

Driftwood

Gulf Islands

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Options study will go ahead

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

The second phase of a local government options study will go ahead as a result of a meeting at Fulford Friday.

Islanders gathered at Fulford Hall for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs-sponsored meeting, held chiefly to explain guidelines that will govern how a municipality would operate within the Islands Trust area.

While a straw vote revealed almost unanimous support for continuing with the options study, the same could not be said for the ministry's guidelines.

In fact, there was a lot of concern about the control the Trust would continue to have if Salt Spring was to incorporate. As well, several questions about changing the guidelines failed to get a clear answer from the three ministry representatives present at the meeting.

Disagreement with the proposals surfaced quickly as speakers questioned the manner in which a municipality would be represented on Trust Council.

The ministry proposes a double direct method of election, whereby voters would complete two ballots, one for municipal councillors and the other for Trust Council. One speaker observed that such a method was used at one time to elect regional directors in incorporated areas. It was dropped, the meeting was told, because it did not work.

One of the reasons it was dropped, ministry spokesman Gary Paget said, was "a maverick" could end up being elected regional director.

But the Trust was a different situation, he continued. On the one hand, a municipal council could help advance its own interests by making council appointments itself.

On the other hand, someone elected only to Trust Council would have no relationship at all with the municipality.

"We're coming right down the middle," Paget said of the ministry proposal.

Discussion of the financial relationship between an incorporated island and the Trust prompted one speaker to observe that the province ought to pay more for Trust operations. Gary Holman pointed out that the provincial grant to the Trust, about \$450,000, is \$200,000 less than what Salt Spring taxpayers contribute for its operation.

In response to charges that the

GOVERNMENT STUDY B2



Dreaming of a white Christmas

A flurry of snowflakes entertained concert-goers at last week's Fernwood Elementary School Christmas performance. Here, left to right, are young snowflakes Aurora Goodman, Camilla Peter, Camellia Victorin and

Hannah Everest. Word has it that the extreme "cuteness" of the young performers brought tears to more than a couple of eyes.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Philosophical dilemma created by protest

An influx of letters claiming that the regional director is not representing the community's interest creates a dilemma for the board.

"The board starts to become uncomfortable," he said. Salt Spring residents have brought concerns over their regional director to the CRD before, Imrie noted. He added that islanders might have resorted to recall if that option had been available.

Personally, he felt the influx of letters demonstrated a high level of concern in the community. "Should we look into this a little more deeply because of that level of concern?"

Central Saanich mayor Arlene Box thinks not, although she reported receiving more opposition than support for the regional director. Luth was democratically elected by island residents in 1993

so there is little the regional district board can do.

"It may be a long year for Salt Spring," she said.

Newly-elected CRD chairman Bob Clark said he had never witnessed such a difference of opinion as that now occurring on Salt Spring. "I just wish things would go a little easier on the island," he said.

Board members already voted

against Luth's recommendation in September when they approved the PRC bylaw governing the Saturday market. "The board does speak independently when it has to speak," Clark said.

But the usual role of the CRD is to take action at the request of the member municipalities and electoral directors. "We're not the

LUTH PROTEST B3

Scottish angel touches island Grinch-Scrooge

Moira Campbell was touched by a Scottish angel last week, and like Dr. Seuss's famous Christmas Grinch, she felt her heart grow "10 times its size."

Before her magical meeting, Campbell called herself a Christmas Grinch-Scrooge.

"Christmas is supposed to be a time to be happy and giving," Campbell said. "But for some of us the holidays trigger some sort of stress or depression."

Campbell has been unable to loosen herself from unhappy Christmases of the past. As a teenager, "we were really broke," she recalls. In California, where she lived before moving to Salt Spring four years ago, she once had her truck, full of toys, stolen from a toy store parking lot just three days before Christmas.

She also had her purse stolen dur-

ing the Christmas season — the thief rung up her credit cards and used her cheque book.

"In the States, the endless Christmas commercials kick off the day after Thanksgiving, setting off this tone of 'look how loving we all are' . . . we just want to care at Christmas time, but people are hungry all year round," she said.

Campbell's Christmas grinch-ness hit hard this year, to the dismay of her eight-year-old daughter who kept pestering her to bring out the Christmas decorations and set up the tree.

"It was the last thing I wanted to do. I just wanted the season over and done with."

She did not even want to attend her daughter's Christmas concert.

On Friday, Campbell set out shopping. She went to the bank and made a few disparaging comments

about Christmas line-ups and the need to extract even more money from the bank.

Campbell stopped at Ganges Village Market with her two-month-old baby to pick up a few groceries.

"A strange man with a heavy Scottish accent came up to me, pointed at the sleeping baby and asked 'where do you get one of those?'"

Campbell smiled and the two exchanged small talk.

"He came back with a purple dinosaur and told me it was for the baby. He put some money in the dinosaur's mouth and told me it should be enough to pay for it. I refused, but he insisted and told me it was a Scottish tradition. I told his wife I couldn't take this generous gift and she also insisted."

Campbell says her eyes welled up with tears and she couldn't regain her

composure to thank them properly. "I cried all the way home."

"It's not just the money," she adds, "It's the whole fact of giving it to someone he didn't even know and touching my life in that way."

And she felt her heart grow. Once at home, Campbell brought out the Christmas decorations, wrapped presents and even played Christmas music — much to the delight of her older daughter.

Campbell phoned her sister, another Grinch-Scrooge, in Detroit and told her the story.

"She said I'd been touched by an angel."

"I feel much better," Campbell concludes. "I now believe in the true spirit of Christmas. There are people out there who can touch people like me and give us a whole new faith in the world."

Anxious Carol Evans fan tries to thwart best-laid plan

As Ottawa continues to operate its cultural protection racket through Bill C-103, it's refreshing to note that not all Canadian art and culture requires federal intervention to survive.

In fact, the demand for the work of Salt Spring watercolour painter Carol Evans is such that prospective customers have to take a number and keep their fingers crossed.

Carol and partner Bryn King decided to sell a painting earlier this year, but they knew that putting an ad in the paper or hanging the piece in a gallery would both do the same thing: create a stampede.

That, in their minds, is simply not fair. And being fair is topmost in the minds of this very agreeable and easy-going couple.

So once again they utilized the purchase/draw method of selling Carol's paintings, a method used reasonably successfully at gallery sales.

And it almost worked.

Carol and Bryn set the selling price for

TONY RICHARDS



Diamond Sea at \$15,000 and began accepting entries for the draw in June. By Thursday they had 129 entries, all of whom had entered through galleries that carry Carol's work. The addresses on the entry list ranged from Germany, Scotland and all over North America, with a large contingent from Florida.

Last week the list was scanned to confirm that it contained no duplicates. The entry rules are explicit: one entry per person or residence will be accepted. However, if a husband and wife put up two separate addresses, who's to say their entries are invalid.

It was this gray area that led to a spot of difficulty.

On Thursday, the appointed hour of 11 a.m. arrived and the designated drawmaster, yours truly, pulled a name from the hat. It was a name with an address in — where else — Florida. That's to be expected, we agreed, there being about 30 entries in total from the American state.

But a call to the gallery from which the winning entry came revealed the truth. Twenty-nine of the Florida entries had been made on behalf of the 30th. Indeed, the gallery had a Visa imprint in the name of one man, whose credit card would pay for the painting regardless of which of the 30 entries was drawn.

Carol and Bryn were shocked. In spite of all their efforts to be fair, one anxious fan of Carol's work had thwarted the best-laid of plans and succeeded in winning the draw.

Although it took them a while to decide, there was only one choice: draw again. The option to purchase went instead to Katinka Smeele of Coquitlam who, as far as anyone knows, had

made only one entry for the painting.

The draw, you will observe, was open to anyone who wished to participate, regardless of nationality. It's too bad the same cannot be said for access to Canadian readers by foreign publications.

The federal government has rushed to the aid of Canada's hapless magazine publishers by introducing an 80 per cent tax on advertising revenues of split-run American publications. Never mind that Canadian readers might enjoy an American magazine such as Sports Illustrated, the only one at this point to be affected by the new tariff.

Unfortunately for readers, however, Canadian magazine publishers cannot survive without government help.

Surely if readers want the American product, they should have the option to purchase it. And if they prefer it to the Canadian variety, publishers this side of the border should revise their marketing plans.

GOVERNMENT STUDY: will go ahead

From Page B1

Trust had worked closely with the ministry in drafting the proposals, Paget insisted that the ministry had set them. And it was important that a framework be in place before a restructure study could begin, he said.

At one point during the meeting, however, Paget implied that the proposals might be changed through the deliberations of a restructure committee.

The head of the group which has been lobbying for the second phase of the options study asked specifically about changing the double-direct election requirement.

"What if the restructure committee decided not to do (double-direct elections)?" Jeremy Moray asked.

Paget did not answer the question, but said the ministry proposals reflected legislation currently in place and a desire to find some "middle ground."

Many questions and comments from the audience of nearly 150 reflected a dissatisfaction with the

Trust, prompting one speaker to say a few words in its favour. "Some of us," he said, "are very happy" with the Trust and the way it operates.

"The voices of suspicion (over its relationship with a municipality) don't represent everyone on the island."

But that didn't prevent another speaker from warning later in the meeting that the island would be "heading down a one-track road" if a restructure committee was prohibited from examining alternative relationships with the Trust.

Regional director Dietrich Luth, who has opposed efforts to proceed with the options study's second phase, indicated he was prepared to go along with a decision to proceed. But he warned that "quality control" would be a "major consideration."

He cited a recent study in Sooke, describing it as "an atrocious piece of work."

Pressed by Tom Hosie for an

answer to questions about opportunities for the community to look at other arrangements than those outlined by the ministry, Paget stated the position of the minister. She has made it clear, he said, that incorporation outside the Islands Trust is not a choice.

The exchange prompted Jonathan Oldroyd to make an appeal for putting aside feelings about the Islands Trust. To say no to continuing the study would mean going backward, he said. It would "take us forever to get back here," he warned.

Duart Campbell proposed that David Borrowman, who chaired Friday's meeting and the first phase of the options study, help facilitate the striking of a new committee to complete the study.

Borrowman said Monday he would consult with the members of the options committee, which was disbanded two years ago, about how to proceed.

New schedule would give better 'lift-off'

Commuters at risk of missing morning ferries may get a break in mid-May, if B.C. Ferries adopts a new schedule which would increase early morning sailings between Fulford and Swartz Bay.

The proposed schedule is now being reviewed by the Southern Gulf Islands Scheduling Committee and the Salt Spring Transportation Committee.

"We don't have a schedule set down yet," said Stephen Nussbaum, communications and client relations officer for B.C. Ferries. "It's in discussion stages

and we're waiting for input back from the Southern Gulf Islands Scheduling Committee and the Salt Spring Island Transportation Committee."

According to Salt Spring committee chairperson Kathy Scarfo, the proposal is to adjust the schedule of the Bowen Queen to offer more early morning sailings. "The idea is to get more lift-off early in the morning and possibly connect with route one (Swartz Bay to

Tsawwassen)."

Scarfo noted there have been frequent overloads of morning sailings from Fulford throughout the fall and early winter. Last Wednesday and Thursday, there were four lanes of cars left behind after the 9:30 a.m. sailing.

On Tuesday, the Tachek made an extra sailing shortly after 10 a.m. to clear some of the overload at Fulford. Two lanes were still left behind after that extra sailing.

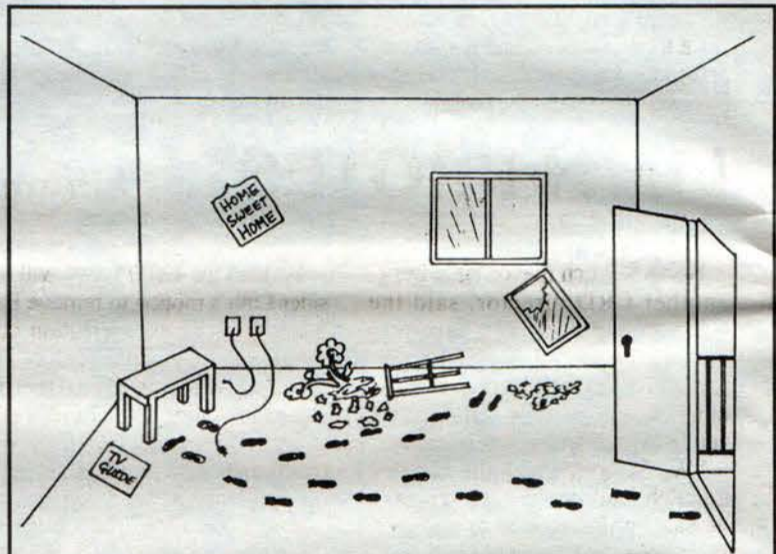
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LAW OFFICE



Calculating the cut
Piles of protest letters signed by island residents are checked by Committee for Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring members, from left, Russ Crouse, Bob Kirkpatrick and Tony McEwen. As of noon Monday, the group had 952 letters in hand, and more than 100 letters had already been sent directly to the Capital Regional District.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

Luth unconcerned by campaign

A numbers war is being waged between regional director Dietrich Luth and the Committee for Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring Island.

Last week the committee reported collecting over 1,000 letters which supported the Parks and Recreation Commission's (PRC) community-based nomination process and opposed Luth's motion to remove Patsy Siemens from the commission.

"There's no 1,000 letters around. It's a total falsehood and it's already printed," Luth said, criticizing a Driftwood report on the protest.

Reviewing a package of letters which had been photocopied and distributed to Capital Regional District (CRD) directors, Luth said there were only 22 which criticized his actions. He discounted the pre-drafted letters distributed as part of the committee's protest campaign, which some residents had signed and sent to the CRD.

"Not even two dozen letters," he said, adding that he was not concerned by the campaign. "Of course not. We've got 10,000 (residents) on the island and we've got 33 letters of all sorts, positive and negative, so what's the problem?"

However, the photocopied letters only included those at the CRD office by December 7. By last Wednesday, the number of letters sent in by Salt Spring residents had reached 161.

Still on Salt Spring are 952 letters which the committee had collected as of Monday noon.

The committee plans to continue collecting letters until January 3, when it will deliver all the letters to the CRD office. Both the nomination of PRC members and Luth's motion to remove Patsy Siemens from the PRC are due before the CRD board at the January 10 meeting.

LUTH PROTEST: Philosophical dilemma

From Page B1

North Saanich mayor Ross Imrie, another CRD director, said the CRD Board normally approves motions by electoral region representatives like Luth because the other directors believe that person is acting in their area's best interests.

"We have to weigh the fact that Dietrich Luth is the representative of Salt Spring, elected to represent their interests," Imrie observed. An influx of letters claiming that the regional director is not representing the community's interest creates a dilemma for the board.

