.

"It's a man-made marsh," he said. If Channel Ridge Properties decides to proceed with the system, Lindholm said, there would be much more information available for Salt Spring Islanders on the innovative type of treatment.

Driftwood Deadlines

Due to the New Year's Day holiday, the Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, January 2. Advertising deadlines will be as follows for the issue of January 4:

Real Estate
Dec. 20, noon

Display
Dec. 29, noon

Classified
Dec. 30, noon

Editorial
Dec. 30, noon

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Change in venue will see Trust Council at Ganges

An unexpected chance to see the full Islands Trust Council in action will be given Salt Spring residents March 9-11 when the quarterly council meeting is held on the island.

The meeting had been slated for Nanaimo but was moved to Salt Spring last week when appropriate space could not be booked in the Vancouver Island city.

Trust chairman Graeme Dinsdale approached Salt Spring trustees and asked if the meeting could be held here. Arrangements were quickly made to use the Anglican Centre for the three-day meeting. Accommodation for trustees and staff was booked in the Harbour House Hotel and at local bed and breakfast operations.

Trustee Grace Byrne welcomed the chance to host Islands Trust staff and representatives from 12 other Trust islands. She added that many trustees want to see the council hold its meetings on the islands.

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Grad wrap

Gulf Islands Secondary School Grade 12 students Nicki Esau, left, and Kirsten Somerset demonstrate their expertise at wrapping Christmas gifts Thursday in Ganges.

Members of the school's graduating class were offering a wrapping service for Christmas shoppers as a fundraiser.

Photo by Tony Richards

Availability of physicians is one of 'minuses' of life here

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

There are "pluses and minuses" with living on the Gulf Islands, a Ministry of Health spokeswoman said last week. One of those minuses is trying to figure out how to pay for a resident physician.

As of March 31, 1995, three Gulf Islands doctors will lose a subsidy from the provincial government which has helped provide on-island doctors for the past 12 years.

The 1991 B.C. Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs identified the Rural Physicians Incentive Program as an item to shelve as part of the Closer to Home initiative in health care. But the Ministry of Health has no idea what will replace the program to keep doctors on the Outer Islands.

"People are choosing to live on these islands," health ministry communications spokeswoman Kathy Santini said last week. "There are pluses and minuses with living on the islands."

She said the incentive program

was always intended to be a temporary measure. In that time, Mayne Island alone has had seven physicians and 10 other health care workers.

"The program wasn't working as well as we would have liked," Santini said. "We're recruiting them, but we're not keeping them. The program itself was to get the doctors to stay in the rural communities."

Another factor in the Gulf Islands' case, Diane Jeffries said of the dilemma, is that islanders see physicians in Vancouver or Victoria rather than on their own island. Jeffries is chairwoman of the Mayne Island Community Health Planning Group. If resident physicians were to stay longer and become more a part of the community, more islanders might make the switch to an island doctor.

Jeffries could not say how much island doctors' subsidies were or how much money the community needed to find from other sources to keep the doctors. She did say Mayne Island's 850 permanent residents may not be enough to

support a full-time physician.


A committee of the Mayne Island Health Centre Association board, led by Michael Stibbs, is currently investigating alternative methods of assistance to ensure physician care remains on Mayne Island.

A provincial government task force is also looking at how people in northern and rural areas can have equal access to health care.

A report is expected in the spring, Santini said, though not necessarily before the end of March.

The program offers assistance to two doctors on Pender Island as well as the one on Mayne.


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FLOATERS: Commuters mark solstice

From Page A1

matins. The couple started commuting after they moved to Salt Spring last April.

Robert Brodgesell noted the sailing schedule for the Bowen Queen tended to get him to work too early and home too late.

"It would be great if we had a ferry that left at 7 or 7:30 a.m. instead of 6:30 a.m. And another that leaves at 5 or 5:30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. coming back."

Kathy Thomas finds the schedule exhausting by the end of the week.

"Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday it's fine," she said, adding "Friday's a real drag."

The office manager at Swans Hotel in Victoria for the past six years, Thomas began commuting after moving to Salt Spring a year ago.

Alex Wright leaves his Salt Spring home at 6:05 a.m. and doesn't return until 5:25.

"It takes a big chunk out of your day," he observed. He has been commuting for four years to reach his job as manager of information and privacy at the B.C. Archives and Record Service.

Another commuter is Alex Wright's mother, Irene Wright, who has been travelling to Victoria weekdays for the past three and a half years. A former teacher at Gulf Islands Secondary School, she is now on loan to the



Irene Wright

provincial Ministry of Education as coordinator of French immersion programs throughout the province.

She takes the early morning commute in stride.

"Going in the morning is not a problem. You get used to that," she said. For her, the worst part of commuting is being unable to get on the 4:30 p.m. sailing back to Salt Spring at the end of the day.

If she misses the 4:30, she doesn't return home until almost 7 p.m. She now mentally prepares herself to miss the ferry — so it is a pleasant surprise when she is able to board at 4:20 p.m.

What do people do during the hour they spend aboard the ferry each day?

Some people use the commute as a time to catch up on work.

Some read, some socialize and some play cards. Others stay in their vehicles and snooze through the crossing, especially in the morning.

Ken Parkinson and Wayne Locke welcome the floating commute.

"This is quality time, time to relax and unwind," said Parkinson, who works for the federal government's Department of Veteran Affairs.

Locke also described the crossing as "quality time." Employed by the superannuation commission of the provincial government, Locke brought his family aboard to join in the trip and the solstice breakfast.

Teenage son Peter Locke said he was not a commuter. "I'm just here for the food," he announced.



Alex Wright

LIBRARY: Legislation ends user fee

From Page A1

4,100 users but only those aged 12 and over were charged the \$10 user fee. The fee also gave them membership in the library association. "Technically, they've been joining the association right along," she said.

Slotten said the \$10 annual fee is low compared to the cost of a library service funded by taxes and employing paid staff. "That's only three cents a day."

By contrast, board members

cited the neighbouring Saanich Peninsula, where costs are increasing for library service while hours of operating are being reduced.

Board members fear Salt Spring residents would face the same situation if the volunteer library were replaced by a library operated by the Vancouver Island Regional Library System.

At Thursday's meeting they formed a public relations committee to prepare information for library users, giving reasons to support the library by joining the

association.

They also passed motions implementing the removal of the present \$10 user fee by January 1 and urging library patrons to join the association.

"Our preference is to stay status quo as long as we get the support of the status quo," Slotten said. She and other board members hope Salt Spring residents will continue to support the library by volunteering to pay for the service.

"People on Salt Spring have always been so good to us."

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FRIENDS AFLOAT: An early-morning commute from Salt Spring to Victoria is the daily schedule for Kathy Thomas, left. Pam Brodgesell commuted to a job in Sidney until she retired recently.

Photo by Valone Lennor

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Schools technology proposal comes with \$2.2 million price tag

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Bringing the world closer to youngsters and youngsters closer to the world will cost a bundle. A plan for implementing new computer technology throughout Gulf Islands School District will cost more than \$2.2 million through the next decade, and as much as \$360,000 annually to maintain, once everything is up and running.

Businesses, community groups and even staff are expected to become partners in the school system, helping to defray those costs normally borne by school district taxpayers.

This new report, commissioned by the school district and prepared by BC Tel's Discovery Learning Services, outlines a 10-year plan to bring new educational technology into each of the district's schools, including the yet-to-be-opened middle school, on each of the five islands. New technology is seen as an "essential ingredient in enabling learners to develop their full potential as successful individuals in today's technological society," the report said.

Demography and geography in

this district represent a "significant opportunity for the implementation of educational technologies" for the purpose of "improving communication with administrators and parents and creating new educational opportunities for learners within each community."

The cost is high: more than \$2.2 million in capital expenditures and an ultimate annual bill of \$359,500 to maintain the system and provide internal training.

The report identifies three technological levels to be achieved in the district in the next 10 years and the associated capital and annual maintenance costs for each level. The new high school has achieved level one already, and most of the islands' elementary schools have level one software.

The initial capital cost of providing a local area network link to every computer in the district, and buying 213 new computers, software and support is \$1,024,350. An additional maintenance fee of \$98,800 would pay for Internet service, infrastructure support and teacher and staff in-service training.

The cost for level two technology would be an additional \$833,000

for capital equipment, including 308 new computers and software upgrades. The annual cumulative maintenance bill for school technology would rise to \$204,000 for hardware data links, hardware support and in-service training.

The cost for level three technology would be \$378,000 to install a video conference facility in each school and buy new software. Annual maintenance fees for the fibre-optic connection to each school, data links, hardware support and teacher training would be \$359,500.

BC Tel recognizes the district will not be able to afford the technology and support services required to become a level three district and therefore suggests "innovative partnerships with community, business and staff" to promote it.

It is "essential," the report said, for districts to "review how technology can be used to reduce or eliminate expenditures and at the same time provide more value for learners and teachers." The report recommends there be a district technology team to oversee the implementation of whichever technology plan the district decides to implement.

Advisory group to discuss plan

School trustees only had a cursory glance at the just released technology report for the district at the monthly board meeting December 14.

They officially received a report, produced by BC Tel's Discovery Learning Services, which outlines a plan for implementing new technology in the district. The plan was one option for future technological directions for the new high school.

