

# Driftwood

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**THE WATER WAS FINE—THEY CLAIMED:** New Year's Day polar bears frolic at Vesuvius beach Sunday in a close but brief encounter with the water. Swimmers claimed the water was fine; onlookers claimed the swimmers were crazy. More photos—Page A14. Photo by Susan Lundy

## Doctors' focus on economics

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

Unless the Ministry of Health coughs up more money for local doctors, residents of Saturna, Mayne and Pender islands may be faced with reduced medical care this year.

The reason: a provincial government subsidy to doctors in small communities is slated to end March 31. A Ministry of Health spokeswoman said the program involves six doctors in the province, two of whom are in the Gulf Islands, and will cost the provincial government \$100,000 in this the final year.

The subsidy has already been cut for one of the Pender Island physicians and will no longer be paid to doctors on Galiano and Mayne in March. Wage cuts of up to 35 per cent may leave doctors no choice but to reduce their services or hours of operation.

The physician most affected is Mayne Island's Dr. David Kenny, who moved to the

island in June. The end of the Rural Physicians Incentive Program next year will mean a "very significant" drop in his income, he said last week.

Doctors in B.C. are paid by and large on a fee-for-service basis, Kenny said. That means they are paid by the number of patients they see and the kinds of treatment they administer.

In communities with small populations, a city-sized patient base is simply not possible. But Kenny said numbers of patients is not the main problem with being a physician on the Gulf Islands — the numbers of weekenders and tourists who see him in the summer make up for the low numbers in the winter.

The problems are more about what kinds of patients he has and what kinds of treatment he administers. Patients tend to be older than they would be in a city practice. They have more

**DOCTORS A5**



**NO PROBLEM:** Reporter Sjuberg shrugs off cold after swim Sunday.

## Bathers test waters with an outrageous 'act of bravery'

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

There's a first time for everything. And there's no better time than the first day of a new year to test the waters of one's resolve.

Not that making a polar bear plunge is your typical new year's "resolution." It is a simple, brief and outrageous act of bravery, which wrestles with human instinct to keep our bodies as warm and cozy as possible. It is more a psychological than physical feat, even though the body supposedly bears the brunt of the discomfort. Not so, I discovered. It started innocently enough.

When the subject of the

Vesuvius Inn-sponsored 16th annual Vesuvius Bay Polar Bear Swim arose in the Driftwood newsroom one afternoon before Christmas, I expressed my long-held desire to celebrate a new year with a real splash.

Truly, every time I went to Vesuvius beach on January 1, I felt a pang of envy for the throng of courageous swimmers, and wished I was ready to join them.

So from a flippant comment in the company of an eager managing editor, always looking for that "new angle" to an old story, I was firmly committed to the bizarre deed.

**BATHERS A14**

## Agencies angry over funding cut for program to aid young families

A plan to provide support and guidance for young island parents has been put on ice by the federal government. Salt Spring Community Services Society executive director Jane Parlee said this week that money for the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) was frozen, just as it was about to begin.

The freeze has angered representatives of 14 southern Vancouver Island social service organizations who have spent eight months putting together a proposal to take advantage of a Health and Welfare Canada initiative to help young children. The CAPC is part of the federal Brighter Futures Initiative to improve the health and welfare of children at risk in Canada. The local task force was told the program would be spared from the current review of federal social service spending.

The freeze at the 11th hour is especially bothersome to project organizers because other regions in the country have received funding for their programs.

That makes the freeze a "political issue," Parlee said, and the local organizations will be lobbying Victoria MP David Anderson to have the freeze thawed.

"We're definitely going to be lobbying David Anderson," she said. "We want the money released so we can begin the hiring process in January."

Parlee was told last week that the money for the first two years of the program was available and only the funding for the third and final year was held back. That would give the local organizations two years to implement their programs and lobby for the final funding.

The southern Vancouver Island region was to have received \$1.1 million over three years, with Salt Spring getting about \$170,000. That money would have provided a full-time family counsellor, a drop-in centre and a variety of programs designed to help young parents and their children.

**FAMILIES A5**

## Abundance of rain no record

Santa could be forgiven for switching from a sleigh to a ship for his December 24 deliveries on the south coast.

Higher-than-usual rainfall last month dropped 242 mm or 9.5 inches of rain at the Victoria airport from December 1 to 28.

Normal rainfall for the month is 189.5 mm or 7.5 inches.

Youngsters who received new boots for Christmas had plenty of chance to splash in puddles. The three wettest days were December 25, 26 and 27 when 99.2 mm, or just under four inches, fell at the airport. Almost half of that total fell December 27.

But this year's wet December didn't touch the record set in 1972 when 295 mm or 11.6 inches of rain fell during the month. That year, 72.9 mm or 2.8 inches fell on Christmas Day.

Total rainfall this past year at the Victoria airport totalled 905 mm or 35.6 inches. Normal for a year is 845.9 mm or 33 inches.

# This Week

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## Fair Change

Island Savings was buying U.S. cash on Tuesday at the rate of 1.3820

### THE URBAN MORON



By Calvin Oakes

## Police seek information after woman hit by truck in Ganges

A visitor from Ontario suffered minor injuries more than a week ago when she was hit by a truck in downtown Ganges. The woman was crossing Hereford Avenue at Lower Ganges Road December 23 about 3:50 p.m. when she was hit by a blue truck.

She was taken to Lady Minto Hospital, treated for minor injuries and later released. There were no other details about the incident reported to Ganges RCMP, except the truck had a dog in the back.

Anyone who witnessed the incident should contact local police.

In other police news:

• Two men were charged with shoplifting from Ganges Village Market during the holidays. In separate incidents, a 66-year-old islander was charged with stealing \$85 worth of groceries last Tuesday. Later the same day, a 63-year-old islander was charged with taking goods worth less than \$5. Both men will appear in Ganges court February 7.

• Ganges RCMP have two pieces of property which were turned in last month. One is a "studio" sign with blue lettering on a white background. The other is a sign cut out in the shape of a sheep. Anyone wishing to claim either sign should contact local police.

• The total number of incidents reported to Ganges police in 1994 was 2,835. That averages out to almost 55 incidents per week, or almost eight per day.

## Film crew here to record Brad Magnus

Salt Spring Islander Brad Magnus was under the spotlight this week.

A film crew from Vancouver-based UTV was on the island Monday and Tuesday to film Magnus dancing, father John Magnus said.

Brad Magnus, who has Down's Syndrome, is increasingly well known for his interpretive dance.

He has performed on Salt Spring, in Victoria, Vancouver and as far away as Vienna, Austria.

This week's film work was for a documentary and dance footage which is expected to be shown in this year's Variety Club Telethon in February. Islander Stephen Glanville was asked to provide musical accompaniment during the filming.

## Hours change at recycling depot; more changes may be on the way

Changes are afoot at the Salt Spring Recycling Depot.

Starting this week, the centre on Rainbow Road will not be open Sunday or Monday. It will continue to serve the community between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

The change was due to funding constraints, manager Peter Grant said. The depot has never operated the same as other Capital Regional

District-funded recycling centres. Other operations only take residential material — unlike Salt Spring's which also takes commercial waste — and operate five days per week.

The regional funding formula is also based on centres which take a restricted number of items and has never included much money for shipping, Grant said. The most recent low bids for collecting CRD blue boxes will mean

there will be less money, not more, for recycling in the region, which will further exacerbate the difference between Salt Spring recycling and other recycling centres within the CRD.

Grant said a survey by the CRD was conducted in December and he was continuing discussions with regional director Dietrich Luth about how the depot's operation may change in the future.

## Donations replenish food bank

Salt Spring Islanders opened their hearts and wallets during the Christmas season to help out the food bank.

Jane Parlee of Salt Spring Community Services said on Tuesday that more than \$1,500 in cash and "lots of food" had been donated in the wake of an unexpected high demand for Christmas food hampers.

That demand had threatened to hurt stocks for the food bank in January.

Donations were being accepted during the Christmas season at the Driftwood office, where one person walked in and wrote out a cheque for \$1,500.

## FOR THE RECORD

• The Lady Minto Hospital nickel sale held early last month was sponsored by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and not the hospital auxiliary as reported. Auxiliary members helped the sale by selling tickets.

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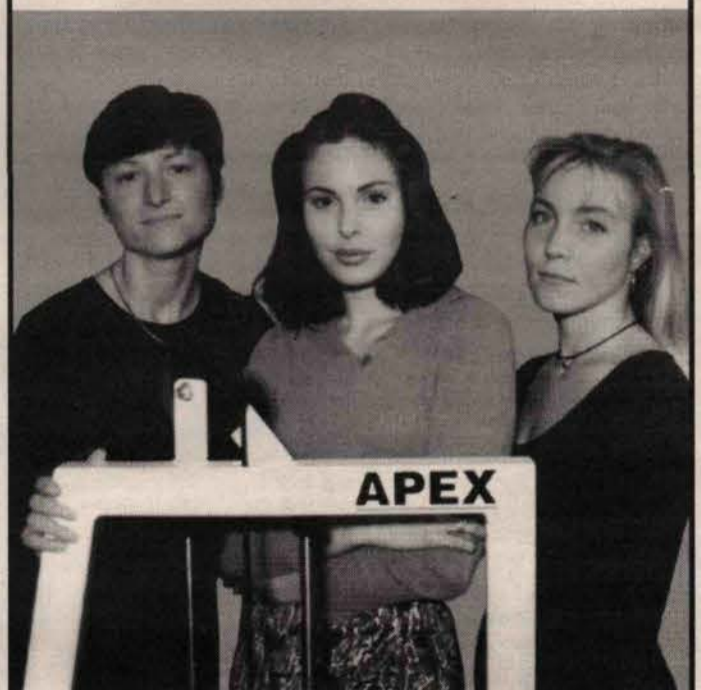
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**An early first baby**

Baby boy born Sunday to Ananda Relph was first of the new year at Lady Minto Hospital. The 8 lb., 10 oz. boy arrived two weeks early in what could have been a competition: two other babies were due

this week. Here, mother and son and father Mike Edkin receive gift of a car seat from Dr. Karen Berg on behalf of the B.C. Medical Association.

Photo by Tony Richards

**No-return crutch policy wasteful, islander feels**

It wasn't the \$15 charge for a pair of crutches which bothered Salt Spring Islander Karin Deschamps. It was that Victoria General Hospital would not take the crutches back, a policy that Deschamps finds wasteful. That's not the way it goes on recycling-minded Salt Spring. Lady Minto Hospital administrator Karen Davies said Tuesday the local hospital does not charge for standard wooden crutches, and expects people to return them after they are finished with them.

"The only way we can continue to loan them out free of charge is if people return them," Davies said. "We know most of the people. So far it has worked relatively well."

But different hospitals have different policies.

While Victoria General Hospital charges \$15 and considers the transaction a purchase, Saanich Peninsula Hospital charges a \$20 fee. But it doesn't take them back

either. Vancouver General Hospital charges \$30 for crutches and refunds \$15 for those that are returned.

The local hospital, like others across the province, has had to charge for more and more items which are given out for treatment, such as fibreglass casts, wrist splints and some neck braces. Charges for the use or purchase of crutches are part of that trend, though Davies said Lady Minto tries to keep extra costs "down to a minimum."

There are different kinds of crutches available on the market. Standard wooden adjustable ones are the most common and those are the ones which are loaned by Lady Minto. Stronger, aluminum crutches are used within the hospital because they last longer. Wooden crutches cost the hospital \$6; the aluminum ones, \$23.

Lady Minto loans out between 24 and 48 pairs of crutches per year.