"The board starts to become uncomfortable," he said. Salt Spring residents have brought concerns over their regional director to the CRD before, Imrie noted. He added that islanders might have resorted to recall if that option had been available.

Personally, he felt the influx of letters demonstrated a high level of concern in the community. "Should we look into this a little more deeply because of that level of concern?"

Central Saanich mayor Arlene Box thinks not, although she reported receiving more opposition than support for the regional director. Luth was democratically elected by island residents in 1993 so there is little the regional district board can do.

"It may be a long year for Salt Spring," she said.

Newly-elected CRD chairman Bob Clark said he had never witnessed such a difference of opinion as that now occurring on Salt Spring. "I just wish things would go a little easier on the island," he said.

Board members already voted against Luth's recommendation in September when they approved the PRC bylaw governing the Saturday market. "The board does speak independently when it has to speak," Clark said.

But the usual role of the CRD is to take action at the request of the member municipalities and electoral directors. "We're not the fourth level of government."

He said the CRD board will consider Luth's motion to remove Patsy Siemens from the recreation commission and the nomination of PRC members at the January 10 meeting. Board members agreed October 26 to extend all current PRC appointments until January 10 and to decide on both issues at that meeting.

The Committee for Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring, which is organizing the campaign, plans to have all possible letters collected and delivered to the regional district by January 3.

CRD director Marie Rosko said input from island residents will have an impact when the issue comes before the board. She felt there is a lot of community concern and said it was good to see residents participating in local issues.

But, she said, residents will have a chance to vote on Dietrich Luth's performance as regional director next fall.

"They did elect director Luth — that was by due process — and he

does have statutory rights," Rosko observed. In the meantime, she hoped all islanders would do their best to work together.

Both Ranns and Imrie suggested islanders consider forming a municipality on Salt Spring.

Ranns noted appointments to the CRD from municipal councils must be renewed annually, so a director who doesn't follow the wishes of his or her council can be removed within the year.

"Essentially, the job of a politician is to represent public opinion," Ranns observed.

By contrast, a regional director from an electoral area has a significant amount of power during a three-year term — "far more than anyone realized on Salt Spring Island," Ranns suggested.

"Why (the island) doesn't incorporate is beyond me. They have the population," he added.

Imrie agreed. "Maybe this is the time to incorporate. Maybe Salt Spring should."

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Youth nets probation for shooting stolen flares

Shooting off stolen flare guns while drunk gave a Salt Spring youth his first two criminal convictions in Ganges provincial court December 12.

The young man, who was 17 years old at the time of the offence, pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic and stolen property charges at an earlier court date. Sentencing was set for last Tuesday.

Judge William Ehrcke ordered the youth serve one year on probation, and complete 30 hours of community work service.

Provincial Crown counsel Kevin Blake told court that the Ganges fire department received a report of a grass fire behind 125 Rainbow Road at 6:16 a.m. on August 12. Suspecting the fire was started by a flare gun, the resident, Dennis Ranger, checked the glove box of his vehicle and found his flare gun and 12 flares missing.

COURT DOCKET

As police were talking to Ranger, another flare went off near the Ganges fire hall. Two witnesses said they had seen the youth in the vicinity.

Local RCMP members found him on August 25. While being chartered, warned and searched, one gram of marijuana was found in his possession.

When questioned about the flare gun incident, the youth had admitted to drinking "all night" before committing the theft.

His youth worker told court that the youth recognized alcohol was a problem for him and he was currently not drinking. Ehrcke made abstention from alcohol and drugs, and coun-

selling as directed a youth worker two conditions of the probationary term.

• Steven Headrick, 37, of Salt Spring received a conditional discharge and one year of probation after pleading guilty to charges of assault and possession of marijuana.

Crown counsel Kevin Blake told court that Headrick's common-law spouse had called 911 at approximately 11:45 p.m. on October 20. She reported to police that Headrick had pushed her against a cabinet door during an argument.

While Ganges police were investigating, three grams of marijuana were observed on a nearby table, resulting in possession of narcotic charges against both parties. Headrick claimed sole possession of the substance.

In passing sentence, Judge William Ehrcke noted Headrick expressed true remorse about the assault incident

and had dealt with the charge at the earliest possible date.

• Cultivation of seven marijuana plants resulted in a \$250 fine for a 16-year-old Salt Spring youth.

Ganges court heard circumstances of the offence on October 24, but sentencing was delayed until December 12 for preparation of a pre-disposition report on the youth.

The local RCMP office had received a report of marijuana plants growing in a field near the youth's residence.

In setting the fine, Judge Ehrcke noted his pre-disposition report was favourable and the charge involved a relatively small number of plants for personal use.

• A possession of marijuana charge netted a 19-year-old Salt Spring woman a conditional discharge with six months on probation.

Jamie Boyle pleaded guilty to the offence, which stemmed from an October 19 incident in the parking lot of Gulf Islands Secondary School. Boyle was a passenger in a car checked by police on the evening of a school dance. Another person in the vehicle was initially charged with possession of a bag of marijuana, but Boyle went to the Ganges station the next day and stated it belonged to her. Federal Crown counsel Michael Coleman said Boyle was "co-operative and forthright" in her dealings with police. However, he said his office was not in favour of a discharge, particularly because of the high number of drug-related offences being committed on Salt Spring this year.

Boyle was ordered by Judge Ehrcke to complete 25 hours of community work service in the next three months.

Conditional discharge granted for assault

A Salt Spring man received a conditional discharge and one year of probation in Ganges court December 12 after pleading guilty to assaulting his 11-year-old son.

Court heard from Crown counsel Kevin Blake that Ganges RCMP were contacted September 22 after receiving a complaint of abuse from the social services ministry. A boy had reportedly asked school staff for some ice to put on bruises and told authorities

his father had assaulted him the previous evening.

A police investigation determined the father, aged 38, had hit the boy on one arm with a wooden spoon, punched him twice with his fist and kicked him twice. The boy had bruises on his arm and the side and front of one leg.

Both the boy and his father said

that extent of force had not been used before, although the father "had on occasion struck (the boy)."

The father conceded to police he had lost his temper that night. "He realized he had gone too far but said that was the way he had been brought up," Blake recited from the police report.

Court heard from the father that he did not at the time realize his actions constituted a criminal offence, and he had sought counselling for the matter.

Blake said the Crown's position was that a conditional discharge would be an appropriate disposition.

"This is an offence that has

clearly cost you some serious personal grief," said Judge William Ehrcke, "and I'm sure you will agree it has done the same for your son."

Ehrcke said it was not his practice to enter a conditional discharge in this kind of case, but noted the man was cooperative with police and had sought counselling.

"I'm taking a chance with you on this one," he said.

Man who disagrees with charges fined \$250, placed on probation

"You are wrong," was Brandon Tarodi's reaction to Judge William Ehrcke's guilty verdict in Ganges court last Tuesday.

The 32-year-old Salt Spring man had defended himself on a charge of breaching a peace bond, but Judge Ehrcke disagreed with his submissions, fined him \$250 and placed him on probation for one year.

The Crown alleged Tarodi had violated a one-year peace bond entered into last November to stay away from a young woman he once had a relationship with. Court heard from the woman that she was sitting in Kanaka Restaurant with friends on February 16, 1995 when Tarodi entered the restaurant and sat at the same table. Eye contact was made, she said, before he sat about four to five feet away from her. Feeling upset by his presence, she went upstairs and phoned the police. When she returned, Tarodi was gone.

Tarodi said he saw her at the table only after he sat there. He called upon one witness to describe the restaurant's interior, indicating that a partial wall with plants on it could obscure peo-

ple's vision of the table in question as they came through the door.

That same witness, who was seated next to Tarodi at the table, said he told her he had to leave because the young woman was at the table for about five minutes.

Crown counsel Kevin Blake said Tarodi "chose to remain (at the table) longer than he should have" under the conditions of a peace bond.

Tarodi disagreed, saying he left the restaurant as soon as he could. Seeing the one person he was looking for, he did not

immediately notice who else was seated at the table. He also noted the police had been called by the young woman on other occasions when he was simply in Kanaka Restaurant at the same time.

In making his decision, Judge Ehrcke said the onus was on Tarodi to leave as soon as he saw the woman there, and that having mutual friends at a table was "no excuse" for him to sit there.

When Tarodi became upset with him after rendering his decision, Judge Ehrcke said it was the defendant's "prerogative" to disagree with him.



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Eagle trial draws court crowd, but judge reserves sentencing

One of Salt Spring's most closely-followed environmental court cases drew at least 40 spectators to the Ganges courthouse last Tuesday.

Court was crammed with spectators who listened to almost an hour of submissions from Crown and defence lawyers, expecting a sentence to be handed down by Judge William Ehrcke. But instead of finalizing the issue, Ehrcke reserved his decision on sentencing for Douglas Crossley until January 9.

Crossley, 54, of Salt Spring, pleaded guilty October 24 to destroying a bald eagle's nest on his Musgrave Point property in March 1994 without permission of the Ministry of Environment. Sentencing was set for December 12.

As Crown counsel Kevin Blake observed, the case "has attained a fairly high profile in the local community." It was not until last Tuesday, however, that details of the incident were revealed in court.

Blake cited a report on bald eagles by biologist Richard Davies in trying to convey the gravity of the breach of Section 35 of the B.C. Wildlife Act.

There are only about 4,500 nesting bald eagle pairs in B.C., which is estimated as half of Canada's eagle population; 25 per cent of the world's. Loss of habitat from development, especially of waterfront property, is considered the greatest threat to the species' survival on the coast, Blake explained.

Bald eagles mature at five or six years of age, mate for life and establish a set terrain which remains in effect for life, said Blake. Nests can be passed from one generation to another. The

nest in a tree on Crossley's property was known to exist since at least 1962, he said.

"It became a well-known landmark to inhabitants of the island and to boaters."

The tree on Crossley's property was found to contain 30 to 35 per cent decay, he said, and was situated where he had hoped to build his house. Crossley hired a logger to fall various trees on the property. Observing the eagle nest in the tree, the logger advised Crossley to ensure he did not need permission from a government agency before cutting it down.

Crossley asked local trust committee member Bob Andrew about the matter. Blake said that according to Andrew, the conversation was a short one, he had not prepared for it, "and there was certainly some confusion after the fact."

"Andrew maintained he did mention there were other agencies that would have an interest in this matter," said Blake, but the overall result was a "misunderstanding".

Crossley's lawyer Dan Bjurman said his client understood from his conversation with Andrew that because the Islands Trust had no jurisdiction over trees on private property, no permission to remove it was needed. Bjurman also said Andrew had since, in writing, stated he told Crossley to approach the environment ministry about the matter. But Bjurman said "that was an attempt, with all due respect, to save face, to put him in a better position."

Bjurman described Crossley's history as a Prince Rupert hotel owner and "well-respected community-minded businessman."

"If (Andrew) had told him to go to the Fish and Wildlife Branch

(for permission), that is where he would have gone."

Bjurman said Crossley was, like most people, ignorant of provisions of the Wildlife Act, and unaware of the nest's history and significance. When he purchased the lot in 1991, he was not told about the nest, said Bjurman, although he knew and was pleased that eagles resided in the area.

Crossley now operates a sports fishing charter business. Bjurman asked Ehrcke that his sentence take advantage of this business to educate Crossley's clients about eagle habitat.

"It is Mr. Crossley's hope that this incident can be put behind him and the people will understand that these actions were in error," he added.

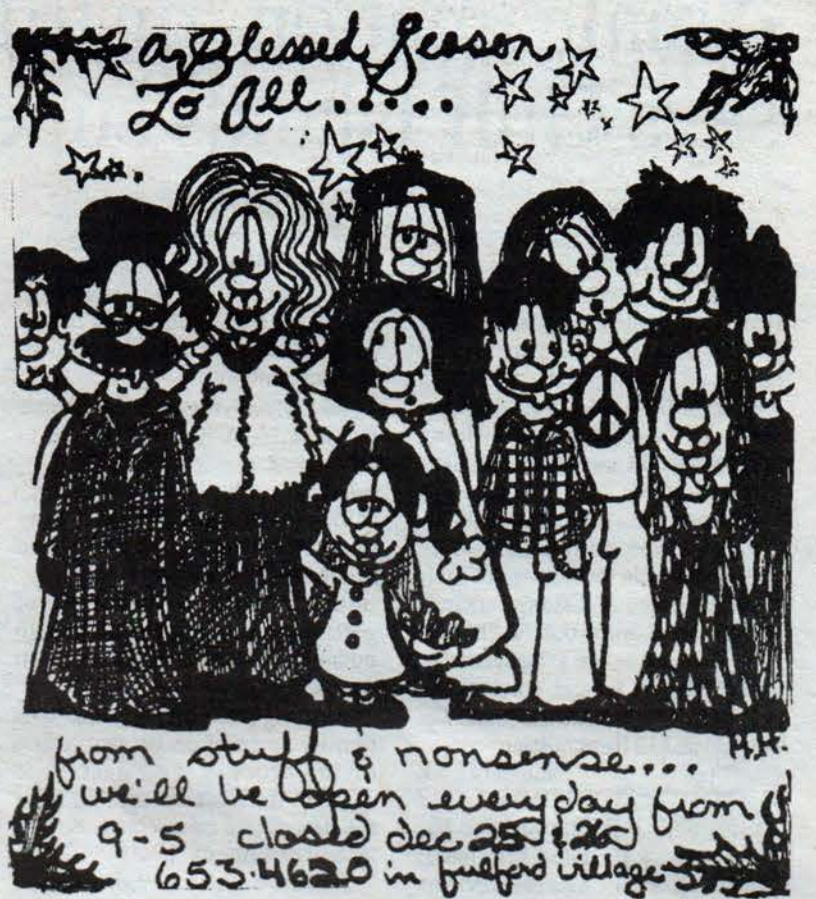
Blake noted that conservation officer Ken Broadland has confirmed that if permission had been sought to remove the nest, it would have been denied. Blake asked Ehrcke to impose a fine in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 range.

Thirty-five people marked their presence at the courthouse by signing a piece of paper circulated by Tamar Griggs, although the crowd appeared somewhat larger.

The only public reaction throughout submissions came in response to Bjurman's suggestion "there is no evidence" the eagles have been hurt by losing the nest, since they appear to still be living in the vicinity.

In addition to the lawyers' submissions, Ehrcke was given several letters, a petition, an environment ministry report and a recent similar court case from Parksville to digest.

His decision will be heard January 9 at 2 p.m. in the Ganges courthouse.



Drinking man falls off Moby's wharf

Local police and an ambulance crew were called to the wharf outside Moby's Marine Pub Friday night, where a man had fallen into the ocean.

