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Driftwood

Gulf Islands

Wednesday, May 24, 1995 Vol. 36, No. 21

Your Community Newspaper

GANGES, B.C. \$1.00 (incl. GST)

Tanker called to fight Cape Keppel blaze

Up to four acres of Crown land near the Cape Keppel Ecological Reserve was damaged by fire Sunday night, bringing local and off-island firefighters plus an Abbotsford air tanker to the scene.

The fire was reported Sunday night about 5 p.m. and brought the local fire warden, a nearby property owner and two Salt Spring fire trucks to the mountainside.

Because the fire was outside the jurisdiction of the Salt Spring Island fire district, the provincial Ministry of Forests fire fighting team for the Duncan protection zone was called in. Three firefighters came in by helicopter from Duncan and three from Campbell River to battle the blaze.

An air tanker from Abbotsford made several passes and dropped ammonium phosphate fire retardant on the area to subdue the fire.

Cause of the blaze has been attributed to a campfire.

Ferry overloads plague busy weekend travellers

Getting to and from the Gulf Islands this past weekend was an exercise in patience.

Overloads plagued the entire system, particularly on Saturday and Monday for those attempting to reach Salt Spring from Swartz Bay and then return home.

The worst overloads occurred at the Fulford terminal Monday afternoon. Each of the 3:45 p.m. and the 5:15 p.m. sailings left 100 vehicles behind.

An extra sailing by the Mayne Queen at 6:05 p.m. still left 60 cars behind and the 6:45 p.m. sailing from Fulford by the Bowen Queen left two cars at the terminal. The final sailing Monday was full but there was no overload.

Business was also brisk at the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, which reported 400 visitors to the information centre and fielded 170 phone calls. Almost all accommodation was booked, leading one volunteer to put up two young people over night.

"The island was absolutely full on Saturday night and Sunday night," chamber manager Jeremy Moray said.

Ferry overloads started early, with the first reported Thursday when the 9:55 a.m. Tsawwassen to Long Harbour sailing left seven vehicles behind. The ferry was full for the rest of Thursday and Friday but there were no overloads.

An overload occurred again Saturday for the 9:25 a.m. sailing, when an unprecedented 687 foot passengers boarded the ferry.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday, there were no further overloads but there were several delays caused by full sailings.

On Monday, the 4 p.m. sailing left eight vehicles behind at Long Harbour and 10 behind at Otter Bay.

The Vesuvius - Crofton route was busy throughout the weekend but no major overloads were reported.

Swartz Bay to Fulford was busy Friday afternoon and evening. Despite an extra sailing by the Mayne Queen — which was delayed due to mechanical problems — the route still left vehicles behind twice on Friday.

On Saturday, the 11:45 a.m. sailing to Fulford left 78 vehicles behind in Swartz Bay. At 3 p.m., 45 vehicles were left behind in Swartz Bay. There were a few vehicles left behind Sunday morning but by later Sunday and Monday, travellers to Salt Spring had clear sailing.

Travellers leaving Salt Spring were not so fortunate. By the 11 a.m. sailing Monday, the Bowen Queen had left 25 vehicles behind. By mid-afternoon, the overloads peaked at 100 vehicles, which were not completely cleared until the late evening sailings.

On the Gulf Islands run, the Queen of Cumberland exceeded its passenger license for one sailing Monday, resulting in 20 foot passengers being left behind.

Tuesday morning was also busy, suggesting that some people had delayed their departure.



Spirited sailors dash to finish

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

At one point a school of jellyfish passed us. And coming around Southey Point, against the tide, we actually went backwards.

Like the Ancient Mariner becalmed for months on end, most of the fleet in the Round Salt Spring Race were dead in the water for hours Saturday afternoon and late into the night.

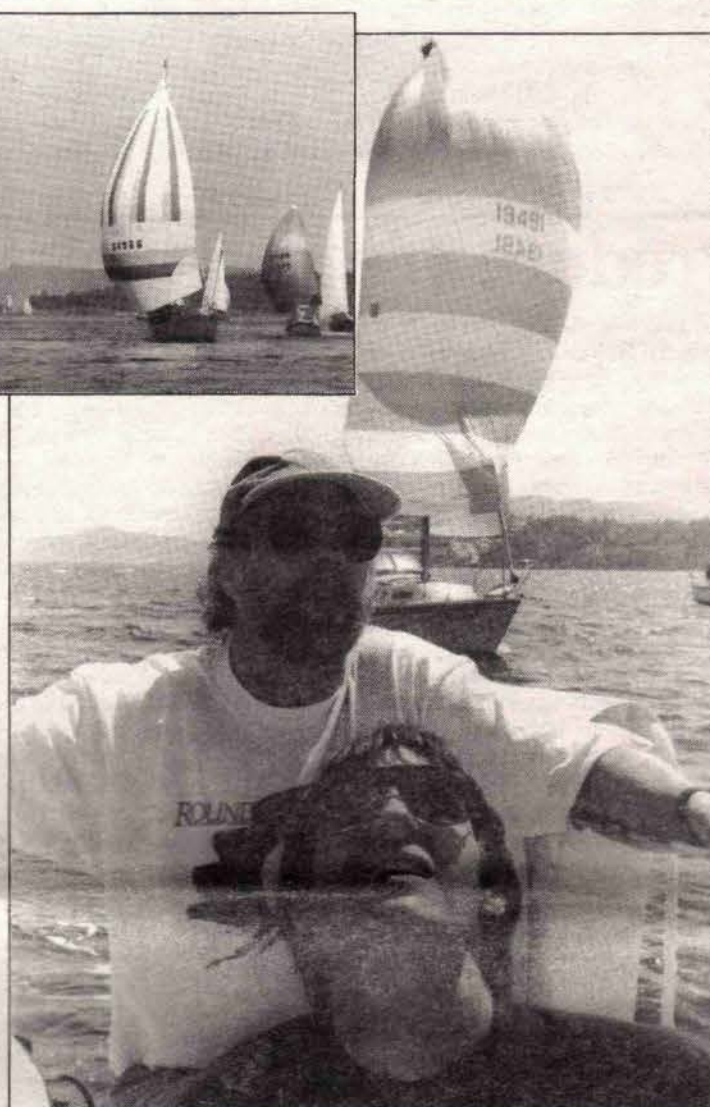
But the race was good, for all that. A record 60 boats took part this year, due to greater advertising by Roger Kibble and organization by fleet captain racing, Kevin Vine.

The sleek Merlin, a Santa Cruz 70 from the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, impressed everyone in Ganges Harbour as it fairly flew out ahead with its two huge sails. The fastest boat in the race by a long shot, it finished just after 1 a.m. but was disqualified for going around Grappler Rock the wrong way.

Another fast boat, Rain Warrior from Bowen Island ran into trouble on the west side of the island and at about midnight, the crew could be heard banging at the tiller with "anything that looks like a hammer." Rain Warrior did not finish the race.

A light wind greeted sailors at the 10 a.m. Saturday start. Spinnakers were up by the time the boats neared the Channel Islands.

What colours: candy stripes,



CLOSE RACING: Boats in the Round Salt Spring Race close in on Cape Keppel, providing some exhilarating tacking across bows. Here, Deryn Mor's skipper Kevin Vine, behind, and John Cameron watch the sails closely for the right moment to change direction. Above left, spinnakers are raised on most of the fleet as it leaves Ganges Harbour Saturday morning.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

Greek-like blue and white stripes, a Maltese cross on a yellow field, a yellow and black star. Against a bright blue sky and green-fir shores, it made for a pretty picture from Ganges Harbour all the way down to Beaver Point.

The wind stayed with the fleet as it headed south and west.

I joined Kevin Vine and crew members Jim Taylor and John Cameron on Deryn Mor. There was much jibing (changing the spinnaker from port to starboard) as the wind changed direction, or rather as the boat changed direction around the island. The spinnaker came down as the jib went up and then the jib came down

as the spinnaker went up. And then they changed again.

It got a bit choppy near Cape Keppel. The rolling was fun as we scrambled from one side of the boat to the other. Not every boat seemed to be partaking of this particular excitement, I noticed.

Winds dropped to three knots heading north towards Maple Bay and Sansum Narrows. Then a tug boat towing a log boom divided the fleet. Some made the decision to pass it to the west. Most chose to veer east. Disaster struck as their sails flattened. Deryn Mor was one of a handful

SAILING A2

Beaver Point Hall is now off-limits to some island bands

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Young people on the island and the bands they like to hear are being locked out of Beaver Point Hall due to a new policy adopted by the hall committee, says Salt Spring musician David Jacquest.

A member of Pogo and the Carrot Revolution, Jacquest grew up going to dances at the hall and now finds he cannot book the hall for his own band.

"When we were growing up, that's where all the summer dances were," Jacquest said,

adding that the hall has the best acoustics on the island. Events in the hall also have a special atmosphere, he noted. "There's just a whole, funky crowd at the south end of the island who tend to show up."

When he first called last fall about renting the hall, Jacquest said he was told the rental policy was being revised. Then he found he was unable to book it. Two other young people tried to talk to the committee about renting the hall and were "stonewalled," Jacquest said.

"We did kind of feel it was because of our age."

Pogo and the Carrot Revolution draws a younger crowd and Jacquest understood from the hall committee that there had been problems with young people partying outside the hall, leaving beer bottles behind and doing some minor damage.

"I guess they had some show last summer with an off-island band. The hall was blatantly oversold," Jacquest added. He understood there had been some minor damage to the hall.

Doug Rhodes of the Beaver Point Hall Committee confirmed that overcrowding at some events sparked the restrictions on rentals.

"There's been a lot of events that are actually too big for the hall," Rhodes explained. An event is too big when there are as many people outside partying as there are inside the hall, he added.

Performances by off-island reggae bands have created some of the problems. The bands are popular with islanders and also tend to bring a following from off-island. "It's just too many people."

Cars are parked on streets throughout the area and the noise disturbs nearby residents.

He cited the recent Celtic Festival as the type of event which is appropriate for the hall. Although it drew off-island visitors, the event was spread over two days and was relatively small.

"I don't think they had that large a crowd on the Saturday night (performance)."

By contrast, some other events have drawn large crowds. "They

HALL RENTAL A3

Galiano Trust gives controversial OCP third reading

A controversial Official Community Plan which recommends minimum 50 acre lot sizes on forest land was given third reading by the Galiano Trust Committee, despite objections by the Galiano Ratepayers' Association.

The Official Community Plan is now awaiting Ministry of Municipal Affairs approval.

Resident Frank Hillier said an earlier attempt to downzone forest land from 20 acre to 50 acre lots sparked the formation of the Galiano Ratepayers' Association.

A past president of the association, he said the first attempt to increase lot sizes on forest land to 50 acres led to a successful

court challenge by MacMillan Bloedel. That decision is being appealed by the Islands Trust.