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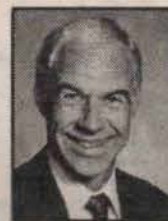
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# Popular strategy card game has its critics here

## Dark imagery, offensive message, Wiccan says

For Wiccan Patricia Brown, the concepts of magic and gathering together into a circle are sacred.

So she is not enthralled by Magic: The Gathering, a popular strategy card game which draws on elements of fantasy and myth.

"Some of the imagery is very dark," Brown says. "I think there's an underlying message that I find offensive."

Her own children do not play the game but have been given playing cards by friends. Among the cards which Brown has seen was an image of a bound fairy, used to denote an "earth bind" spell. Other images on the cards are demonic, she observed.

She welcomes games which

challenge children's minds but says there are many competitive games available which do not encourage the conquering of others. "My sense of this game is one of power over — you summon up the powers to defeat the other person."

As a Wiccan, Brown believes in individuals developing power within themselves. One of the basic tenets of the Wiccan faith is that personal power is never used to harm others. "I'm a witch so I believe more in the idea of power within rather than power over."

The game can also put financial pressure on families as players try to collect more and more cards. "I

know of kids who've spent, literally, hundreds of dollars," Brown said.

The trading aspect led to a ban on the cards at Fernwood Elementary School. In a notice issued to parents and students last October, principal Bob Brownsword observed the game had quickly become popular at the school during the fall.

"A serious problem began to emerge when a new aspect was introduced. As an adjunct to collecting the cards and playing the game, the creators of the game introduced monetary values to the various cards," Brownsword observed.

Students came to school with

books which listed a pre-determined value for each card. "Suddenly, in our school anyway, the emphasis changed from playing to trading. This trading is not card for card but cards for money," Brownsword reported.

The games of Magic: The Gathering in the school library turned into trading sessions. "The game stopped. They weren't playing the game any more," Brownsword recalled.

In his October notice, he described the amount of money being brought to the school by students as "staggering."

"Some students have been

bringing \$20 and \$30 to purchase cards from others."

Following reports of stolen cards and stolen money, plus fights between students over the cards, school staff agreed to ban the cards from the school. Students and parents were notified that any cards found at school were to be confiscated and returned only to the offending student's parents.

Brownsword said several parents called and thanked the school for banning the cards at Fernwood. Problems caused by the card trading ceased.

Brownsword noted there were also concerns among staff about images images of bound female figures.

# Orders for Magic cards come from around world

Orders from around the world are flooding into a local store from collectors anxious to acquire game cards.

Collectors will pay up to \$200 for the rarest out-of-print cards for the game Magic: The Gathering, says Alex Klenman, co-owner of Galaxy Collectables. The most sought after cards are the out-of-print Black Lotus and Icy Manipulator and unopened packs of early cards.

In the last few weeks, Klenman has received a faxed order from Japan plus calls from Germany, England, Hawaii and every corner of North America.

"It's really gone crazy," Klenman said. Since he began selling the cards last May, the game has hooked Salt Spring youngsters and some adults as well. At times, Klenman has set daily quotas on local sales to ensure all the local game fans have an equal chance to pick up new game cards.

The creator of Magic, Richard Garfield, came up with a new concept: collectible cards which could also be used to play an engrossing game. The game was introduced by a Washington state company, Wizards of the Coast, at a gaming convention in August 1993.

"When I was a kid and bought sports cards, we used them. We made our own games," Klenman recalled. But buyers of Magic: The Gathering cards do not need to create a game. The game is outlined in the rule book which accompanies the cards.

The first few printings of game cards were relatively small. The first printing consisted of 2.6 million cards and the second, 7.6 million.

Printed cards are divided into common, uncommon or rare. In every pack of 15 cards, there will be only one rare card.

It is the limited number of rare cards which fuels the search among collectors. For example, Klenman said, only 3,200 of each rare card were printed in the second printing of the game.

Once a print run is sold, no more copies of the cards are made. The combination of limited print runs, rare cards and a highly popular game has pushed prices up dramatically.

Klenman noted a pack of 15 cards from the "legends" print run cost \$2.45 when it was released in May. Now an unopened "legends" pack is worth \$30 to \$35.

Klenman advertises his store as a source for cards in a magazine called Scrye, which is devoted solely to the game. He also advertises through computer bulletin



Alex Klenman

boards.

"The result has been phenomenal," he said. Scrye grew from a circulation of 25,000 for the first issue to 180,000 by the fourth.

In contrast to the high prices paid for collectible cards, new players can enter the game for less than \$20. Klenman said he found there was a market for player decks, which include a set of the required cards for a game along with rules and a case.

Players can also pick up 60-card starter packs, which sell for \$10.95 and include 60 random cards, plus booster packs and expansion sets costing \$2.45 to \$3.50 each.

The low initial cost can be misleading, however. Jane Parlee describes herself as a "parent investor" in the game. "I've got Magic cards all over the house."

Including Christmas gift buying and her sons' allowances, she estimates family members have spent \$500 to \$600 on the game over the past three months.

"Some of these cards are worth a lot of money," she observed. On the plus side, she is delighted that the game has become a shared interest between her two sons and believes they are gaining negotiating skills through trading their cards with other youngsters and with adult players.

Sometimes, players have to choose between collecting the cards and playing the game, Klenman said. Pristine cards, in their original packs, bring top dollars from collectors.

But even if the collecting craze dies down, Klenman believes the game will survive.

"It's a great strategy game," he remarked. With between 1,400 and 1,500 different types of cards available to players, the game combinations are almost endless.

Players range from seven and eight-year-olds to adults, Klenman says. Most are male although some girls play as well.

Klenman compared the game to an electronic arcade game, which exercises reflexes but not the mind. When playing Magic, players must think about their cards and possible strategies. "There's hundreds of possible combinations. You have to think."

In just over two weeks, players will get a chance to pit their thinking skills against one another in a tournament to be held January 21 at Galaxy Collectables.

Less formal games are played at the store almost every day, Klenman noted.


Although some parents have expressed concern about role-playing, Klenman maintains the fantasy aspect of Magic: The Gathering is small and disregarded by many players. He also feels the game is not overly aggressive, despite the plethora of attacking dragons, spirits and fireballs.

"It's as aggressive as chess. The object of the game is to defeat an opponent," Klenman said. Players are drawn to the game by the challenging strategy, he maintained. "Even if the fad dies, as it will, there will be people playing this game."

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# Children's program was to cost \$170,000 over three years

Salt Spring Island's funding proposal for the federal Community Action Program for Children would have cost about \$170,000 over three years.

In the first year, the program was to have hired a full-time family support worker, developed a brochure and advertising, recruited a local steering committee and developed a plan. That would have cost \$42,154.

The second year was to see the development of the drop-in centre, young parent peer-support network, workshops, counselling and an art-therapy workshop for young children and an after-hour crisis line. The bill was to have been \$56,426.

The third year was to see the continuation of the family place centre and its expansion to the Outer

Islands for a total cost of \$74,030.

Weaknesses of the island's current support system for children, identified in the program proposal, include a lack of early prevention programs in schools before Grade 6, difficulty collaborating with the high school and servicing children who are home-schooled or who go to alternate schools.

The proposal identified 40 two-parent families, with 114 children, on income assistance on the Gulf Islands as of May 1993, of which 34 families and 99 children were on Salt Spring. There were 185 single-parent families with 295 children on the islands, with 148 families and 237 children on Salt Spring on income assistance.

## FAMILIES: Ottawa freezes funding

From Page A1

"It would complete the circle for us in terms of service provision for families," Parlee said of the new programming. "Other communities have neighbourhood houses and we don't."

"Nobody teaches anybody to be a parent," she added. "Parenting skills are in demand: communication, discipline, how to respond to struggles."

As people get older, they are better able to respond to life's

crises. Parents who are aged between 16 and 27 and have children younger than six need more support than older parents. A drop-in centre, life-skills education, workshops and peer support outreach are all designed to help young families in isolated circumstances or isolated communities.

It's important, too, Parlee said, that resources to help families in crisis be localized. Salt Spring already has youth and family counsellors, alcohol and drug out-

reach, marital and family counselling and the food bank and Christmas hamper program which help young families.

"We do have a lot of people waiting for this program to start," she said. "We've been advertising it's going to happen. There was no question the dollars were coming from the government."

But that question has now been raised. The new year will see if the program will come to the islands after all.

## DOCTORS: Subsidy ends March 31

From Page A1

complex conditions and require longer to deal with as patients.

He makes many house calls. That takes time, which is not factored into the fee-for-service system. A weekly trip to Saturna Island to see patients for three hours eats up almost as much time in travelling.

The loss of the rural physicians' subsidy will mean he will have to be "more focused on economics" than he has in the past. That may well mean cancelling his weekly trip to Saturna and opening his clinic four days a week instead of five.

Other services offered — and costs incurred — on Mayne include a dispensary for drugs and a blood and specimen collecting service. These would normally be offered at a pharmacy or through a commercial or hospital lab. The Ministry of Health does not properly compensate the island clinic for these services.

"The ramifications of the incentive program going are quite widespread in this practice," Kenny said.

Kenny is not the only physician on the islands getting the rural physicians' subsidy. Galiano's Dr. Barry Lovell also gets it. But for Lovell, the money is not so important. He practised medicine in Alberta for 24 years before moving to Galiano four years ago.

"One manages all right," he said. "I have no children to raise. I own my house."

He only just got the subsidy in the past year, he said, due to lobbying by the island's health committee. All the same, he says he is "disappointed it's ending."

"The islands are a low-volume practice, which means a low-income practice," he explained. "And island doctoring also means solo practising, which means working evenings and weekends."

The fee-for-service payment system does not reflect that reality of island life.

While Ministry of Health officials have not said whether there will be anything to replace the Rural Physicians Incentive Program after March 31, there is a

new Northern and Isolation Allowance available to doctors in places like the Gulf Islands.

Lovell said the allowance was "small" compared to the rural physicians subsidy and varied from island to island depending on criteria like the numbers of doctors available and the distance from a major centre. The allowance means an extra nine per cent or so for Lovell.

Pender Island has two physicians, one of whom was receiving the rural physicians subsidy until this summer.

"Pender Island no longer meets the criteria," Dr. Gerald Moore said. "Attempting to recruit a second physician has always been a problem on Pender. The island needs two doctors to make contin-

uous coverage possible."

Moore has been on Pender Island five years. His income has dropped some 30 to 35 per cent, even after the Northern and Isolation Allowance has been factored in.

"The hours are the same," he said. "They haven't dropped 35 per cent."

Despite the wage drop, Moore says he plans to stay in his island practice. Lovell also plans to stay, and Kenny too, even if that means in a reduced capacity.

Health Minister Paul Ramsey, who has initiated a northern and rural task force to examine how small communities can maintain access to doctors, was on holiday this week and unavailable for comment.

### NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE

BC Ferries is embarking on a process to map out its long-term Strategic Plan for Southern Gulf Islands routes. This important initiative will cover such matters as quality of service, scheduling, vessel replacement and terminal improvements.

To ensure that all points of view are considered, an Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders from Salt Spring, Galiano, Saturna, Mayne and North and South Pender Islands is being formed.

We are currently looking for **one non-resident property owner from each island** to participate in approximately four Committee meetings in the coming months.

If you would like to become part of this process, please write, by January 5, 1995, to:

**BC Ferries Southern Gulf Islands Advisory Committee**  
c/o City Spaces Consulting Ltd.  
#209-1110 Government Street  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 1Y2

Or fax us at 604-383-7273.