The 47-year-old male had been drinking and slipped off the wharf into the water at about 11:30 p.m. A passerby pulled him back onto the wharf. He was taken to Lady Minto Hospital by ambulance.

In other police news:
• A Horel Road residence was broken into Saturday night. However, no items were taken and no damage was

RCMP REPORT

done.

• The local RCMP detachment had a black fanny pack containing money turned into its office. Anyone missing a fanny pack should contact police at 537-5555.

• Police remind islanders that CounterAttack is in full swing. Since the annual campaign against drinking and driving was launched December

8, there have been no impaired driving charges, nor 24-hour driving prohibitions handed out.

Callers to the Ganges RCMP station will now encounter voice mail. Most of the time, callers will have the option of talking to a staff member during normal business hours, but between noon and 1 p.m., callers will be guided by voice mail prompts to leave messages. Any messages received during lunch hour will be answered as soon as possible.

In case of an emergency, people should still dial 9-1-1.

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Amalgamation mistruths spread, says Gulf Islands superintendent

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

Charges of dishonesty were levelled at the Ministry of Education last Wednesday when the Gulf Islands School Board held its first public discussion of the ministry's amalgamation initiative.

"A lot of mistruths are being spread around out there from the highest level. And it's just not good enough."

District superintendent Mike Marshall made the statement after advising trustees that cost savings estimates coming out of "honest meetings" are as high as \$300 million over the next four years.

Education Minister Art Charbonneau has stated that initial annual savings of \$30 million would result from amalgamation. But he has also indicated that the education system will have to find another \$60-\$80 million in savings after that.

The amount of money the minister wishes to save is only one puzzle for the Gulf Islands School District, which under Charbonneau's restructuring plan would join three other districts in the Capital Region.

The larger question relates to where the savings will come from. The minister's plan would reduce the number of school districts from 75 to 37, with savings envisioned for the most part in administration budgets. But preliminary studies by the Gulf Islands, Saanich, Sooke and Greater Victoria districts have found that special education will bear a much larger brunt of the cuts.

In the case of the Gulf Islands, they could represent nearly half the total savings that amalgamation would bring. Marshall described it as "a dramatic reduction" in services to special needs students.

Had the minister missed this outcome, Marshall wondered, or does he care?

On the other hand, Marshall said, restructuring might bring opportunities, and students and schools might ultimately benefit. But he stressed the importance of getting reliable information to permit a rational approach to restructuring.

Trustee Charles Hingston was equally harsh in his condemnation of the process, and described some of the material coming from the education ministry as "intellectual dishonesty".

He also had some critical words for those who walked out of an information meeting in Nanaimo December 10, a walkout which was led by Salt Spring trustee Ken Lee.

As much as he disagreed with the minister's process, Hingston said, he felt it was better to participate in the interest of the education system.

"I would be quite happy to resign tomorrow and stand up on the highest bulwarks and tell them they're doing it the wrong way. But I do not think that is the best way for this district at this point in time to go."

Teacher representative Larry Field issued a caution over public perception of the issue. If it appeared to the public that trustees were only trying to save jobs, they wouldn't get much sympathy. Field said it was important that the public have information about how the changes

would affect their children's education.

Pender Island's Jean Maberley added her voice to those asking where further cuts would come from. She warned they would directly affect children in the classroom.

A committee of representatives of the B.C. School Trustees Association and the Ministry of Education has been struck to conduct a consultation process on the amalgamation issue. The education minister wants a report by next April so changes can be implemented prior to school board elections next November.

A new Capital Region school district would receive funding of \$240 million, a reduction of \$2.7 million from what the four component districts now receive. Most of that is in special education programs, \$1.3 million, and district administration costs, \$945,000.



Charles Hingston



Mike Marshall

'Islands should be separate'

Education Minister Art Charbonneau's plan to reduce the number of school districts in British Columbia has been considered before.

But a document on reorganization, prepared in 1983 for Bill Bennett's Social Credit government, recommended the Gulf Islands remain a separate school district.


It was one of eight districts that the education ministry report suggested be exempt from amalgamation "because of geographical factors."

Among the criteria recommend-

ed for amalgamation at the time:

- Travel from one end of a district to another should be able to take place at all times of the year under reasonable conditions and in a reasonable length of time.
- Communities within a district should be compatible.
- Amalgamated districts should not be separated by a major geographical barrier that hindered communication.
- Reorganization should take place in combinations of two districts to minimize disruption.


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Heavy work

Susan Neale (driving the crane), Bill Robb and Daniel Giguere faced a big job last week as the Ganges Coast Guard continued its process of pulling up buoys, cleaning and servicing them. The Coast Guard is fixing up buoys located throughout the Gulf Islands.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Klenman welcomes controversy

Controversy over the community cable channel's apparent championing of regional director Dietrich Luth delights coordinator Anna Klenman.

Luth's position on the Saturday market and on his actions as CRD director have been endorsed in at least three interviews aired on the local station. Now, Klenman hopes to hear from the other side of the issue.

"I'm really happy that people are using the community channel to address community issues because that is what it is for," she said. "I'm finally getting to a point where people are coming forward."

A rumour that someone had complained to the CRTC about the station's coverage of the issue was refuted by the CRTC's Vancouver office.

And Klenman stresses that the opinions aired are not endorsed by Salt Spring T.V.

"I'm very anxious to present the other side. There's no way I want to endorse one side over another."

She did end up interviewing Luth on air but said that was not a planned interview. Luth had asked for air time and, at the last minute, asked Klenman to pose questions which would allow him to outline his position.

"He became a bit vitriolic," Klenman observed, adding that she did nothing to mould his responses. "It's camera verite. This is what he said."

Klenman said community channels don't have agendas or editorial viewpoints. She works part-time as the station's community pro-

gramming coordinator and relies on volunteers to help produce local programs.

Among the current volunteers are Paul Marcano and Sid Filkow, who are working on a weekly program entitled Isle of Views which will examine local issues.

"I'm grateful to get the program," Klenman said. "It's almost good if people don't agree with it because they're watching and listening."

She hopes for a greater range of volunteers willing to produce local programming. A training session will be held early in the new year, she said.

"I want more response. I want people to phone," she said. Anyone interested in community television can call Klenman at 537-1335.

Trees thrown into the water

Grinches on a spree threw three of the Boy Scout trees at Thrifty Foods into Ganges Harbour Monday night, after breaking into the store's outdoor storage area.

Some bags of fertilizer and potting soil sold by the store were also tossed into the harbour but manager Danny Lee was more concerned by the loss of the trees.

Boys and parents volunteer their time on weekends to sell the trees and raise money for the youth program, Lee said. The store handles sales during the week.

Lee said he has arranged for extra security to protect the trees for the rest of the week before Christmas.

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Christmas Eve

St. Mary's, Fulford Harbour

6 pm - Christmas Eucharist with Sermon and Carols

All Saints' by-the-Sea, Ganges

8 pm - Journey to the Manger, Christmas Eucharist and Carols

St. Mark's, Central

11pm - Christmas Eucharist with Sermon and Carols

Christmas Day

All Saints' by-the-Sea, Ganges

10 am - Christmas Eucharist with Sermon and Carols

St. Mary's, St. Mark's and All Saints' by-the-Sea are Christian churches in the Anglican tradition.

All Saints' by-the-Sea, Ganges, will be open on Saturday, December 23 from 1pm to 3pm for prayer, meditation, counselling and confessions.

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Appreciating the season

Bah, humbug? Feeling like Scrooge or the Grinch? For many people the Christmas season evokes bad memories of unfulfilled expectations, riotous family get-togethers, or the fear of January bill payments.

Grinches decry the bombardment of commercialism that blasts from storefronts, catalogues and television screens, seemingly from the end of October.

They see hypocrisy in giving — why only once a year? They find little joy in seasonal festivity. Their gloom may steal a little of the joy of Christmas away from others.

Scrooges decry the expense of the season. They resent buying gifts for those who may be better able to afford them, or they dislike giving gifts, period.

We have some advice for Grinch-Scrooges, and so does Moira Campbell, herself a newly-reformed believer in the Christmas spirit.

Those wishing to recapture the essence of Christmas are advised to borrow a child for a few hours. Take the child for a drive through Ganges, and appreciate the beauty of the lights. Ganges after dark is a marvellous festival of twinkling colour.

Wander past storefronts, pause to watch as the child becomes mesmerized by the moving figurines and the train in the Mouat's Home Hardware window.

Take a minute to hear what children have to say about Christmas; observe the sense of magic and wonderment that glows in their eyes.

Attend a children's Christmas concert, or sing some carols.

Watch a child open a gift, or even better, watch a child make a gift for someone else. Children delight in creating simple, heartfelt gifts for others. And that is what Christmas — for many — is all about.

The act of giving should not be pressured or manipulated. It should be simple and heartfelt. It does not have to blow a hole in your pocket-book.

And why give only once a year? Hopefully, we carry the essence of Christmas throughout the year, recognizing that the poor and the lonely always need good will. We can and should continue giving of ourselves, within our means, 12 months of the year. But at Christmas time we celebrate the act of giving.

Moira Campbell's new-found joy in Christmas has warmed the season for all those around her. Instead of raising little Grinch-Scrooges, Campbell's new appreciation will likely help raise Christmas-happy kids.

With its roots in the traditions of the Christian religion, Christmas remains a religious event for many people. For many others it is not.

But for all of us, regardless of religious beliefs and backgrounds, it is a spiritual occasion. Let's celebrate the fact that we mark at least one such occasion in the course of the year.

Merry Christmas — have a good one!



Too big for the Bowen

Salt Spring has outgrown the Bowen Queen. Evidence has been mounting — mostly in the line of cars snaking up Fulford-Ganges Road every morning — that an island of 10,000 full-time residents needs a better link to Swartz Bay.

Hardest hit are the commuter sailings at 6:30, 8 and 9:30 a.m. from Fulford and 4:30 and 6 p.m. from Swartz Bay. In recent weeks, Christmas shoppers have added to the traffic, leading to some very long waits at both ferry terminals.

Yesterday morning, a last-minute sailing of the Tachek between Fulford and Swartz Bay picked up at least part of the overload from the 9:30 sailing of the Bowen Queen. Two rows of cars were still left behind.

But even in the so-called slower season, after the tourists all went home and before the onset of Christmas shopping, there were significant line-ups in Fulford and Swartz Bay. Clearly there are more residents than ever hopping the short distance from Salt Spring to Victoria on a regular basis.

So we welcome the current review of the schedule by B.C. Ferries, especially if it leads to more sailings timed to meet islanders' needs.

Even better would be beefing up the schedule at least part way to the summer level. A few extra sailings of the Tachek — say between 8 and 11 a.m. and 4 and 7 p.m. — would relieve some of the pressure.

More sailings would also relieve some of the demand for parking in Fulford. The more cars there are on the ferry, the fewer there will be clogging village streets as they wait for the next sailing.

Council mooted as interim step

The editorial and several other articles (Driftwood, November 29) painted a distressing picture of island politics, beset with confrontation and divisiveness. The editorial made two suggestions for community action, to address what it perceives as the regional director's increasing disregard for democratic process.

The first exhorted islanders to appeal directly to the Capital Regional District (CRD) board when they feel the director is not advancing islanders' interests and the second suggested that the municipal affairs minister launch an inquiry process aimed at deposing the director.

How effective are these suggestions likely to be in addressing our situation?

They both appeal to off-island agencies for help, despite repeated indications that islanders resent interference by remote government agencies in our local affairs, and that the agencies themselves don't want to be involved. They both will likely increase confrontation and divisiveness within the community, rather than help to defuse it. In the case of the proposed inquiry (assuming legitimate grounds for it could be found), the process could easily take longer to complete than the one year left in the current director's term.

But the most important drawback of both suggestions is that neither really addresses the central issue, which is that Salt Spring desperately needs a more broadly representative form of local government, one where a variety of perspectives are seated around the same table. For a number of islanders this means municipal incorporation. But that could take at least a year,



VIEW POINT

By Julia Atkins

and likely considerably longer. We need to do something now to expand community representation and increase local decision-making authority.

One possibility might be to organize an interim community or island council. As a start, this council

could include our currently elected local government representatives, and a number of other elected and appointed representatives. These could be nominated from agreed-upon island agencies and organizations. The council could consider all of the issues normally in the purview of a municipal government and make recommendations not only to the three elected officials, but also directly to the CRD board, the Islands Trust, and the provincial and federal governments.

A community or island council could be started now, with no disruption to existing decision-making systems, and at minimal cost. In the short term, it would provide the checks and balances necessary to democracy, but lacking in our existing system of local government. It could also help to overcome the increasing divisiveness within the community, by fostering more and better communication between community groups and organizations.

As individuals, we can express our views to outside agencies and hope that they will listen. As a community, we could organize a more positive, proactive and durable on-island solution to our problems. Creating a community council might be the best first step.

The writer is a former regional director for Salt Spring Island.

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SALT SPRING SAYS

We Asked: *If you won tonight's 6/49 lottery, what is the first gift you would buy?*



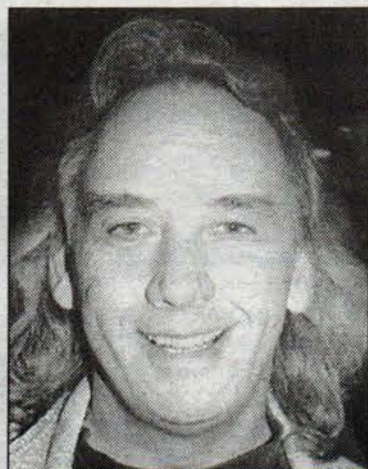
Shannon Anima

I'd buy a school for the orphanage in India that the Salt Spring Centre helps to support.



Kathleen Measures

A cradle for my new arrival I'm expecting in a month.



Arvid Chalmers

You know what I've always said ... I would give three per cent of whatever I'd won to ArtSpring — first thing.



Michel Jutras

A paved road for Armand Way.



Mike Surman

I'd probably buy my mom a plane ticket from England to Salt Spring. She wants to emigrate.

Letters to the Editor

Love that scruff

The issue is not about the market at all.

To think that a referendum on the subject is a solution is to miss the mark. Far closer to the mark is Diane Harris' letter to the editor wherein she refers to Dietrich as "scruffy."

Finally, a real issue has been articulated! The fight is not over the market but over the right to be unique, tolerated and respected, and not judged because one is different in dress, manner or lifestyle.

I believe many people chose to move here because they loved the character and characters — the scruff — of this island. They seek to protect and preserve them. They have seen the sad results of a scruffless society. The election of Dietrich Luth was not an accident — it was a message. A message that our paper and others refuse to acknowledge.