Hillier said he is not personally affected by the lot size reduction but feels it is unfair of the Trust Committee to recommend downzoning the lots. Many of the forest zone lots have already been subdivided into 20-acre lots, he noted.

The downzoning is supported by the Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA).

"It's an issue that is based on the rights of private property owners on Galiano," ratepayers'

association president Irene Frith said. "The GCA wants to prevent property owners from subdividing their property into 20-acre lots, under a zoning regulation that has been in existence for

"The GCA wants to prevent property owners from subdividing their property into 20-acre lots, under a zoning regulation that has been in existence for quite a number of years..."

quite a number of years... They want to hold private landowners hostage and essentially close down the island to people who wish to buy land here."

Frith noted subdivision per-

mits given to private landowners are being challenged by the GCA. The ratepayers responded early this month by filing for intervenor status in the dispute.

At a public hearing on the official community plan earlier this month, Hillier said approximately half of the 170 people present opposed the downzoning of forest land in the official community plan. Owners fear approval of the official community plan will be followed by bylaws which will downzone their property.

Trustee Diane Cragg confirmed that Galiano Trust Committee wants zoning on the

island to match the recommended zoning in the official community plan. "It's certainly our intention to bring in a land use bylaw which would bring all land into compliance," she said.

The importance of forest land on the island was illustrated by one change made to the official community plan before third reading. A statement that "the importance of forest cover" be one of the criteria directing land use policy in forest zones was changed to include all zones on the island.

"I continue to believe that the objectives in the forest section are best served by a policy that maintains large lot sizes," Cragg said.

Produce vendors may feel squeeze

Produce may vie with pottery for scarce space in the Centennial Park market later this summer, unless some solution is found to the demand for market space.

Last Saturday, the busiest to date in the market, coordinator Nori Outerbridge estimated 110 vendors showed up on Saturday morning. All 100 spots in the main area of the market were filled and the remaining 10 vendors were placed in the paved parking area next to Centennial Park.

Last Thursday Outerbridge met with produce vendors interested in selling in the weekly market. Ten potential sellers attended the meeting, which was held in the school board office.

They would like to see the parking side of the park reserved for a farmers market, with farmers given until 10 a.m. to arrive and claim their spots. This would allow them time to get up and pick their produce before coming to the market.

The parking area was being reserved for a farmers market until the April Parks and Recreation

Commission meeting, when a motion was passed directing the coordinator to open the area to other vendors as required.

Produce vendors want that parking space reserved until 10 a.m. Non-produce vendors must arrive by 8:30 a.m. to claim their space. If no space is available in the main area, the motion directs the market coordinators to open the parking area to the overflow, probably shortly after 8:30 p.m.

"I have to get some direction to see how we're going to implement this," Outerbridge said. She predicts demand for market space will increase, especially during long weekends and in July and August.

Few produce growers participate in the market at this point but their numbers will increase later in the season.

Outerbridge expects the issue will have to go back to the Parks and Recreation Commission or to the Market Advisory Committee so a solution can be found before a problem develops.

RACE: 60 boats compete

From Page A1

which went to the west and sailed on ahead of much of its class C competition, including Minke, crewed by women, whom we could hear talking and shouting and making other sailor-like noises across the log boom.

"It was a dog around the log boom," Minke crew member Wendy Vine said. "We went the wrong way. You wait until you get there and then you realize it was the wrong decision."

Sailing is about taking chances. Choosing to go a little further out, or a little closer in, around an islet to the west or to the east may bring a vessel ahead of others in a stronger wind, or leave it behind in a hole. Since Salt Spring is filled with more holes than a Swiss cheese, guesswork is important. Or just lucky.

The winds died down after Erskine Point. Spirit Dancer, Whisper and Louis Renaud's Buckshot — Deryn Mor's nemesis — pulled ahead in the light winds. Deryn Mor's crew watched

the sun go down over Sly Fox and thought about dinner and a pint at Vesuvius Inn. We ate chicken dinners and watched jellyfish swim by instead.

Getting to and past Southey Point was a time-consuming problem. The tide was against the fleet and there was little wind. Saorsa's skipper, Lawrie Neish, recalled dropping anchor while waiting for the tide and offering at least one other boat a "cup of Earl Grey."

Buckshot crew member Serge Landry recalled Southey Point favourably.

"We were coming around Southey Point about 1 a.m. and put the spinnaker up. We couldn't hear a thing," he said. "It was quiet, like after a snowstorm. What a rush."

Then they watched a big orange

half moon come up over Mayne Island.

"There's nowhere else in the world you can do this kind of stuff."

Fellow crew member Gordon Singbeil thought the best part of that long, slow slog down Trincomali was when skipper Louis Renaud made rum and hot chocolate for everyone about 3 a.m.

The excitement picked up about 4:30 a.m. when the bulk of the fleet found itself at the head of Ganges Harbour, the result of an off-shore wind. The boats which were closest in to Long Harbour — Deryn Mor and Saorsa — snuck ahead of the others at first. A bright morning sky, good fresh winds and some magnificent tacking back and forth brought the race to a suitable, exciting finish.

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The Driftwood incorrectly reported there were 180 volunteers at Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary thrift shop. That is the number of members in the auxiliary and not the number of volunteers in the shop.

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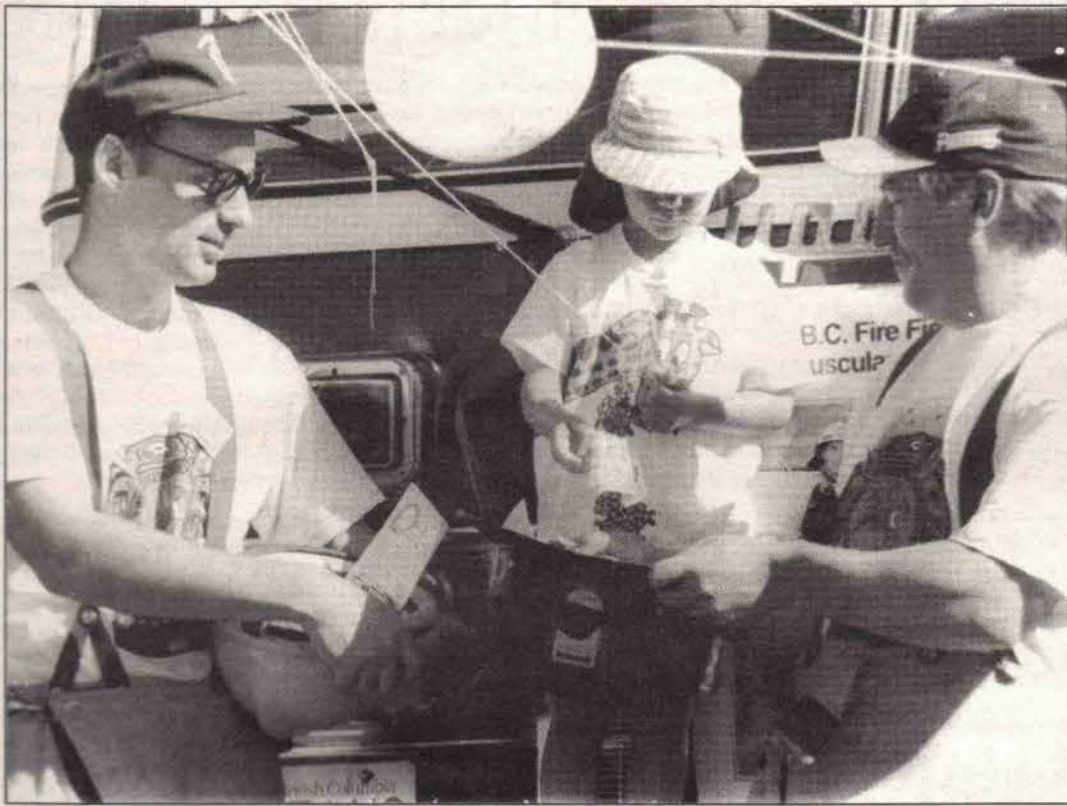
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Raising funds

Firefighters Jim Buckley (left) and Todd McIntyre collect donation from young Alex Daigneau. Local firefighters staged their annual fundraising campaign for Muscular Dystrophy last weekend at various island locations.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

HALL RENTAL: Some bands prohibited

From Page A1

have Woodstock over there." The remote location of the hall adds to its appeal, Rhodes said. "They like it here because it is unsupervised — it's the old hippie, boogie hall."

Under the new policy, the committee will only rent to local people and will only allow events which will not strain the hall's 120-person capacity. Rhodes pointed out the hall is a community facility and is operated and maintained by volunteers.

"It's our little hall — what happens to it is up to us," he said.

He is aware that Pogo and the Carrot Revolution wants to book the hall but fears the band will draw more people than the hall can handle. If a large group of young people start "moshing," the floor of the hall bounces six inches, Rhodes added. Sometimes, exuberant teens end up all over the neighbourhood, he noted.

But the committee still wants to provide events for young people and is now planning a youth dance for the July 1 weekend, Rhodes said.

"I'm sure they have some legitimate concerns," Jacquest remarked. To allay the committee's fears, Jacquest offered to set up security. He was able to get endorsements from some "high profile" people in the community, thanks in part to the band's performances for fundraising and community events over the past few years.

But nothing helped. "They wouldn't rent it to us," Jacquest said.

Yet he expects the band will be playing in the hall in a few weeks, along with another band which has booked the hall. He wonders if the only way a young band will be able to use the hall will be in tandem with an older band, which does the actual booking.

"Maybe what we should do is get one of our older friends to book the hall." He estimates there are 20 young musicians who are unable to book Beaver Point Hall under the current restrictions.

Fortunately, he notes other halls are still available. Pogo and the Carrot Revolution booked Mahon Hall for a dance in April.

Approximately 100 people turned out to the event, which featured Pogo and the Carrot Revolution and another youth band, Plan Nine.

"There wasn't any rowdy types at all," Jacquest said. The band invited the police to drop by and also set up their own security. "We've never had any violence at any of our shows," Jacquest added.

He'd like to see some younger people on the Beaver Point Hall committee. The hall is part of the island culture and should be more readily available to younger bands, he said. "I think it's a shame to cut out one age group. Most of the young people are reasonable."

Incorporation and roads among items on agenda

Municipal incorporation within the Islands Trust, a workshop on natural protection, a road standards agreement with the Ministry of Highways, growth management and bylaw enforcement are among the topics to be discussed at the next meeting of the Islands Trust Council.

The meeting will be held at the Agricultural Hall, Miner's Bay, Mayne Island, on June 8, 9 and 10. Sessions start at 9:30 a.m. Thursday and conclude at noon Saturday and

are open to the public.

Those wishing to address Trust Council or present petitions should contact the secretary of the Islands Trust in order to be placed on the agenda. The name and address of the speaker or speakers and the subject of the presentation should be given to the secretary by 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 5.