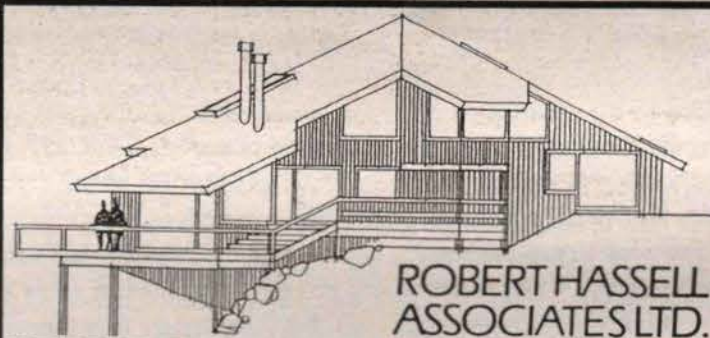


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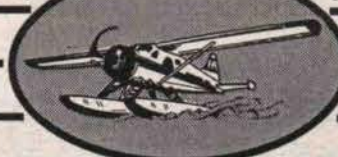


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406	9:30-10:00am	Saturday Islands	Vanc.	10:00-10:30am
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408	2:30-3:00pm	Sunday Islands	Vanc.	3:00-3:30pm

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## Unfinished business

There can be no firm forecasts for what the year 1995 might bring to the Gulf Islands, but we could list for you those matters which will make news during the coming year. However, we recommend instead that you park yourself next to a warm fire and a stack of last year's issues of the Driftwood if you should be eager for this information. The events about to unfold will not differ greatly from those of 1994.

The outcomes may be different and some of the players may change, but matters of transportation, land use planning, health and local government will remain at the forefront of local affairs. And perhaps we shall even finish a project or two.

The year began with great hopes in some quarters that Salt Spring Island's arts centre would be completed. Others (only a few, mind you) foresaw a seawalk that threaded its way unbroken along the Ganges foreshore. And many more envisioned a thriving gathering place for island youth. To our misfortune, ArtSpring, the seawalk and the Core Inn stand as evidence that the greatest of visions cannot succeed without the best of plans.

This is not to say that these worthwhile endeavours are destined to remain in their unfinished state, and stand as monuments to our folly for madly chasing dreams. Time will see an end to their building, but hopefully not before we realize as a community that the pursuit of the most noble of community goals must be one in which the majority take part from conception to finish.

A model of planning, ingenuity, determination and faith is to be found in the project of members of the Anglican church. Their new Anglican Centre stands as a monument to all we can do. It serves as a prominent reminder that the community spirit which over the years has built facilities ranging from community halls to barns has not yet died.

That spirit can serve us equally well in the year ahead; we shall no doubt need it.

Transportation and health planning will either solidify the boundaries that divide the five Gulf Islands, or reduce them to mere lines on a map. Both issues share top billing as the most important facing the islands' immediate future. And their discussion will need to be conducted on the basis that resolution is only possible through unity. As a single entity whose component parts have more in common than otherwise, the islands have the strength to ensure the efficient delivery of both health care and ferry service.

As individual and isolated communities surrounded by a rapidly growing suburbia, we are no more than cogs in a gear, the rotation of which is beyond our control.

There is yet one more unfinished project for Salt Spring Islanders. The matter of improving the manner in which we govern ourselves has been cast from the back burner to the warming oven. The longer it remains there the more bleak our prospects for the future.

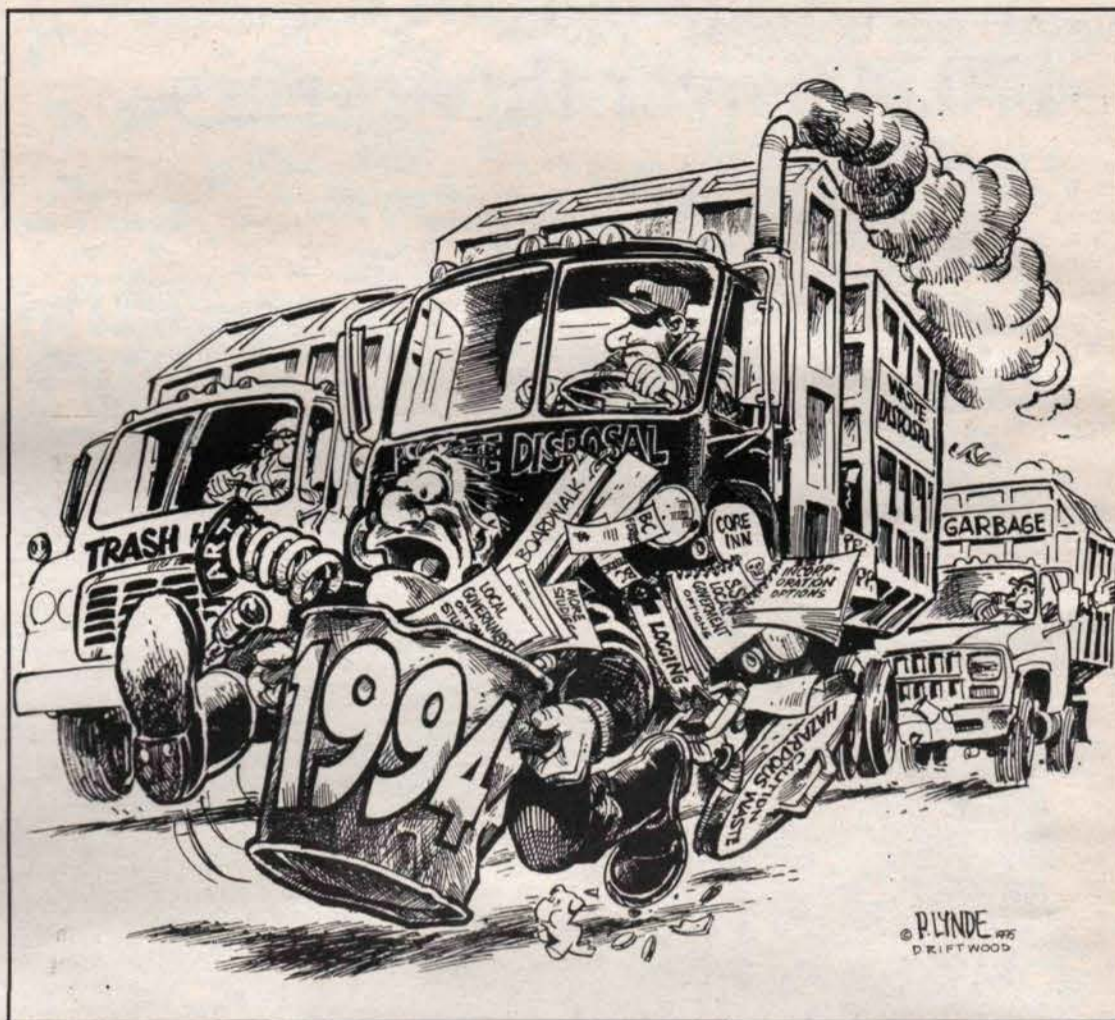
Fears of the evils of incorporation are far easier to explain than the reluctance on the part of some to proceed with completion of the local government options study. Opponents of going to the second phase of the study will be quick to claim that a poor turnout for the last public meeting on the subject justifies doing nothing further.

But that ignores the fact that an earlier meeting showed solid support for a closer examination of the options available. How many meetings are needed before detractors — regional director Dietrich Luth among them — are persuaded that this is a logical and necessary course of action?

It is logical because we must improve upon the system of government we have, and necessary because rapid growth dictates an improved form of representation within the corridors of power.

It is simply a matter of taking control of our destiny. At present, limited power rests with three local politicians and a host of non-local bureaucrats.

On Salt Spring Island, there are projects to finish. This is the most pressing of all.



## Multicult without a grant

There will be no compensation for ethnic groups supposedly wronged by our forefathers, a federal cabinet minister announced recently. Sheila Finestone publicly informed organizations representing long-dead victims of equally long-dead Canadian policymakers that there was no money.

That this should come from a Liberal government whose Tory predecessors took the opposite tack with Canadians of Japanese descent should raise a few eyebrows. But most brows appear to remain furrowed in concern over burgeoning debt and unconquerable deficits.

It is with the latter in mind that most Canadians probably welcomed the government announcement. It makes little sense to borrow money in an attempt to atone for wrongs for which it is impossible to assume responsibility.

However, it turns out the issue of compensation seems to have been settled in other ways. Federal funds are aiding in the construction of at least one "cultural centre" for at least one of the victimized groups. According to a report in the *Globe and Mail*, Ottawa is dispensing millions of dollars in grants for such projects, which is one way to wipe the slate clean of the sins of our fathers.

This is the type of story that tends to rile the beleaguered Canadian taxpayer, who at this time of the year is giving some thought to taxes paid in the year just ended, and how he might reduce the figure in the year just begun. And it seems that nothing short of moving to the Cayman Islands will come close to reducing the tax burden to a more reasonable level.

Government support for multiculturalism remains strong despite indications from across the nation that people believe there is something wrong-headed about promoting disunity. With every borrowed dollar we hand out for the protection of cultural diversity, we seem to erect a new barrier to unity and understanding.

It does not have to be this way.

There is no way of knowing how many Danish-Canadian households celebrate Boxing Day in tra-



ADRIFT  
TONY RICHARDS

ditional Danish style. But in the Vancouver suburb of Coquitlam there is at least one where the practice has been followed for more than two decades.

The several dozen islanders of Danish descent will be familiar with the pickled herring, the fried pork topped with pickled red cabbage, the liver pate garnished with bacon and mushrooms and the thinly-sliced rye bread with which it is all consumed.

They will recognize the practice of downing a shot glass of Akkavit, or Danish Schnapps, and following it with a swig of beer and a bite of fish.

Every Boxing Day, Canadians gather in that multicultural Coquitlam home for this Danish smorgasbord. The Danes among them will patiently explain to their Canadian-born relations — of Anglo and of Chinese ancestry, to name only two — how to cut their bread into quarters and never eat too much of any one thing. This is a multi-course meal that begins in the early afternoon and doesn't end until one is completely stuffed or thoroughly sloshed, whichever comes first.

Those who know how will pace themselves accordingly, and finish the celebration feeling happy and replete.

Then they may retire to the living room to enjoy a Christmas tree festooned with decorations that include strings of small flags — Canadian and Danish. At some point the tree's electric lights will be extinguished and the dozens of slender white candles lit. And on the front lawn outside, Canadian and Danish flags fly proudly from a flagpole.

Meanwhile, with each new generation of offspring, the immigrant Danes see their culture disappearing. It is melding with other cultures in a natural evolutionary process.

But for now the four generations who gather here for lunch on Boxing Day can celebrate the still-strong ties with the Danish culture. This is the true spirit of multiculturalism, a spirit that is sustained by family ties and not by the largesse of witless politicians who wrongly believe that the making of culture is a function of the state.