More about S.C.R.U.F.F. on Isle of Views News — Thursdays at 6 p.m. on Salt Spring Cable TV.
SID FILKOW,
Ganges

Equal share

So often we read of moaning negative stories of B.C. Ferries and the Gulf Islands in your paper.

I believe people who freely choose to live on islands need to recognize the basic facts of island residence. You are not in the mainstream of B.C. life and have lower taxes on virtually everything from land taxes, transit levies, gasoline taxes, ad nauseam!

Why should island residents expect the identical quality of life as on the Mainland without paying

for an equal share of taxes and for a fair share of ferry fares, a break-even figure at least?

Really, some pie-in-the-sky people need to realize how lucky and tax free you actually are, here and now!

P. DICKINSON-STARKEY,
Burnaby

Fair trade

I enjoyed your piece on coffee, environmental issues and Nina Raginsky (Tony Richards' Driftwood column, November 29). She is a knowledgeable and vibrant member of our island community, and yes, she has kept her sense of humour, too.

On the subject of coffee, we on Salt Spring have several options to buy fair-traded, organic whole bean or ground coffee at local stores. The most familiar is probably from Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua because of Gulf Islanders who have been importing it in conjunction with another peace-and-justice group on Bainbridge Island in Washington State.

Oxfam-Bridgehead is a much larger and older organization which has been "fair trading" with poor workers from all over the Third World. At least three stores on Salt Spring carry their coffee.

Like organic foods, fair-traded products cost more since they are grown by smaller companies, often cooperatives, which pay a living wage to their workers.

Sometimes I wonder, "Can I afford to pay a bit more for my food?" Then I remember how many of us in the richer countries are constantly worried about being overweight, or are bored with planning what to serve for dinner ... then I just buy less and feel better

besides!
VIRGINIA NEWMAN,
Quebec Drive

No bearing

In the November 29 Driftwood, Brian Brett's letter hit the nail on the head vis a vis Dietrich Luth.

Our personal feelings regarding the CRD director have no bearing whatsoever.

He was elected in a democratic way and at the end of his term we will once again exercise our civil rights by voting in the next election.
GILLIAN A. COBANLI,
Ganges

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National unity still foremost on minds

VICTORIA — Reaction in the west to Ottawa's latest move to forge some united front against the potential breakup of the country makes me wonder whether there's something in the water that addles the brains of our provincial politicians.

When Prime Minister Chretien first announced his unity package, British Columbia's negative reaction was understandable. To be lumped into one region with the prairie provinces, while Ontario and Quebec were to get their own constitutional veto power, was predictably seen as an affront by British Columbia.

The prospect of achieving 50 per cent of the population of the west and thus getting its own veto power by the turn of the century wasn't enough to entice the Harcourt government to support Chretien's plan.

Faced with British Columbia's stubborn refusal to buy into the scheme, Ottawa blinked and came back with an offer the west shouldn't refuse. British Columbia would be given a veto over constitutional changes immediately.

Premier Harcourt, backed up with great verbosity by Forest Minister Andrew Petter, the only constitutionally-seasoned member of cabinet, indicated graciously that he would accept the veto, but then proceeded to dump on the federal deal anyway.

He didn't want to talk about the constitution, period. He wanted to talk about the economy.

The gods will probably punish me for this, but I'm with Victoria Liberal MP David Anderson who says Harcourt should stop whining. National unity, he says, was the issue that should be foremost on everybody's mind.

Instead, our provincial politicians are bickering. And the most unsavory aspect is that otherwise sworn enemies find themselves in an odious alliance. Both Reform leader Jack Weisgerber and Liberal leader Gordon Campbell are opposed to Chretien's unity package.

Like some parrots, trained by the same person, they claim British Columbians are offended by Chretien's proposal. Well, I would like to make something very clear: I am not offended, and I wish these gentlemen would stop speaking on my behalf.

And while Messrs. Harcourt, Weisgerber and Campbell are playing in the sandbox of parochial politics, Lucien Bouchard, the sly fox, is laying the groundwork for the next referendum.

If Canada wants to have some ammunition to shoot down Quebec's next referendum, the unity package must be passed, with or without the support of British Columbia. And last time I checked, we still had a federal government that can pass legislation in its own right.

Nailing down some of the changes Quebec wants, such as a veto and special status, in the constitution would be preferable, but there is virtually no chance Ottawa and the provinces will agree to constitutional amendments before Bouchard unleashes the next sovereignty referendum.

The next-best thing is the prime minister's scheme: pass federal legislation, giving not only Quebec, but Ontario, British Columbia, the prairie region and the Atlantic provinces a veto, and provide Quebec with some assurance that its status is, indeed, different and should remain different.

Armed with these changes, even though they aren't enshrined in the Constitution, we will have the necessary fire power to sink Bouchard and his separatist ship, once and for all next time around.

In the meantime, the premiers would have ample time to mull over what would satisfy them and come to the table of constitutional talks scheduled for 1997 with a realistic agenda.

Surely, the future of the country should be placed before regional aspirations. If the Chretien government doesn't force the unity package through the Commons, we will have the same lame arguments during the next crisis that we had during the last Quebec referendum, namely none.

Aside from mouthing patriotic platitudes and telling the people of Quebec that they would be better off as a Canadian province than in a sovereign state, we would be as defenseless against the next onslaught of separatism than we were a couple of months ago.

And don't tell me, if Quebec wants to go, let it. That's not an option in my books. Nor should it be in that of the premiers. But by rejecting out of hand Chretien's unity package, they are saying just that.

Mike Harcourt has only a few months left as premier of British Columbia. He should use that time to make a contribution to the nation's unity, not pander to the reactionary agenda of the so-called free enterprise parties who are playing politics with the country's future.

Beyer can be reached at: tel: (604)360-6442; fax: (604)381-6922; e-mail: hbeyer@direct.ca

CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



More letters

Economic engine

Lots of new jobs being created on Salt Spring? That could easily be the heading of the Driftwood newspaper in the future if we use the Official Community Plan (OCP) review as an opportunity to set a positive climate for economic growth.

Home-based businesses will be the engine of economic growth on Salt Spring if we don't let ourselves get bound by archaic rules meant to deal with hobbies. Today, with the help of technology and fast communications we can have million dollar businesses humming along employing lots of people and yet with few people even knowing about them. These businesses will create real jobs and serve to invigorate our economy year-round.

The current OCP review can help set the tone for the future. Here's what we have to do.

1. State in the OCP that home-based businesses will be a major force in our economic growth.

2. Scrap the current list of approval home businesses and restrictions on employees, etc. These are no longer zoning issues.

3. In return for greater flexibility in types of businesses and number of employees it will be necessary to license all home-based businesses.

4. Develop a rating chart to aid in determining if a licence application will be approved.

5. Set up an arbitration process to quickly deal with complaints. An arbitration board would balance the needs of the businesses and neighbours.

6. Make it clear to applicants that licences will be revoked if it is shown that its terms are breached.

The result will be to stimulate growth while being mindful of the environment and community. New jobs will be created as news of our flexible and positive approach filters out to entrepreneurs. Success will not require doubling the number of tourists to the island, nor will it hurt our environment, but it will help our youth make the most of their own potential.

Our island can have a strong-year round economy which will be an inspiration to the rest of the country.

DUART CAMPBELL,
Mariko Place

Rescue stories

I am doing preliminary research for a book about marine rescues in coastal British Columbia, and would appreciate hearing from anyone able to pass along relevant information.

I would like to interview people who have been involved in marine accidents either as rescuers or rescuees. These incidents need not have involved many people or have received wide publicity. Indeed, given our province's extensive, often isolated coastline, many rescues do not involve "official" agencies such as Coast Guard or military search and rescue, but are conducted by the people who ply these waters — operators of work and pleasure craft — who suddenly find themselves on the scene of a potential disaster. While these events may involve as much danger and demonstration of courage as more widely publicized incidents, news of them is often limited to those involved and their immediate communities.

While I have been tempted to establish a time limit for the incidents I will eventually write about — say, those which have occurred within the past three or five years — I have chosen not to do so, as I realize that memories of key events in

peoples' lives can remain clear and accurate despite the passage of considerable time.

Anyone who has been directly involved in incidents which may be relevant to this project, or anyone with knowledge of events which they feel could be appropriate, may contact me at 1190 Swan Road, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0 (Phone: 604-335-0933)

KEITH KELLER,
Denman Island

An angel

On December 16 I witnessed, from Ingles Family Restaurant, an elderly woman struggling up the pathway from the waterfront park alongside Thrifty's.

An angel appeared from along the way, and lent his arm to her until they reached the level of the main road.

We are all fragile; you or I may need someone's arm. Let us all set our hearts free and reach out with love and understanding.

I do not know who this man is, but he deserves to be acknowledged.

HEATHER SPAIN,
Mount Baker Crescent

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Crafters carol orchestra

An impromptu music group — including several craftspeople — led carolling at Mahon Hall Sunday near the end of the Last Minute Craft Fair. Playing are, from left, Arvid Chalmers, Jane Janzen, Alvaro Sanchez, Mike Price and Michael Aronoff. Janzen, Sanchez, Price and Aronoff were also selling their crafts at the fair. Leading the group was Susan Cogan.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

More letters

Christmas joy

On December 14 I had the opportunity to see the Fernwood School Christmas concert.

What a wonderful time I had! These kids really were enjoyable to watch. In the past few years the school has only had a small group of primary children singing, while the older children and their families gathered in their classrooms for various activities. This was always difficult when you had more than one child to spend the evening with.

I was so pleased when I heard there would be a real Christmas concert this year. I wanted to tell all the children how great they were, and to express my thanks to all the extra time, effort and patience the staff and parent helpers put forth to make the evening so enjoyable.

PAULINE BATH,
Maliview Drive

Important gift

Dickens' story The Christmas Carol epitomizes the goodwill surrounding a town in 19th century England. The display of

love and kindness seems to have continued for a longer time than does the euphoria of our present day celebrations.

In Scrooge's case it certainly did. His regeneration began on Christmas morning and it was said that he continued to be a kind and generous employer for the rest of his life.

The opportunity to make a lasting change in our lives is also available to us at this time, but only if we realize the true meaning of Christmas. This doesn't mean doing away with presents or discontinuing the age old custom of decorating the tree.

It does mean, however, that we should try to look beyond the merriment and the festivities to find a spiritual answer for the goodwill which abounds at this time. This may be found in the teachings of the Nazarene who has a message for all of us, regardless of our colour, race or religion. And that, simply put, is that we should love and care for one another.

We are being asked at Christmas time to step out on the same road to Gethsemane that He took and to give up our

lives in sacrificial service to others as He did. This is the lesson He came to teach, and it is by following His example, particularly at Christmas, that we can bring about that spiritual change.

The most important gift on the Christmas tree this year for ourselves and for our children is then a firm belief that all of us on this planet Earth are here for the express purpose of serving one another in love. This is the way we are being asked to observe Christmas. It is not a one-day celebration, it is a commitment for the rest of our lives.

DAVID MASSY,
Old Scott Road

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British 'Colombians' invited to 'England'

The Sunday Times, of London, published a piece on Canada. Nicely presented, it was so attractive I immediately decided I'd take a holiday in BC some time.

But that distinguished London newspaper couldn't spell "British Columbia".

There it was, clearly marked on the map, "British Colombia".

Next thing you know, they'll be inviting us to visit England!

Who smokes?

Talking about smoking to death, like I was. Talking, not smoking! I don't smoke. Once I was wicked. Perhaps a lot more times than once! But I quit.

I don't broadcast it, but I had to. I had a mouthful of ulcers and a throat that had lost most of its skin, so I quit. I felt better and I have lived longer than my twin, who kept the chimneys going.

But I don't like the popular trend today whereby those who do not smoke spend their spare time condemning the citizens who still enjoy a cigarette or a cigar or a pipe and that's all.

Since I quit I have enjoyed food like I invented it and I abhor the stench of somebody's cigarette. But until the government of Canada rules that cigarettes are not acceptable in Canada I will support the smoker all the way. I might join an anti-smoking group and work for a change in regulation. But while smoking is legally permitted I cannot support improper controls or efforts to introduce such controls on smoking.

I'm not sure that legislation to discourage smoking by adding tax upon tax to dissuade the impoverished from enjoying what their wealthier colleagues may enjoy freely is proper.

OK! Let's all quit! But let's be sure that the rights afforded us as Canadian citizens are enjoyed by all who might seek that license!

Referendum on death? If it has anything to do with mine, I'll vote "No!"

There's been some talk about the death penalty since the Reform Party proposed to reform Canada with the presentation of a national referendum on the re-adoption of the blood-for-blood routine.

I was talking to a confirmed liberal; though not a Liberal. She has always opposed the death penalty, she told me, but if a referendum were presented she believes she would vote for the return of that penalty.

How could the mother of a young Canadian family vote in any other direction, she asked me.

Canada is rapidly descending into a lawless state, she charged. Crime of all kinds is the biggest national employer and thievery and thuggery the two most common hobbies.

She agrees that there is no statistical evidence to indicate that the penalty of death is likely to dissuade the criminal, but if it should discourage one potential murderer or rapist or pedophile from going for the gold, then that penalty merits its reinstatement, she contends.

TO BE FRANK
FRANK RICHARDS



Nurses will attend trauma program

A generous donation to Lady Minto Hospital will enable island nurses to attend a pediatric trauma program at the Justice Institute in Vancouver.

Following their participation in the program, nurses will make recommendations for updating or adding pediatric equipment to the Lady Minto emergency ward.

Members of the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital board were updated on the trauma program at their monthly meeting December 12.

In other hospital-related news:

• Patient activity at Lady Minto continues to show increases in most areas. Occupancy rate for acute care in November was 84.9 per cent, compared with 70 per cent for the same period last year.

Day care surgical cases for the month totalled 21 compared to 18 last year; in-patient surgical cases totalled 12, up from five. Total emergency visits for the month of November amounted to 450, compared to 394 last year.

• Hospital representatives will be attending the Mayne Island Forum, scheduled for February 3. Nursing coordinator for Mayne Island Diane Jeffries will be working in the Lady Minto emergency room and on the acute care unit for several night shifts as an observer to become familiar with local procedures and services, as well as emergency protocols.

• The new emergency mental health nurse, Roberta Hornsey, recently gave a presentation to hospital physicians. Her role will include providing crisis intervention and emergency assessment. She will also be available to provide guidance to hospital nursing staff in psychiatric emergencies.

She is employed through the Salt Spring Island Community

Services Society.

• Dr. Bob Crossland, consulting internist at Lady Minto, was recently appointed deputy palliative care physician and will be able to take palliative care consultations when Dr. Peter Rowell is unavailable.

• Board member Pam Pirie tendered her resignation since she has returned to university. The board appointed Don Dowsley to take her place.