Contact the secretary by writing to the Islands Trust, 2nd Floor, 1627 Ford Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8 or fax a message to 387-4047.

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Composite drawings usually a close or identical match

Composite sketches can make the victim of a crime cry because they are so real, says RCMP artist Const. Gerry Peters.

Peters does about 35 sketches a year. He came to Salt Spring last week to sit with the nine-year-old victim of an incident on North End Road and sketch the man police would most like to question.

Composite sketches are usually done for serious crimes, Peters said and are as useful to police as they are to the general public. Police officers who have a general description of a suspect on paper are less likely to recognize a possible match on the street. The words "wavy hair" or "five o'clock

shadow" mean different things to different people, he said.

A picture is worth a thousand words and shows police and the public exactly what the victim remembered of the suspect.

Composite sketches can only be done in certain cases, Peters explained, such as when the victim says he or she would recognize the individual again. The witness also needs to be able to describe the suspect clearly, and be able to recognize any distinguishing fea-

tures such as ear-rings or marks on the face.

Working with children is sometimes more difficult and sometimes more easy, he said.

He explains the process very carefully and

the whole process takes about an hour and a half. The artist starts with a sketch book, originally developed by the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, which contains many different head elements: shapes of the face, eyes, noses, ears, hair.

Peters then asks the victim questions

about different parts of the face and draws them out on a blank piece of paper. As the features unfold, he can go back and change features that do not quite look right. At the end, he said, there is a good likeness of the suspect. In the cases which have led to convictions, he said the composite sketches have been "identical or a very close resemblance" to the suspect.

"We've had a lot of success with them," he said.

Anyone with information pertaining to this particular sketch should phone Ganges RCMP immediately.

As the features unfold, he can go back and change features that do not quite look right.



WANTED: Islanders who have any information about a man who looks like this police sketch should contact Ganges RCMP.

Local RCMP checking 40 tips on enticement

Ganges RCMP have received 40 tips about the incident last Friday when a young girl was enticed off North End Road by a man.

A composite sketch of the man police would like to question appears in the Driftwood today (Wednesday), was published in the Times-Colonist Friday and was sent to Fernwood School last week. The sketch has also appeared at various places around the island.

Police are following up each of the tips, Ganges RCMP Sergeant Lorne Bunyan said Tuesday. There have been no arrests to date.

Bunyan would not reveal many more details of the case than he did last week, saying that doing so might jeopardize the investigation. He reiterated that the incident did not involve any physical contact, that there was no exposure of the victim or the perpetrator and that it was "basically a verbal situation."

Bunyan added that the young girl was intimidated into leaving the main road and going down a small lane off North End Road, but he would not say how that intimidation was accomplished.

The investigation is continuing through the efforts of every member of the Ganges RCMP detachment.

Boy and van incident investigated

Ganges RCMP are investigating a suspicious occurrence involving a 12-year-old boy and a blue van.

The boy reported he was walking on Crofton Road in Ganges Thursday about 9:30 p.m. when a man in a blue van stopped and asked him if he "wanted to see the van." The boy ran home and told his mother who reported the incident to police. There were no attempts to grab the boy or harm the boy in any way, but police are continuing their investigation.

Among the 70 complaints received from police last week, including seven weekend reports of noisy parties, were:

- Two windows were broken in Ganges Saturday. The first was a window in Calypso Carpets store on Fulford-Ganges Road about 12:40 a.m. About \$500 damage

RCMP REPORT

was caused. Police are looking for a 16 or 17-year-old youth wearing a dark shirt and shorts who was in the area near that time. Police would like any information from the public which would help solve either of these two incidents.

Saturday afternoon before 4:30 p.m., a window in a van was smashed behind Lee the Plumbers shop in Ganges. The window cost \$200 to replace.

- A 38-year-old woman from Kelowna was taken to Lady Minto Hospital just before noon Saturday when she fell from her bicycle on Southey Point Road. She had apparently struck a rock. She was

released later with minor injuries.

- Sunday afternoon police charged a North Vancouver man with possession of marijuana when they discovered him smoking a joint near Grace Point. Police recovered about eight ounces of marijuana from the man.

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Fisheries investigating dredging

Dredging by Salt Spring Marina at the head of the Ganges Harbour is under investigation by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and by B.C. Lands, Vancouver Island region.

The dredging was halted May 15 after the marina was contacted by B.C. Lands.

Land officer Mark Harvey from B.C. Lands, Jeff Beddoes from the surveyor-general branch and habitat biologist Rob Russell of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nanaimo, visited the dredging site last Thursday.

After surveying the natural foreshore boundary, they found the dredge material had been dumped behind rock rip-rap on the foreshore. The site is leased by the marina but the lease does not

authorize dumping of dredge on the Crown-owned foreshore.

Before dredging, the marina was required to notify the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Nanaimo. "They apparently made an effort to notify us," Russell said. He understood the marina owner did not plan any further dredging.

He could not go into further details because the incident is still being investigated, Russell said.

Often people are not aware that their actions contravene B.C. Lands regulations, said Janet Gagne, acting manager of Lands Administration for B.C. Lands, Vancouver Island Region.

She said the situation is still being reviewed by B.C. Lands. Some decision will have to be

made about the material deposited on the foreshore, she added.

Salt Spring Marina could not be reached for comment.

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Campfires named culprits in several of island blazes

Campers need to be "a lot more careful" with campfires Salt Spring fire chief Les Wagg said Tuesday. There have been three cases in the last week of brush fires started by poorly attended camp fires. The most serious was near the Cape Keppel Ecological Reserve Sunday (see related story).

"People with campfires should make sure they put them out," Wagg said. "They should dig them out with a mattock or a shovel and pour lots of water on them."

Local firefighters put out a fire on Mount Maxwell Road about 5:30 p.m. caused by a campfire which was not thoroughly doused. Wagg said firefighters used 10 gallons of water to extinguish the fire and dug out the perimeter of the fire with mattocks so there was no possibility of a "live spark" lingering around

FIRE REPORT

to start a fire.

A third fire was reported near Musgrave Landing on the weekend but Wagg said boaters put it out without the assistance of the fire department.

In other fire department news:

- Local firefighters responded to five calls for assistance from islanders in need of medical attention. Known as First Responders, firefighters and ambulance crews both attend reports of accidents at homes or on the road. Often the calls are from people who need to be taken to the local hospital. None of the first responder calls was serious, Wagg said.

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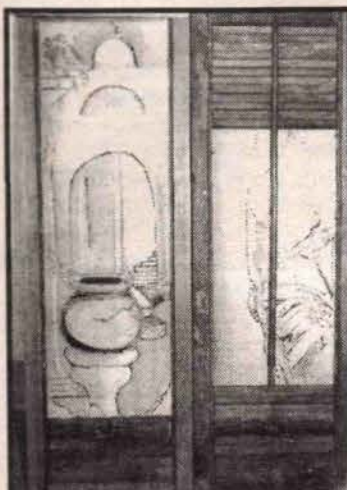
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Fear fuels paranoia

Criminal activities involving children pierce us with a fear that can, if not kept in check, seep into self-defeating paranoia and unjustified vigilante action.

Our fear is fuelled by reports on the Paul Bernardo case, now unfolding in an Ontario courtroom with horrific details on the abduction, abuse and murder of two teenage girls; the as-yet-unsolved disappearance of Michael Dunahee in Victoria; last week's report of an attempted child abduction on Salt Spring.

Small wonder that parents live in fear, stabbed with terror should their child vanish from sight even for an instant in a public park. Many families move to Salt Spring in search of a safe place to raise their children. Even a hint that someone on the island may prey on those precious children is enough to produce panic.

The fear is understandable. But taking it to the next step — vigilante action — is inexcusable.

Already some otherwise law-abiding residents of the island are facing charges of forcible confinement and assault, arising from an apparent attempt to physically remove someone from the island following a sexual assault on a teenage girl.

Within the past few years on Salt Spring, a window was broken in a car on the mistaken assumption that the vehicle had been involved in a crime.

Last week it happened again. A young boy reported an attempt to entice him into a van. A couple, who own a van similar to the one described by the boy, live close to where the incident occurred. Police visited the couple Thursday night and quickly cleared them of any involvement.

But the next morning the boy's father spotted the van in a local parking lot. He confronted the driver, leveling accusations and threats based on nothing more than a superficial similarity in vehicles.

Shaken, the couple reported the threats to police, who advised the father that the couple — and their vehicle — had no part in the incident with the boy. Police at this point are not even sure anyone attempted to abduct the child.

The father's desire to protect his son is understandable. But by taking vigilante action, he moved outside the law himself. The innocent couple could well have charged him with uttering threats under section 264.1 of the criminal code.

Many will argue that vigilante action is justifiable. Certainly parents can imagine murderous feelings toward anyone who harms their children. And unfortunately, such emotions illustrate a common feeling that the justice system is anything but fair and effective.

Instead of seeing immediate punishment of those found guilty of offences, Canadians see a legal system tied up in endless wrangling over technical details, with the guilty frequently escaping penalty.

Even those sentenced seldom serve the full terms imposed by the judge, since mandatory release kicks in two-thirds of the way through most sentences, regardless of the individual's suitability to live within the community.