**It makes little sense to borrow money in an attempt to atone for wrongs for which it is impossible to assume responsibility.**

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# SALT SPRING SAYS

**We Asked: Would you voluntarily pay \$10 a year for library service?**



**Donna Jenkins**

*Yes. I think its probably cheaper in the long run to go that route, cheaper than raising our taxes.*



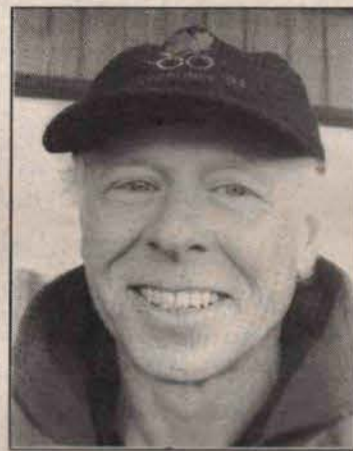
**Richard Cross**

*Yes. Libraries are valuable and if they have money they buy better books.*



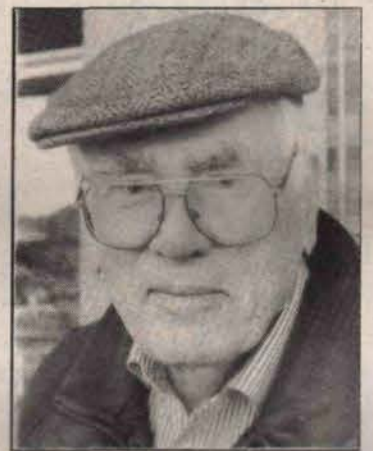
**Debbie Anglos**

*Yes. I think it's worth it and they've got a really good selection in this library for books. We use it quite a bit.*



**Errol Fisher of Mayne Island**

*Definitely. I think people should. \$10 a year is cheap. I think if people pay something for a right they treat it with more respect.*



**Ronald Brown**

*Yes, because it will cost a lot more if the government tries to hire people.*

## Letters to the editor

### Those communists

I'm sure glad that my daughter goes to school in Sidney instead of on Salt Spring Island.

Communist party indeed!  
C. MORGAN,  
Mayne Island

### Community loses

Some beautiful trees that bordered Upper Ganges Road are gone and nothing can bring them back. A logger cut them down and sold them. As the trees stood on a Highways right-of-way, this event brings to question the safety of all other trees growing along our roadsides. Your article suggests that the errant logger may have to pay a penalty — presumably to the provincial government. If so, then both the money and the trees will be gone, hardly a win-win situation for our community.

Maybe the logger should pay every bloody cent he got for those trees into a worthy local project

(e.g. ArtSpring). Then, if there are fees and penalties to be levied, they would go to the proper authorities. I object to the notion that either the logging industry or the forest ministry should make money from this "honest mistake." Paying off the authorities after the fact simply adds insult to injury, and seems to condone unacceptable behaviour.

CHRIS DIXON,  
West Eagle Drive

### Taxpayers rewarded

Our association would like to endorse the comments made by the Parks and Recreation Commission on the job done by the young people of the BC 21 project in the development of our new park in Duck Creek. The result is evidence of their hard work but more important was the enthusiasm and creativity that has turned what could have been just a path through the woods into a delight to the senses.

To critics of needless government grants, and I admit I usually have to be included in that group,

the taxpayers in this case are well rewarded. One worker mentioned that she had always wanted to be involved with the environment and this experience had changed her whole outlook on her future.

It should also be mentioned that the cooperation of the Parks and Recreation administrator, Tony Hume, and the Channel Ridge development corporation has been most positive and has served to reduce the concerns of residents over illegal camping and the risk of fire in a very vulnerable area. Our association would appreciate if all users of the park be aware of this danger and report misuse to either the Parks and Recreation Commission or to the RCMP.

To those who have yet to discover the park we urge you to explore and enjoy this beautiful creek walk — a great place to gently work off those holiday calories and new opportunities for photographers and other artists to find new inspiration.

Our thanks to all those involved.  
JOHN N. MYERS,  
President,  
Channel Ridge Owners' Association

## 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.

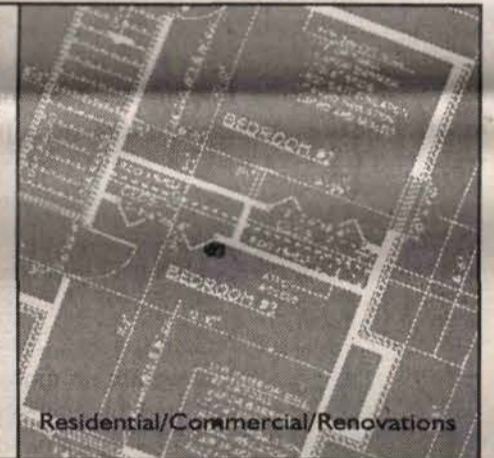
Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

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# Federal off-loading could mean fall vote

**VICTORIA** — One of my predictions for 1995 was "a good chance" for a provincial election. That may turn out to be somewhat of an understatement.

For a number of reasons, Premier Harcourt will almost certainly be forced to call an election this year, no matter what the opinion polls may be saying about his chances of winning.

The first reason is historical. Going to the polls in the fifth and final year of its mandate virtually guarantees a government's defeat. The closer a government comes to the end of its mandate, the more it is seen as out of steam and ideas, ineffective, vacillating and running scared.

W.A.C. Bennett called an election every three and a half years or so. The formula worked for him. He hung on to power for 20 years.

But more important, this year is the only chance the NDP has to deliver a balanced budget or rather what will appear to be a balanced budget.

**P** rime Minister Chretien has promised that there will be no federal off-loading of responsibilities and costs in 1995, but he hinted that 1996 will be a different story. In other words, the provinces will be asked to absorb even more costs formerly borne by Ottawa.

And that means if Harcourt wants to deliver on his promise of a balanced budget "over the business cycle" of his government, namely during its five-year mandate, he'll have one shot at it — this spring.

The signs are all there. Ministries have been told to cut their expenditures. A hiring freeze is in effect. And when Finance Minister Elizabeth Cull stands up in the house to read the budget speech in two and a half months, I fully expect her to lay claim to bringing down a balanced budget.

At which time a few hundred shakers of salt will be in order, because the balance of the budget will be in the eyes of the beholder.

**F** or some time now, the NDP has removed capital expenditures for major projects such as highway construction from the operating budget. The reasoning is that major projects should be amortized over a longer time and not paid out of the annual operating budget.

And while there is some logic to that approach, it also enables the government to do some creative bookkeeping, with the result that the operating budget for 1995-96 may well be balanced, while the province's overall debt has still increased dramatically.

But for better or worse, the NDP will take its balanced budget into the election fray, hoping that the figures in its books look more convincing than those offered by the opposition.

On other fronts, the NDP will be less vulnerable. Premier Harcourt has nothing to be ashamed about when it comes to his government's environment and land-use policies.

Under the NDP, British Columbia has become one of North America's most environmentally friendly jurisdictions. And all the polls indicate that this approach is met with solid voter support.

**A** s for its land-use policies, the NDP government has achieved what appeared to be impossible a few years ago. Through the Commission on Resources and Environment, the NDP has forged blueprints for sustainable development of a large portion of British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, the Cariboo-Chilcotin and the Kootenays.

Backed up by the massive Forest Renewal Program infusion of \$2 billion over five years, the once empty slogan of the forest industry, "Forests Forever," has become a goal that is within our reach.

The NDP has also made giant strides in native land claims negotiations. And perhaps even more important, it has brought a measure of trust to relations between native and non-native people.

**C** an the NDP win a second term? Not on its record alone, no matter how well the government acquits itself. Voters have been in a volatile mood for years. They'd just as soon turf out a government than look at its record.

If the NDP is to get voter approval for a second term, a few things will have to happen, the most important of which is a strengthening of the provincial Reform Party.

In a two-way fight with the Liberals, the NDP would probably lose. But any gains Reform makes will come at the expense of the Liberals, which would make the contest one in which the so-called free enterprise vote is split, allowing the NDP to come through the middle.

To sum it up: I'm putting my money on a fall election, but I'm hedging my bets when it comes to predicting a winner.

## CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



# Dialing change takes effect Monday; area code required for long-distance

The procedure for dialing long-distance telephone calls will change next week.

As of Monday, callers placing long-distance calls within British Columbia must include the area code 604 in the telephone number or the call will not be completed.

The change will affect calling across most of North America, according to BC Tel.

Increasing demand for telephone numbers has necessitated the change, which will open up a pool of

640 new area codes for North America. Each code will be capable of providing eight million additional phone numbers, a BC Tel spokesman said.

Meanwhile, an area code change is being made in Washington state. Effective January 15, the state will split its 206 area code into 206 and 360. The Seattle-Tacoma area will retain the 206 code while other communities, such as Bellingham and Olympia, will use the new one.

• An English high tea will be one of the attractions of a newly-renovated and renamed Tone's Java Star Cafe. Located in the cottage at 106 Purvis Lane, the cafe is owned by Anna Mauveen Moore, who used to operate the Willow Studio from the same premises.

The Java Star offers home-baked goods and soup, made on the premises by Justine Hull. Hot and cold espresso, tea and health drinks are also on the menu.

The cafe plans to offer high tea in the yard under the plum tree during the summer.

Tone's Java Star can be reached at 537-5379 or 537-1988.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

• Changes have been made in two other business owned and operated by Anna Mauveen Moore.

The publication Starlinks, described as an island access network venue, has changed its format to that of a magazine and will be published bimonthly beginning in March.

Located in Gasoline Alley, Starlinks employs three people. It started out as a flyer in November 1991 and went to a newspaper format. It adopted the

magazine style with its Winter 1994 issue.

It shares premises with Compucom, which is operated by Anu Jolliffe, who offers Starlinks on his bulletin board. Starlinks can be reached at 537-1988.

At Natural Beauty, a full-treatment salon located at 115 McPhillips Avenue, Moore is now offering CAQTI, a new, all-natural hair product.

Esthetician-hypnotherapist Brenda Rasi has joined the salon, which is now offering full body relaxation treatments.

Natural Beauty specializes in stress release through reiki/hypnotherapy visualizations.

The salon can be reached at 537-4622.

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BEEF BONELESS REG. OR PEPPER EYE OF ROUND <b>Steaks</b> 5.91kg <b>2.68</b> lb	FRESH CUBED Pork Shoulder 4.14kg <b>1.88</b> lb	IMITATION Crab Meat 2.99lb <b>.66</b> 100g	SCHNEIDERS FROZEN assorted Meat Pie 250g <b>1.39</b> pk
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Value

Service

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**2<sup>88</sup>**  
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**Kraft Mayonnaise**  
**2<sup>58</sup>**  
750 ml.

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**Apple Juice**  
**68¢**  
1 L.

ABC, REG. OR ULTRA  
**Laundry Detergent**  
**3<sup>88</sup>**  
4 & 8 L.

ALL VARIETIES  
**Unico Pasta**  
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900 g.

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**Beans in Sauce**  
**74¢**  
398 ml.

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**Hot Chocolate**  
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225-500 g.