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Katimavik volunteers need homes for a week

Host families willing to give visiting young people a home-grown taste of island life over the holidays are invited to contact the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation office.

Nine or 10 young people involved in the Katimavik program require billets from December 29 to January 5. The billeting is part of the federal program and gives the young people a chance to live with another family.

Parks and Recreation administrator Tony Hume noted some of the Katimavik young people are Francophones. A host family with a French Immersion student or whose members want to practice speaking French would benefit from billeting one of the visitors.

Host families receive \$35 a week to cover costs. Anyone interested is asked to call the recreation office at 537-4448 during standard working hours.

Young people in the Katimavik program are aged 17 to 21. Many

are living away from home for the first time and are doing volunteer work in the community. Clearing and maintenance of local parks, work on trails and beach accesses, and work in the Chamber of Commerce office and the community centre are among jobs tackled by the group.

For much of their three-month stay on Salt Spring, members of the group are living communally in a home owned by the Capital Regional District. Their living expenses are covered and each receives a small allowance.

Each one who completes the nine-month program will receive \$1,000 before returning home.

Of the original nine young people who arrived on the island last month, two returned home and one new volunteer has arrived. More participants are expected, bringing the total to 11. Hume suggested host families will be required for up to ten young people.

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Gulf Islands docks available in DFO divestiture program

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Federal docks in the Islands Trust area will be up for grabs over the next few years as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) continues a dock divestiture program started earlier this year.

No docks on Salt Spring Island are involved but in the Gulf Islands the DFO will be seeking individuals or organizations to take over docks on Galiano, Mayne and North and South Pender islands. Included in the divestiture program are Horton Bay dock on Mayne, Retreat Cove dock on Galiano, Browning Harbour dock on North Pender and Bedwell Harbour dock and breakwater on South Pender.

Throughout B.C., the federal department is removing 72 docks from its jurisdiction, John McNally, DFO's regional director of the Small Craft Harbours Branch, told the December Islands Trust council meeting.

Involved are those docks designated as recreational facilities when the Small Craft Harbours Branch was established 20 years ago.

Although designated officially as "recreational", McNally noted the docks may have a mixture of uses. The department is offering the docks to other federal agencies or Crown corporations first.

If none are interested, the docks are then being offered to provincial agencies or Crown corporations

and then to municipalities, regional districts or the Islands Trust.

If the dock is still available, it will be offered to community-based groups and, finally, to the private sector through an open bid process, McNally said.

Only the dock is being offered by DFO, McNally said. The person or group acquiring the dock will then have to make arrangements with the provincial government for the accompanying upland property and/or water lease.

"To date, the province has been most cooperative," McNally observed.

At the start of the process, any groups which might be interested in individual docks were notified by letter. Disposal of all the docks is not going to occur within a short period of time, but the processes are happening simultaneously, so anyone or any group interested in a dock should contact the DFO, he suggested.

"Those who are interested, put your interest on the table. Either walk for it or walk away from it." DFO will provide information on the condition of the dock and the cost of maintaining the dock. "It's all public information," McNally said.

"What if no one comes to the party?" Mayne trustee Larry Holbrook asked.

McNally said the DFO will then remove the dock, resolve any issues with upland property owners and the water lease and/or land lease will revert back to the province. In most instances,

McNally said the upland property is owned by the province.

The entire process is to be completed within five years, McNally said. No budget to maintain the docks will exist. "My dollars have been cut off. I don't have a blank cheque behind me."

Salt Spring trustee Bob Andrew asked if the DFO has plans to relinquish authority over all small craft harbour docks.

McNally said those commercial docks in which there is little community interest are also slated for review and possible elimination from DFO control. On Salt Spring, he noted, there is already a local harbour management authority which looks after docks.

"Salt Spring Island has a jump ahead of the world," he said.

Trustees agreed to ask the Trust executive committee to develop an interagency agreement with the DFO to ensure the local community and Trust committees are consulted throughout the dock divestiture program.

The executive committee was also asked to ensure any dock divestitures involving crown lands will be referred to the Trust.

Given that a change in dock ownership could lead to a change in how the dock and upland area is used, local trust committees were advised to review the zoning around DFO docks. Trustees also agreed to do the same review of any other public dock divestitures which could occur in the Trust area.

Mapping new ground

Salt Spring trustees Grace Byrne and Bob Andrew study a computerized mapping demonstration presented by Dan Vasiga of Environmental Systems Research Institute of Vancouver. The presentation was part of an introduction to computerized mapping systems shown to trustees at their December 7 meeting in Victoria.

Photo by Valorie Lennox

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Holiday Cheer
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BEST WISHES FOR A
HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON

May you enjoy a happy and memorable Christmas
with those you hold dear
and may you enjoy a prosperous new year.



New road standards include classification for gravel roads

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Two new road standards specifically designed for islands were welcomed by Trust Council members at a December 7 discussion of island road standards.

"I never thought we'd work together as well as this," Galiano trustee Diane Cragg remarked as committee members, including Salt Spring trustee Bob Andrew, presented an update on the road standards agreement.

Salt Spring trustee Grace Byrne said she was pleased to see a classification which will allow construction of gravel roads on islands. She noted the new classification will allow roads to dip lower than the 50 km/h standard, especially when the road only serves a few lots and ends at the ocean.

Gravel roads will be allowed for subdivisions when less than four lots will be created, when all lots are more than two hectares in size, and when there is no potential for the gravel road to be connected to a future subdivision.

Gravel roads will also be allowed on smaller islands which are not served by car ferries. No gravel road will be changed to a paved road without consulting the local trust committee.

Also added to the agreement is provision for small roads to serve water-access-only subdivisions. The minimum standards is for a 3.6-metre-wide road with a gravel or crushed granular surface and ditches. Such roads are only allowed when there is a minimum number of lots to be served, the road will not connect to a future public road and major access to the subdivision is by water.

Trustees agreed to seven principles which will "form the basis for cooperation and consultation among the parties". These were safety for road users and public safety; environmental protection; affordability; public and applicant input; sustainability; value

to the community and continued cooperation between the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Islands Trust.

"Just to state the obvious, but something important to state, is we expect effective cooperation between the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Islands Trust will lead to certainty in road system planning," trustee Andrew noted.

Trust senior planner Kim Fowler said there are three points in the ministry's road review at which a proposed island road could be referred to the local trustee committee for comment.

These include the initial referral of a subdivision application from highways to the trust committee, the granting of preliminary layout approval for a subdivision and the approval of the road design. All of these points come before road construction begins.

If a problem arises once construction is underway, local trustees can contact the highways ministry, highways regional director Terry Pollock suggested.

"In a practical sense, it's usually us who knows," observed Hornby trustee George Buvyer. Andrew noted some applicants are now discussing their proposed roads with local trust committees before their roads are designed.

The agreement calls for the highways ministry to notify the local trust committee if a proposed road exceeds the standards for more than 20 per cent of the total road or more than 75 metres. The standards call for a 20 metre right-of-way for minor residential rural roads and a 25 metre right-of-way for major rural roads.

Pollock predicted the lower gravel road standards will only

apply in unusual circumstances. The ministry does not want every subdivision application to be built around gravel roads.

A guide for applicants on the road standards will be developed next spring and is included in the 1996/97 budget. Executive director Gordon McIntosh predicted the guide would be completed by June 1996.

Trustees also asked if certain roads could be designated as truck routes, in order to direct large, heavy vehicles away from smaller roads.

Highways manager Richard Harold said truck routes are designated by municipalities. All roads approved by the highways ministry are designed to withstand all legal loads, he said.

Gabriola trustee Susan Yates noted the nature of island roads could make it difficult to designate truck routes. "The reason municipalities can re-route trucks is because they have networks of roads," she observed.

She would not be willing to add roads to islands just to allow for truck routes.

Following the December 7 discussion, trustees agreed at their December 9 business meeting to approve the proposed amendments to the road standards agreement.



Diane Cragg

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Cancelled Sailings Christmas Day and New Year's Day

To reduce holiday season operating costs, BC Ferries will be running on a revised schedule for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The following sailings are cancelled:

Crofton/Vesuvius:

From Vesuvius: 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
From Crofton: 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m.

Brentwood Bay/Mill Bay:

All service is cancelled.

Nanaimo/Tsawwassen:

From Nanaimo: 5:15 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 8:15 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
From Tsawwassen: 5:15 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 8:15 p.m., 10:45 p.m.

Please make note of the revised schedules and plan your holiday season travel accordingly.



BC FERRIES



Now that's entertainment!
Fernwood Elementary School presented its Christmas concert to parents and the public Thursday night. Above, Susan Lee's Grades 4/5 students perform the Twelve Days of Christmas on Salt Spring. At side, Jenny Steele describes what her gift to the world would be.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

Trust will re-consider subdivision approval

A closer look at the Islands Trust's assumption of subdivision approval authority will be brought back to the March Trust Council meeting.

At their December 9 meeting, trustees directed the Trust's executive committee to examine the issue and bring a report back in March. An assessment of the change is estimated to cost \$10,000.

Issues to be considered in the review include how the responsibility would be transferred from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways approving officer to the Trust, and how the role of the approving officer fits under the Land Title Act, the Municipal Act, the Condominium Act and the Local Services Act.

A budget must be prepared for the new responsibility and the Trust must determine if existing staff would be able to handle the additional work.

Other questions are:

- Should there be one Trust-wide approving officer or several?
- How will local trustees and trust committees consider applications?
- What is the legal liability?
- What fees will be charged and how will applications be processed?
- Should the subdivision authority be assumed in the 1996-97 budget year or in the following year?

A report by staff noted the definition of "public interest" relating to subdivision approvals should include the Trust mandate. Official community plans and land use bylaws should be completed before any island takes on subdivision approval.

On Salt Spring, trustees Grace Byrne and Bob Andrew have argued for Trust subdivision approval in order to have more local control over development on the island. At present, subdivisions are approved by a staff person of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

SMILE

The **British Columbia Seniors Medication Information Line (SMILE)** has been established to assist seniors, their families and caregivers to use medications in an effective and rational manner. It is a joint effort of the Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors (Pharmacare Division), B.C. Drug and Poison Information Centre, the Pharmaceutical Industry, the Science Council of B.C. and U.B.C. Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

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Lambert re-elected chairwoman of Gulf Islands School Board

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

Allisen Lambert will serve another term as chairwoman of the Gulf Islands School Board. Lambert was re-elected to the post last Wednesday.

Vice-chairwoman is Lorraine Campbell of Saturna, and the board's representative to the B.C. School Trustees' Association is Jean Maberley of Pender.

In other school board news:
• The Ministry of Highways will be thanked for its letter demanding that the district "cease use immediately" of the closed portion of Kanaka Road.

The ministry is concerned about risk and liability issues surrounding the use of the road by students, many of whom have found it ideal for skateboarding. But ministry solicitors have not yet drawn up the necessary agreement.

One trustee noted it took 30 years to get the road closed and wondered if it would take another 30 to complete the paperwork. Charles Hingston suggested the board do nothing but thank the ministry for its letter and "get the agreement completed."

• The usually routine business of approving a field trip came to a halt when David Eyles asked what days students would be away. The ski trip would take them out of school

SCHOOL BRIEFS

from Wednesday through Friday, reported superintendent Mike Marshall.

So trustees balked and refused to approve the request in light of a long-term practice not to support such trips when they take students out of classrooms for more than two days.

At one point in the discussion it was made evident that trustees have debated such matters before, only to learn that the trip in question had already taken place.

Such was not the case this time, the board was assured. The skiers were not travelling until next February.

• The district will seek financial support from the Pender Island hall association to offset revenues lost since September.

The district suspended user fees for community use of school facilities on Pender after strong opposition to hefty increases proposed by the board. Pender trustee Jean Maberley proposed that the district ask for money from the association, in response to an earlier offer it had made to do so.

Meanwhile, a new fee structure

has been established. Ongoing use of the gym will be charged at \$2 an hour. Special events will pay \$150 per day. The new fees were calculated on the basis of the financial contribution made by the community to the school over the years.

• The school district will have a balanced budget at the end of the year.

The assurance came from Mike Marshall, on behalf of secretary-treasurer Ken Starling, who was unable to attend Wednesday's meeting.

The assurance was timely considering that trustees could have celebrated — had they wished — the first anniversary of the initial news of a massive operating deficit. But there was no celebration, only a great deal of interest in the district's financial state.

Lambert observed that the budget was being "well monitored," but noted that Starling has his hands full with the work load. She said trustees might want to consider addressing that.

A year ago, trustees were warned of a possible \$750,000 deficit. By year end in June, the number had settled out at half a million dollars.

• Trustees approved a request for a 0.6 full-time equivalent leave of absence without pay by Salt Spring Middle School teacher Ghislaine de Saint Venant.

Internet, e-mail may link students

Local students may soon be communicating by e-mail and exploring the Internet as a result of a provincial technology grant.

The Gulf Islands School District has learned that its application for a \$38,000 grant has been approved. The next step is to strike a steering committee to implement a technology plan.

The grant money was received at the same time as a letter from local Internet service provider Imagen Communications Inc. Imagen president Dwight Jones wrote to invite the district to purchase access for \$975 a month.

District schools could then link to the Internet with what is known as T1 bandwidth, which permits the transmission of large amounts of information at a time.

School trustee David Eyles suggested a full discussion on the matter at the next board meeting, and pointed out that the district's technology plan, while accepted by the board, has yet to be adopted.

Board chairwoman Allisen Lambert called for the formation of a steering group with staff rep-

resentation that would look at implementing the technology plan.

Admitting he was an "Internet illiterate," school trustee Ken Lee said a fundamental problem was including Outer Islands schools in a system that provided access through a local telephone call.

Until Imagen began operating its service on Salt Spring earlier this month, access to the Internet was only available through off-

island providers, a long-distance call away.

Fulford School principal Barb Aust urged that a technology group not meet in isolation from the curriculum leadership council.

Lambert noted the importance of learning about e-mail and other facets of the Internet for high school students. "We need to determine how we will move into the information age."

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Harcourt pokes fun in speech to forum

Stepping down as provincial premier clearly has one compensation for Mike Harcourt — it's a good springboard for jokes.

At the People on Islands forum held as part of the December Trust Council meeting in Victoria, the premier was in fine joking form.

He said all the right things — welcomed participants to the forum, assured them they were engaged in a significant project, stressed the need to govern growth on the Gulf and San Juan islands.

But he frequently strayed from his prepared speech to poke fun at himself and at Minister of Municipal Affairs Darlene Marzari, who has also decided not to seek re-election.

"Like me, she's showing great wisdom in getting out before they throw you out," he quipped.

"It's family, Mike," Marzari shot back.