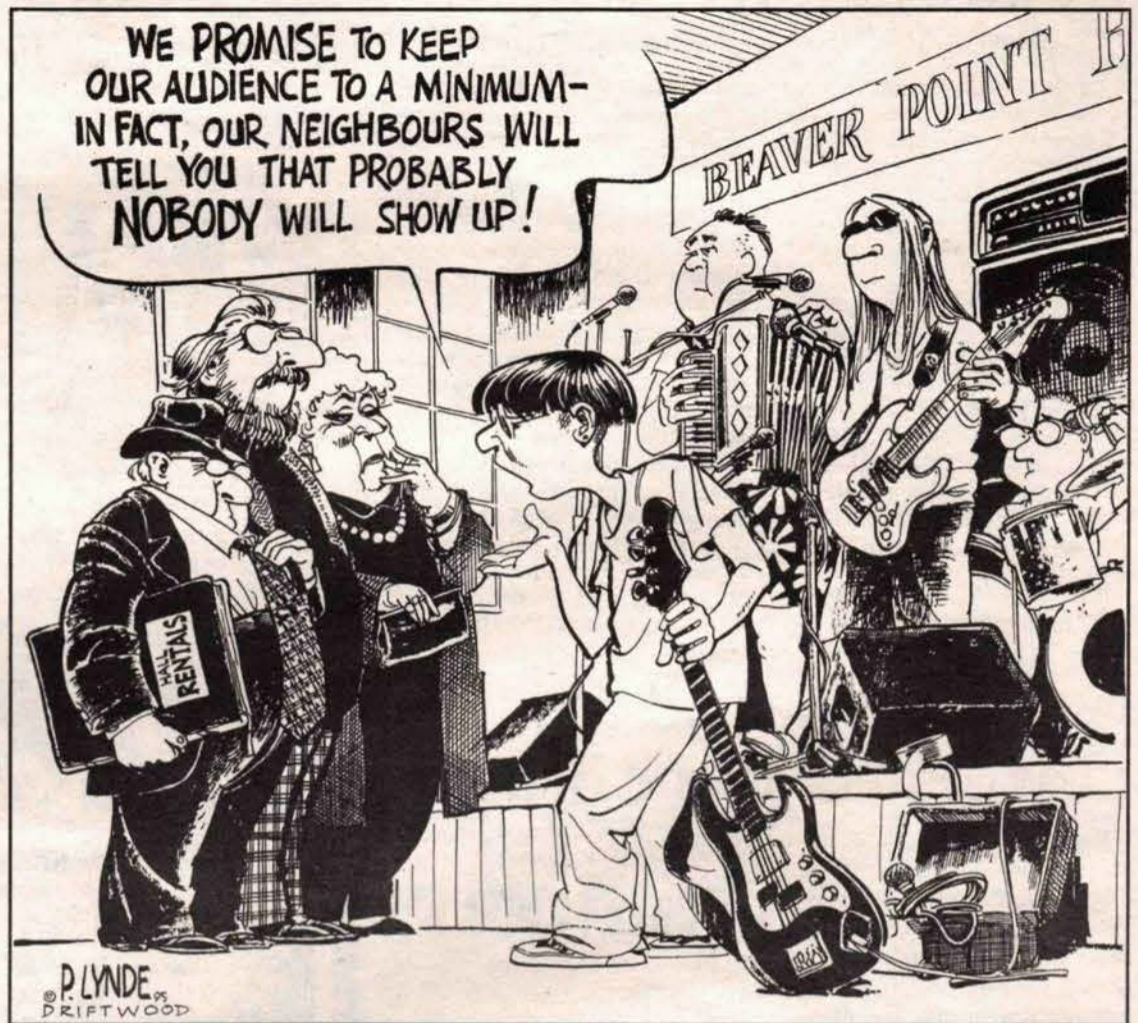
Nor is punishment immediate. The Bernardo case started this month, almost five-and-a-half years since the death of his first alleged victim and more than two years since his arrest.

Delays in bringing to justice those who entice and then harm our children add to the fear. Every stranger becomes a suspect. A man strolls through a park, glances casually at children playing on the swings, and parents panic.

Despite our fear, we must all strive to maintain perspective. There are, thankfully, only a tiny number of strangers who prey on children. Statistics show children are more at risk from their parents, from friends or from relatives than from an unknown stranger.

(Unknown assailants are given so much more attention than the far more frequent family/friend assaults simply because the assailants are not known and extensive efforts are often required to identify the culprits. When "uncle" is the culprit, no posters are put up, no nationwide searches are done and the matter is likely to be handled within the family or as quietly as possible in court.)

So street proof your children, take precautions but don't let your life or their lives be consumed by fear. The odds are on your side that the next stranger you encounter is as trustworthy as you are.



Sewer committee is dedicated to preserving environmental record

Marilyn Thaden Dexter's May 10 Viewpoint commented on the proposed amendment to the Ganges sewer waste water discharge permit. She concluded that expansion is needed but the present disinfection standard which allows only 70 fecal coliforms per 100 ml of waste water should be retained.

The present plant is operating at or above capacity on many days. An expansion to a daily capacity of approximately 135,000 gallons is being considered.

Why then not just ask for a 135,000 gallon discharge permit? Because the permit process will cost a minimum of \$60,000. Ten years of experience, backed by an extensive 1994 study of dispersal and dilution conducted by Seaconsult Ltd., show our outfall is in an excellent location and the receiving waters can easily tolerate greater flows. The sewer committee feels it prudent to obtain a permit now to deal with the anticipated requirements of the community.

If growth is restricted, increased sewer capacity won't be needed and won't be built — it's as simple as that.

The requested changes to treatment standards have been described by critics as a "massive downgrade" and have produced great controversy, but what are the facts?

In disinfection, the current permit allows 70 fecal coliforms per 100 ml at time of discharge. We have requested that be raised to 5,000 FC. On the surface this sounds like a huge increase until one realizes that untreated sewage contains an average of 12 million fecal coliforms. We are talking about killing 99.96 per cent of the bacteria rather than 99.9995 per cent.

Up until 1993, effluent was disinfected by chlorination and easily met the 70 fecal coliform standard. However, the committee wanted a long term, environmentally friendly solution. Even with dechlorination, chlorine byproducts were being dis-

charged to the marine waters.

Ultra violet disinfection was installed. This is not quite as efficient at eliminating bacteria. Operating experience over the past year shows that the discharge is approximately 1,250 FC with some results in excess of 5,000.

As UV treatment depends on UV light penetration, minor changes in effluent turbidity can produce significant changes in the "kill rate."

Armed with these operating results plus favourable monitoring results and the Seaconsult study, the committee determined that at 5,000 FC we will continue to achieve shellfish standards in the receiving waters with a very large safety factor.

There is also the question of ebb tide only versus continuous discharge. The Seaconsult study shows that its (ebb tide) contribution to dispersal and dilution is insignificant. Ebb tide discharge is a lose-lose proposition since bacteria surviving the UV disinfection are given time to multiply in the holding tanks.

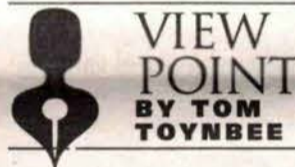
Capital and operating costs are certainly of concern to the committee as we have a responsibility to the users of the system and to the taxpayers to use money wisely. Having said that, no one should infer that the permit exercise is about cutting corners to save money. The environmental

record of this utility has been praised by the environmental community and the committee has dedicated itself to preserving that record as capacity increases.

Ms. Thaden Dexter points correctly to increasing sources of pollution in Ganges Harbour. The Ganges sewer isn't one of them. Water quality, particularly at the shoreline at the head of the harbour, has improved since the advent of the sewer.

Isn't it time we started addressing ourselves to the real problems?

Tom Toynbee is chairman of the Ganges Sewer Local Services Committee.



If growth is restricted, increased sewer capacity won't be needed and won't be built — it's as simple as that.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We Asked: Should Gulf Islanders band together to buy the Winnipeg Jets?



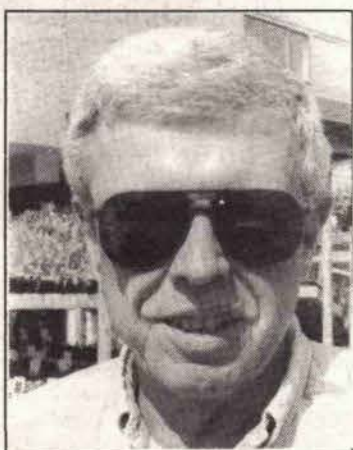
Jocelyn Holmes

I'm sure the Jets would love to come here and we'd get an ice arena.



Sandy Buffett

Let's just focus on getting an arena before we get a hockey team.



Adlai Rust

I'd rather see us band together and finish ArtSpring.



Helen Varzeliotis

Definitely not. I don't think Salt Spring Islanders need to put their money out for that sort of thing.



Avril Kirby

If it got us a new skating arena, why not?

Letters to the editor

Ray of hope

Yesterday my 11-year-old daughter attending a grade four class at Fernwood Elementary School brought home from her school a notice that absolutely enraged me.

The notice indicated that the school is "losing a number of staff members because of a higher class size to teacher ratio and among the possible losses is Pat Gordon, currently teaching Grade 4, who has been given a notice of transfer."

Pat Gordon has been the first ray of hope my daughter has received in the school system. Pat has the ability to help not only my daughter who is a bright child suffering learning disabilities due to emotional trauma, but many others like her.

Pat Gordon has given Fernwood School her time, effort, spirit and inspiration since 1989, and to remove so vital a person from Fernwood School would be a great detriment to the school, a great loss to the community and a real tragedy where children with special needs are concerned.

Please do not let this happen. Pick up your phones or your pen, contact school board administrators, and fight for our excellent teachers.

A. LEGACY
Fernwood

Draw bridge up?

Having attended the meeting at Fulford on April 20, I am amazed at what has since happened regarding road access to the property being developed on Mt. Tuam. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss specifically the proposal of the developers for permanent access to the property through a combination of private and Crown land.

Chris Gosset and Ron Spenser clearly presented the road proposal, which not only involved property access road itself, but also the upgrading of a dangerous 'S' bend on Musgrave Road below the proposed intersection.

In both cases the design was

based on 50 kph standard as required by the Department of Highways. The developers made it clear they would have preferred a 30 kph standard which would have been more in keeping with island roads and less costly to construct.

Much of the meeting time was absorbed in expression of opinion regarding the acceptability of the development itself. However, it was clear to me that the consensus was not the proposed access road.

Reading the Driftwood on May 3, I was astonished to learn that the Islands Trust had decided to rescind their previous approval of the siting of the proposed road and to oppose the development on environmental and aesthetic grounds.

In the article in the Driftwood, Trustee Grace Byrne is quoted as being firmly in favour of the 'natural environment.' Who is not? Our planet is composed of rock, what therefore could be more natural?

Most of the rock face to be exposed in this project is situated on private land. One may ask where are the protests from the Trustees when clear-cut logging occurs on private land, an activity much more damaging to the environment both aesthetically and environmentally?

Of much graver import is the report that the Trust will pass a resolution staking their intention to refuse approval to development applications in future "which require roads wider than typical island road standards." The Trustees know full well that

Highways has imposed the minimum standard of 50 kph. They are therefore stating that they oppose any further development on Salt Spring Island. The draw bridge is up! Please, is it too much to ask that the Trust demonstrate less rhetoric and more reason in their judgments.

A.D. McCONNELL
Ganges

Island memories

How lovely of you to send me the handsome Gulf Islander "Free" tourist guide.

I'm 82 and in a facility where the not-so-young anymore live and it isn't all that much fun.

We lived in Vancouver from 1919 to 1924. I remember we used go to Bowen Island for picnics.

I'm an island person. I was born in England. I'll mention Salt Spring Island. While I was still a working secretary, I worked for Douglas Scott who before he retired was a vice president of the Bank of America. I worked with him in his "after retirement" job.

I recall seeing a map of Salt Spring Island which had places with Scott attached - like Cape Scott, Scott Rd. and others.

I'll skid up to a halt as lunch is upon us.

I noticed the postage was \$2.16. I send you two spanking new Yankee dollars. Spend it riotously.