The superintendent will be asked to bring together an advisory group to discuss the plan, school board chairwoman Allisen Lambert said, and then the board would have to discuss ways to generate resources to implement it, which would include partnerships with the

community beyond the school district.

Trustee Charles Hingston said he was uncertain whether the BC Tel report was the one and only technology option open to the district. He said the community and the board certainly wanted a technology plan, but he was unsure whether it was the plan BC Tel had drafted. No one else at the board table said whether other technology plans had been commissioned or were to be commissioned.

Hingston also said the report had "huge cost implications."

"They're doing a job for themselves," he said of Discovery Learning Services. "They want to sell computer technology. I want to help kids. I don't want to maim the district."

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Retired Mayne doctor heads health planning committee

Two island health committees have new chairmen this month. They are Roy and Diane Jeffries of Mayne Island.

Roy Jeffries has been elected chairman of the Southern Gulf Islands Health Planning Committee, which is considering the creation of a community health council for the Gulf Islands. Local health councils will have control of hospitals and health care through changes under way in the provincial health system.

Jeffries, a retired physician, is interested in the development of New Directions — the government's name for the new initiative — a press release said, particularly as it will affect rural communities.

Jeffries was born in Vancouver and studied medicine at the University of British Columbia. He worked at Vancouver General and Shaughnessy hospitals, and was at Shaughnessy when it closed in 1993.

Diane Jeffries was elected chairwoman of the Mayne Island health planning group. The group has its draft health plan for the island "well under way" and a completed one is expected early in the new year, a press release said.

Jeffries was a nurse manager at UBC Health Sciences Centre and Vancouver General Hospital as well as a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology.

The Jeffries retired to Mayne Island in 1994 and have both been involved with the Mayne Island health group since its inception in January. They both serve on the Southern Gulf Islands planning committee as well. Diane Jeffries is also one of the Gulf Islands representatives on the Capital Health Board.

Both new chairmanships were a result of the resignation this month of Elma Maund, who was chairwoman of both committees. Maund stepped down because she will be accompanying her husband on a work assignment to Australia in January.

Building activity down on Salt Spring, up on Outer Islands, CRD reports

Residential construction on Salt Spring is lagging behind last year's figures, according to the December quarterly review of development issued by the Capital Regional District.

The regional district reports that permits for \$13 million worth of construction were issued between January and September this year, compared to \$25 million for the same period in 1993.

Overall, the value of construction on Salt Spring has dropped by 49 per cent.

The majority of permits are given for single-family dwellings. Between January and September, building permits for 108 single-family homes were issued by the regional district.

The report also noted a number of proposed projects. These included a renovation of the Chamber of

Commerce building (a project which is now on hold), an expansion of the Harbour House Hotel for which a development permit application is pending and a clubhouse for the Salt Spring Lions Club.

Proposed projects or work in progress on the Outer Islands included a wastewater treatment plant repair on North Pender Island, a 22-lot subdivision and a 43-lot phased subdivision, both on North Pender, and 40 subdivision applications to create 224 lots on Galiano Island.

Construction activity on the Outer Islands is up by 22 per cent over 1993. Between January and September this year, building permits for \$8 million worth of construction have been issued, compared to \$6.6 million during the same period in 1993. All of the permits were for single-family homes.

Bylaw increases permit costs

Builders on the Outer Islands will pay the same permit fees as builders on Salt Spring, Langford and Sooke, following a recent amendment to Capital Regional District bylaws.

The amendment sets out the values assigned to homes, garages, barns, sheds, sundecks and modular homes on the Outer Islands. Until the bylaw was changed, each square metre of finished main floor area was given a value of \$538 compared to a value of \$645 on Salt Spring, in Sooke and in Langford.

The value assigned to additions was also increased to \$645 per square metre from \$538. The value assigned to all other types of building projects remains the same.

The figures are used to calculate the value of any building project. The fee for the building permit is based on the value of the construction.

Michael Bennett of CRD municipal services said the change will likely result in a slight increase in building permit fees for some construction projects on the Outer Islands.

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Farmers pick up hammers

While most islanders were preparing for Christmas last week, members of the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute were swinging hammers at the new livestock building. Among those at a recent weekend work bee was John Ellacott. The building, which is nearly finished, will house livestock during the annual fall fair.

Photo by Tony Richards

Province pledges cash for Jedediah

An early Christmas present was given to the Friends of Jedediah Island with the provincial government's announcement last week that it would contribute \$2.6 million to the purchase of the island for preservation as a provincial park.

But like many Christmas presents, this gift comes with a bill which falls due shortly after the holiday season. The government's funding covers only part of the \$4.2 million purchase price. The remainder is to be raised through private contributions.

According to the government, the estate of the late Daniel Culver, an avid mountain climber and environmentalist, has promised a donation of approximately \$1.1 million. The remaining \$500,000 must be collected from private and corporate donors by the time the deal is closed in February.

"This is a substantial amount of money and this is why we have made the offer dependent on a partnership with the community, agencies and individuals contributing to the cost of buying this island," Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Moe Sihota said.

The Nature Trust of B.C., the Friends of Jedediah and the Marine Parks Forever Society have already started fundraising to purchase the island. Following the provincial government announcement, the Friends of Jedediah announced their plans to raise \$250,000.

"Parks acquisitions are expensive and with so many places that need saving, it seems fair that individuals and businesses that support conservation should contribute to the purchase," spokesperson Ezra Auerbach said.

The island is located near Lasqueti Island, off the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Owners Al and Mary Palmer purchased Jedediah Island in 1949 and lived there until 1992, farming and ranching on one small

area. Most of the 243-hectare island is in its natural state.

The island includes one of the largest flat meadow areas among islands in Georgia Strait as well as stands of old-growth Douglas fir, arbutus and sheltered bays with white sand beaches. "Jedediah is a natural jewel," Sihota said. "For a long time now it has been one of our top priorities for parkland acquisition under the province's protected areas strategy."

The island is valued at \$6.5 million but the Palmers offered to sell it for \$4.2 million provided it was preserved as a park.

"At a time when many people regard land as just a commodity to be sold or exploited for maximum profit, the Palmers have shown a more ethical attitude to land as a trust for future generations," observed Doug Hopwood, a forestry consultant from Lasqueti Island.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT PATTERSON'S STORE

At \$10, service is a bargain

There's one New Year's special that no Salt Spring Islander should buy.

That's free library service.

Effective January 1, adult residents of Salt Spring will no longer have to pay their annual \$10 membership fee to the Salt Spring Public Library Association. Instead, courtesy of new provincial legislation, they are to enjoy "free" library service.

We hope they won't buy the bargain. Just as there is no free lunch, there is no free library. The apparently free library service in neighbouring urban communities is actually funded by taxes. Everyone pays, whether they use the library or not.

The "free" in such library service is akin to the "free" furniture or appliances purchased on a buy now, pay later plan. Residents who decide to take advantage of "free" library service on Salt Spring this year could find themselves paying in the future, especially if the library costs start showing up on tax bills.

At present, there are no charges on island tax bills for library service. Yet Salt Spring residents enjoy a high level of library service at nominal cost. The \$10 per year user fees made up one-third of the library's budget. Since the operation of the library was carried out by volunteers, a large part of the budget was devoted to book acquisitions, giving residents an enviable selection for a small community library.

For the bureaucracy-laden government which drafted the new Library Act regulations, a volunteer-run, cost-efficient, user-pay library system was seen as an isolated aberration. Instead of being held up as a model, the volunteer-run libraries are being forced by legislation to emulate the tax-supported libraries with their paid staff and built-in bureaucracies.