"I'm having a lot of fun these days," Harcourt confessed. "Wait until you see my book — I'm not pulling any punches."

Harcourt is stepping down as premier February 18. He noted that will give him more time to spend at his island home on Pender. "I've heard the saying that an island is a body of land surrounded entirely by envy."

On a serious note, he urged those participating in the forum to seek solutions which will minimize the impact of increased population in the Pacific Northwest.

"I think we need to graphically describe what we would be like 30 years from now if we don't take action. Let's take the existing urban land and re-develop it more efficiently."

He felt the forum demonstrated

islanders' determination to find workable local solutions for islands on both sides of the border. "That kind of partnership has been the cornerstone of my approach to governing in British Columbia," he said.

"I've never believed in the testosterone style of leadership (for which) you have to be the meanest son-of-a-bitch in the valley," he observed.

Nor is a long line forming to take over once Harcourt steps down in just under two months.

"All I know is, three people have said 'no' so far," Harcourt quipped. "It's not that tough a job. It's only 90 hours a week ... what the heck!"

Forum says protect islands

Protection of the islands was the focus of a dozen recommendations made at the People on Islands forum December 8 in Victoria.

Among the 150 participants from the Gulf and San Juan islands, Washington and B.C., were Trust Council members and Capital Regional District directors Jacques Campbell and Dietrich Luth.

Six issues were discussed during the afternoon and the following recommendations made:

- For marine protected areas: make protection of such areas a priority and allocate the necessary resources for marine protection; establish a database of

resources to be preserved as identified by each community; protect the Fraser River.

- Towards voluntary conservation: reform the property tax system in B.C. to encourage voluntary conservation; redirect more state and provincial resources to promote voluntary conservation; prepare an international guide outlining tools for conservation.

- Community economic development: involve a broader range of people in existing planning, including environmental, social and economic interests; arrange sister islands between the San Juan and Gulf islands to share expertise.

- Meet infrastructure needs:

Islands Trust and San Juan County should be allowed to resolve infrastructure issues locally; another meeting should be held to discuss this issue further next year.

- To create public support: start by developing public support of the principles of conservation and sustainability.

- Evaluate progress: maintain and enhance existing programs which monitor changes in air, land and water; make commitments which transcend borders and budget years; encourage island cultural exchanges; develop a shared team of experts for both the American and Canadian islands.



It's that time of year again and we want to extend our warmest regards and most sincere thanks.

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Christmas is Kids

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Driftwood Staff

Sunday afternoon found Salt Spring's Santa sitting in his Hilltop Castle, gazing at a special cookie and a bag labelled "Lichen for Santa's Caribou."

Santa (Stan Teitge) was busily recalling what more than 80 island children hoped to find under their Christmas trees this week, and appreciating the two gifts he received.

As guest of honour at Fulford Hall's Breakfast with Santa, St. Nick was met by screams of delight from pancake-stuffed children who were just beginning to feel the effects of ample servings of syrup.

"One little tike followed me right from the door and then planted himself beside me. He talked and talked the whole time about just about everything."

Santa gave him his orange and candy cane — but he still had more to say to his favourite guy in red.

"I finally had to ask him to stand aside. . . there was a whole lump of kids around me."

Some children were too shy to talk to Santa, and not one admitted to being "naughty."

"I couldn't find a bad apple in the lot," Santa ho-hoed.

The children asked for Power Rangers and Barbies, a lap top computer and a '63 Chevy Impala convertible.



Lauren Lee

"One little lady asked for a puppet show and the little boys still want trucks."

And then there was four-year-old Callum Gunn, who patiently chewed through his breakfast with a bag of lichen perched by his plate.

"I like the reindeer," Callum told the Driftwood, when asked about Christmas favourites. "I like Santa, too."

Callum likes reindeer because they can fly, and also because he has a caribou-specialist friend, says his mother. And mom knows a lot, according to Callum: she says reindeer like to eat lichen.

Santa was happy to get lichen for his reindeer. . . it's hard to come by up north. And as for the cookie — labelled with the

same hand-writing — he felt pretty good about it, too.

Giving was high on the list for a number of children questioned about seasonal favourites before Santa's arrival Sunday morning.

Six-year-old Jordan Robinson had already made bowls, cups and seals for his Ontario cousins. He was planning to make gifts later that day or the next for his mom and dad.

But the best thing about Christmas, Jordan said (aside from presents "like cars and stuff like that") is the holiday side of things: "Mom and dad don't have to go to work and I get to spend the whole day with my family."

Then he started licking his lips because apparently, Christmas means both chicken and turkey for Jordan. "But I like chicken the best. I like chicken legs."

Eight-year-old Lauren Lee is also in the gift-giving mode. She made a gift for one of her friends and is "buying a couple of gifts for relatives."

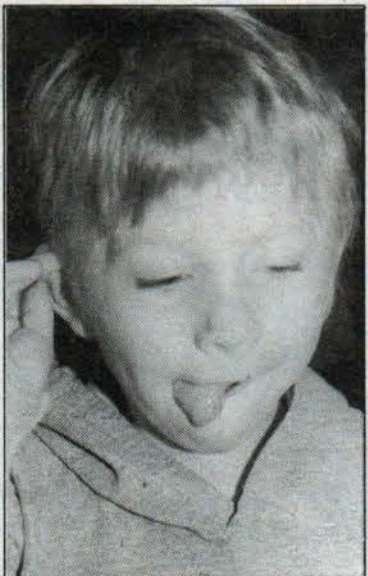
She is excited about the whispered gift heading in her mother's direction, but its identity is a secret and can't be printed here.

Lauren is hoping for a new teddy bear for Christmas — she lost the one she had since babyhood in Mexico last October.

And what is her favourite aspect of Christmas?

"I like to celebrate," said Lauren. "I get to see all of my relatives at Christmas."

Natasha Sutton-Williams, who is "six turning seven in April," likes the fact this is a "giving season," but she also enjoys the presents side of things. Apparently, she knows what will be under the tree for her, "because (she) checked in the back seat."

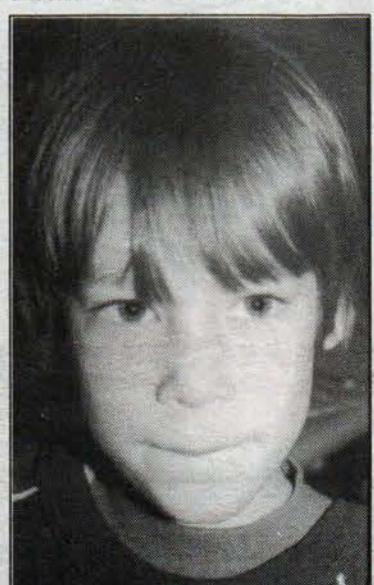


Jordan Robinson



KNOWS SECRET: Natasha Sutton-Williams won't be asking Santa for anything this year because she knows the secret about Santa Claus. Brother Lief may have a few words for Old St. Nick, though.

Photo by Susan Lundy



Cody Bergerud



GIFT FOR SANTA: Four-year-old Callum Gunn has a passion for reindeer and decided to pass Santa some food to feed his flock.

Photo by Susan Lundy

"Now I know where the presents are, but I'm not allowed to look," she added.

Natasha wouldn't be asking Santa for any gifts because, she whispered, leaning close, "I already know the secret about Santa."

Six-year-old Cody Bergerud knows exactly what he wants for Christmas: a two-wheeler bike without training wheels. Colour? No hesitation — it's got to be green.

Cody likes Santa and Christmas lights, but really "toys and all sorts of that stuff," tops his list. Breakfast with Santa was round two for Cody, who had already seen the jolly old fellow once in Victoria.

Olivia Budd, four, had also seen Santa already this season. He was giving out airplane pens at the airport in Australia, from where she and her family had just returned.

Olivia is pretty clear on Christmas. She hopes to find Baby All Gone (who eats food) under her tree. She also knows what she would like to give dad for Christmas — "he just loves to eat chocolates" — but she doesn't know how to make them.

Brother Liam, who is two, had only three words to say about Christmas: "diggers and trucks."

Six-year-old Chelsea Vivan was excited to see Santa. He's coming early to her house, Chelsea said, because she is going to Disneyland for Christmas. How's that for a Christmas treat?

The Fulford Hall Committee, organizers of the annual Breakfast with Santa, served up about 500 pancakes Sunday morning. More than 80 children, plus parents and grandparents, eagerly gobbled the goods, downing them with sausages, orange juice and coffee.

The event may not make a lot of money for the hall, but it is a fun-filled, Christmassy event that

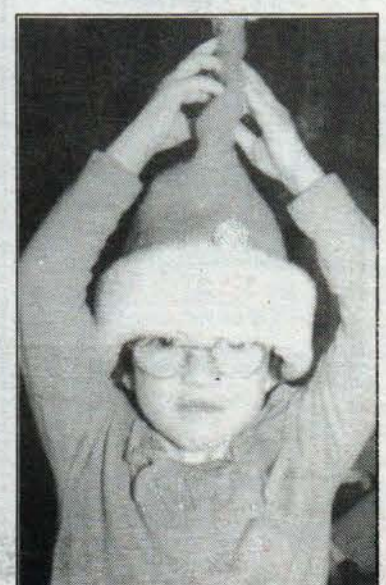
brings together island children and old St. Nick.

And while this year's Santa was new on the job (how "new" can you be with 15 grandchildren?), he says it "was great fun" and he wouldn't mind doing it again.

But to get that Chevy convertible off the ground, Dancer and Prancer are going to need a lot more lichen with their Christmas cookies.



Olivia Budd



Chelsea Vivan

District presents award

Salt Spring's branch of Island Savings Credit Union has been presented an environmental award from the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Member service clerks Valerie Cannon and Heidi Graham accepted the Green Bonus Award — which is actually a blue plaque — in Victoria last week.

Cannon told the Driftwood the award was presented for the credit union's recycling program, under way since last summer.

Instead of burning the credit union's massive amounts of confidential paper as before, members purchased a shredder and now recycle shredded paper.

"We've been trying to get a handle on the excess paper," Cannon said.

CRD spokesman Rob Janis said two Green Bonus Awards — one each for business and individual achievement — are presented three times each year.

The awards help "recognize and promote leadership in solid waste reduction," he said.



Wedding

Victoria's Laurel Point Inn was the setting for the October 7 wedding of Kimberly-Ann Sampson and Kevin Robert James Wass of Salt Spring Island. The bride was attended by Suzanne Burch, Kristi Spencer and Michelle Spencer. Groom's attendants were Chris Mullin, Laurence Spencer and Christopher Spencer. Reverend Allistair Skinner conducted the marriage ceremony. The couple visited family while on their honeymoon in Scotland, England and Wales. The bride is the youngest daughter of Ken and Cecilia Sampson of Salt Spring. The groom's parents are Bob and Linda Wass of Calgary, Alberta.

Paramedics collect 959 items

Salt Spring's Christmas food hampers will be much richer thanks to the local ambulance paramedics' food bank drive.

Paramedics collected 959 food items and \$2,506.68 for the campaign during the past two weekends. Donations were accepted in an ambulance parked outside of Thrifty Foods.

Honour roll names missed

Two names were omitted by Gulf Islands Secondary School in its honour roll list provided to the Driftwood last week.

Grade 11 students Noah Pred and Aaron McCarty also achieved honour roll standing for the first school term.

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- * COUNSELLING SERVICES: Crisis and short-term counselling provided by Community Workers.
- * ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM: Prevention & treatment service is free and confidential.
- * FAMILY PLACE: Family Place gratefully accepts donations of used baby clothes and equipment for 1-3 year olds for free distribution to island families. Please call 537-9176.
- * RECYCLE DEPOT: Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- * GULF ISLANDS WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR: Call Rhema Cossever at 537-4607 for Senior's Health Promotion.
- * CLIMBING WALL HOURS: Thurs. & Fri. 6:30 - 9:30pm / Sat. 2-8pm. Full equipment chg. \$2.50

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Gifts for Angels

Presents were piling up last week under the Christmas tree at the Ganges branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Employees Kathy Livingston, left, and Vicki Walker had the happy chore of looking after the annual project which sees people

buy gifts for Salt Spring children represented by an angel on the tree. The age and gender of a child in need was written on the back of each angel. The bank aimed to collect 150 gifts for this year's campaign.

Photo by Gail Sjoberg

Raven dives into bird bungy jump

By LINDA CANNON
Driftwood Contributor

Walks through the woods these days are very cool, very wet, and, after the recent ice storm, very slippery.

Wasn't that December 9 storm something? Granted, it was difficult to transverse by foot, hoof or tire, and desperately hard on the shrubberies, but how beautiful those icy trees looked.

After the freezing rain the forest was really quiet. I couldn't see or hear any birds; they had disappeared, except one raven. He dived from a high perch, folded his wings tightly against his body, and sliced down through the air. Then he twisted, reopened his wings, flapped and rose, only to drop again. There is

OUR BETTER NATURE

probably some concrete, documented reason for this sky-bombing behaviour, but I think ravens do it for the sheer thrill — bird bungy-jumping, as it were!

Ravens and crows are widely distributed throughout the world and belong to the family Corvidae. The British rook and jackdaw belong to this family, too, as do our Canadian jay and magpie.

The Corvidae family is harsh-voiced, gregarious and intelligent. There seems to be a special connection between their family and ours,

for many people have "domesticated" these birds as pets, or simply noticed them noticing us. They just appear to have an affinity for humans.

Perhaps that's why seeing that raven lifted my spirits so... it was as if he had joy to share. But nature's like that, isn't she?

Robert Frost said it best in his poem Dust of Snow.

"The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued."

Merry Christmas, everyone.

TAKE NOTE

OF THESE DATES

Dec. 2nd til 24th: Christmas trees on sale, 1st Ganges Scouts, GVM/Thrifty's, during store hours.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Seniors & Alzheimers support group, Seniors for Seniors bldg. 11am
- Archery Shooting, SSI Rod & Gun Club, 7pm.
- Stamp Collectors all ages, Seniors For Seniors, 10am.
- Cancer Support Group, Croftonbrook 10am-12 noon (every 3rd Wed.)
- Narcotics Anonymous, Alano Club, Rainbow Rd. 7-8pm.
- Core-Inn Committee Meetings, Core-Inn on McPhillips, 4:30-6pm.
- Special Olympics Bowling, Bowling Alley, 10am-11am.
- Macintosh User Group Meeting, Driftwood office, 7:30pm (1st or 2nd Wed. ea. mo.)
- O.A.P.O. Loonie tea & video, Lower Central Hall, 1:30 (except 2nd Wed.)
- SS Painters Guild, Anglican Church, Ganges, downstairs, 10:30-1:30.