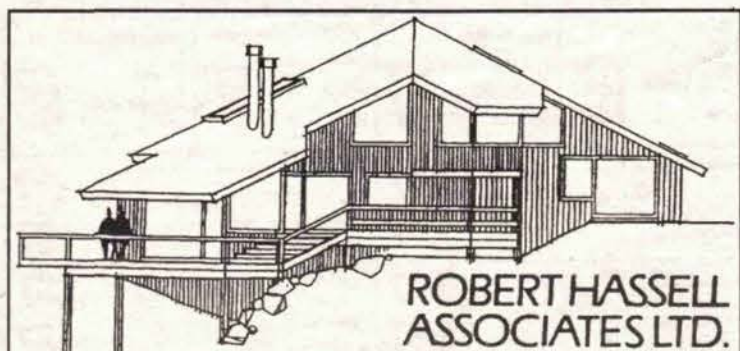
How I'd love to be able to come up your way. My legs don't work without a walker.

MARJORIE DONALD
Burbank, California

Barbara Jordan-Knox M.S.W.

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Lawyer takes exception to comments on Sihota

VICTORIA - Whenever I stray from the path of fairness and accuracy, which is nearly impossible to avoid when one rushes into print week-in, and week-out, there are always readers who take the time to set me straight.

That's how it should be, and that's how it was last week when I got a little carried away with Environment Minister Moe Sihota's resignation from cabinet or, more specifically, my rhetorical speculation about why it took the B.C. Law Society two years to deal with the case.

CAPITAL COMMENT
HUBERT BEYER



Here is the paragraph to which Leigh Harrison, Q.C., a lawyer from Trail, took exception, and in retrospect, I admit, rightly so:

"As for the law society, I repeat my question: why the hell did it take them two years to nail Sihota, when a mere two weeks suffice in similar cases? The reason couldn't be that there are a lot more right-wing lawyers than left-wing ones, and that the political damage inflicted on the NDP government is that much greater this close to an election? Naw, couldn't be."

Writes Harrison: "You conclude your article by asking a good question. Why did it take the Law Society two years to 'nail Sihota?' Instead of asking this rhetorically, perhaps you could have inquired of the Law Society as to why this happened."

"I don't know the answer myself and would be most interested to know whether it was because of a flaw in Law Society procedures or if it is perhaps because Mr. Sihota instructed his counsel to drag the matter out for as long as possible."

"Your speculation in the last paragraph that this is, in effect, a right-wing conspiracy against the NDP government, particularly in the absence of any inquiries on your part to answer your own question, is completely beneath you."

"Unfortunately, this kind of irresponsible and completely unsupported speculation will only confirm to uninformed people that this is the way the world works. If it is, you have a responsibility to document it."

"If you can't or won't document it, you have a responsibility to refrain from what, in essence, is a casual libel of the Society that for all its faults appears in this case to have been making an appropriate effort to protect the public and discipline a member who has chosen to blatantly ignore well-known rules."

I stand rebuked, not because of Harrison's brief reference to casual libel - the rule of fair comment goes a long way in such cases - but because he is right. Because of deadline pressure, I had no opportunity to contact the Law Society and make the inquiries to which Harrison refers.

Nothing wrong with that. Deadlines occur every day, and not all pertinent questions can be asked before a column goes into print. But as Harrison points out, in the absence of such inquiries, certain conclusions shouldn't be drawn. And the above one was one of them.

Meanwhile, at the prompting of Edith Antonio, the Law Society has agreed to examine its own handling of the Sihota case. Antonio is the woman at the centre of the controversy. Sihota had obtained a substantial settlement for one Harvey Williams and Antonio, following a car accident in 1984, and borrowed \$170,000 from Antonio to remove a foreclosure against B.C. property he held partly in trust for his father, Bas Sihota.

The loan was found improperly secured due to an oversight, but Antonio got her money back. Then Sihota put Williams in touch with his father for a house-building venture in San Jose, without informing his client of his father's unsavory business past. Antonio put her money into the business venture as well.

After Bas Sihota went bankrupt and then suddenly died in 1990, Sihota and Antonio renegotiated the deal, getting him out from under a large loan. But at that time, Sihota failed to recommend that Antonio get independent legal advice on the new arrangement.

Antonio never complained about Sihota's failure to recommend that she seek independent legal advice. Even when, as she claims, a member of the Law Society investigating the case tried everything to get her to charge Sihota, she wouldn't.

Harrison points out in his letter to me that an investigation and disciplinary action by the Law Society doesn't require a complain.

"The lawyer is in a position to have undue influence over the client, and the system needs to protect others from lawyers who will not abide by the Society's rules, even if the offended client does not wish it," he says.

"The Sihota-Antonio situation seems to me to illustrate the exact reason who these rules need to be in place, because a client will come to trust his lawyer and may find it hard to believe that the lawyer has acted against his interest."

I can't argue with Harrison's line of reasoning, and I shall await with great interest the outcome of the Law Society's investigation into how it handled the investigation into the Sihota affair.

More letters

Fighting to recover

I am the Grandma of young Kane Roscoe. I would like to know who ever called the Driftwood, what they are trying to say mentioning the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In last week's paper it was mentioned Kane was recovering at the Johns Hopkins medical & surgical centre in Baltimore. My family and I have been put through enough stress the last few months between our concern for Kane and fighting hard to get the finances for his trip.

We sincerely thank all the people and associations for their wonderful help. I have written to the paper twice, but I don't edit the paper, and I can only thank them for their work.

Young Kane is fighting hard to recover, but is still not mobile. He still has a long fight in front of him, so from him to all of you - I thank you.

BETTY KANE
Salt Spring

Hard work

As a member of a choir on our lovely island, I know about dedication, commitment and hard work - and of course the fun!

I must commend all of you in Tuned Air for the wonderful sound of your choir. I'm proud to have you as musical ambassadors and ambassadors going to Quebec - keep up the good work.

SANDRA McNIE
Women of Note

Reason to smile

A little while back my "island beater" broke down at the foot of Ganges hill. I went into a complete panic and didn't know what to do (naturally).

The next vehicle coming along

was Golden Ash Tree Service. They pulled right over and offered to assist. It only took a couple of minutes for them to help me get my car out of the roadway. Now, as weeks go by, I find a smile coming to me whenever I see their truck.
ANNA KLENMAN
Desmond Crescent

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Prices in effect Wednesday, May 24

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In-Store Bakery

Strawberry Shortcake 8 88 <small>ea.</small>	Farm Bread 98¢ <small>454 g.</small> 
Winnipeg Rye Bread 454 g. 1 39	
Chocolate Macarons doz. 2 99	

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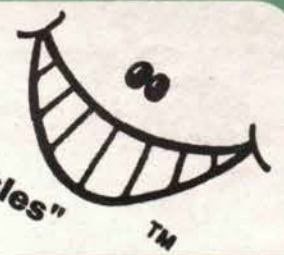
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A GREAT COMBINATION OF FRUIT & NUTS Vitality Mix 79¢ <small>100 g.</small>	
GROUND, SLICED, SLIVERED WHOLE, BLANCHED OR NATURAL Almonds 98¢ <small>100 g.</small>	

QUAKER Corn Bran 540 g. 2 59	BARI Ricotta Cheese 500 g. 2 19
QUAKER HARVEST CRUNCH Low Fat Granola 750-800 g. 3 69	ALL VARIETIES Jello Instant Pudding 102-113 g. 69¢
MAXWELL HOUSE Instant Coffee 150-200 g. 5 98	KRAFT, REG. OR LIGHT Parmesan Cheese 250 g. 3 79
CRISCO Oil 1 L. 2 79	DAD'S SELECTED Cookies 400 g. - 450 g. 2 19
THRIFTY Pineapple 540 ml. 68¢	PREM, REG. OR LOW SALT Luncheon Meat 340 g. 1 89
	PURITAN Stews 680 g. 1 79

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¢	CAMPBELL'S Home Cooking Soups 540 ml.	1 29	ORCHARD HILL Orange or Grapefruit Juice 1 L.	99¢
¢	CAMPBELL'S Chunky Soups 540 ml.	1 69	OCEANSPRAY Grapefruit Blends 1.14 L.	1 69
¢	THRIFTY Apricot Halves In light syrup 398 ml.	1 29	DELMONTE Fruit Splash Pkg. of 3	99¢
¢	ISLAND HARVEST Sesame, White Bread 680 g.	1 38	ALL VARIETIES Gatorade 1.9 L.	2 69
¢	DELISLE, FRUIT ON BOTTOM Regular or Light Yogurt 175 g.	2/98¢	Bitelife Crackers or Crispers 160-225 g.	1 59

POLAR SEAS, CONTAINS REAL LOBSTER CHUNKS Imitation Lobster Chunks 100 g.	1 19	WITH LEMON HERB Fresh Marinated Snapper Fillets 100 g.	1 19
FARM RAISED Fresh Spring Salmon Fillets Skin on 100 g.	1 59	CHILEAN, LARGE COOKED Shrimpmeat Thawed 100 g.	2 39
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9	PREMIUM PLUS Croutons 170 g.	1 19	LISTERINE Mouth Wash 1 L.	4 49
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B.C.

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8.33 kg

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NEW ZEALAND, FROZEN

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 lb.

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NEW ZEALAND, FROZEN

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Sliced. 500 g.

2 18

BURNS, TURKEY & BACON OR
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CUT FROM POINT BRISKET

Braising Strips

Boneless 5.27 kg

2 39
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Fresh Lean Ground Turkey

5.27 kg.

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 lb.

THRIFTY, BEEF & ONION OR BEEF & TOMATO

Pure Beef Sausage

3.73 kg

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 lb.

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European Wieners

7.25 kg

3 29
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Marinated Turkey Breast

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8.35 kg

3 79
 lb.

OVERLANDER

Bulk Pepperoni

7.69 kg.

3 49
 lb.

Library and resident debate cost of computer equipment

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

How much should it cost to computerize the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library?

The library's computerization committee predicts the cost will be close to \$42,000.

But Salt Spring resident Ray Popkin-Clurman maintains the cost should be no more than \$20,000.

"There's no limit to the top side of what they can spend," Popkin-Clurman said. But he maintained a knowledgeable person could set up a "bare bones" computerization of the library for as little as \$8,000.

A turn-key computerization, done by an outside consultant for the library, could be completed for \$20,000, Popkin-Clurman added.

He suggested the volunteers who operate the library have limited computer knowledge and sellers are taking advantage of their ignorance. "It's the wolf leading the sheep."

Tilly Crawley, a member of the computerization committee, said the committee includes a former school board computer program analyst and a librarian involved in the computerization of another library system.

Price quotes on equipment were requested from four outlets and received from three. A Salt Spring supplier, Adrian Noble of HNW Design Associates, submitted a bid as competitive as those from Vancouver and Victoria companies.

Noble was also able to offer lower-cost service.

But before requesting bids, Crawley said the committee investigated 17 library software packages, which ranged in price from \$3,500 to \$7,000. After checking with other computerized library systems similar in size to Salt Spring, they narrowed their choice down to two programs, Molli or Mandarin. Both were developed in Canada.