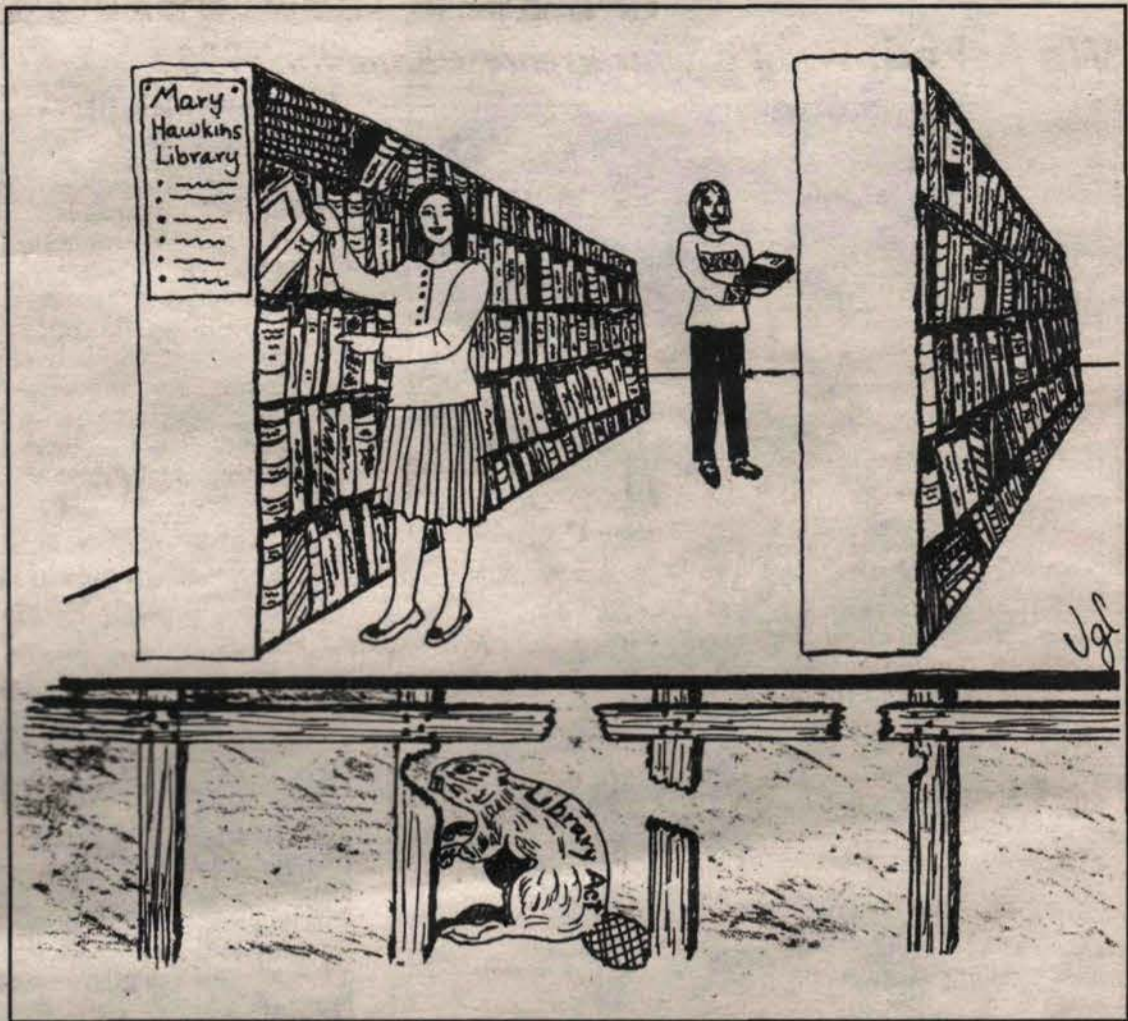
These new regulations are a triumph of ideology over common sense. Library service is apparently "free" in some parts of the province, therefore it must appear to be free to all — regardless of the true cost to the community.

Faced with this offer, Salt Spring library users have two choices. If most accept the apparently "free" service, they will pose a difficult problem for the volunteers operating the library. To balance the budget the board will be forced to either seek additional funds elsewhere — taxes being the obvious source — or will have to dramatically reduce the library's book acquisition budget, thus reducing the value of the library.

The alternative is simple. Library users can voluntarily pay \$10 a year to join the association. This money will go to fill the gap left by the lost user fees and will help maintain the present system.

We believe the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library has earned an annual \$10 vote of confidence from its users. Salt Spring now has one of the most cost-efficient, effective libraries in the province.

Don't be fooled. Paying \$10 to keep our present library system is the real bargain.



Two stories for the season

Television newscasts and daily newspapers tend to paint a picture of the Lower Mainland that is less than rosy: murder and other assorted brands of mayhem seem commonplace.

You visit Vancouver and keep your eyes peeled, thinking for sure you're going to see a drive-by shooting or a corner store hold-up. So you don't walk into an airline terminal in Richmond and expect someone you've never met to hand you the keys to a reasonably new car and say, "Here, use mine."

It was a dismal Mainland morning. The rain was heavy, the wind brisk and the dawn was locked in battle with the southeast blow. The blow was winning when we arrived at Harbour Air's riverside terminal in Richmond. The 7:40 flight to Ganges would be delayed, we learned, while the dispatcher awaited news of conditions in Ganges Harbour.

We asked the location of the nearest eating place. The airport's south terminal was the closest, we learned, but the walk would be long and wet.

"Here, take my car," said dispatcher Doreen Kozak, as she handed me a bundle of keys. "And pick me up some breakfast."

Taken aback by such generosity in the evil and crime-ridden environs of the Mainland, we thanked Doreen and headed for her vehicle. It was a good thing there were only two of us: the back seat was piled with Christmas presents, all wrapped and ready to go. On the dash lay a gas station credit card and next to the centre console, a chequebook.

A few minutes later and we were ordering breakfast at the south terminal. I asked the cashier if it were necessary to feed money to the parking meters at such an early hour. Yes it was, he replied, and handed me a couple of quarters off the till. "Take these."

Then he gave me my receipt for the breakfast, which bore the number of our order: 88. It was our lucky day, the Chinese immigrant assured me, pointing to the numbers with a grin.

It was indeed. And the hospitality we were ac-



ADRIFT
TONY RICHARDS

corded almost had us thinking we were still on Salt Spring, where there was another story of Christmas generosity. It started with an incident that "broke every heart in Pegasus Gallery."

When 15-year-old Katherine Kruger of Victoria visited Ganges last August with her mother, one of their stops was at Pegasus Gallery. After Mayda Kruger showed interest in a piece of jewellery made by island craftsman Terry Warbey, her daughter had a quick — and quiet — word with the gallery's Arletta Stephens.

Over the next four months, Katherine saved up the \$180 she needed to purchase the bracelet and earrings as a Christmas present for her mother. In November, she returned to the island to pick up her purchase.

Her transaction at Pegasus completed, Katherine and her mother went on to do some more Christmas shopping in Ganges. It wasn't long before they discovered they were missing a parcel: the jewellery from Pegasus had been left on the counter of another nearby store.

Upon returning, they learned from the clerk that another customer had picked up the bag and left with it. They waited for the jewellery to be returned, either to Pegasus (whose name was on the box) or the store where it had been left.

They waited in vain. Devastated by the loss, Katherine called Pegasus a week later and asked for the jewellery to be remade. But she needn't have made the call.

Gallery owner Yvonne Toynbee and Arletta Stephens had already arranged to have the stolen merchandise replaced. The gallery and Terry Warbey absorbed the cost of doing so, "restoring the magic of Christmas" in Katherine's heart, her mother said in a letter.

"Anyone would have done what Pegasus did," Stephens said on Tuesday.

But I don't think that's true. Otherwise, stories such as these would have little meaning in a world where acts of kindness and generosity are too seldom heard.

The hospitality had us thinking we were still on Salt Spring.

Education overspending

Coming hard on the heels of news that the school district may be faced with a \$750,000 deficit is a proposal to spend more than \$2 million on a 10-year technology plan. The timing could not have been any worse.

For all its attributes, the new high school does not enjoy the full admiration of the community. Its \$15 million price tag has guaranteed that; the amount is a figure that many taxpayers will not soon forget.

Closer to the pocketbook are the district's unanticipated operating expenses, for which no ready solution was forthcoming at the last board meeting. Now trustees are examining a plan that may eventually add up to \$360,000 a year to operating costs, in addition to \$2.2 million in capital spending over an undefined period.

Obviously, we cannot afford it under current conditions. With the daunting prospect of having to shave nearly three-quarters of a million dollars off this year's spending, adding new expenses is inconceivable.

We also have serious doubts about the merits of such a huge expenditure on technology. But of paramount concern is the fact that we are already operating an education system that is beyond our means.

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SALT SPRING SAYS

We Asked: What is your greatest hope for 1995?



Terry Graham

Salt Spring becomes diesel-free, at least to the extent that people will stop buying light-duty diesel cars and trucks. It's infinitely worse than gas.



Richard Whitwell

That Salt Spring goes back to the way it was in the late '70s. People are counting on miracles so I'm hoping for one too.



Donna Kuprowski

Greater tolerance for diversity in this community.



Tina Rothwell

Healthy children. You always want children to be healthy everywhere.



Sue Bauman

Just for peace and good will for all people throughout the world.

Letters to the editor

Salt Spring Says raises questions

I noted with interest that on the opinion page of your December 14 issue, under a large caption, Salt Spring Says, you published the pictures of five persons and their answers to your question: "How would you rate the performance of Salt Spring Island's Trust members?" How many people were interviewed in reference to this question? If more than the five you reported were interviewed, how did you choose which five to publish? If not more than the five you reported were interviewed, how did you determine who would be questioned?

Reasonable journalism would inform the readership of this information at the time it is published.
W. DAVID DEXTER,
Wilkie Way

Editor's note: If a sample of five from a population base of 9,000 were considered reasonable for an accurate poll, we would seriously consider the above questions every week. As Salt Spring Says is not intended to be a poll, we do not.

Spotlight on support team

Going from our comfortable Vesuvius home into the jungles of Guatemala to live with the refugees for three months sounds very dramatic and exciting. Linda and I are looking forward to the experience, for many reasons, including "the adventure." But we don't want to leave home without shining the spotlight of love, respect and appreciation on our dedicated support team — the Central American Support Committee of Salt Spring

Island (CASC). This dedicated small group, in its leisurely, laid-back island fashion, has demonstrated fine enthusiasm and commitment. And they plan to continue to do so while we're away.

Accompaniment means to "come alongside another." In the fullest sense of the word, the folks of CASC are accompaniers right along with us. Linda and I say thanks to them. We're glad to be on your team.
BILL BRIERLY,
Humphreys Hill

Highways standards: there is no change

I noted with some interest the article in last week's Driftwood on the visit of Ms. Marzari, the municipal affairs minister, to Galiano Island.