EVERY THURSDAY

- Salt Spring Weavers & Spinners Guild, 10:30-2pm.
- Parkinsons Support Gr., Croftonbrook, 2pm (sec. Thurs. of the mo.)
- Seniors for Seniors regular Thurs. lunch at noon, reserv. are essential.
- Salty Wheels Square Dance Club, 6:30pm, Central Hall.
- Scottish Dancing, Anglican Church Hall, 7-9pm
- First Thurs. of the mo., Speakers Group.

EVERY FRIDAY

- Fulford OAP #160, bingo 2:00pm.
- Chess Club, Seniors for Seniors Bldg., 7pm.

EVERY SATURDAY

- Narcotics Anonymous, Community Centre, Fulford Ganges Rd., 7-8pm.
- Book Sale, downstairs at library, 10am-12:30pm.
- Core Inn, volunteers needed, 10:30-noon.

EVERY MONDAY

- "Bandeonium" Lions Hall, Drake & Bonnet, 7pm-9pm.
- Free blood pressure clinic, Seniors for Seniors 10-12noon (last Mon. ea. mo.)
- Adult 22 rifle shooting, SSI Rod & Gun Club, 7-9pm.
- Taoist Tai Chi, for Seniors, Lower Central Hall, 10am.
- OAPO #32 carpet bowling, Lower Central Hall, 1:30pm.
- Reader's Theatre, Croftonbrook Hall, 10am
- Teen Sewing Club, textiles lab, Middle School 4pm-6pm.
- Story time, library, 9:30am.
- Life Drawing, Windfall rm., library, 1-3pm.
- French conversation group, Seniors for Seniors, 10am-noon (not last Monday of the mo.)
- Ganges Residents Assoc., Mahon Hall, 7pm, (1st Monday of the mo.)

EVERY TUESDAY

- Duplicate Bridge, Meaden Hall at the Legion, 7pm.
- Seniors choir practices, Seniors for Seniors, 10:30am.
- Air rifles, Fulford Hall, 7:30pm.
- Target Archery, Fulford Hall, 6:30pm.

To have your no charge event listed here free, just drop it off to the Driftwood office by noon Friday!

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FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27

Real Estate Advertising.....2pm Tuesday, Dec. 19
Display Advertising.....2pm Wednesday, Dec. 20
Classified Advertising.....Noon Thursday, Dec. 21
News.....Noon Wednesday, Dec. 20

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3

Real Estate Advertising.....2pm Wednesday, Dec. 27
Display Advertising.....2pm Thursday, Dec. 28
Classified Advertising.....4:30pm Friday, Dec. 29
News.....Noon Monday, Jan. 1

OFFICE HOURS

ClosedDecember 25 & 26
ClosedJanuary 1

Happy Holidays

Driftwood
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Premium lifestyle brings people to Salt Spring, not income levels

Incomes may be lower but a premium lifestyle draws many residents to Salt Spring Island, according to the report of the Jobs, Business and Industry Focus Group for Salt Spring's Official Community Plan.

The group found incomes on the island were lower than elsewhere in the province, with a high proportion based on outside dollars from pensions, tourism and government jobs.

"While adequate livelihood concerns all of us on Salt Spring Island, many people live here because their quality of life is just as, or more important to them, than their income level," the report noted.

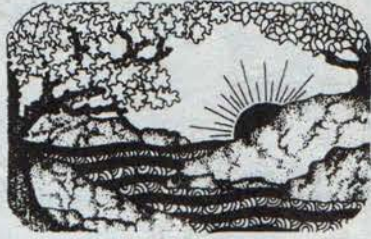
Data for the Gulf Islands in 1991 indicates that 43 per cent of income comes from pensions and investments; 18 per cent from government salaries; 17 per cent from construction and manufacturing; eight per cent from unemployment insurance and social assistance; eight per cent from forestry, fishing and agriculture and six per cent from tourism.

Income on the islands from retirement and tourism is likely to increase, the report suggested. "For some, this raises concerns about the current and growing imbalance in the island's social and economic structure, the availability of skilled job opportunities and a growing sameness in the appearance of Ganges."

Some of the decline in traditional industries could be offset by growth in the service sector and technological businesses. Another asset on the island is the number of home-based businesses and small scale, cottage industries.

An estimated 27 per cent of the Gulf Island labour force is self-employed and working at home.

The report concluded there is enough industrial and commercial zoned land — 400 acres in total — to meet the island's needs. However, there is a shortage of smaller, more affordable industrial lots in appropriate locations and there is little avail-



OCP REVIEW

able for small businesses which have outgrown the home but are not able to purchase an industrial lot.

The Ganges outdoor market was described by the group as another "nursery" for small businesses on the island. Two issues are the demand for space in the market and the traffic congestion created in the Ganges core each Saturday.

Ideas discussed by the group included finding a location for

...many people live here because their quality of life is just as important, or more important to them, than their income level...

another market, expanding the market into the park or holding a market on Sunday, but no recommendations were made.

Further growth in the arts and crafts industry on the island will depend on developing off-island markets and on tourism. To make crafts more viable, the group recommended increasing the allowable studio size on residential properties for the current maximum of 500 square feet or 30 per cent of the principal residence.

Noting that non-conforming uses are common on the island, the group recommended more flexible home occupation and zoning regulations. Enforcement

of current regulations is driven by complaints, which have tended to be rare.

However, such complaints could increase as the island population increases. A mediation process was suggested to resolve conflicts between parties.

Low impact, off-season tourism should be encouraged as should educational, research and fine arts activities.

Moving the Islands Trust main office to Salt Spring would benefit the island's economy, the group suggested.

Subject to strict environmental controls, the group recommended encouraging a variety of uses in Ganges Harbour. Space should exist for recreational, commercial and industrial uses.

A Canada Customs office in Ganges Harbour could be an asset, provided it does not lead to overcrowding in the harbour.

Aquaculture is a potential growth industry which could provide jobs for islanders. Sustainable agriculture and forestry should be encouraged. The report was opposed to large, polluting industry or large scale mining on the island.

Simplified, more flexible zoning was recommended. Rather than defining allowable uses, the group suggested establishing performance standards to control such issues as noise or emissions.

Mixing commercial, industrial and residential uses would allow for greater variety of land use and could also lead to lower-cost rental accommodation on the island.



Sewing machine is foundation gift

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's Bob Rush gets a sewing lesson Thursday from Chris Ashby at Family Place in Ganges. A foundation donation to the facility enabled it to purchase the brand-new machine.

Photo by Tony Richards

I would like to wish my friends & clients on Salt Spring Island a Very Merry Christmas Season and a Healthy, Successful, Happy New Year!



WILLIAM MANFIELD
Registered Clinical Counsellor in private practice
Ganges and Victoria, B.C.
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UNICORN CONSTRUCTION




Merry Christmas and A Prosperous '96

To all our clients, customers and friends, have a nice safe holiday, drive safely and make that one for the road "A wee cuppa tea" See you all in the new year!

JOHN PAUL

SALT SPRING ISLAND 4-H BEEF & SWINE CLUB

We wish to thank all of our sponsors and buyers over the past two years. We won't be continuing, but we had a great experience!



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A VERY special "Thank You" to our local 1995 beef buyers: Ganges Village Market, Mr. Brent Cooper for purchasing Alison Cunningham's steer "Dave" from the P.N.E. auction. Mr. & Mrs. Roy Lamont & Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fitz-Patrick for purchasing Anna Lam's market steer.

Happy Holidays to you all!

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Foundation has jump on its '96 hospital equipment drive

The new year has not yet arrived, but the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Foundation is already getting a big jump on its 1996 equipment drive.

Funds raised in the coming year will pay for a covered emergency entrance and transformation of the delivery room into a comfortable birthing suite. Total cost is approximately \$90,000.

Response to a mailed-out brochure requesting funds has been generous. The brochure was in island mailboxes on December 3, the first donation arrived December 4, and \$11,000 had been received within 10 days.

According to hospital foundation vice-chairwoman Vivian Dawson, that kind of strong support is not unusual.

"Everybody on the island seems to support the hospital," she said.

A further \$1,271 was tabulated on Friday following completion of the foundation's third annual nickel sale. All last week, participants bought tickets for a nickel each and put them in a draw for any of 36 prizes they desired. Goods were donated by individuals and businesses.

The foundation chose the birthing room and emergency bay projects for a number of reasons. As hospital administrator Karen Davies explained, a \$40,000 renovation to the hospital entrance took place in 1994, but could not be completed with the covered emergency entrance as first hoped.

She said anyone who regularly picks up patients at the hospital, such as operators of the Lions-sponsored bus service, knows what an improvement a sheltered entrance would be.

Delivery room changes have long been on the staff wish list, said Davies, and a 1993 survey of people who had babies at the hospital provided input for changes. Those improvements are now almost complete, and include addition of a three-piece bathroom with shower, more comfortable furniture and portable supply storage facilities which make the room seem less institutional.

The foundation is able to fund capital projects only, said Davies, and they must not incur a need for more staff.

"We are trying to make things better for patients and improve efficiency for staff," she said.

People planning to make a donation to the equipment drive might consider the funds are tax deductible and a contribution made before December 31 will benefit 1995 income tax returns. Donations can be made any time at Lady Minto Hospital.

The hospital foundation has raised



PLENTY OF PRIZES: Organizer Vivian Dawson checks out two of the 36 prizes available through the hospital foundation's nickel raffle last Friday. The raffle, supported by donations from local stores and craftspeople, raised \$1271.

Photo by Valerie Lennax

about \$200,000 since its inception four years ago, with \$30,505 of that total collected last year.

In addition to cash donations and the recent nickel sale, the volunteer

group makes money from bingo games at Meaden Hall every other Thursday, casino nights, a Sea Capers pancake breakfast and other special events.

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Seasons Greetings from Aino, Jackie, Frank

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3 HOURS' SHOPPING

(with time to spare for lunch)

Beth Holshoe, above, and husband Brian completed all their Christmas shopping in just three hours last week.

Where did they go?
to Ganges

Shop at home

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This message courtesy the Gulf Islands Driftwood



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Fulford celebrated Christmas with youth pageant

Thirty-five years ago

• Christmas arrived in Fulford with a party at Fulford Hall with special guest Santa Claus and a Christmas pageant presented by the Sunday school children from St. Mary's Church. The pageant theme was "Blessed Christmas", with the children dressed in costumes of many races and nations. On Christmas Eve, the Sunday school children were going carolling.

• McGill's Bakery was set to bake its 100,000th loaf of bread since the company began operating on May 1, 1960. Bakery facilities had been enlarged and modernized during the previous eight months. McGill's offered nine different breads and a variety of sweet goods and meat pie products.

Thirty years ago

• A tour of the future Centennial Park site was given to soil and landscapes experts from Victoria by M.F. Peiler. The experts stated the fill should be sufficiently drained of salt water to permit work on the park to commence in spring.

• Winners of the December 12 Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club trap shoot were G. Robson from Mayne Island, B. Mollison from Pender, Fred Robson of Galiano and Hart Bradley, Bill Cogswell, Wayne Bradley, Bernard Reynolds, Robert Reynolds, Laurie Mouat, Vic Jackson, Ken Stevens, George Moulton, Jack Reynolds, Albert Kaye, Jim Mollison and Gordon Scarff, all of Salt Spring.

Twenty-five years ago

• Galiano and Salt Spring islanders elected new school trustees. Sheila Fraser and Robert Marshall filled vacant Salt Spring seats, while Elizabeth Beach defeated incumbent Donald New by a vote of 86 to 45. Other Gulf Islands School Board members were Bertha Matthews from Pender, chairman George Heinekey and

Mayne Island trustee Betty Ross.

Twenty years ago

• The 25th anniversary of the Bellingham Jaycees' Christmas Ship voyage was marked with a presentation from Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce and the island's Lions and Rotary Clubs. In addition, each Gulf Island greeted the Christmas Ship with a special message. The S.E.S. Discovery was skippered by Don Wight for the 20th time.

• Social Credit MLA Hugh Curtis was elected Saanich and the Islands representative in the December 11 provincial election. Curtis was one of 35 Social Credit MLAs who collectively defeated the NDP government of Dave Barrett. The NDP had 17 seats, one Liberal and one Conservative.

There was 72 per cent voter turnout in the islands, with 3,086 people

DOWN THE YEARS

exercising their franchise.

Fifteen years ago

• Ganges sewer received the green light from the Capital Regional District board. Final surveys and drawings for the long-debated system was subject to an additional \$825,000 contribution from the federal government.

Approvals were given to H.A. Simons (International) Ltd., \$113,000 for design of the outfall or submarine pipeline; \$21,200 to J.E. Anderson and Associates for survey of the collection system and \$85,000 for regional engineering staff to design the collection system, the treatment plant and assist in design of the outfall.

• After nearly 70 years under water, the anchor of the steamship Iroquois was raised by divers. Twenty-five years previously, divers located the ship but were unable to recover any part of it. The Iroquois was responsible for mail delivery to Salt Spring for many years before she sank in 1911.

Ten years ago

• Gulf Islands Secondary School students from Pender Island would be riding a bus to and from the water taxi dock after December 16. With a projected 35 students using the bus, it was determined more economical to run a bus instead of paying parents to transport their children to the dock.

• Salt Spring local trust committee member Nick Gilbert told Trust Council members that fish farms would make their way to the Gulf Islands. He said the Trust had

already received applications to operate farms on Salt Spring, Bowen and Denman.

Five years ago

• Staff time being used to plan the new Gulf Islands Secondary School was causing concern for some parents. School trustee Charles Hingston told the school board he had received several complaints from parents about students spending half days in school because of staff meetings. Students had been released early on four occasions since September after spending only half the day in class.

• A record 137 people attended the Salt Spring Lions Club's Single Seniors Christmas Dinner at Meaden Hall. For the 20th year, Daisy Gear organized and ran the kitchen. Sam Cochrane was Santa Claus and distributed baskets of shortbread to all attending.