Only then did the committee determine the equipment required for the conversion. That list was provided to the companies which bid on the project. "We told them exactly what we needed," Crawley stated.

Popkin-Clurman suggests the library should not have to pay more than \$1,000 for software. If the library obtained a commercial database program, that program could be modified to serve the library, he said. Computer students might be willing to make the modifications in exchange for the credit on their resumes, Popkin-Clurman said. There are also people on the island who would be

willing to help with the project, he added.

His suggested a computerized library requires a 486DX/66 computer costing \$2,000 to \$3,000; three dumb terminals at \$500 to \$1,000 each; a tape back-up unit, a printer, three code label reader pens, a code label printer and software.

Library board chairman Tony Burrige agreed the equipment suggested by Popkin-Clurman should cost no more than \$13,000. "The library has in fact bought the equipment he feels necessary for \$11,856, which is less than his estimate."

But Burrige noted the computerization of the library requires more expenditures than those suggested by Popkin-Clurman. The most expensive hardware is an \$8,000 CD-ROM tower containing seven CD-ROM drives.

But Burrige noted the computerization of the library requires more expenditures than those suggested by Popkin-Clurman. The most expensive hardware is an \$8,000 CD-ROM tower containing seven CD-ROM drives.

The tower has two uses. The first is to allow the volunteers cataloguing the library books to use a set of four CD-ROMs from the non-profit Western Library Network. On the CDs is cataloguing information for four million titles.

If a book in the Mary Hawkins Library is on the CD, the volunteer only has to add when the library acquired the book and transfer the entire listing into the library's database. "It is ten times faster than entering it manually," Crawley explained.

When a library in Lillooet used the same system to catalogue its collection, 96 per cent of its books were already listed on the CDs, Crawley said.

Once the collection is catalogued, the CD tower will be used by the public as part of the library's reference system. The Grolier Encyclopedia, for example, takes three feet of shelf space in printed form but is just the size of one CD in digital form. It is also easier to print out copies of articles from the digital version.

"It's not only that it's cheaper than buying the books, it's the storage space."

"They've got grand ideas," Popkin-Clurman remarked. "I wouldn't care if it were a taxpayer-based library because then the cost would be spread among more people."

But the library is asking the public for donations towards the cost and should therefore be more circumspect in its expenditures.

"If they want to be very elaborate, \$40,000 is nothing."

Burrige said the total includes essential items which were not part of Popkin-Clurman's list. Among these are \$1,300 in networking software, \$2,000 for a five-year supply of barcode labels and \$2,500 for a five-year-supply of cards for library users. Installation and furniture add \$2,500 to the cost and a further \$1,500 is set aside for training library volunteers on the system.

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Grads plan formal, fun and dry

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Something formal. Something fun. This is what graduation weekend, coming up June 2, 3 and 4, is all about. And for the fifth year in a row at Gulf Islands Secondary School, this will be a graduation without alcohol.

"You don't need alcohol to have a good time," Grade 12 student Kirsten Somerset said.

"Dry is the safest way," classmate Kevin Lynch agreed. "You don't want to end up regretting the night because someone died in an accident."

"And who wants to spend the night throwing up on the lawn?" David Leier added.

Linda Pickell, one of the parents on the safe, dry grad committee, said this attitude to alcohol at graduation weekend is becoming "more and more common." Students no longer question the absence of alcohol at their special end-of-schooling ceremony and celebration.

In fact, everyone's attention is on the planning and last-minute arrangements for the ceremonies, meals and entertainment for graduation. From the awards ceremony Friday night to the after-grad brunch served by parents Sunday morning, there is much to be orga-

nized. And fund-raising to be done. Graduation can be very expensive. There are meals for the 88 graduates, their dates and parents. Tuxedos cost between \$70 and \$100 to rent; formal women's dresses cost far more to buy. And after-grad — the party — is a big expense.

"You don't want to end up regretting the night because someone died in an accident."

For the last three years, the graduating class has rented Oak Bay Recreation Centre for after-grad. This year, graduation fund-raising committee member Chris Huntley said the class wanted a change. The after-grad party will be on-island at the Farmers' Institute.

The Institute will be decorated and filled with all sorts of entertainment for the all-night affair. People Playing Music, a Vancouver band, will be the main musical attraction, though there will also be karaoke and canned music through the night.

Black jack tables and roulette will be offered, as well as other

party games. Their will be plenty to drink — non-alcoholic of course — and food will be served about 2 a.m.

Parents have been raising money for the after-grad event since the beginning of the year and have raised about \$5,600 so far. This has come mainly from a successful raffle of island goods, including a Robert Bateman print, and a two-page congratulatory advertisement in the Driftwood.

Parents, staff and the community at large have been "very supportive" of the graduating class this year, Pickell said. People have given money, gifts to raffle and time for the many things that need to be done on the weekend, from supervising the after-grad to preparing a midnight snack and mid-morning brunch.

The graduating class has raised more than \$3,500 this year, from a fashion show, bottle drives and car washes. This Saturday members are holding another fund-raising event with the movie presentation of a round-the-world sailing adventure of Steve Lynch and Gay Utter. The money the grads raise will pay for expenses at the awards ceremonies Friday night and the graduation ceremonies Saturday evening.

Congregation talents unearthed as church stages fundraising gig

The talents of Ganges United Church members will be unearthed Saturday.

This year, the church's annual spring fundraising theme is built around the parable of the talents, from the Gospel of Matthew.

The parable tells of a man who gave three servants different sums of money. One man was given one talent — a large sum of money equal to about 15 years' wages for a labourer in ancient Rome. A second was given two talents. A third was given five.

They were asked to do what they could with their talents and bring back the results of their investments. The man with five talents doubled them. The man with two talents likewise brought back two more. But the man with one talent had only his single talent. He had buried it in the ground and not used it at all.

"The one who buried his talent didn't lose anything but he didn't gain anything either," Rev. Sharon Cooke explained. "He could have given it to moneylenders but he chose to do nothing."

The parable shows that talents will grow with use and wither with disuse and that people should make use of the talents they have been given by God.

Church member Marie Le Lievre came up with the idea of the Talents Unearthed fundraising idea. It has been used successfully in other congregations across the country, she noted. So the church held a workshop in recognizing hidden talents one Sunday and from that the creative juices started to flow.

"The idea was to help people realize what creative talents they had," Le Lievre said.

And if they needed some seed money for their projects — the initial talent of money — the church would give them some. When the fruits of their talent were sold at the event Saturday, the money would go back to the church.

Many special talents have been unearthed so far, Le Lievre said, including a gorilla which will appear at birthdays and parties with cake and gorilla-greetings; a

professional book-binder; a three-piece band to play at private or office functions.

Many United Church members have discovered or revealed hidden talents in quilting, weaving, making jams and jellies or growing plants, all of which will appear Saturday for sale or auction at the church.

The money raised through these unearthed talents will go to United Church outreach programs. On

Salt Spring this includes support for programs like Smiles Cafe, the Salt Spring Rhythm Band and the food bank. United Church outreach also includes support for international aid projects such as last year's support of relief in Rwanda.

All islanders are invited to the festivities of "Unearthed Talents" at the Ganges United Church Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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PRACTISING PERFECT FITCH

Women of Note prepare for concert

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Llamas love them. Ducks too. Soon Salt Spring Islanders will get to hear Women of Note, the island's own all-women choir, when they put on their first solo concerts at the Activity Centre June 9 and 10.

Last week when 15 members of the choir began to practise under the shade of a large tree on Mansell Farm, half a dozen curious llamas stampeded from one end of a nearby field to the other, captivated by the melodious tones. A black-green duck waddled up from the barn to investigate more closely.

The sound of the choir is what has drawn most of its members as well.

"I've heard lots of choirs and I've been in choirs most of my life," Aldyth Levy explained. "I couldn't get over the quality of these people when I went to a practice one night. There were only nine, and I thought I'd like to be a part of it."

The choir, which began in the summer of 1993, has drawn women of all backgrounds and abilities. Some were absolute singing novices; others were old hands in community choirs. All have said they love to sing.

Doreen Cooke said she didn't think she had a singing voice. She went to an audition one Monday night and discovered, yes, there it was, a beautiful singing voice. Rosanne Leonoff had been in musical theatre for years. She joined the choir to keep her voice in shape.

Long-time islander Sandra McNie always knew she could sing. She used to sing songs while she milked the family goats and cows. But singing in public is



WARM-UP NOTES FROM WOMEN: Members of Salt Spring's all-women choir, Women of Note, practice on the lawn of Mansell Farm one night after a pot luck supper. Left to right

are: Barbara Levy, Andrea Rankin, Cordula Vogt and Sandra McNie. Rosanne Leonoff is just visible under McNie's chin.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

quite different, and McNie has had to learn to overcome her shyness.

The choir came together in the summer of 1993, when choir director Dawn Penny Brooks and Patricia MacFarlane decided there was room for an all-women's choir on the island.

"A lot of women like to sing," Brooks explained. "And there is a great deal of women's choral literature."

The combination of the number of women who wanted to sing in a choir and the idea to introduce islanders to the different sounds of an all-woman choir were two of the reasons Women of Note began.

Since then, the choir has been practising most Mondays. And

they have been performing more and more since Christmas when they took part in a community Christmas concert. They sang at Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwoods recently. They sang at Earth Day.

Their two June concerts are their first full-fledged public concerts, showcasing a repertoire which spans nearly five centuries. Madrigals from the 15th century, classical music of Handel and Schubert, contemporary pieces

and Canadian and Hungarian folk tunes will be on the program.

Choir members have all been learning since they joined. They warm up for about 20 minutes each day, doing different exercises for the different pieces. Songs in minor keys require the voice to be warmed up one way; interval songs require something else.

"Dawn (Penny Brooks) has a facility for explaining how to change the sound you're making," Janice McLean explained. "She might say

"Imagine you have a ping pong ball stuck at the back of your mouth."

"Or she'll ask us to lean into the sound," Cordula Vogt added. "Sometimes we hold each other from behind as we practise that."

Brooks has been studying and teaching music for 30 years and credits MacFarlane, who is no longer with the choir, with many of the techniques she uses to produce the right sound with the choir. One of the tools she uses is the imagination.


"Singing is very much a focus of the mind about how to use the body, in this case the voice," Brooks said. "It's helpful to provide choristers with images and ideas about how the voice might be used."

She might tell people to imagine the sound of a certain instrument or the feeling of a certain place at a certain time. Each chorister may require a different approach for each piece to produce a sound that will blend properly with the other members of the choir.

"Dawn always talks about the mood of the song," Leonoff said. "Emotion is a big part of singing. You can just use your voice to sing the notes. But it's a different sound when you put emotion into it."

"I know to do that when I'm acting but I never thought of it when singing."

Islanders aged 15 and up may join the choir at any time. Those who want to hear them sing can come to the concert June 9 and 10 at Ganges United Church. The concert begins at 8 p.m.