Residents of Galiano have had a chance to see the impact that roads built to the present standards demanded by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways have on their island. They are not happy.

The minister announced some new measures. The first one announced was that the minimum standards established by Highways for the islands would become the maximum standards for new Gulf Island roads. This would lead one to believe that now 40 km or even 30 km corners would be allowed. Such roads would be in keeping with the existing network of older Gulf Island roads, they would slow down traffic, and thus be safe for pedestrian use. They could tend to follow the natural contour of the land and be far less intrusive.

However, I understand that this is not to be the case. Bob Andrew of the Islands Trust informed me that Highways are adamant in sticking to

the 50 km minimum, no matter how minor the road. A phone call to Highways confirmed this. Although the official contacted was helpful, and promised to look into possible adjustments for specific cases, they feel that the Galiano road was somewhat in excess of Highways standards, and they translate the minister's announcement as meaning that 50 km is now both a maximum and a minimum standard. In other words, no change.

Those who are concerned might contact their MLA on the matter, who in turn might contact the minister. I quote a sentence from the agreement between the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Islands Trust, October 20, 1992: "To maintain the rural character of the islands and in recognition of the size of the islands and their unique character and the need for a gentler approach in harmony with the land."
CHRIS GOSSET,
Simson Road

Quebec won't leave

Why are we continuing to waste time with this so-called problem of Quebec threatening to leave Canada? La belle province has been pulling this off for year after year.

The majority of the citizens of Quebec have no intention of ever leaving this country. They know they will never find anywhere in the world where they are given so many privileges. Each year they gain even more than they demand by using the same old tactics.

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LILLIAN HORSDAL,
South Ridge Road

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Beth, Brian, Bill and Larry



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KRAFT Philly Cream Cheese Dips 227 g.	1⁶⁸
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KRAFT Miracle Whip 1 L.	3⁴⁸
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Tray Hotline 522

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Balanced budget may herald election call

VICTORIA — Assuming that you're ready to say farewell to 1994 and look forward to the New Year, I will, once again, refrain from boring you to tears with the traditional review of the past 12 months and instead make a few predictions of how the provincial political universe may unfold in 1995.

Number 1: There's a good chance of a provincial election in spring or fall of 1995. True, the NDP is still trailing the Liberals in the polls, but this coming spring may be the only opportunity for government to deliver a balanced budget.

Premier Harcourt is convinced that a fiscal house in good order is important to voters. He has promised to balance the budget by the end of his mandate, but if he waits until 1996 he will run headlong into further federal off-loading, making a balanced budget all but impossible.

The government is also gambling on the success of its sweeping changes in the resource industry, particularly the forestry sector. The controversy over the Commission on Resources and Environment's land use plans for Vancouver Island and the Cariboo has died down, and I expect a similar outcome with regard to CORE's plans for the East and West Kootenays.

Polls have shown that British Columbians trust the government's environmental and land use policies more than those of the opposition. If the NDP manages to bring down a balanced budget next spring, voters may be swayed to have confidence in the government's fiscal policies.

All of which would give Harcourt the window of opportunity he needs to call an election with a reasonable chance to win.

Number 2: The bingo scandal will continue to haunt the government. I've said it ad nauseam: the premier must call a full inquiry into the Nanaimo Commonwealth Society mess or continue to face embarrassment, particularly once the session starts and the opposition can attack the government day-in, day-out during question period.

Number 3: Jack Weisgerber will emerge as leader of the Reform Party of British Columbia this January. And once firmly in the saddle, he will lead that party to greater strength, chipping away at the lead in public opinion polls now enjoyed by Gordon Campbell's Liberals.

Number 4: Based on number 3, there will be no merger of so-called free-enterprise forces against the NDP in the next election. In fact, I won't get any argument from Weisgerber if I say that he likes Harcourt a lot better than Campbell. So forget about a solid free-enterprise lineup against the socialists.

Number 5: The government will wrap up its Protected Area Strategy and fulfill its election promise of doubling British Columbia's parkland to 12 per cent of the province's total land mass.

Number 6: Look for more tough environmental legislation. Past policies in this area have been met with solid voter approval, and it's a safe bet that the NDP will build on that foundation as it moves towards an election.

Number 7: Gordon Wilson and Judi Tyabji will continue to grab for headlines, if not for their political achievements, then for the saga of their personal lives. Watch for further developments in Tyabji's negotiations with Hollywood. However, for the life of me I can't see Sean Connery playing Gordon, as Judy suggested. Pewee Herman, maybe.

Number 8: The spring session of the British Columbia Legislature will be one of the nastiest on record. With the exception of the last two years of Bill Vander Zalm's reign, the MLAs have traditionally had respect for those on the opposite side, even liked some of them.

Neither love nor respect will be lost on opponents in the coming session, and we'll be treated to some of the dirtiest battles ever fought on the floor of the assembly. Leading the Liberals in body-checking will be Gary Farrell-Collins and Wilf Hurd. Chief enforcers on the NDP side will be Moe Sihota and Glen Clark.

Number 9: All party leaders will vie for attention with greater gusto than before. Harcourt and Campbell will try at all cost to avoid being labelled as fence-sitters, a weakness they have displayed in the past.

As we move towards an election, both leaders will do everything to be firmly in charge of their troops, but I expect that both will still have some difficulty being seen in charge, whereas Weisgerber will have no problem on that score.

Progressive Democratic Alliance leader Wilson also won't have much difficulty remaining in charge of his party. Or will he? After all, the only other member is his wife Tyabji.

So much for my crystal ball gazing. If I'm right, remember where you read it. If I'm wrong, don't call me, I'll call you. Thank you all for reading Hubert Beyer. Thank you for your letters, both supportive and those calling me to task. And a happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



More letters

Counterattack reminder

The Gulf Islands Secondary School CounterAttack Club would like to make islanders aware that the brown paper bags that the liquor store is distributing this holiday season have been decorated by elementary students on the island. The pictures and messages drawn on the bags by students from Salt Spring, Fernwood, and Fulford elementary schools are meant to remind the public of the dangers of drinking and driving.

The effects that drinking and driving have on family and friends of accident victims is a concern to these students and is expressed in their illustrations.

We hope that this Christmas season islanders will plan a safe journey home from festivities for themselves, their friends and family.

GULF ISLANDS
SECONDARY SCHOOL
COUNTERATTACK CLUB

Silk trees rarely seen

This past Sunday morning as I was walking past the rear of the Pharmasave I noticed another random act of vandalism had taken place.

As many people are aware, there are two beautiful silk trees planted up against the south wall. They are pruned to perfection, and are probably the nicest specimens I've ever seen on our southwest coast. They are rarely ever used in

public plantings in our province and, as a matter of fact, those two trees are the only public planting that I have ever noticed in our area.

Many people don't realize that Albizia Julibrissin (silk trees) are classed as a subtropical tree native to parts of the Middle East extending to southern Japan.

I've admired these trees for several years. So the next time the

person or persons who snapped part of one of the trees off is out and about think twice before you're going to do something destructive like that again.

Those trees were planted for the public to enjoy as well as to beautify our town. They weren't put there so you could destroy the overall appearance of them!

JOE A. CLEMENTE,
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More letters

Christmas means giving and helping

"Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer." So goes the rhyme and for many of us that is roughly what Christmas is all about — somebody's birthday party which we celebrate for a few days in December, give each other presents and try to get together as a family. And too, there is that feeling of good will to all men that we find hard to explain. This lasts for a few days and then disappears.

What we may not realize is that by changing the outward expression of our being at this time, and altering our views on life, if only for a few days, we have begun to understand the meaning of the Christ and how it can transform not only our own lives but also this earth on which we live.

This feeling of good will should exist not only for Christmas but throughout the whole year. There is still time for some of us to think about changing our Christmas this year so that it won't be a Christmas of the past, so that it will not be one of indulgence and excess but one marked by real giving and helping.

We can turn for an example, to the nurses in our island hospital and to our community workers who give year-round loving care to the sick and handicapped. This is given in the spirit of Christmas and epitomizes the true spiritual significance of this time.

DAVID MASSY,
Old Scott Road

Lighten up

I get the impression that island arteries are popping like pipe stems because the high school students have uttered the dread C-word.

If we want our young people to think for themselves, then we must not put the pure theory of any of the isms off-limits — after we humans have put our vile spin on them, they are unrecognizable. The only thing that Soviet or Chinese-style communism shares with this theory is the name itself. What would terrify me would be if these young people became persuaded that North American capitalism, with its soup kitchens and homelessness and violence, is the best that free enterprise can offer.

Let's lighten up before we start our Island UnCanadian Activities Commission, and make laughing stocks of ourselves.

ANDREW GIBSON,
Rainbow Road

Commuters ignored

Regarding your article on B.C. Ferries' 10-year plan. One segment of the local population, who seem to be constantly ignored with regard to planning or improvement of ferry service to the island, is the regular commuter, who uses the ferries daily. Instead, they include one non-resident property holder from each island. This non-resident could be from Timbuktu or anywhere else. How often would they use the service?

Ms. Byrne's statement that "some feel ferry service should be kept below demand so that lack of service becomes a slight barrier to

increased growth on the islands" is appalling. Wake up and smell the coffee, lady — the growth is already here! Look at downtown Ganges! It is almost unrecognizable from the same place even five years ago!