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# Quality, Value

Prices in effect Wednesday, January 4 1995

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<p>BURNS QUALITY <b>Old Fashioned Head Cheese Loaf</b> <b>88¢</b> Sliced 100 g.</p>	<p>CANADIAN <b>Brie Allegro Cheese</b> <b>2<sup>18</sup></b> Random cut 100 g.</p>
<p>BURNS <b>Cooked Ham</b> <b>58¢</b> Sliced or Shaved 100 g.</p> 	<p>BURNS FINEST <b>Seasoned Roast Beef</b> <b>1<sup>38</sup></b> Sliced or Shaved 100 g.</p>
	<p>CANADIAN QUALITY <b>Swiss Cheese</b> <b>1<sup>38</sup></b> Random Cut 100 g.</p>
	<p>OLAFSON'S <b>White or Whole Wheat Pita Breads</b> <b>1<sup>38</sup></b> 6s ea.</p>

 <p><b>Smile in the Aisle</b></p>	<p>STOUFFER OR LEAN CUISINE <b>Dinner Entrees</b> 196-340 g. <b>1<sup>98</sup></b></p>
	<p>CARNATION <b>Hot Chocolate</b> 225-500 g. <b>2<sup>68</sup></b></p>
	<p>ASTRO, SELECTED VAR. <b>Yogurt</b> 175 g. <b>68¢</b></p>
	<p>KRAFT, EXCEPT DELUXE <b>Velveeta Cheese Loaf</b> 500 g. <b>3<sup>98</sup></b></p>
	<p>KRAFT <b>Cheez Whiz</b> 500 g. <b>3<sup>88</sup></b></p>
	<p>KRAFT, EXCEPT DELUXE <b>Cheese Slices</b> 500 g. <b>3<sup>38</sup></b></p>

<p>ROGERS <b>Granola Bars</b> 700-750 g. <b>1<sup>98</sup></b></p>	<p>NABISCO <b>Shreddies</b> 675 g. <b>2<sup>78</sup></b></p>
	<p>MAXWELL HOUSE <b>Specialty Coffees</b> 72 g. <b>1<sup>48</sup></b></p>
	<p>KRAFT <b>Peanut Butter</b> 1 kg. <b>3<sup>98</sup></b></p>
	<p>THRIFTY <b>Mexican Chips</b> 400 g. <b>1<sup>48</sup></b></p>
	<p>BETTY CROCKER <b>Hamburger or Tuna Helper</b> 198-234 g. <b>1<sup>58</sup></b></p>
	<p>REG. OR LIGHT <b>Kraft Mayonnaise</b> 750 ml. <b>2<sup>98</sup></b></p>

## Seafood

 <p>POLAR SEAS <b>Clam Meat</b> 200 g. pkg. Great for a Chowder <b>1<sup>68</sup></b> ea.</p>	<p>ABERDONIAN <b>Bone-Out Kippers</b> 200 g. pkg. <b>2<sup>38</sup></b> ea.</p>
<p>PACIFIC CAUGHT <b>Snapper Fillets</b> <b>78¢</b> Thawed for your Convenience 100 g.</p>	<p>SMOKED <b>Black Alaska Cod</b> Cook before eating <b>1<sup>98</sup></b> 100 g.</p>
<p>COLD WATER <b>Breaded Fish Cakes</b> Heat &amp; Serve <b>38¢</b> 100 g.</p>	<p>JANES <b>Fish and Chips</b> Heat and Serve <b>6<sup>98</sup></b> 2 lb. box ea.</p>

<p>HEINZ, STRAINED <b>Baby Food</b> 128 ml. <b>2/98¢</b></p>	<p>HEINZ <b>Junior Baby Food</b> 213 ml. <b>68¢</b></p>
	<p>LIPTON <b>Rice &amp; Sauce</b> 128-153 g. <b>1<sup>18</sup></b></p>
	<p>ALL VARIETIES <b>Unico Pasta</b> 900 g. <b>98¢</b></p>
	<p>ROGERS, WHITE OR WW <b>Bread Flour</b> 10 kg. <b>6<sup>98</sup></b></p>

<p>KRAFT <b>Salad Dressings</b> 500 ml. <b>2<sup>58</sup></b></p>	<p>HUNTS <b>Tomato Paste</b> 156 ml. <b>2/98¢</b></p>
	<p>HUNTS, REG. OR ITALIAN <b>Tomato Sauce</b> 398 ml. <b>68¢</b></p>
	<p>RED ROSE <b>Tea Bags</b> 160s <b>4<sup>98</sup></b></p>
	<p>RAGU <b>Original Pasta Sauces</b> 750 ml. <b>1<sup>28</sup></b></p>

## Frozen Food

<p>McCAIN, FROZEN <b>Super Fries</b> 3 var., 1 kg. <b>1<sup>38</sup></b></p>	<p>SAVARIN, FROZEN <b>TV Dinners</b> 303-312 g. <b>1<sup>48</sup></b></p>
<p>GREEN GIANT, FROZEN <b>Boil 'n Bag Vegetables</b> 250 g. <b>98¢</b></p>	<p>McVITIES <b>Hob Nobs with Chocolate</b> 250 g. <b>1<sup>78</sup></b></p>
<p>ISLAND FARMS <b>Frozen Yogurt</b> 1 L. <b>1<sup>88</sup></b></p>	

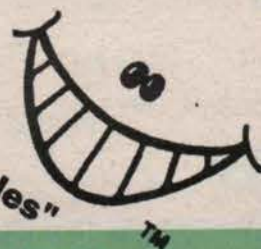
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<p>KELLOGGS <b>Raisin Bran</b> 800 g. <b>3<sup>88</sup></b></p>	<p><b>FREE</b></p>
<p>KELLOGGS <b>Mini Wheats</b> 475 g. <b>2<sup>58</sup></b></p>	<p>PACKAGE OF KELLOGG'S CEREAL BARS 295 g., with the purchase of Kellogg's Raisin Bran, 800 g., and Kellogg's Mini Wheats, 475 g. package.</p>

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# Value, Service

"Smiles in the Aisles"



Monday 4 through Tuesday, January 10, 1995

Limit to Limit Quantities

Fresh Produce

PURITAN, MILD OR HOT <b>Texas Style Chili</b> 680 g. <b>1 58</b>	PREMIUM PLUS <b>Soda Crackers</b> 450 g. <b>1 78</b>
LIPTON, SELECTED VAR. <b>Soup Mixes</b> 2s <b>1 18</b>	UNCLE TOM'S <b>Rice</b> 2 kg. <b>1 98</b>
THRIFTY, IN PEAR JUICE, CALIFORNIAN <b>Fruit Cocktail or Peach Slices</b> 796 ml. <b>1 38</b>	CORTINA <b>Pure Olive Oil</b> 1 L. <b>3 98</b>
DAIRYMAID <b>Apple Juice</b> 1 L. <b>68¢</b>	PREMIUM PLUS <b>Croutons</b> 170 g. <b>1 28</b>
McCAIN <b>Punches</b> 1 L. <b>68¢</b>	ISLAND HARVEST, WHITE <b>Sesame Bread</b> 680 g. <b>1 28</b>
LUNCH BOX <b>Fruit Drinks</b> 3 pack <b>78¢</b>	BOUNCE <b>Ultra Dryer Sheets</b> 45-50s <b>2 48</b>
HUNTS <b>Tomatoes</b> 398 ml. <b>78¢</b>	CASCADE <b>Dishwasher Detergent</b> 2.5 kg. <b>4 38</b>
HEINZ <b>Squeeze Ketchup</b> 1 L. <b>2 88</b>	SAVARIN, FROZEN <b>Meat Pies</b> 200 g. <b>58¢</b>
O.N.E. <b>Cat Food</b> 600 g. <b>1 68</b>	PALMOLIVE <b>Dishwasher Liquid</b> 1.4 L. <b>3 18</b>
PURINA <b>Meow Mix</b> 1 kg. <b>1 98</b>	GLAD <b>Garbage Bags</b> 20s <b>3 68</b>
McCORMICKS <b>Cookies</b> 400 g. <b>2 38</b>	VIDAL SASSOON <b>Shampoo &amp; Conditioner</b> 200-300 ml. <b>2 98</b>
ABC, REG. OR ULTRA <b>Laundry Detergent</b> 4 & 5 L. <b>3 88</b>	ROYALE <b>Bathroom Tissue</b> 85 <b>2 38</b>
ISLAND FARMS <b>Light Yogurt</b> 500 g. <b>1 48</b>	LYSOL, TRIGGER OR <b>Tub &amp; Basin Cleaner</b> 500 ml. & 550 g. <b>2 58</b>
SCARDILLO <b>Mozzarella Cheese</b> 340 g. <b>2 68</b>	HUGGIES <b>Diapers &amp; Pull-ups</b> 10 sizes <b>8 88</b>
CARRS <b>Table Crackers</b> 125-150 g. <b>1 18</b>	AIM <b>Toothpaste</b> 100 ml. <b>68¢</b>

Three Seed Bread

**98¢**

454 g.

Good Hearth Bread

**1 88**

570 g.

Lemon Snow Cakes 7"

Cinnamon Buns

**2 98**

8 pack



**6 88**

## Bulk Savings

Thompson Raisins

**28¢**

100 g.

Turkish Apricots

**38¢**

100 g.

Spaghetti or Macaroni

**12¢**

100 g.

SALTED OR UNSALTED  
Roasted Blanched Peanuts

**25¢**

100 g.

REGULAR OR BUTTERMILK

Pancake Mix

**13¢**

100 g.



## Flowers and More



Mini Carnation Bouquet

**3 98**

Spring Cut Flower Bouquet

**4 98**

Mixed Cut Flower Bouquet

**3 98**

4" POT, ASST'D.

Spring Bulb Plants

**1 98**

4" POT  
Tropical Plants

**1 98**

5" POT

Hyacinths

**4 98**

6" POT

Kalanchoe

**4 98**

6" POT

Cyclamen

**6 98**

10" POT

Boston Fern

**9 98**

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**Dressing** 500 ml.

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**4/98¢**

The Canada Food Guide Recommends that you have 5-10 servings of Fruit and Vegetables a day. Watch for our slim prices in the New Year!



NEW CROP, CHILEAN

**Perlette Green Grapes** 3.04 kg.

**1 38** lb.



**Nutritional Information:**  
per 160 g. serving (1 cup/250 ml.)  
Energy 115 cal/480 KJ  
Fat 0.9 g. Protein 1.1 g.  
Carbohydrate 28 g.  
Dietary Fibre 2.6 g.  
Sodium 3 mg.  
Potassium 296 mg.

**Percentage of RDI:**  
Vitamin C 29% Thiamin 11% Vitamin B6 10%

RIVER RANCH  
**Caesar Salad**  
**1 88** pkg.  
Contains: Romaine, Croutons and Caesar Dressing

RIVER RANCH  
**Italian Salad**  
**1 88** pkg.  
Contains: Romaine, Endive and Radicchio

RIVER RANCH  
**Gourmet**  
**1 88** pkg.  
Contains: Romaine, Radicchio, Endive, Escarole, Carrots, Red Cabbage

CRESTON VALLEY  
**Yukon Gold Potatoes**  
**28¢** lb.  
62¢ kg.

BC GROWN, ORGANIC  
Fancy: Newtons, Jonagold, Red Delicious, Macintosh or Golden Delicious Apples  
**1 98** 3 lb. bag



ELK LAKE GROWN, ORGANIC  
**Kiwi Fruit** **1 98** 1 lb. bag

**Nutritional Information**  
per 100 g. serving (1/5 bunch)  
Energy 25 cal/100 kj  
Protein 3.1 g.  
Fat 0.4 g.  
Carbohydrate 2.5 g.  
Dietary Fibre 3.1 g.  
Potassium 368 mg.  
Sodium 35 mg.

**California Broccoli** 97¢ kg.

**44¢** lb.

# Quality Meats



WASHINGTON SELECT GRADES BEEF  
**Porterhouse or T-Bone Steaks** 8.78 kg.  
Aged for Tenderness!

**3 98** lb.

OLIVIERI, FRESH  
SELECTED VAR. **Flat Pasta** 350 g. **1 88** ea.

ALFREDO **Pasta Sauce** 330 ml. **2 98** ea.

ISLAND GROWN  
**Fresh Chicken Thighs** No back attached. 3.48 kg. **1 58** lb.

ISLAND GROWN  
**Fresh Chicken Drumsticks** 2.16 kg. **98¢** lb.

THRIFTY FRESH  
**Pure Beef Sausage** 3.70 kg. **1 68** lb. No MSG Added

CUT FROM CANADA A GRADES BEEF  
**Boneless Braising Strips** Cut from point brisket. 5.25 kg. **2 38** lb.