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By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

An ovation for Ramayana

Like an exotic Indian painting given life, Salt Spring Centre school's production of Ramayana filled the Activity Centre stage last weekend with an epic tale of faith and magic, conveying the conflict between man's nobler and baser instincts.

The plot is the stuff of melodrama: Prince Ram, although the heir to the throne, is unjustly exiled by his father for 14 years. Ram obediently leaves the city, accompanied only by his faithful wife Sita and his brother Lakshman.

Living as hermits in the forest, they repulse an attack by Surpanaka, the sister of the demon king Ravana. Surpanaka appeals to her brother for aid. In revenge, and fired with desire for the lovely Sita, Ravana kidnaps Ram's wife.

With the help of the faithful monkey Hanuman and the monkey army, Ram and Lakshman are able to end Ravana's rule and rescue Sita.

The play opens with an invocation to Saraswati, the Goddess of Art. Shown as a figure (Soma Mallard) seated on a swan, the invocation was a spectacle worthy of an Indian palace, graced by a group of seven very young flower-bearing maidens.

The invocation was undoubtedly effective, since the rest of the complex two-and-a-half hour performance proceeded with professional smoothness.

There were almost too many highlights to mention.

Narrators Shiva, played by Uma Meyers, and Parvati, played by Lauren Bowler, carried the play from scene to scene. They were instrumental in conveying some of the scenes which could not be put

on stage, such as Ram's clash with the 14,000 members of a demon army.

Bowler's songs were outstanding. Especially haunting was a duet with Ravana (Delmer Esau) near the close of the play. Ravana maintains his defiant attitude towards the gods while Bowler's clear voice counters with a sad prediction of his doom — an echoing, dispassionate oracle.

Equally beautiful was the duet between Sita (Jen Charles) and Ram (Brett Gaylor), who express their love and longing for each other. Effective staging and use of lights created the illusion of distance between the two.

Charles' slender blonde beauty and grace were perfectly suited to the role of Ram's chaste and loyal wife. She was a lily blooming on the stage, regal and gracious throughout her trials.

Gaylor adroitly handled the difficult task of portraying a god made man, who inspires devotion in others but who does not take part in the action on stage until near the end of the play. As the human incarnation of the God Vishnu, he is noble and brave but slow to use his power against his enemies.

The ultimate heroic figure was Lakshman, played by Chad Adams. Golden hair flying during his dazzling choreographed fight with the black-browed demon prince Meghnad (Roland Kaiser), Adams personified the popular image of an action hero.

Kaiser, Jeremy Miller and Shawn Tanner turned in terrific performances as the demon kingdom's royal family.

Laura Albert brought a touching poignancy to her role as the demon king's wife. In words and sweetly sung songs, she expressed both her love for Ravana and her fear that his challenging of the gods would lead to his destruction.

Her role underlines one of the strengths of the story, which is the depth accorded to Ram's opponents. Ravana is not simply an embodiment of evil — as portrayed by Delmer Esau he is clearly a great figure who cares for his family and has a sense of personal honour.

Esau's performance was riveting, aided by a dramatic costume which gave him 10 heads towering over the other characters on stage. His death is not a victory, but a tragedy of pride overwhelming a potential for greatness.

Another character who seized the stage was Surpanaka, given life through a sizzling performance by Nayana Filkow. Gifted with such lines as "So — what about it? Care to live?", Filkow tossed them off with appropriate disdain for her victims. Her dedication to the role included shaving her head in order to create a more frightening image for the demon princess.

Many of the secondary characters were also excellent, right down to the child who melted into Surpanaka's arms when stolen by the demon.

Ingrid Schechter, as the maid Mantara, did not speak a word but still managed to mime malignant evil as she fanned a palace plot against Ram.

Mallika Hutchings was lithe grace personified as the Golden Deer while Neacol Booth was

spellbinding as Swayamprabha, the incarnation of illusion.

Counterbalancing the drama were comedic moments.

Kirsty Chalmers and Sonnen Sloan were great as the clownish demon ministers, winding up with a delightful vaudevillian number. Serena Vaillancourt led the mainly female Guha tribe in a stirring rock spiritual and the monkey army pranced through a whimsical jungle stomp, punctuated by hoots and whistles.

Keanu Meyers moved from comic to heroic as the monkey Hanuman, leaping across the stage with primate agility. Meyers' solo, performed in the demon court, was a comical Elvis impersonation in a monkey suit.

The only flaw in the performances were the few actors who moved nervously around their stage position, instead of staying in one place while delivering their lines.

There was plenty of other movement on stage already, including belly dancers, swaying demonini figures, two energetic tribes, vultures portrayed by Katrina Cunliffe and Maia Vaillancourt and a lumbering giant (Arvid Chalmers).

Dazzling costumes, an excellent choir and band and expert technical support further enhanced the performance, which received a well-deserved standing ovation from Saturday night's audience.

The group may be producing a tape of the play's musical numbers and is considering repeating their performance this summer.

Next stop: Broadway?

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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING: A winningly contrived romantic comedy, this film is about an emergency room misunderstanding that has Lucy Moderatz (Sandra Bullock) engaged to a man who's just been put into a coma in a subway accident. But Lucy falls in love with the man's younger brother, played by Bill Pullman. And of course, she does not really realize she is in love with the wrong man until the older brother wakes out of his coma... Bullock plays the role of the delightfully clean, erotic, Doris-Day-like heartthrob so well that it is her performance that carries the film. Mature, occasional swearing. Friday to Sunday, 9:15 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 7 p.m., Tuesday matinee, 4 p.m.

Island Video Hits

1. Forrest Gump(1)
2. Professional.....(-)
3. Priscilla Queen of the Desert(3)
4. Jungle Book(-)
5. Bullets Over Broadway.....(-)
6. Shawshank Redemption.....(7)
7. Mrs. Parker.....(-)
8. Hoop Dreams(5)
9. Blue Sky.....(8)
10. Speechless.....(-)

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May 25, 7 p.m.Coastal Challenge Soccer Game
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May 28, 3:30 p.m.Family Violence
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Dawny Scarffe poetry collected

By GRAEME THOMPSON
Driftwood Staff

Dawny Scarffe was a dreamer. She dreamed of a world where beauty was appreciated for its own sake. She dreamed of a world where peace, love and understanding were more important than money or power. She dreamed of a world coloured by flowers, the flowers of Epoh.

Flowers of Epoh is the title of a small booklet of selected writings of Dawny Scarffe, published last month by a number of Scarffe's friends from the Gateway Players Theatre Company in Saskatoon. The booklet was published as a tribute to Scarffe, who died in October.

"She had terrific ideas, and lots of them," husband Larry Scarffe said last week.

He has found many pages of notes, hurriedly scribbled ideas in rhyme among his wife's things. Friends from Dawny's Gateway Players theatre days in Saskatoon wanted to publish some as a tribute to her memory.

It's a slim volume but it reveals a woman who thought long and hard about the broadest questions of life. She wrote about love. She wrote about Nature. She wrote about history and she created her own little worlds in which people lived well and loved and were content.

She was a child of the nuclear age and of the 1960s. A poem, *The Future?*, tells of a battle between the Archangel Michael and ex-Archangel Lucifer—Scarffe was brought up a strict Catholic and became an agnostic—which ends with the earth engulfed in a mushroom cloud, a symbol whose power has diminished somewhat of late.

In Memory of ... is a longish list in iambic trimeter of the ways and means people have been killed through the cen-

turies, starting with Cain and Abel and running through death for sport in Roman arenas, the Inquisition, Hitler's slaughter, Hiroshima and modern capital punishment.

"So many killed in vain/ What did we hope to gain?" she asks at the end. Scarffe seems to ask more questions than she answers in her writing.

Several stories and poems verge on the fantastical. Scarffe liked to make up new worlds, like the land of Eudemonia, where she said she would go

when she died. Other worlds, like Epoh where special flowers grew, and Htrae, where she set a creation myth of her own, were made from common English words spelled backwards.

Many of her stories, structured like Biblical parables, used names created with this same literary device: characters like Ecaep and Deerg; places like Elif.

The *Flowers of Epoh* is a thought-provoking and hope-filled glimpse of the world as the late Dawny Scarffe saw it.



CLOSE UP: A miniature painting by artist Helen Wiebe warrants a close examination by Salt Spring resident Donna Mort. The elegant portrait, done on porcelain and fired several times, was a re-creation of an original work by George Romney.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

Tea, small paintings served

Proof that good things come in small packages was on the walls of Mahon Hall last weekend as the Salt Spring Painters' Guild held its annual spring show.

The show contained works of all sizes done in a variety of mediums. However the largest display was of English-style miniature paintings, many measuring less than six inches by six inches, as Guild members rose to the challenge of creating small works of art.

Thirty art guild members submitted work to the show. Sixty pieces were sold during the three-day event.

"It was well attended," guild president Helen Wiebe said.

In keeping with the English miniatures theme, a tea of scones, Devonshire cream and jam was served during the event. Demonstrations of painting techniques were also presented throughout the long weekend.

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WOOL TO WOOLENS: Lad, the Border Leicester ram, will be donating his fleece this weekend at the fibre-to-fabric competition at the Farmers' Institute. Rosemary Wallbank, centre, and Cheryl Huseby Wiebe, right, are two island spinners and weavers taking part in the event.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

Fibre to fabric show will reveal secrets of spinning and weaving

Have you ever wondered how a sweater comes to be a sweater? Wonder no more. The third Salt Spring Fibre to Fabric show will reveal all at the Farmers' Institute this Sunday.

"The aim is fun and education," organizer Rosemary Wallbank said. "People love to see demonstrations. And we want to raise public awareness of spinning and weaving."

"It'll be a real old-fashioned day," local sheep-breeder Tony Threllfall said.

"And it will be a lot of fun," weaver Cheryl Huseby Wiebe added. "It's quintessential Salt Spring."

The fibre-to-fabric competition goes back a long way, all the way to July 1, 1811. That was the day the first recorded competition took place, in the village of Newberry in England. Two sheep were presented to a Mr. John Coxeter who undertook to present the local squire with a coat by 9 p.m.

The sheep were shorn. The wool was washed and spun, the loom prepared and fabric woven. By 4 p.m. the tailor had the cloth and at 6:20 p.m. Sir John

Throckmorton had a new coat.

The fibre-to-fabric event is a little different on Salt Spring. There is no squire. So teams of spinners will spin washed and carded wool into yarn and then the weavers will make a piece of cloth from it on their looms. They will have to do this between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Four spinning and weaving teams will take part: two from Salt Spring, one each from mid-Vancouver Island and Greater Vancouver. In addition, there will be two junior teams taking part, one from the 4H club on Salt Spring Island and one from Cobble Hill.