As a daily commuter, I am among those who use the ferry five and often six days a week. I, along with many of my fellows, work off-island because there are simply not enough jobs requiring professionals available on the island.

Some consider the islands a retirement community, and that is all well and good — I intend to retire here myself, I enjoy the lifestyle (that is why I commute) — but you must still have a reliable and more convenient ferry service, to accommodate all the residents.

Many of our youth have to commute in order to take part in sports, cadet programs, advanced education, and other facilities not available on the island. The young people are already part of the population — and are the future. Why must they all leave in order to get jobs, etc.?

A large number of our residents depend on the tourists in the summer for their livelihood. If service is not improved this economic base will also disappear. Would Ms. Byrne have the lifestyle of the islands available only to a select few who can afford to live here and not work or travel off-island?

M. McLAUGHLIN,
Ganges Road

Wrong name

As a new member on the board, I was pleased to see your coverage of ArtSpring activities. We are working; things are happening, and we do want islanders to know all about it. However, I must point out an inaccuracy in the "Let's Give Something to Members" article (Driftwood, December 21).

Although Artsbeat has devoted a great deal of space to ArtSpring matters, it is the publication of the Community Arts Council, not ArtSpring. The newsletter of the Island Arts Centre Society is called ArtSpring News, has been issued as a single, double-sided sheet every other month in 1994, mailed to members and available to the public at several Ganges locations.

While we are hoping to make some changes in ArtSpring News — in content, publication dates, and distribution — please do not confuse the two. The Community Arts Council works hard to put out Artsbeat. They do a good job of it, and ArtSpring

has no desire to steal their thunder.

Thunder and lightning go together. We'll be happy to provide the complimentary lightning.

ELMA RUBRIGHT,
Brinkworthy Place

Canadian first

"Dear Mr. Bouchard: Canada cares indeed" (Driftwood, Capital Comment, December 14) typified, for me, where human beings are going wrong all over the world when they speak and/or write as part-world patriots of any sort.

Mr. Beyer's first love in human society is clearly "being a Canadian" rather than being "human" and having a humanity-caring first priority; and this "fault" can only be seen by eyes of a human unionist mind.

Don't misunderstand me, I was pleased to see how Mr. Beyer had written about Mr. Bouchard (in part, at least) because Mr. Beyer, Mr. Bouchard and all the readers of your excellent "viewpaper" can change from being part-world nationalists to global nationalists in a flash!

Here, communication services like the Driftwood are really invaluable and you are correct to permit individual human beings of all shades of ideology to come together in peaceful discussion or debate.

For example, Mr. Beyer's column exemplifies the fact that Canadian-unity rather than Human-unity is Hubert Beyer's first priority political motivation.

The letter from Marg Simons of Hilltop Road is clearly based on superior understanding because she, quite justifiably, advises government support for peace-making rather than mere military peace-keeping operations. Note particularly Marg's advice to fund a peace-making unit which will "...foster compassion, respect for human (sic) life, values and understanding (sic) that peace is not the absence of war, but the absence of fear (of violence), and the presence of justice."

It was a Canadian called McLuhan who thought of describing the world as "A Global Village" and your columnist Mr. Beyer should "dig deeper" into his own mind to "understand" this. The same advice should apply to Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Clinton of USA, Mr. Major of Britain, Mr. Yelstin of Russia and all the other politicians and press workers everywhere.

EDWARD GRAHAM
MacFARLANE,
Farm Court

Your letters are welcome

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.

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There was no honeymoon suite for Lorentsens in 1944

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Some 60 years is a lot of time to be in and out of boats. But that's how long Louie Lorentsen has been running up and down the coast in fishboats, tow-boats, freighters and luxury yachts. And for 50 of those years he was often joined at the helm and in the engine room by his wife, Bunny.

Bunny and Louie Lorentsen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the weekend with family and friends. Fifty years ago there was a war on, and both were serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force: she in signals, he in the marine section.

They met in September 1944, were engaged in October and married in North Vancouver December 23, while they were on five days leave. War weddings were like that.

Louie Lorentsen recalled how many things had to be planned in advance: including borrowing or buying enough gas coupons for the special event. Their liquor rations were also saved for some time before the actual day.

The newly-wed Lorentsens went home to barracks in Port Hardy via a Union Steamship company vessel. But not only was there no honeymoon suite, there was no room they could share at all. Bunny Lorentsen went to the women's bunks, with the other air force women. Her husband headed for the ship's brig, not because he had transgressed the law, but because he knew there was room down there.

Similar separation was the norm on the air force base until the young couple could find accommodation off-base. Even then, Louie Lorentsen said, he often worked days while his wife worked nights. But there were still opportunities for fun. Like the times they took buckshee trips — trips which were off the record as far as officers were concerned — to nearby beaches and islands for picnics.

"We did all sorts of stranger things," he recalled, "like getting alcohol out of compasses."

By law, compasses were supposed to be filled with potable liquid. They were traditionally filled with alcohol, which could be used in an emergency as a disinfectant or pain reliever. "Compass juice," as it was known, was "dynamite."

"You'd drain the compass out and then have to refill it," Lorentsen said. "We used coal oil most of the time. The trick was to fill it without getting an air bubble in."

Officers would know something was amiss if they saw an air



FIFTY YEARS LATER: Louie and Bunny Lorentsen at their home on Salt Spring.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

bubble crossing the face of the compass as it tilted from side to side. After a while, the alcohol was replaced with a substance which was not potable. That put an end to compass raiding.

After the war, Lorentsen worked for a time on a charter yacht. It was a Fairmile ship, purchased from the navy after the war, and was stationed mostly up around Princess Louisa Inlet. The 120-foot wooden yacht had twin engines and a tremendously strong hull design which included diagonally laminated planks and copper rivets. The luxury yacht catered mostly to the Hollywood crowd, he said.

Daryl Zanuck and family were guests more than once on the ship. They would go out for two weeks at a time, fishing or just motoring around. Some trips were purely gambling trips, others were just big booze-ups. The yacht would travel as far north as Alaska and as far south as Mexico. The boating life was good, but after the ship stayed in Newport Beach for eight months — when Bunny Lorentsen was still in B.C. — her husband decided a job closer to home would be better.

So he quit and found work with the B.C. Forest Service — on

boats, of course. In those days, the 24 forest districts which touched the coast were largely accessed by boat, rather than seaplane. Forest rangers and their families lived in small remote communities carved out of forests along the coastal fjords.

The job of the forest ranger was to look after Crown timber, Lorentsen said. He had to make sure he knew what timber was out there that the Crown had a stake in — either full, half or part ownership. After going on the forestry training course, he

learned to appraise timber, look after its sale and make sure the Crown got its fair share of revenues. He also had to know a bit about forest diseases and pests, like the hemlock looper and spruce budworm.

"The thing I understood was boats," Lorentsen said. "It was not too difficult to change from navigating at sea to navigating on land."

Surveying, compass work, establishing boundaries for logging operations were not that difficult. It was sort of a natural shift, he said. And it was a self-reliant existence in the small ranger stations.

It was as a forest ranger that Louie Lorentsen returned to live on Salt Spring from 1958 to 1964. He had first visited the island in the 1930s during his summers working on fishboats. It was during one of those visits that he first met John Bennett.

The ship came into Ganges Harbour to refuel and ended up spending the night. Down at the dock, he met Bennett and other members of his family. During the war, Lorentsen met Bennett again at an Armed Forces base when Bennett came off a tanker, on which he was an engineer.

Being a forest ranger on Salt Spring was a full-time job in the 1950s, Lorentsen recalled. There were the occasional forest fires on the island, especially on Mount Tuam and Mount Maxwell. When a fire was reported, he usually phoned Ellen Bennett who worked at the telephone exchange.

He would ask her to "scare up 50 men" to help with the fire. Invariably, later in the day, Bunny Lorentsen, Ellen Bennett and other women would show up at the scene of a fire with platefuls of sandwiches.

"Everyone was quite involved" in disasters like that, Louie Lorentsen said.

It was that island spirit of community involvement and neighbour helping neighbour that the Lorentsens admired and which drew them back when retirement came. And it was that involvement which also drew family and friends to Salt Spring last weekend to help celebrate their 50th anniversary.

MYLES WILSON
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A meeting of

art & science

Diana Thompson returns to an art form she loves

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

A large dark etching hangs on the wall of Diana Thompson's studio. A dense shadowy web almost moves behind a row of finely drawn figures: a heron's wing, a human braid, a dried toad, a cat's skull.

This print, a monotone string of desiccated objects filled with power and emotion, is the centrepiece of the studio, but it is not the only object which evokes images of alchemists from 400 years ago. Drawers are filled with strange powders. Tools for scraping, grinding and sawing line the walls. Bottles filled with alcohol, acid and other liquids dot counter-tops.

This is truly a meeting of art and science, techniques from the past and subjects of the here and now. The objects which Thompson etches are certainly 20th century but she wears plate-lined coveralls which print-makers since Dürer would recognize immediately.

After more than 11 years on Salt Spring she is well-known on the island for her delicate botanical drawings, bright paintings and installation pieces. Her work was in the Artropolis and Boxed In exhibitions recently. Etching is an art-form she learned while studying fine art at the University of Victoria. She has just returned to it after a three-year hiatus.