CUT UP  
**Stewing Beef** 5.03 kg. **2 28** lb. For stews or pies

CARL BUDDIG, SELECTED VAR.  
**Thin Sliced Meats** 71 g. pkg. **93¢** ea.

COOK BEFORE EATING  
**Sweet Pickled Corned Beef**  
**2 98** lb.  
6.57 kg.

ISLAND GROWN  
**Fresh Chicken Breast** No back attached  
**1 88** lb.  
4.14 kg.

**More Smiles...**



BARBER FOODS, FROZEN  
**Chicken Cordon Swiss**  
2 servings per box. 284 g. or Chicken & Broccoli or Chicken Kiev  
**4 28** ea.

MAPLE LODGE  
**Skinless Chicken Wieners**  
450 g. pkg. **1 18** ea.

MAPLE LODGE  
**Chicken Bacon**  
375 g. pkg. **2 48** ea.

MAPLE LODGE  
**Sliced Chicken Loaf or Bologna**  
375 g. pkg. **1 18** ea.

# New funding formula offers no new money for district

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

In an Orwellian-titled paper called Support for Learning, Education Minister Art Charbonneau has outlined fundamental changes in the way schools are funded in the province.

Complicated so-called block funding is gone, with almost every dollar allocated to specific education ends. Now there will be a "core common grant" with specific grant top-ups for areas where school districts differ.

In the report, the minister said the new system would be easy to understand, provide equal funding to all districts and recognize community growth, which were concerns some parents had with the old system. The new system would "ensure quality and consistency of funding and services" across the province.

Ease of understanding was the main reason for the change, education ministry spokesman John Webb said. For large districts, the funding breakdown used to take up to 12 pages. Under the new system, that same information only takes two.

"The changes will make it very easy to compare district A with district B," he added.

But all Gulf Islands secretary-treasurer Ken Starling could say of the new formula was that the

government has "taken the pot and worked it backwards." The budget for the 1995/96 year, under the new system, would be exactly the same as the \$12.4 million budget for the current year.

Under the new system, the core common grant includes money for the average primary, intermediate, late intermediate and secondary students, money for the average elementary and secondary school and money for the district. The common core grant for the Gulf Islands in 1995/96 will be \$5.5 million.

Specific district grants include money for programs such as career planning and English as a second language. The specific grants also include items such as extra money to run small schools, operations and maintenance of schools and transportation. An educator salaries adjustment would meet the difference between the average provincial teacher's salary and the salaries in any one district; a geographic adjustment is also included for districts which are geographically dispersed. The specific district grant for 1995/96 will be nearly \$3.4 million.

Targeted grants for programs like special needs, special health services, aboriginal education and administration will bring the total budget for 1995/96 to \$12.4 million.

# Youth parliament session confirms Shannon Salter's addiction to politics

"I'm addicted."

That was youth parliamentarian Shannon Salter's conclusion about politics this week after spending five days as a member of the B.C. Youth Parliament (BCYP).

The 16-year-old Salt Spring Island student, who is also premier of the Vancouver Island Youth Parliament, joined 90 other students from around the province last week for the BCYP's 66th session.

They spent five days discussing legislation that ranged from operating an annual summer camp for children to balancing the budget. Funded by individual and corporate grants and contributions by the members themselves, the BCYP has an annual budget of about \$20,000, Salter said.

"It always has a balanced budget," she added.

Salter sat on the opposition side of the parliament, which meets in the provincial legislature in Victoria. One of the debates in which she participated was on a bill to eliminate the regional parliaments. Salter spoke against the resolution, arguing that the regional level provides a useful introduction and training ground for youths who go on to the provincial parliament.

A Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary, where she is a vice-president of the student council, Salter spoke highly of the



Shannon Salter

BCYP and its participants.

"You meet people with the same interests as you and who care about the community."

Their common interests meant long days last week. Salter said she got little more than two to three hours sleep a night as discussions with fellow parliamentarians occupied so much of the time.

Lasting friendships and "quite a few marriages" have formed as a result of the BCYP over the years, she said.

"It really becomes your life."

Salter wants to return as a member next year, and is considering applying to be in the cabinet as

minister responsible for Vancouver Island. She meets requirements for volunteer involvement in local community projects but is thinking about starting a new one anyway.

She would like to create a forum for students to come together and debate a range of issues. What she describes as a youth activist group would research problems, find solutions and present them to government. She sees the process as preferable to staging demonstrations and circulating petitions.

Salter conceded that government wouldn't necessarily listen. "(But) as long as we keep coming up with sound resolutions, someone will eventually take notice."

In a news release from the BCYP, Salter explained her involvement in the youth parliament. "I joined BCYP because I care passionately about politics, debate, community service and youth parliament."

She described the best parts of the week in Victoria as question period, a tour of Government House, debating resolutions and "meeting so many people."

The BCYP is a non-partisan service organization for youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Its aims are to educate youth about the parliamentary system in Canada and to encourage community service.

# Regional board approves grants for island groups

Several grants-in-aid were approved earlier this month by the Capital Regional District board.

On Salt Spring, grants will go to: Salt Spring Community Services Society, \$3,500; Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue Society, \$2,000; Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, \$1,500; Salt Spring community health planning committee, \$600; Salt Spring judo group, \$400.

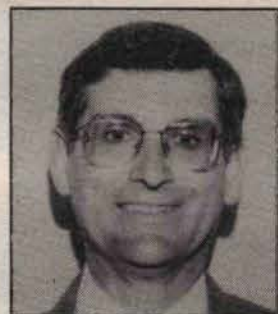
On the Outer Islands, the Saturna Community Club will receive \$700 and the Galiano Chamber of Commerce, \$600.

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*Best Wishes for 1995*

To all my friends, clients, associates, family and fellow Salt Spring Islanders, let us celebrate being fortunate enough to have chosen Salt Spring Island as a place to live and, for some, to downshift. This is, indeed, one of the most beautiful places on earth, let us work together to keep it that way!

FELICITY ANNE GRANT ROBINSON

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537-5515 (24 hrs)



**TAKING THE PLUNGE:** Salt Spring Islanders begin the new year with a swim at Vesuvius beach Sunday. Above right, Jason Metcalfe clutches a cup of hot chocolate while warm

ing up at Vesuvius Inn after doing the polar bear act. Below, Ruth Hume, oblivious to the January weather, finds a comfortable spot to sit on the beach.

Photos by Susan Lundy and Tony Richards



## BATHERS: A bizarre deed on New Year's Day

From Page A1

The reality of that commitment began affecting my sleep during the last few days of 1994.

I listened to weather forecasts with greater-than-usual interest, suppressing a worried frown as the cold snap deepened. I had imagined a benevolent west coast winter's day, with the mercury nudging the 10-degree mark, and a soft drizzle descending to prepare the skin for the watery assault.

I ruminated in the bathtub and shower, trying to imagine what mid-winter ocean water really felt like. I strategized about what to wear in the water, how many towels or blankets to bring to the beach.

People gave little "support" to the endeavour. No one offered to accompany me. The best anyone could do was remind me that the ocean's water temperature does not change much between summer and winter months. Susan Lundy said she would go with me in 1996, if I survived this year.

I was feeling rather lonely, like a fish out of water amid aquaphobic cats.

Then came the final blow to my teetering enthusiasm. During the afternoon of December 31, Tony Richards informed me the swim was at 9 a.m. rather than the usual 11 a.m. or noon I expected. Promising to rush into the ocean in January was one thing, and doing it during a deep-freeze was another, but to do it so shortly after sunrise was surely the ultimate in self-torture.

Not unlike early labour contractions, by 8 p.m. on December 31 I endured a twinge of dread about every 15 minutes.

I awoke to a cold nose and a clear sky, which told me the temperature would be nowhere near 10 degrees Celsius.

"It's a beautiful day, not cold at all, no dampness in the air," my partner remarked cheerily as we marched down the path to our truck. He also speculated that few people would bother with the event at the distasteful hour of 9 a.m.

Maybe it will be cancelled for lack of interest, I mused. Maybe we will have a minor accident on the way to the beach.

As a sign posted at the top of

the stairs to Vesuvius beach indicated, the air was a menacing -1 degree Celsius. Water temperature was measured at six.

My elusive double-digit temperature was also on that sign, noted in last year's conditions, when the air was 12 degrees and the water eight. So much for timing.

At the bottom of the stairs, the tide was high and the water calm. At 8:55 a.m., the frost-slathered beach was crowded with people of all ages. It was difficult to determine how many were planning to take a dip since most were sensibly bundled up. The mood was definitely celebratory and my inflated fears burst and vanished. This was exciting!

Master of ceremonies John Teagle announced that 24 swimmers had signed up and warned everyone to

### I was feeling like a fish out of water amid aquaphobic cats.

get ready. I hurried to remove a sweatshirt, sweater, sweatpants, overpants and two pairs of socks. All I noticed was that the bottoms of my feet were instantly freezing, as if I had propelled them bare into a snowbank. "Hurry up," I muttered.

Everyone took a spot at the water's edge. I asked Linda Dares, who was standing next to me, if she had done this before. Never too late for some advice, I thought. But she too was a novice at the polar bear game.

I heard Teagle shout something that sounded enough like "go" to my ears, although someone watching from shore tells me I jumped the gun a bit.

I ran as fast as possible in the water up to my ribs, the pitch of screaming rising with the water level. Then I saw Dares take an impulsive leap off the ocean bottom and swim. I knew that swimming through the water was what I wanted to do as well.

My whole body hummed with an indescribable sensation. It was an invigorating, unadulterated thrill. It was not "cold." Honestly.

Difficulty catching my breath was the only sign this might not be a suitable form of winter recreation.

I jumped up and down a few times and then noticed a flood of swimmers retreating to shore. Like a lemming, I followed suit, ready to face what I had really feared about the whole business: turning into a chattering ball of ice on the Vesuvius Bay shore, enslaved in wet swimwear and many metres from a source of heat.

In fact, a towel was sufficient buffer from the freezing air, and only my feet began to suffer once on shore again. When they thawed I identified my sole war wound: Beach shell cuts. A potential scar to wave in front of grandchildren.

Not that this first time will be my last. I was so pleasantly surprised, relieved and bowled over by the thrill of it all that I am already anticipating next year's swim.

I am even tempted to make a few practice plunges in between. After all, there are prizes to be won at the January 1 event, like the double honours garnered this year by Vicky Blevins for best costume and staying in the water the longest.

I'll be wishing for a blizzard next January 1, just to make it even more interesting for both veteran swimmers and neophytes, like Susan Lundy.

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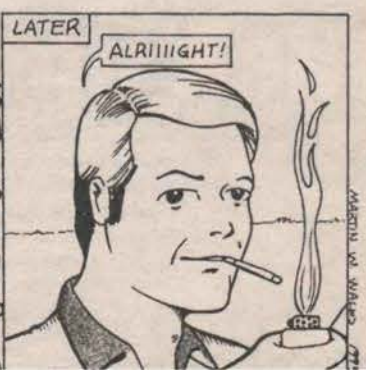
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# Releasing the loon

Tom Hamer turns uninspiring soapstone into piece of art

By REG ASHWELL  
Driftwood Contributor

Salt Spring Island carver Tom Hamer has succeeded in pulling off something of a tour de force with his outstanding sculpture of a swimming loon.

Sculpted from Brazilian soapstone and polished to perfection in rich hues of green and grey, Hamer's version of North America's most beloved of waterfowl exudes a wonderful vitality and charm.

This exciting work of art also serves as a functioning bowl, the carved depth of which has been cleverly concealed on one side by the raised wing of the loon. With its turned head and webbed foot serving as a rudder, the lively bird rotates to the left, thus creating a remarkable impression of animated motion and energy.