At 2:30 p.m., while the judges are judging the results, there will be a Scottish cloth fulling demonstration with appropriate music to accompany. Fulling is washing process which "allows the fibres to bloom," Wallbank said. That means the tiny barbs in the wool expand and attach to one another to give the cloth a better feel. Anyone will be allowed to take part in this recreation of an ancient tradition.

But there will be much more Sunday at the Farmers' Institute than the fibre-to-fabric competition.

Wool-producing animals will be on show, including several types of sheep, llamas and alpacas and angora goats. There will be sheep-shearing displays, the first step towards making any item of wool. Provincially sanctioned sheep dog trials will be held outside in the Farmers' Institute grounds. Inside the Institute building, there will be displays of spinning and weaving techniques, and samples of the different properties that spinners and weavers look for in wool.

Handmade goods from island crafters will be on show and for sale in the Institute building. And for those who want to try out a little spinning and weaving themselves, there will be wheels and looms available with expert advice from guild members.

"It might just get people hooked," Wallbank said.

The day-long event takes place at the Farmers' Institute on Rainbow Road, starting at 9:30. Admission is \$1 for adults, kids under 12 go free.

Sewing Club won't reveal show secrets

The colours and styles of summer will be revealed Monday when the local Sewing Club holds its first fashion show at the high school.

The Sewing Club is a group of some 25 senior students from the high school who were unable to continue home economics beyond the Grade 8 level in the new school.

They wanted to continue to learn, Joy Howell said Tuesday, and in January, Sue McNair started a sewing club for them. The students have been work-

ing hard since then.

Rayon is one of the materials which will be much in evidence on the catwalk, Howell said. But she would not reveal any more of the student couturiers' latest fashion details. Islanders will have to show up to see for themselves.

The show starts at 7 p.m. at the Gulf Islands Secondary School multi-purpose room. Admission is free and there will refreshments available. All are welcome.



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PUB HOURS: Daily 11:30-12:30 / Sunday 11-midnight



SLEEP-RUNNERS: Bob Campsall, left, and Myles Wilson are in training this month for the 24-hour relay race for the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities in June. The race goes on through the night, hence the need for night caps and nightshirts.

Photo by Graeme Thompson

Night-capped realtors prepare for relay race

Two islanders have donned nightshirts and night caps to train for a 24-hour marathon event in Vancouver next month.

Myles Wilson and Bob Campsall are getting physically prepared for their second 24-Hour Relay for the Kids, a B.C. Lions-sponsored fund-raising event to be held in Swangard Stadium in Vancouver June 17-18. They'll be running all night and thought the nightshirts and night caps would "come in handy" for the race.

"We're doing it for the kids," Wilson said. "It's a really neat feeling."

Wilson and Campsall are part of a 20-member National Real Estate Service team, one of almost 165 entered in the race. Each team clocks up more than 200 miles in the event and each runner runs more than two miles at a time.

Last year the team raised \$27,000 and won the trophy for the most money raised by a new

team. This year the team wants to raise more, and Wilson and Campsall want Salt Spring Islanders to do their share.

The event has been held for 17 years by the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities. Last year, the relay race raised about \$1.3 million which was used to run three camps for disabled children. One of those is Camp Shawnigan on Shawnigan Lake. Children with mental and physical handicaps can attend camps for a week and swim, canoe, hike and make friends.

Wilson said all money raised on the island can be specifically directed to the local camp, Camp Shawnigan, so islanders can feel their money is being used locally.

The local Lions Club will collect pledges on behalf of the two islanders and tax receipts will be issued for donations greater than \$25. Phone Wilson or Campsall at 537-5515 for more information or to make a pledge.

ChildSafe course offered

Parents and caregivers will go to great lengths helping children avoid life-threatening injuries.

But few people would really know what to do if they came upon an unconscious toddler, a choking infant, or a profusely-bleeding child.

A one-day course offered next Saturday will effectively arm parents, childcare workers or teachers with the skills to handle most medical emergencies.

The Red Cross ChildSafe course will be taught by Sherri Nielson from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 3 at the Salt Spring Elementary music room. Nielson is a Salt Spring ambulance attendant and experienced course instructor.

ChildSafe teaches cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), how to deal with choking, broken bones, bleeding and accident prevention. All topics are covered in a clear step-by-step form.

Pre-registration is required by calling the Parks and Recreation Commission at 537-4448. Cost is \$42, including the Red Cross ChildSafe manual.

BRIDGE TRICKS

Gulf Islands Duplicate Bridge Club winners on May 9 were as follows:

North/South - Helen Shandro and Isabelle Richardson; Norm McConnell and Jean Herring; Irene Hawksworth and Gordon Hutton.

East/West - Conhor Hunt and Ian Thomas; Julie Godwin and Toni Luton; Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa.

May 16 winners were: North/South - Wim and Ima Krayenhoff; Jean Herring and June Knowles; Irene Hawksworth and Gordon Hutton.

East/West - Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa; Conhor Hunt and Ian Thomas; Peter Jacques and Cassie Cherniwchan. Overall winners for this special event were Joan Conlan and Blanche Poborsa.

Players are reminded that Monday games are discontinued until the first Monday in October.

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Driftwood

Invention predicts water shortages

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

An invention by Salt Spring electronic engineer Bob Lawson could predict or alleviate potential water shortages for island homes served by wells.

Called the Watermark 1, the computerized device can measure the water flow in a well. When used as part of a storage tank, it can help the owner gain the maximum amount of water from a well.

"When it comes to rural property, something that is critical is water supply," Lawson said.

He sees two uses for the Watermark.

One is to allow an objective measurement to be obtained of a well's performance. He plans to offer water flow measurement as a service to well owners and potential buyers of homes served by wells.

"It's an excellent well performance tester," he said. Those buying property will gain an accurate report on the capacity of the well. Anyone building on their property will be able to design to the capability of their water supply.

Lawson notes there is no point in putting in two washrooms if the home's water supply will only support one.

A well owner might want a test to determine if a new well is needed.

For people whose water supply is low, the Watermark can help draw the greatest amount of water from their well.

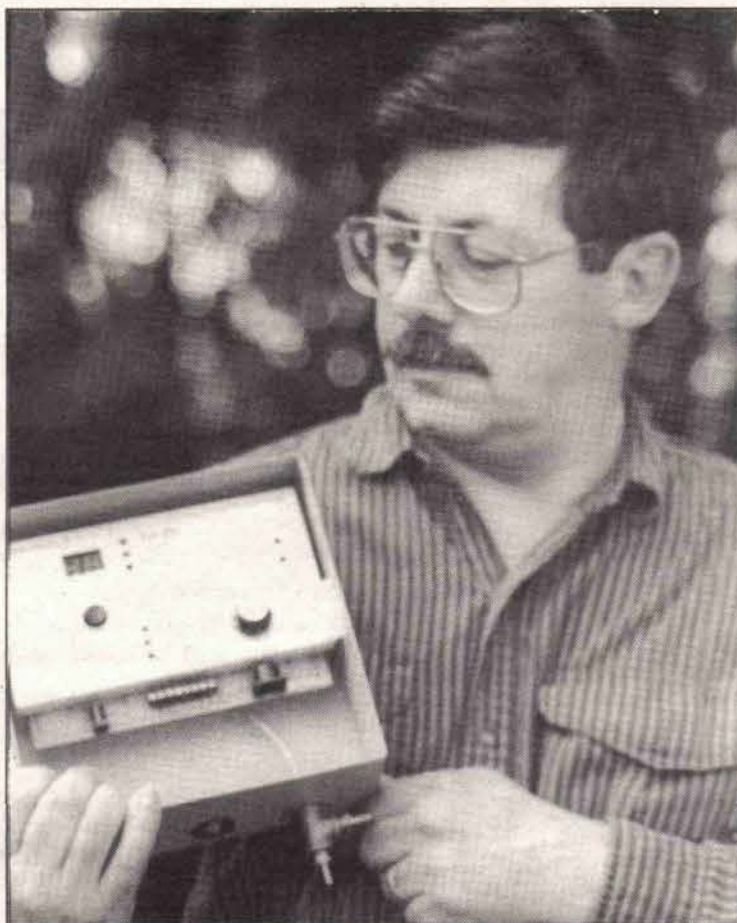
For the past year, Lawson has been conducting a test on a local well which produces half a gallon a minute. The Watermark both measures the water level in the well and acts as a controller for the pump.

When the water reaches a pre-set level, the Watermark activates the pump, which pumps the water into a 600-gallon storage tank. As the water is pumped out of the well, the water level drops and the Watermark shuts off the pump.

More water is then able to flow into the well and the process is repeated when the pre-set water level is reached.

Unlike a timed pump system, the Watermark allows water to be pumped from the well as soon as it is available and does not operate the pump when no water is present.

Even the lowest-flow well has the capacity to collect six to eight times more water if the water is removed as soon as it is available, Lawson said. "Your well will yield the maximum amount of water if you get it out of the well



WATER WATCHER: Inventor Bob Lawson displays his Watermark 1, designed to measure water flow in a well and control a pump to take maximum advantage of available water.

Photo by Valorie Lennox

and into a (storage) tank."

Without the Watermark and the storage tank, the owner of the test well could draw less than 100 gallons a day directly from the well, Lawson said. With the Watermark and the storage tank, the owner can draw more than 600 gallons a day.

Since installing the Watermark in a test well, Lawson has revised the equipment three times. He now feels the product is ready for market.

Lawson said he first got the idea for the Watermark five years ago while working on a reservoir system. He became interested in the issue of fresh water supply and started researching the problem.

"The more I did that, the more I realized that fresh water supply is pretty critical."

Most of his work is on other people's projects, but he decided to devote some time to developing the Watermark.

Within the last two to three years, advances in technology and reductions in price have made the components of the system inexpensive enough to produce a relatively affordable device.

Living on Salt Spring for the past five years gave Lawson further impetus to develop the Watermark, since he realized the island offered an ideal testing ground.

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WATER WELL DRILLING

B.C. Hydro safety officials are reissuing the age-old warning:

DON'T FLY KITES OR MODEL AIRPLANES NEAR POWER LINES.

"Even brushing a kite or model airplane control-line against a hydro power line can cause electrocution", says Hydro's Murray Smith.

Remind children to say clear of power lines every time they head out, and check that the kites lines are dry. String becomes a better conductor when wet.

Explain to children the importance of leaving the kites or model airplane alone if it does entangle in a pole or power line. Removing it is a job for a trained worker with the experience and equipment necessary to work near high-voltage electrical equipment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
THE BC HYDRO OFFICE AT: 537-9966**

BC hydro 

Those buying property will gain an accurate report on the capacity of the well.

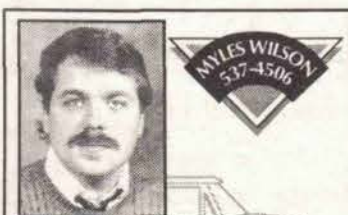
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