She stopped etching in October 1991 when she discovered she was pregnant. Chemicals used in that art are too toxic for anyone carrying and then nursing a child. But in October, Thompson returned to the inks and acids and rosins of the art form which she loves. And to inspire her in her work, she hung the large etching of feathers and skulls.

"It reminds me what I can do," she said.

Thompson admitted she was more tentative in her work than she used to be. That reflects the three-year separation as much as the newness of motherhood.

Etching began to flourish in the 16th century in northern Europe and involves burning an image sketched through an acid-resistant "hardground" onto metal plates. Rembrandt and Dürer would have used copper plates, a mixture of pitch, wax and asphaltum for the ground and nitric acid or iron perchloride, among others. To save money, Thompson uses zinc plates rather than copper, a substance called rosin which is remarkably close to what Rembrandt would have used, and nitric acid.

She brushes the tar-coloured hardground onto a zinc plate which she has cut to size, sanded and polished. When it has dried, she has a clean slate on which to incise the drawing she has in mind. She has three etching tools for most jobs, from fine to not quite so fine. She starts the etching after spending time sketching with

pencil, but the etching itself can take a month to do, if it is large and exceptionally fine work.

When the image is incised through the hardground into the zinc, she immerses it in nitric acid. Unlike some print-making, she uses a relatively mild bath, at 10 parts water to one part acid.

It can be left in the bath up to two hours, but every 10 minutes she has to draw a feather over the plate so that tiny bubbles which collect there do not grow so large they distort the action of the acid. While the acid is working, she soaks special paper in water and then dries it to a semi-damp state.

She wears plate-lined coveralls which print-makers since Dürer would recognize immediately.

When the metal plate is taken out of the acid, rinsed and dried, she can apply the ink. With a stiff piece of matte board — the traditional tool is starched cheesecloth, but tradition costs more in 1994 than it did in 1594 — she presses the ink down so it fills the fine lines of the image. Then she has to "wipe the plate" clean. That means taking most of the ink off the image but leaving it in the etched lines. She presses down sheet after sheet of telephone pages (there's a stack of phone books in one corner of the studio), being careful not to draw ink out of the image. This can take an hour with a large piece, she said.

The coloured plate now goes onto the press, which looks like a large rolling pin set over two wool blankets. The print is "registered," or straightened and centred for the paper onto which the image will be transferred. Then the artist turns the wheel, like a medieval torturer, drawing the roller over the plate.

There is some tension when it is done. The wool blanket is lifted. One corner of the print carefully turned up and — voila, a print is born. This particular one is a "bon à tirer," she said, a "good pull" because the lines are particularly strong.

The art part of print-making is drawing the image onto zinc, and seeing how the acid bath will affect it, she explained. The actual printing is more technical.

At present, Thompson is playing more with subject area than technique, while she warms up to the etching techniques she put down for three years. So she etches children's clothes, baby drinking cups and pacifiers, the everyday objects of the mother of a two-year-old.

Her work evokes images of different periods: simple art nouveau lines, florid Victorian animalia or human grotesques reminiscent of the 16th century. The lines dividing science and art are not so distinct in this studio: the tenderly drawn hearts that make a personal Valentine's card swing to the art side; a breast pump still life swings scientific.

Thompson's magic is that she can inhabit both worlds — that of the artistic scientist and the scientific artist. That large dark etching of feathers and skulls and braids which hangs on her studio wall is proof of that.



IMPRESSIVE ART: Local artist Diana Thompson uses a large Rembrandt press to turn a finely-etched plate into coloured prints. Baby bottles, diaper pins and pacifiers have been recent subjects in her work.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

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Celebrating New Year's Eve? Pubs, restaurants offer choice

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Local pubs and restaurants are pulling out all the stops for New Year's. Food and music to fit every island taste are to be found at all the familiar places.

Vesuvius Inn is holding a special "candle-lit, white tablecloth" evening for patrons Saturday, bartender Chris McGowan said. There will be a number of entrees available as well as a good selection of wines brought in for the event, including champagne for the midnight toast. The romantic atmosphere will be enhanced with quiet dinner music.

Reservations are encouraged for dinners, which will be served from about 6 p.m. There is no cover charge.

The next day, Sunday, Vesuvius Inn is hosting the annual polar bear swim. The seasonal dip at Vesuvius beach starts at 9 a.m. this year. Afterwards, swimmers, on-lookers and anyone else may go to the inn — children included — for hot dogs, hot chocolate and coffee. There will be a draw for prizes from among those who go

in the water. The inn will open for normal business at noon.

Moby's Marine Pub is ringing in the new year with Geoff Gibbons and Silverlode. Moby's dinners will be served from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and some tables cleared away for dancing afterwards. Traditional munchies will be available for patrons from 6 p.m. through to 1 a.m. including a complimentary late-night sandwich bar. There is no cover charge and Moby's will supply the party favours to ring in 1995.

Harbour House Hotel is bringing in special event band House Party to celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new. New Year's Eve patrons, who should purchase tickets in advance, will get a roast beef dinner, midnight champagne and all the party favours as well as music to dance to, from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Fulford Inn is holding its own giant house party New Year's Eve. Music and fun are high on the menu for islanders, their friends and relatives at the south-end pub.

Among island restaurants,

Admiralty Bay at the Harbour House Hotel is offering a five-course gourmet meal with special dishes not offered before. Owner-operator Larry Lee said the dinner will include a choice of several main courses, including tournedos rossini and amaretto tiger prawns, as well as soup, salad and a "seafood moneybag" appetizer. This is an oriental traditional, he said, and assures good fortune in the coming year.

Island musicians Barrington Perry and Tone Prosk will be providing the musical accompaniment to the evening and will play dance music to ring in the New Year. Midnight champagne and snacks will also be provided.

The Tides Inn offers a special four-course dinner for the end-of-the-year celebration Saturday night, accompanied by live Celtic music and party favours. Reservations are encouraged for the gala event.

New Year's at Alfresco Restaurant includes a three-course meal with specialties like veal loin chops, sea bass with mussels and scallops or breast of duck. Dinner is served between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Party-goers offered free bus Saturday

New Year's revellers needn't worry about getting around Saturday night.

The Salt Spring Island Public Transportation Society will operate a free bus service between 8 p.m. and 2:20 a.m. New Year's Eve.

Eleven businesses and organizations have provided the support to run the service. Society spokesman Paul Eastman says the bus will run to a schedule but could be five to 10 minutes late at each stop, depending on how many people use the service.

The bus will follow main roads between stops, and can be flagged down along the way. If time allows, the bus will try to accommodate groups of five or more people who wish to travel to destinations other than those scheduled.

Such special arrangements can be made by contacting the society at 537-9631 or 537-4301 or by speaking to the bus driver on Saturday.

Bus stops in Ganges will include the Harbour House Hotel, Moby's and Mahon Hall. South-end stops will include Fulford Hall, the Fulford Inn, Rodrigo's and Beaver Point Hall.

The schedule begins at 8 p.m. when the bus leaves the Vesuvius Inn. It arrives at Ganges at 8:15, the south end at 8:45 and back at Ganges at 9:10. It will arrive at Fernwood Store at 9:30, the Vesuvius Inn at 10 and return to Ganges at 10:15.

A swing around the south end is next, arriving at 10:45, followed by a return to Ganges at 11:10. After a break of about one hour, the bus will be in Ganges at 12:15 a.m. before heading for Vesuvius, arriving at 12:30.

It will return to Ganges at 12:45, arrive at the south end at 1:15 and get back to Ganges at 1:40. It completes the schedule with a trip to Fernwood Store at 2 a.m. and Vesuvius Inn at 2:20.

ENTERTAINMENT

This week at the Cinema

PULP FICTION: One critic calls this film a "dark and mesmerizing tale of life just this side of normal." The cast includes John Travolta as a hit man who has to chaperone his boss' party-girl wife, played by Uma Thurman. Bruce Willis is the man who wins the fight he has been ordered to lose. Samuel L. Jackson is Travolta's partner, who delivers hypnotic bebop soliloquies. The whole adds up to a grim look at the dark side of life today. Restricted. Monday to Wednesday 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

MOVIE BUCKS ARE GIVEN OUT SUNDAYS AND MONDAYS.

Island Video Hits

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Maverick(1) | 6. Indecent Behaviour II..... (-) |
| 2. Speed(4) | 7. I Love Trouble(6) |
| 3. The Client(-) | 8. Wyatt Earp.....(7) |
| 4. Blown Away(2) | 9. Little Buddha(8) |
| 5. Lassie.....(-) | 10. Spanking the Monkey(-) |

On Tap at the Pubs

- Moby's**Geoff Gibbons and Silverlode, Dec. 31
Fulford InnGiant house party, Dec. 31
Harbour House (Pub)House Party, Dec. 31

Out and About

- DEC. 31**Women's New Year's Party, Beaver Point Hall, 8:30 p.m.
JAN. 1Polar Bear Swim, Vesuvius Beach, 9 a.m.