The original soapstone from which Tom says he "released" his loon was not, to the layman at least, a particularly inspiring sight in its rough state. A drab, pale grey in colour and with a dismally bleak look to its chalky surface, the one redeeming feature seemed to lie in the shape of the stone, which could, with a generous stretch of the imagination, be said to employ faintly loon-like proportions.

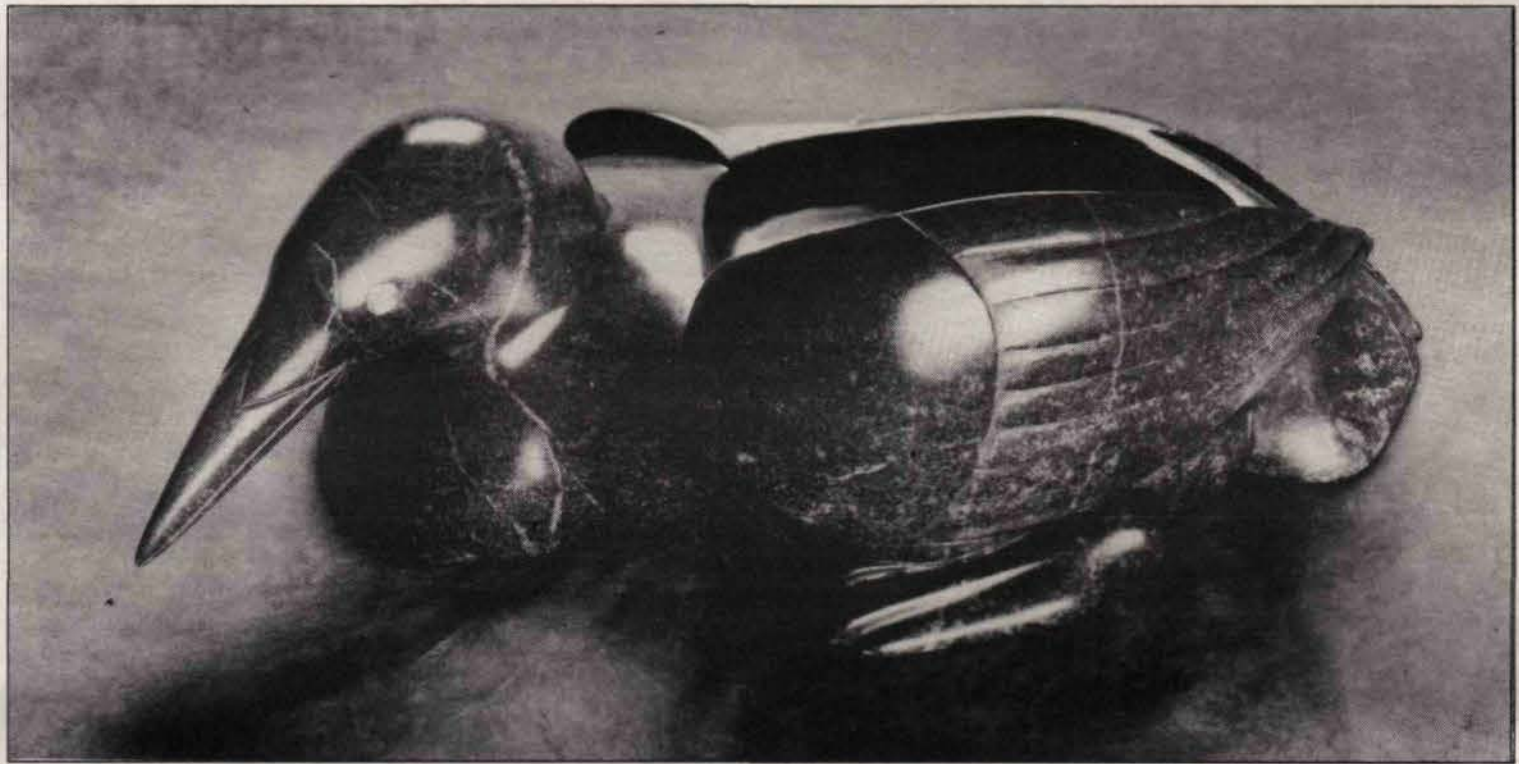
But after closely studying the stone, handling it lovingly, and turning it every which way in his hands, the carver nevertheless envisioned a swimming loon only waiting to be freed from its long imprisonment beneath the structural surface of the soapstone. Finally, Hamer poured a little oil on to the stone and rubbed it in with a finger. Immediately the colour changed, darkening the oiled area to a soft and pleasing patina.

Satisfied at last, the artist quickly donned a protective mask over his nostrils and commenced to chip and chisel away at his chosen piece. Tom utilizes a wide variety of tools he has collected over the years and adapted to suit his carving needs. There is even a set of dental instruments — minuscule chisels of various sizes, for use in hard-to-get-at areas or when fine texturing is required.

Anyone who has not witnessed a stone carver at work cannot have a true understanding of what it takes to create an original work of art in this difficult and exacting medium. With every stroke of the chisel a fine yet dense dust appears, obscuring the sculptor's vision to the extent that he is forever blowing it free of his carving area.

"There is no turning back once you make a serious mistake," says Tom. "Just chisel too deeply or get a little off course in your carving and you may as well start all over again with a different piece of stone and that can prove expensive because soapstone costs money, especially when it's imported all the way from Brazil!"

Watching Tom work is a fascinating experience for the interested layman. The loon literally seems to emerge from the rough stone as the carver presses vigor-



**RELEASED:** Salt Spring artist Tom Hamer has sculpted this graceful loon from a plain lump of Brazilian soapstone. The

piece also has a practical function, as a bowl.

Photo by Janet Dwyer

ously on with his chiseling, pausing only to wipe his sweating brow. He carves with intense concentration and by any standards is a very fast carver.

His mentor, the renowned Inuit master carver and designer Abraham Anghik, has remarked on the amazing speed at which

Hamer learned his craft.

Carving this piece is particularly exacting because Hamer has decided to make the three-dimensional loon a functional bowl. On one side, the raised wing of the swimming bird is inclined to conceal the hollowed out portion of the back, giving the loon a look of realistic completeness, with the bowl in no way taking away from the bird's overall appearance of movement and life.

Tom's finished loon bowl has only the faintest resemblance to the original rough sketch that he drew to guide him. The carver laughingly explains this phenomenon.

"I started off shaping out the piece with my loon drawing as my guide, but almost against my will I found myself responding to new ideas that kept flooding into my mind as I worked and inspiring me to change directions. For example, my sketch has the loon gliding along with folded wings and look-

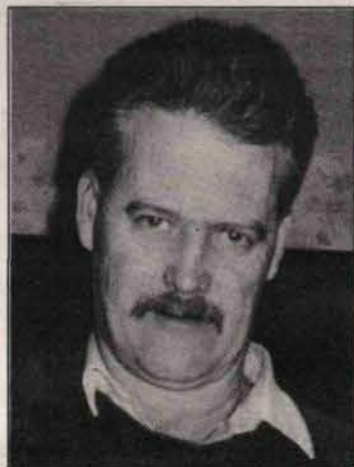
ing directly ahead as if swimming in a straight line.

"But the shape of the stone suggested a curve to the left and I found myself chiseling out a turn of the loon's head in that direction, and then a natural projection of the stone at just the right place became my inspiration for his webbed foot steering the loon into his turn. As for the raised wing, the stone was higher on the left side in its natural state and the

wing was just outlined there for me to uncover."

So ends the saga of how an imported chunk of Brazilian rock came to symbolize a swimming loon. Of course, as the carver points out, the loon was always there, trapped inside the stone. It just needed to be released, that's all!

The sculptural art of Tom Hamer can be seen at the Pegasus Gallery on Salt Spring.



Tom Hamer

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# Plan review continues with more in series of workshops

Should cats be banned on Salt Spring? Should the entire island be clear-cut and covered with blacktop to simplify car traffic and make room for the largest mall west of Edmonton? Should all zoning and building regulations be eliminated and every project built to the whim of the builder?

According to Official Community Plan (OCP) environmental focus group member Virginia Newman, those were some of the tongue-in-cheek ideas tossed out at the group's last meeting before Christmas.

But the group also wants to discuss more serious proposals with residents at a meeting slated for January 26 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. The meeting is part of the ongoing work on Salt Spring's Official Community Plan and is one of four community plan meetings scheduled this month.

First on the agenda is a Trust-sponsored, January 17 workshop on local agriculture. Entitled Local Agriculture — Are We Helping or Hindering?, the Tuesday evening workshop hopes to examine how local zoning laws impact on Salt Spring farms. Other issues to be addressed by the workshop include handling poor farm land in the Agriculture Land Reserve, good farm land outside the land reserve, the number of residences to be allowed on farms and how to prevent fragmentation of good farmland.

All of the Tuesday, Trust-sponsored workshops will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Anglican Centre.

A week later, on January 24, a workshop will be held on protecting the local water supply. Questions to be posed include the measures now being taken to protect groundwater and surface water from pollution, the allocation of water, the implications of not allocating water adequately and the allowable growth within existing water districts.

On January 26, the environmental focus group will hold its public meeting, also from 7 to 10 p.m.

The group has met since last summer and now wants to share some of its ideas with the public and to invite comments. Newman says debate among focus group members has produced a wide range of proposals.

"The most damaging thing that a citizen can do is to assume that she or he does not possess the power to build the kind of community she or he wants," Newman observed. The focus group is hoping for a good turnout of residents to discuss environmental issues on Salt Spring.

The final workshop this month will be held January 31. Entitled Preserving Special Parts of Salt Spring, it will try to identify special features which need to be preserved.

Old buildings, trees, views, Garry oak stands, bogs and estuaries are possible features which residents may want to discuss preserving.

Four OCP workshops are planned for February. On February 7, sharing of the island's shoreline will be discussed. Parkland and recreation facilities form the topic for a February 14 discussion while commuters from Salt Spring will have a chance to discuss their issues on February 21. All of

these meetings will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Anglican Centre, Ganges.

The future of the Fulford Harbour village is to be debated February 28. The location of this workshop has not yet been set but

Trust planner Linda Adams says it will occur on the south end.

More workshops are expected to be scheduled throughout the spring. For more information, contact the Islands Trust's Ganges office at 537-9144.

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**STAR TREK: GENERATIONS:** Trekkies will flock to see Jean-Luc and James T. appearing in the same dimension on celluloid. Lots of familiar faces, some older than others, appropriate space jokes, and special effects to fight aliens and save the universe. Mature, occasional violence and suggestive language. Friday to Monday, 8:45 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

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| 2. Maverick .....(1)            | 7. Spanking the Monkey (10)    |
| 3. Little Buddha .....(9)       | 8. Lassie .....(5)             |
| 4. Wyatt Earp .....(8)          | 9. Wagons East ..... (-)       |
| 5. Land Before Time II .....(-) | 10. Three Colours White ...(-) |

### On Tap at the Pubs

- MOBY'S** .....Wednesday Night Live, Jan. 11, 9 p.m.  
.....Ray Newman Quartet, Jan. 8
- HARBOUR HOUSE (Pub)** .....The Bellheads, Jan. 6, 7
- HARBOUR HOUSE (Lounge)** .....Karaoke, Jan. 6, 7

### Community TV Schedule

- Jan. 5, 6 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 3
- Jan. 5, 7:45 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 4
- Jan. 7, 3 p.m. ....Keep Fit
- Jan. 7, 3:30 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 3
- Jan. 7, 4:45 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 4
- Jan. 10, 11 a.m. ....Keep Fit
- Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 5
- Jan. 10, 1:15 p.m. ....Islands Trust workshop 6

# Harding was born on fishboat while en route to Ganges hospital

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

There are few people who can say they have lived surrounded by water for as long as Mary Harding, who died December 22 at Ganges. Harding was born on her father's fishboat between Galiano and Salt Spring islands in the summer of 1925, while en route to Lady Minto Hospital.