Community TV Schedule

- Dec. 29, 6 p.m.Islands Trust workshop 1
 Dec. 29, 6:45 p.m.Islands Trust workshop 2
 Jan. 3, 11 a.m.Keep Fit
 Jan. 3, 11:30 a.m.Islands Trust workshop 1
 Jan. 3, 12:30 p.m.Islands Trust workshop 2

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Until then, old rates are in effect.
 Southern Gulf Islands \$27.82*
 Elsewhere in Canada \$56.52*

*Includes GST

VESUVIUS INN

Holiday Plans

REMEMBER

To the wonderful designated drivers in groups of 4 or more guests will eat free with unlimited pop and coffee.

REMEMBER

DECEMBER 31ST
A Special Candle Light Dinner - repeated this year.

SPECIAL DINNER MENU

- Burgundy Beef Bourguignon 13.95
- Norman Coq au Vin 12.95
- Madras Curried Pasta Primavera 11.95
- Provençal Tiger Prawn Stirfry 14.95
- West Coast Smoked Salmon Appetizer 8.95
- Deb's Homemade Apple Pie 4.95
- Deb's Pumpkin Cheese Cake 4.95
- Deb's Chocolate Mousse 4.95

SPECIALITY WINES

Taped dance music after 9pm

JANUARY 1ST

ANNUAL POLAR BEAR SWIM

Hot dogs, & hot chocolate for everyone at the Inn after the swim.

An Island Tradition

537-2312
REGULAR
PUB HOURS: Daily 11:30-12:30
Sunday 11-midnight



Christmas treasure

Salt Spring crafter Debbie Trenholm displays one of her little Christmasy treasures: a comic-looking, red-nosed reindeer made of bits of twigs and soft Muppet-like material. It was one of many handmade creatures at a recent craft fair.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

CANADIAN FOR 1 PIZZA **WILL BE CLOSED**
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

GANGES VILLAGE MARKET MALL 537-5552

WANTED: Males & females interested in partying to good old rock & roll no country & western, none of that head banger stuff. Just great classics from the 60's - 70's - 80's & 90's. Must be over 19 yrs. old, be highly energetic, and be available December 31st/94. Apply at Moby's between 9pm - 2:30am.

MOBY'S ↓
NEW YEAR'S EVE!

The staff of the Driftwood would like to wish all our friends and customers a very safe and happy New Year.

Happy New Year!

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 DINNER.....Tues.-Thurs. 5-10
 Fri.-Sat. 5-11;
 Sun. 5-9

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 Fresh buns daily from Embe

7 DAYS A WEEK

Join us for our **HANG OVER SPECIAL, Sunday Jan. 1st**
 2 pancakes, 2 eggs choice of ham, bacon or sausages, toast & jam, tea or coffee...\$3.50

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NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

APPETIZER
 Seafood Money Bags

SOUP
 Chicken Célestine

SALAD
 California mixed salad with avocado dressing

ENTREE
 choice of
 Tournedos Rossini
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DESSERT
 Poached Pear/Tea or Coffee

\$75 per couple plus tax
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RESERVATION 537-5571
 Seating by reservation only

Doors open at 6:30 pm
 Dinner at 7:30 pm

Dance to music by
Barrington & Company
 9:00 pm - 1:00 am

MIDNIGHT SNACK PARTY FAVOURS

No white Christmas this year for new Ganges postmistress

For the first time in 20 years, new Ganges postmistress Lynda Traer saw daylight at Christmas.



Lynda Traer

But she missed the snow. She and husband Richard moved to Salt Spring early in December after spending the last 20 years in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Richard Traer, a plumber, had maintained the town's water supply, while Lynda Traer had worked for the Inuvik post office for 10 years, eventually becoming the postmistress.

But after 20 years, they decided it was time to come south. They left Inuvik on October 13. Ideally, they wanted to live on Vancouver Island where they have relatives.

"This is close enough," Lynda Traer said of their new home on Salt Spring. She started work as the Ganges postmistress on November 28.

"It's pretty warm here," she remarked. "It's Christmas and there's no snow."

In Inuvik, homes are decorated with lights which glow against a continuous Arctic night. Santa arrives by dogsled, not by boat.

"It's been strange to hear the seagulls," Traer remarked. The island is much more humid than Inuvik, she observed.

She also finds it unusual that island nights are often warm. "I

relate dark to cold." On Salt Spring, she has found, "it's dark but not cold."

As postmistress, she has noticed differences in the mail. More parcels arrive on Salt Spring and there is more international mail and mail from the United States. The volume of letters is about the same — the 3,000 residents of Inuvik write a lot of letters, she said.

There is also a lot of catalogue shopping in Inuvik, adding to the mail load. One difference on Salt Spring is that the island is much closer to major urban centres, she observed.

In Inuvik her hobbies included crocheting, reading and cross-country skiing. Crocheting and reading she can take anywhere but she recognizes she may have to travel to continue cross-country skiing.

A return visit to Inuvik is also a possibility since her two adult children and a granddaughter all live in the northern town.

Student represents Salt Spring at provincial youth parliament

Shannon Salter has moved up in the youth politics arena.

The 16-year-old Salt Spring student is a sitting member this week in the B.C. Youth Parliament, which is holding its 66th session in the provincial legislature in Victoria.

Salter, a Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School, has already had a taste of politics as a member of the Vancouver Island Youth Parliament. It met earlier in the fall at the University of Victoria and elected Salter premier. She is also a vice-president of the high school student council.

This week, Premier Solomon Wong of Vancouver, with his 14 cabinet ministers, will present legislation for debate by the 90 members of parliament. Aged 16-21,

they come from throughout the province and will gather frequently during the year to organize activities for children and youth in their home communities.

One of the pieces of legislation up for date will be the Camp Phoenix Act, 1994, which proposes a one-week summer camp for children. The Youth Parliament has organized this camp in previous years.

But debate of the bill and others like it will not follow the traditional style of the provincial legislature. Opposition Leader Karen Lee of Vancouver will lead her shadow cabinet in challenging the legislation, but not with the purpose of defeating the government.

Rather, they will suggest improvements to the bills.

Established in 1923, the B.C. Youth Parliament is a non-partisan forum for youth to learn and use the Westminster parliamentary model of government. The youngsters debate resolutions of provincial, national and international concern and plan community service projects.

The session will consist of long days for Salter and her fellow legislators. The parliament will sit from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and is open to the public.

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Salt Spring Tours-537-4737

On The Bus

Excursion Calendar

Dec. 29Victoria - After Xmas Sales & Returns
Catch the after Xmas sales and return those pocka-dot socks from Aunt Mable

Dec. 28Mt. Washington Skiing-School's out
Bus, Ferry and Ski lift tickets
Adult - \$56.00 Youth - \$49.00
Child - \$40.00 Senior - \$44.00
Ask about Cross Country Rates

Jan. 2Mt. Washington Skiing-School's out
Bus, Ferry and Ski lift tickets
Adult - \$56.00 Youth - \$49.00
Child - \$40.00 Senior - \$44.00
Ask about Cross Country Rates

Jan 5Victoria - After Xmas Sales & Returns
Catch the after Xmas sales and return those pocka-dot socks from Aunt Mable

Don't wait until the last minute. A minimum of 8 paid passengers is required 24 hours before departure for ski trips.

Call us about Custom Charters
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Happy New Year

JOIN OUR

Giant House Party

NEW YEARS EVE AT THE FULFORD INN

No cover charge
653-4432

Commuters share van for daily trip to Victoria jobs

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

For a dozen Salt Spring commuters, it's like having their own private bus service.

A new van is taking the group from Salt Spring to Victoria and back every weekday, thanks to the Jack Bell Foundation vanpool. Just over two weeks ago the group received a 1993 12-seat van provided by the Jack Bell Foundation.

Driver Irene Wright said she first learned about the vanpool program through a presentation for provincial government employees. She was already carpooling and

liked the idea of obtaining a van for Salt Spring commuters.

A poll of travellers on the 6:30 a.m. sailing from Fulford to Swartz Bay produced so many potential riders that the group decided to apply for a 12-passenger van instead of the more usual eight-passenger vehicle.

The request was filled quickly. The Salt Spring group met all the requirements for the program: they lived more than 25 kilometres from work, they commuted for more than 30 minutes, they have no available public transportation and they work regular hours and are full-time employees.

For \$92 a month, plus their individual passenger tickets on the ferry, they travel from downtown Ganges to downtown Victoria. Riders boarding at Fulford pay \$72 a month. The fee pays for gas and maintenance of the van with any remaining money going back to the Jack Bell Foundation to finance the vanpool program.

The Salt Spring van is the 10th to be provided in the lower Vancouver Island region through the program. Wright, who has her class 4 licence, is one of the drivers. One other rider has a class 4 licence and others are working towards upgrading, Wright said.

Most of the riders are employed by government and work from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., so they fit in with the schedule. The van leaves Salt Spring on the 6:30 a.m. ferry and returns on the 4:30.

Wright would like to see more groups take advantage of the program. Perhaps some commuters taking the 8 a.m. ferry to Victoria and returning on the 6 p.m. ferry might want to form their own vanpool, she suggested.

From application to the day the van arrived took about six weeks, she said.

Information about the vanpool program can be obtained by calling 380-RIDE.

Club will consider proposal for nature reserve, woodlot

Establishment of a nature reserve on a one-eighth section of Crown land off Harris Road on Saturna Island will be examined by the Saturna Island Community Club.

Resident John Fry, who lives within walking distance of the site, has urged the community club to form a working group which would examine options to preserve the land.

"As one who hikes to this land daily, drawn by the serenity of its

enclosure, the natural cathedral of its old second-growth valley and its all-Canadian sweep out over the islands in the gulf and up the western coast, I am convinced that a powerful argument both can and should be made to appropriate political authority for the permanent protection of this hidden natural sanctuary," Fry stated.

Saturna Trust Committee member John Money said the site is zoned as wilderness reserve in the Saturna community plan.

Preservation of the property as a reserve would be part of the island's plan for a community woodlot, Money said.

An application for a community woodlot, which includes specified reserve areas and protection of watersheds, has been made to the provincial government.

"The Local Trust Committee is involved in it," Money said, adding that the land is already zoned as a reserve so no rezoning is required.

Mary Harding dies at Ganges

Life-long island resident Mary Harding died Thursday after a brief illness. She was 69.

Mary Harding's family lived on Galiano Island, where her father was a fisherman. She lived there most of her life, retiring to Salt Spring three years ago with her husband Roy Harding, whom she married in 1975.

Galiano Islanders will remember her as a Lionette, where she served as president for more than one term. She was also secretary of the Galiano Club and a member of the Galiano Rod and Gun Club.

"She liked to go to all the banquets," husband Roy Harding recalled of his wife's island activities.

College okays doctors' credentials

Physicians at Lady Minto Hospital have had their credentials checked in a new service by the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons. All the doctors have received letters of approval as a result, the hospital board learned last week.

The service is being offered to small hospitals around the province to ensure that the review of physician credentials is carried out "in a thorough and objective manner," the hospital reported in a news release.

In other hospital board news:

- Retiring general surgeon Dr. Gerry Scott has been named to the hospital's honorary medical staff. Scott's place is being taken by Dr. Parminder Sira, who assumes his duties January 9.

- Occupancy has been up in the acute care unit. The occupancy rate in November was 70 per cent, compared to 60 per cent during the same month last year. Average length of stay was 3.4 days last month. In November 1993 it was 5.2 days.

- Extended care unit residents and staff have expressed appreciation for visits by various community choirs, service clubs and individuals. The acts of kindness are appreciated, the hospital reports.



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HAPPY 1995

"New Year's Eve"
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Roast Hip of Beef buffet dinner,
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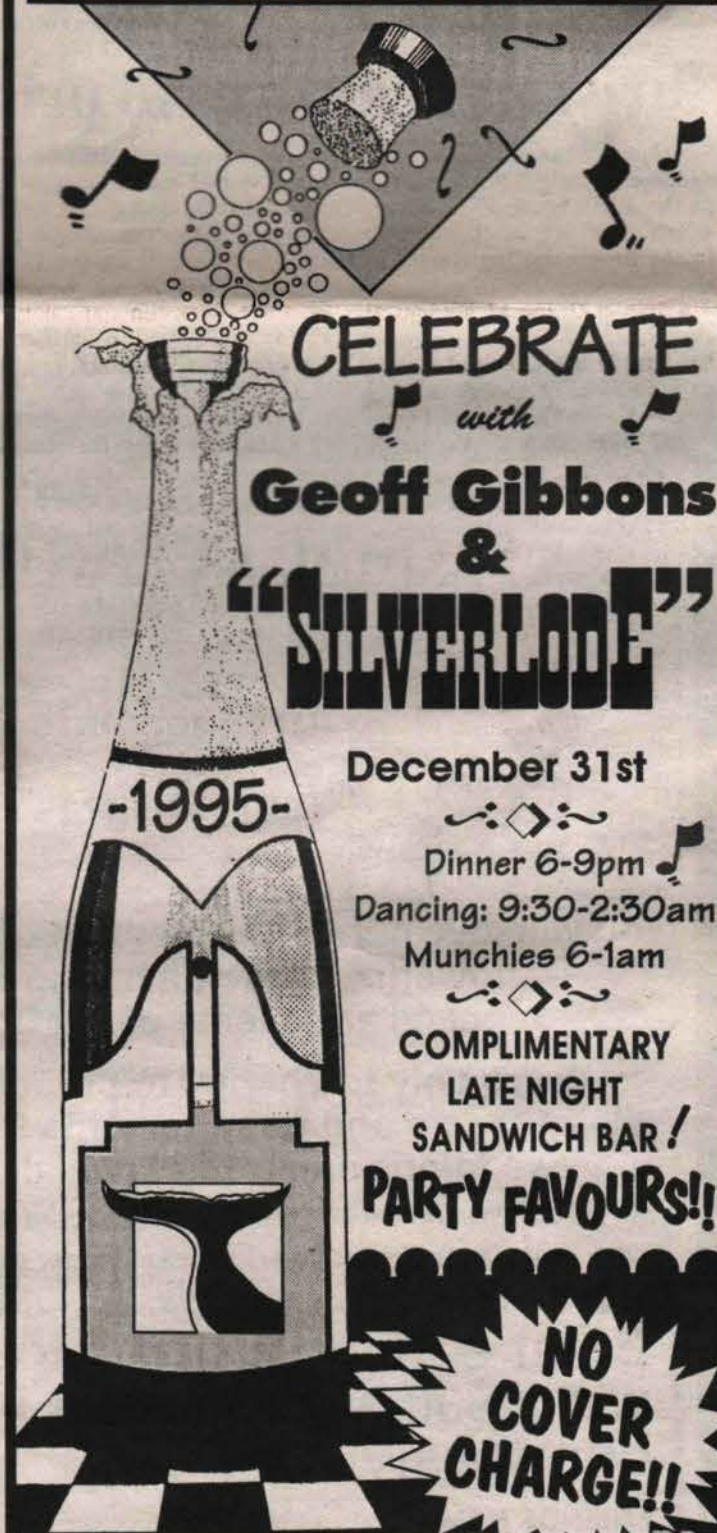
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10am-8:30pm Dec. 21 - Jan. 2
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CELEBRATE
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December 31st

Dinner 6-9pm
Dancing: 9:30-2:30am
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COMPLIMENTARY LATE NIGHT SANDWICH BAR!
PARTY FAVOURS!

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MOBY'S
marine pub

The Driftwood will be closed Monday January 2.

Forests ministry investigates tree cutting on right-of-way

Ministry of Forests officials are investigating an allegation that logging has taken place on a highway right-of-way on Salt Spring.

Operations manager Neil Robertson of Duncan said two ministry staff investigated the Upper Ganges Road site December 19, measuring stumps and attempting to estimate the volume of timber removed from the property. He estimated 80 trees were cut.

Mark Stevens, area manager for the Ministry of Highways, said the trees were cut on a right-of-way on Upper Ganges Road between Highwood Place and Dover Place.

He estimated 50 trees of varying sizes had been cut. The incident has been turned over to the Duncan Forest Service office for investigation, he said.

Robertson said the next step will be assessing the amount of cut timber, determining a stumpage fee and a penalty which will be charged to the person responsible for cutting the trees.

Part of the investigation includes assessing the seriousness of the trespass on the right-of-way, Robertson said, adding, "I believe this one appears to be an honest mistake."

Adjacent property owner Robert

Hele would say little about the affair last week, noting that the matter is still under discussion. "We have always acted in the firm belief that we were following our legal rights in accordance with the agreement we reached years ago when we first began to deal with the province over the land," he stated.

Robertson said there would be no further action by the forestry office until the middle or end of January. Whatever decision is reached by the Ministry of Forests can be appealed to the regional manager and then to the chief forester, Robertson said.

Thief grabs unattended mail

Stolen Christmas mail, an attempted theft and an injury accident kept Ganges RCMP busy over Christmas.

Some islanders may be missing Christmas cards or packages after mail was stolen last Wednesday from Vesuvius Store. Police report the mail was left unguarded briefly when the person unloading it went into the store to help a customer. One mailbag was ripped open and three packages vanished.

Last Wednesday, an alarm scared away a would-be thief, who threw a piece of wood through the Harbours End Marine and Equipment window at approximately 3 a.m. The broken window triggered an alarm and nothing was taken.

Ganges RCMP are asking the public for any information on the attempted theft.

At about 10 p.m. Christmas Day a vehicle ended up in the ditch near the police station on the Fulford-Ganges Road. Both the driver and a passenger left the scene before police arrived.

A driver and a passenger were taken to hospital with minor injuries following an accident at 6:40 p.m. Monday on Upper Ganges Road at Churchill Road. The driver lost control after swerving to miss a deer and struck a telephone pole. The driver was charged with driving too fast for road conditions.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, an adult male was picked up for shoplifting at Ganges Village Market. Charges are pending.

Christmas closure surprises drywaller

Shutdown of the recycle depot for Christmas caught at least one local drywall contractor by surprise last week.

Brian Little of Salt Spring Interiors was unable to unload

2,500 lbs. of scrap drywall when his crew found the depot closed until January 3. He said his firm makes two to three trips a week to the Rainbow Road facility.

With the depot closed, he will

have to store the scrap board under cover, then reload it for delivery next week.

Little spends between \$800 and \$1,300 a month to dispose of scrap drywall at the depot.

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We feel proud and privileged to serve a community as fine as this one and look forward to your continued support.

Chris Dixon

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Our kitchens don't just cook. They sizzle.

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