She was born a Georgeson, a name associated with the Outer Islands like few others. Henry "Scotty" Georgeson came to Galiano Island shortly after the Fraser River goldrush of 1858. From its opening in 1885 until the 1920s, Georgeson was light-keeper at Mayne Island's Georgina Point Lighthouse. Maintaining the family interest in the sea, Mary Harding's father was a fisherman.

Harding herself was a long-standing member of several Galiano organizations, including the Lionettes, the Galiano Club and the local church, where she sang in the choir. In fact, niece

Mary Wilson said she used to sing at people's weddings too.

"Her voice was really nice," she said.

But Mary Harding will also be remembered for being the voice of Galiano Island for years. She wrote columns — social columns really — for various newspapers. This was in the early 1960s and 1970s.

**She was born a Georgeson, a name associated with the Outer Islands like few others.**

She was correspondent for the Gulf Islands Driftwood and the Sidney Review as well as Vancouver and Victoria daily papers. Wilson remembered that her aunt would meet the old CPR boat at the government dock to see who was coming off and who was going on. She would report on any and every island activity.

"She was interested in anything that was going on," she said.

Former Driftwood editor and publisher Frank Richards recalled Harding's ability to report on Galiano's "island colour." She wrote a social column, something which was common in those days even in the big-city papers. "She did it excellently," Richards said.

Harding took her job as community reporter seriously. Wilson recalls a trip to Ottawa where Harding attended a seminar on just the kind of work she was doing. Harding was also involved in the B.C. branch of the Canadian Women's Press Club, Richards said.

Mary Harding was married first to Andrew Backlund. By 1975 she had divorced and was remarried to another Galiano Islander, Roy Harding. They moved to Salt Spring a few years ago.

There was no funeral service for Harding, but a memorial service is being planned.


## Directors' remuneration up 1.6%; Campbell, Luth will get \$12,900

Gulf Islands directors at the Capital Regional District (CRD) board are getting a 1.6 per cent increase in their remuneration.

Salt Spring director Dietrich Luth and Outer Islands director Jacques Campbell will get \$12,900 for their work at the CRD. The figure is made up of \$8,600 in wages and a \$4,300 expense allowance. Last year, they earned \$8,467 in wages and could claim up to \$4,233 in expenses.

Chairman Frank Leonard will be paid \$15,600 in 1995. The three electoral area directors will receive \$12,900 and the other 12 directors, \$6,800. In addition to the wage and expense allowance, Outer Island director Jacques Campbell will earn a maximum \$55 for each general municipal services operations committee meeting she attends, because she is vice-chairwoman of that committee.

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# Roundtable report proposes 'holistic approach' to plan

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

Should Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP) review pave the way for a sustainable future on the island?

According to a just-released report by the Sustainable Salt Spring Community Roundtable, achieving sustainability will require sweeping changes on the island. The report is timed to tie in with debate on Salt Spring's OCP revision and contains a series of recommendations leading to a sustainable future.

Envisioned in the report is a Salt Spring of 2025 where most needs, from crops to clothing, are produced on-island.

"One of the first things a visitor notices on Salt Spring Island is how interwoven the economy is with the environment and the social aspects of life. This holistic approach was adopted in the mid-90s, when islanders decided to incorporate sustainability concepts into their Official Community Plan," the report's visionary opening states.

In this imaginary future, homes are built from rammed earth, earth berms, bricks and/or stone and are designed to utilize solar and thermal heat. Sewage is treated in solar aquatic plants and the resulting sludge is used as compost. Gray water is recycled to irrigate gardens.

The 20,000 residents live in high-density villages, which leave 98 per cent of the island as green space or undeveloped land. Much of it is used for agriculture or sustainable forestry. A railway system and bicycle paths connect the villages, so relatively few residents use private automobiles.

In this visionary future "the people of Salt Spring have had to learn to live with fewer material comforts than they once enjoyed but other comforts have replaced them. And people have to occasionally put aside their own desires for the good of the community and the environment."

Even the form of government has changed, with residents from teens to seniors taking part in community decision making through citizen initiatives, referenda, conferences, meetings, workshops and polls. The elected officials have become facilitators who carry out the wishes of residents instead of decision makers.

That was the ideal future envisioned by the 17 members of the roundtable during a series of meetings which started in the spring of

1993. Their 42-page discussion paper touches on protecting land and green spaces, transportation, energy, agriculture, forestry, construction, waste management, water, air quality, the economy, housing, health and education.

Among the report's observations are:

- A sustainable community would enable everyone to participate in and influence their own future. It would be a place where food, water, shelter, health care, education and employment are available to all.

- Surface transportation on Salt Spring should use as little land area as possible, serve clusters of settlements efficiently, include a network of bike/pedestrian/horse trails through park land corridors connecting villages, harmonize with the quiet, rural to semi-rural, leisurely lifestyle desired by islanders.

### Achieving sustainability will require sweeping changes.

- Farm-hand homes on agricultural land would also help farmers to offset the high costs of farming by allowing them to provide accommodation as part of the wages paid to farm workers.

- The rising price of land and housing has been forcing out many people who have grown up here or who supply services to residents. The net effect will ultimately be a collapse of the island's capacity to serve the remaining residents.

- Most of us would prefer to buy organic, locally grown food for our families but high costs keep us buying commercial produce.

- Community or cooperatively owned land would be stewarded by those people living on that land. And clusters would increase opportunities for sharing equipment, infrastructure, fellowship and expertise.

To achieve the ideal future, the report concluded with 64 recommendations. One of the first was amending the mandate of the Islands Trust to encourage sustainability by calling on the Trust to "preserve and protect" the island for current and future residents.

The report also calls for establishment of a sustainable planning review board, including a member designated to speak for future generations. This board would be supported by a small staff and empow-

ered to approve, disapprove or require modifications to proposed construction projects, logging, economic activities, draining of wetlands, pond and stream modification and chemical applications.

Other recommendations were:

- To restrict development and prohibit the use of pesticides, herbicides or hazardous chemicals in sensitive areas, including agricultural or forest lands.

- To require new developments to preserve 60-foot-wide nature corridors which will be used for hiking and biking trails through developed areas.

- To provide incentives to land owners who restore land to its natural state or who preserve land in its natural state.

- To give information on Salt Spring's community goals and on land stewardship to current and new land owners on the island.

- To reduce commuting by changing zoning to allow light industrial or commercial next to residential.

- Require developers to reserve 10 to 20 per cent of suitable land for low-cost housing alternatives, including mobile homes and yurts.

- To establish sustainable building size guidelines and encourage multi-family clustered dwellings, cooperative housing, affordable housing and seniors housing.



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# Laughing Valley

Summer's harvest becomes winter's bounty for couple

By GRAEME THOMPSON  
Driftwood Staff

Mother Nature's preservative is the wind. That is something Salt Spring Islanders Jean-Claude Catry and Ingrid Bauer have discovered in the Burgoyne Valley this summer. They have been drying pounds and pounds of food for the winter. And some of it is for sale.

The cupboards in the small house they share are lined with glass jars: large jars for dried whole bananas and strips of fish; medium-sized ones for pears and plums, sliced, whole or halved; smaller ones for desiccated, brightly coloured raspberries, blackberries and thimbleberries.

For Catry, drying food began as a means of ensuring fresh food during the winter. Over the years, salting, pickling, freezing and trucks and trains from California have replaced drying as a means of preserving food. Catry, however, has returned to a natural, slow-method dry preserving because of a diet which prescribes only raw or dried food.

He calls this diet "instinctive nutrition." He eats when hungry and until he is satisfied. He insists he is not a gourmand, and his tall and slim figure bears this out.

"The pleasure of eating is a natural law," Catry explained. "If it smells good, if it tastes good, it is good to eat it. That is the instinctive way."

The process of drying food changes the flavour of it, he said. Moreover, food tastes good when he is hungry and begins to taste less good when he is not. The body knows instinctively, Catry said, when it has had sufficient and it tells him so in this way.

But this particular balance between hunger and satisfaction only works when food is not artificially forced to grow with fertilizers and pesticides or processed with chemicals. Food must be eaten as Nature gave it: fresh or slow-dried.

Catry and Bauer both know how to find fresh food, especially organic food. And friends and neighbours invite them to pick fruit from trees which would otherwise not be harvested at all. But drying food for the winter was a technique they both had to learn. Their Laughing Valley label is the result of their experiments.

Catry made a special box, like a large cupboard, with rows of shal-

low wooden trays inside. The shelves are lined with wire mesh on which the fruit or vegetable or fish is laid out. The box is put in the middle of a field. Three sides unfold like wings to catch the wind and guide it through the box, which is screened to prevent bugs getting in. The warmth of the sun and the warm breeze dry the food slowly — it never gets as hot as 40 degrees Celsius.

The reason the temperature must be kept below 40 degrees, Catry said, is to preserve the food's natural enzymes and vitamins. When water is removed from food slowly, without reaching 40 degrees, the enzymes become dormant. When enzymes come into contact with water again — in saliva — they reacti-

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vate.

Commercial drying "cooks" food, Catry said. The natural sugars in fruit, for instance, turn to caramel, which gives most dried fruit its high energy kick.

Fruit and meat dried at these low temperatures are not available in stores anywhere. That is why Catry and Bauer started drying their own food.

They started by harvesting what was growing in their garden: apples, pears, currants, blackberries. They ventured further into the woods to find thimbleberries and other wild fruits. People who have old orchards run wild would invite them to harvest what they liked.

"There is too much hunger in the world," Catry said. "So when I see an old tree loaded down with

apples, I want to harvest them and dry them for later."

They have dried all the usual island fruits: prune-plums, pears and many old varieties of apple, including King, Russet and Gravenstein. But they have tried drying many other kinds of food as well.

Thimbleberries are difficult to dry because they are so delicate. Dried grapes taste better when they have their seeds — they have a "crunchy texture." Bananas are the only thing Catry and Bauer do not harvest themselves, though they are still organically grown.

Most of the food is dried whole, the smaller berries especially. Apples and pears are sliced. Fish and meat is cut into strips. Nothing is peeled, except the bananas. Vitamins and enzymes which are so valuable are in the skin and core, Catry said. So it is all dried together.

"The fruit has to be healthy," Catry said. "Sometimes it has to be dried for eight days. If it is not healthy it will rot."

"It's got to be ripe when it is dried," Bauer added. "If it's not good to eat then, it won't be good to eat dry."

So they have to go back to the same tree or bush day after day to harvest only the "first-quality fruit." When they have picked the food, they lay it out in the drier. Through experimentation, and watching what happens in Nature, they have learned that whole fruit will not often overheat in the sun, but sliced fruit will.

Plums take eight days to dry in their wind-driven drier. Sliced apples take 24 hours. Blackberries take the longest at 12 days. The fruit must also be rotated around the shelves and the temperature inside must be monitored. At night a small electric heater is put into the box to keep the dew off.

The Christmas craft fair season was the first chance islanders had to see the fruits of Catry's and Bauer's summer labours, when Laughing Valley products were offered for sale.



**WINTER TREAT:** Ingrid Bauer and Jean-Claude Catry have the choice of a cupboardful of dried food this winter after drying everything from apples to fish.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

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