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<p>SIDNEY SUPER YEAR END SPECIAL SAVINGS</p> <p>NABOB DELUXE ORANGE PEKOE Tea Bags 120's 3⁹⁷</p>	<p>SIDNEY SUPER YEAR END SPECIAL SAVINGS</p> <p>KRAFT PARKAY Margarine 3lb block in 1/4's 2⁵⁷</p>	<p>SIDNEY SUPER YEAR END SPECIAL SAVINGS</p> <p>ISLAND FARM Butter one pound pack 2⁶⁷</p>
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<p>NABOB GROUND COFFEE Decaff, Summit or New Blend 300g 3.57</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL EXCEPT NUTRASWEET Flav. Coffee 225g 3.27</p>	<p>BETTY CROCKER assorted Muffin Mix 200g pouch .69</p>	<p>McGAVINS BUTTER CUP Bread 567g .87</p>	<p>SUNTYPE RED Apple Sauce 398ml .87</p>	<p>KRAFT assorted Marshmallows 400g .97</p>	<p>BAKERS assorted Chocolate Chips 350g 1.67</p>	<p>VENICE BAKERY Scissor Rolls 16's 1.97</p>
<p>DELMONTE all cut Pineapple 398ml .87</p>	<p>JELL-O INSTANT assorted Puddings 99-113g 4 serv. .67</p>	<p>MARTIN'S THOMPSON Seedless Raisins 750g 2.47</p>	<p>CASTELO Portuguese Buns 8's 1.47</p>	<p>WELCH'S Grape Juice 1L 1.97</p>	<p>MINUTE RICE Instant Rice 700g 2.87</p>	<p>M & M'S Mini Baking Bits 340g 2.17</p>	<p>GENERAL MILLS Cheerios 575g 3.48</p>
<p>DAIRYMAID Apple Juice 1L .77</p>	<p>STOVE TOP Turkey Stuffing 120g 1.17</p>	<p>DIAMOND CALIFORNIA Walnuts 400g 3.87</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA assorted Chip Dips 227g 1.68</p>				

<p>CASCADE LIQUID Dish Gel assorted 1.3L 3⁵⁷</p>	<p>KLEENEX ULTRA SOFT Bathroom Tissue 8 roll pack 2⁹⁹</p>	<p>ALCAN ALUMINUM Foil Wrap 12"x50' 2⁹⁹</p>	<p>GOLDEN AWARD All Purpose Flour 10kg 1⁵⁸</p>
<p>TIDE LIQUID 1.45L Laundry Detergent 6.97</p>	<p>SCOTTIES Facial Tissue 150's .87</p>	<p>ISLAND FARM Sour Cream 500ml 1.33</p>	<p>BETTY CROCKER SUPER MOIST Cake Mix assorted 510g 1²⁷</p>
<p>COMET Cleanser 400g .87</p>	<p>STRETCH N SEAL Wraps 36m 2.37</p>	<p>CHRISTIES Stoned Wheat Thins 300g 1.97</p>	<p>KRAFT CRACKER BARREL Cheddar Cheese reg & light 907g MILD 7.38 MED. 7.68 OLD 7.98</p>
<p>KAL KAN OPTIMUM Cat Foods 380g .77</p>	<p>GLADS OUTSIDE Garbage Bags 20's 3.57</p>	<p>DARES assorted Breton Crackers 225g 1.87</p>	<p>FROZEN FOOD SPECIALS:</p>
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<p>KITTY KIT Cat Litter 10kg 4.57</p>	<p>HI-DRI assorted Paper Napkins 60's 1.17</p>	<p>NALLEYS assorted Chip Dips 225g 1.67</p>	<p>DELNORS Small Peas 1kg 2.48</p>
<p>REG. OR DIET Coke, Sprite, Canada Dry 2L bottle .98 plus deposit</p>	<p>GALEY BROS. Gr. "A" Farm Eggs Large 1⁶⁷ Dozen</p>	<p>NALLEY DIPPERS Potato Chips 180g foil pack .98</p>	<p>DELNORS Brussell Sprouts 1kg 2.48</p>
			<p>5-ALIVE assorted Beverage Juice 355ml .88</p>
			<p>SCHWEPPE'S Soft Drink & Mixes ASSORTED 2L plus deposit .98</p>

In Preparation for the 1996 season...

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has available for sale, four remaining cars from the summer 95 fleet. These cars are booked through the holidays but will be ready to go in the new year.

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- 1986 Aries, 4 dr.
- 1984 Regal, 4 dr, air

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Thank You for a successful 1995.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 1996.

From the staff of HERITAGE CAR RENTALS AND GANGES MARINA

Remember 10% discount on all rentals with food bank donation

Computers can get the spirit and produce Christmas gifts

The first bit: Ho! Ho! Ho! Bleep!

Busy decking the halls, wrapping the gifts and picking up tinsel from the Christmas tree?

Give your computer a chance to get into the Christmas spirit as well. Using a graphics or word processing program, you can design personalized wrapping paper, Christmas cards and gift tags. Most word processors will import small graphics or you can make designs by varying fonts and sizes of words and names.

A graphics program with a "tile" command makes it a snap to create "wrapping paper" decorated with repeated patterns or the recipient's name. Print using a colour printer or in black on red or green paper.

If you need something different to put inside the wrapping paper, try creating personalized stationery. Or you can have some fun with "gag" business cards.

Some truly unique gifts can also be created using BookMaker Corporation's nifty software, ClickBook, which allows anyone with a Windows-equipped computer to become an instant publisher.

This utility comes on a single disk and installation is easy, right down to the on-line registration through Bookmaker's toll-free phone number. The software automatically seeks out the modem, dials up and downloads the user's registration — eliminating the need to mail in a card.

Retailing for just under \$50 U.S., it is a magical utility which automatically transforms ordinary typed pages into a booklet, a brochure, a card or a tiny pocket book. It retains all fonts and layout but scales and arranges the information to fit within the desired format.

No more fiddling to figure out if the first and fourth pages of an eight page document should be placed beside each other — and how each page should be arranged to print correctly on the opposite side.

Once the program is installed — it can be easily configured for a variety of programs and printers — choosing the Print to ClickBook option brings up a dialog box which allows the user to choose the desired format from an extensive list.

ClickBook then prints out the pages, complete with a this-side-up sheet and arrow which shows the user how to place the pages for a second pass through a printer so information will print correctly on both sides of the page.

Last minute gift ideas? How

about a booklet of your favourite recipes, a family history, a child's personalized colouring book (ClickBook will manipulate both text and graphics), or self-published booklets of your best poems or short stories. For longer works, ClickBook will print multiple signature booklets.

A trial version can be downloaded from the Internet at http://www.morsepr.com/SW/bk_mkr.html. Contact BookMaker Corporation at 415-354-8161.

The company has just released a scaled-down version, Surf 'n Print, which automatically transforms downloaded files from the Internet or bulletin boards into neat, double-sided booklets for easier filing and later reference. The software is expected to sell for under \$10 U.S.

"It doesn't do a lot of things but what it does, it does really well," notes BookMaker's Stan Otani.

He's right. Santa should have it so good.

The second bit: Kid stuff

They're cute, they're a great idea ... but PrintPaks' packages of craft-oriented software for multimedia computers need more options to engage older children.

In one box, the creators have combined the materials and the software to allow children to turn their family computer and colour printer into a craft centre. The holiday ornaments kit includes gold and red frames, gold cord and paper for 12 hanging ornaments.

The child is guided to point-and-click through a brightly-coloured on-screen interface to choose the artwork for the ornament and type in a message. A cute animated dog, a bone-shaped cursor and sound enhance the experience.

The package, expected to retail for under \$25 US, includes a special offer to put family photos on CD, which can then be incorporated into the project. The child's computer artwork — created in a separate program — can also be incorporated. Refill packs of craft supplies are available.

The company offers two PrintPaks, one for ornaments and one to create two personalized calendars. More are planned for this spring.

Younger children may be delighted by this mix of craft and computer but will probably need adult help to navigate the program.

BITS ON BYTES

VALORIE LENNOX



One flaw is that the jewel-shaped icons designating the available clip-art are named when they first appear on-screen but are not labelled at the point where the child must make a choice. An adult may remember that the "blue jewel" contained the desired art but children may not.

Children may also be frustrated by the wait as information is transferred from the CD drive to the screen. The child's participation is limited to choosing the art and typing in a message — so don't expect sustained interest from older children. PrintPaks can be reached at 503-295-6564.

Discovery Toys has added a range of educational computer software for children. For information, call local distributor Holly Clermont at 537-1538.

The third bit: A Better Mouse Trap

Need a small gift for the computer that has everything? How about a Mouse Trap — a nifty holder for a computer mouse showcased at the Comdex computer trade show last month. The wooden holder, which resembles a mouse trap except that the wire section is shaped to hold a mouse, is the brainchild of Steffane Cyr of Montreal.

The fourth bit: Have a Merry Surfin' Christmas

Imagen has wrapped up a special deal for those who want to explore the new Internet service on the island. Instead of paying \$3.50 an hour for the connection, users can purchase a year-long contract at \$60 a month. The contract gives two hours a day of access to the Internet via a local phone call — an amount equal to \$1 an hour.

The fifth bit: Into the third dimension

The next meeting of the PC/Windows User Group is this Thursday, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Seniors for Seniors. On the program are demonstrations of word processing and desktop publishing software plus a peek into 3D virtual reality. For information, call this writer at 537-5145.


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FOREST RENEWAL BC



1996 Funding Application Handbook Available

Forest Renewal BC's Land-Based Programs handbook, a guide to developing funding proposals under the Enhanced Forestry, Watershed Restoration and Operational Inventories programs, is now available. The handbook can be picked up from Forest Renewal BC regional offices and Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks district and regional offices.

Project implementation opportunities in 1996 will vary from region to region. While several of our regions have a large file of carry over projects in some programs, other regions are looking for specific types of proposals. Therefore, we recommend you contact your regional Forest Renewal BC office for information about local requirements. We do encourage innovative and creative proposals in all regions.

Although applications will be accepted year-round, to be considered for priority implementation in the 1996 field season, applications must be received by Forest Renewal BC regional offices no later than January 31, 1996. Previous applicants need not resubmit their proposals and will be contacted by Forest Renewal BC regional staff regarding any further information requirements.

Forest Renewal BC is a Crown corporation working with forest sector partners including industry, labour, community organizations, environmental groups, First Nations and government to invest in and renew our forests.

Forest Renewal BC Regional Offices

Pacific 286-7717	Kootenay Boundary 426-1617
Thompson Okanagan 371-3922	Omineca Peace 565-4400
Skeena Bulkley 847-7838	Cariboo Chilcotin 398-4900



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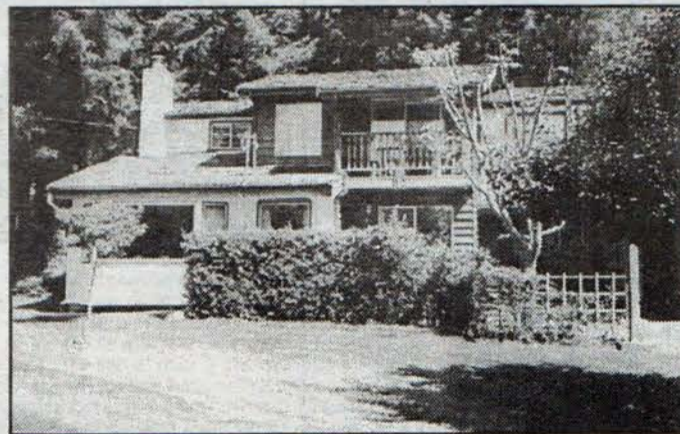
Breakfast with Santa

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Photos by Derrick Lundy



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Dr. Danny Dares, Katharine,
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our efforts this past year.*

Happy Holidays!

The Composing Department staff of the
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Rosanne Leonoff, Peggy Kerry and Alice Richards.

Coach report card blocked by Scottish plot

By MALCOLM LEGG
Driftwood Contributor

So where is the long-awaited report card on the coach (this writer) that the Old Boys promised would appear in the December 13 issue of this paper? What happened, lads?

This writer is sure that our many supporters and readers waited with bated breath, just as this writer did, for the shocking report card that the lads would present.

Look as we all did, from cover to cover, it did not appear. Maybe, when the lads sat down and looked at the coach's record for the season — six wins, two losses and one tie — they realized the only mark they could give was an A, especially considering some of the obstacles he had to overcome.

The coach turned an over-the-hill mid-fielder, Todd "Robin" Farup, into an excellent wide-receiving full-back, Todd "Tank" Farup; was able to recycle a washed up Bundeslega striker Siggie "Gerd Der Bomber" Karl and create a forward who leads the Old Boys in scoring; taken Cal "C+" Mackay and shown him how to score goals with his hands (he is too slow to score with his feet or head) while not even on the field of play.

The coach was able to re-sign Hank "the Legend" Braak without spilling a crumb of chocolate cake (although it did cost the lads a few doughnuts... boxes, that is).

All one can say is brilliance,

sheer brilliance for the job of this coach.

Maybe the report card did not materialize due to the class action lawsuit being filed by players quoted in the December 6 article, who were not actually present at the "emergency meeting."

Alvaro "Crystals" Sanchez denied ever saying he brought flair and drama to the game — rhythm and movement, maybe — but no flair and drama.

Bill "Pantyhose" Lea denies making any statements and wants everyone to know he does not wear pantyhose, but Swedish underwear which has been colour matched by Calvin Klein.

Jack "Bulldozer" Braak was also not present. He resents remarks that seem to refer to himself and Henry as the Mighty Duck and the Sitting Duck, just because they live near Swanson's Pond.

Maybe the true reason for no report card was a plot by the Old Boys' Scottish faction, spearheaded by Cal "C+" Mackay and Gary "C+" McNutt. Both were upset with their marks, but were even more upset by the ruling there would be no more consumption of haggis or McEwans ale before, during or after games or practices. (Fortunately, these cultish habits are limited to the northern highlands of the British Isles.)

The key to their revolt was to inspire the lads to topple their coach and replace him with McNutt and then reinstate haggis

and McEwans.

Their plan met with initial success as they managed to con Doug "Codger" Pearson to write an article for them as they, being Scottish, cannot write legibly due to bad caber tossing (when you drop the caber on your own hands, hence the saying "Auch, Begorrah!")

But the plan started to fail. First, organizers of Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring refused to help since they had enough on their plate without having to worry about the coach of the Old Boys.

Secondly, director Dietrich Luth refused to help dethrone the coach as the truth might get out to Salt Spring residents and the Driftwood would give him bad press.

Then things got worse. Scotty McNutt refused to coach unless there were cheerleaders, lots of cheerleaders, and this drove Mackay, Pearson and McNutt back to the Harbour House to rethink their plan over several McEwans and some haggis.

Unfortunately, Pearson said he didn't like haggis because it is bad for your health. A great argument ensued in which McNutt and Mackay refused to buy Pearson any more beer, and no beer means no Pearson and no Pearson means no article.

At last report, Mackay and McNutt were under the counter at the pub arguing over whether Graham Leggett was the greatest

Scottish soccer player or not, McNutt was still trying to find some cheerleaders, Pearson was seen at Moby's trying to bum a beer from some of the lads, Lea was opening a Swedish underwear stand in the Saturday Farmers Market and this writer was still coach of that wonderful bunch of lads, the Salt Spring Old Boys.

So, until the new year, have a very Merry Christmas and remember your Christmas spirit; if you see an Old Boy — buy him a beer!

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HIGH ROLLERS

By RUTH HUME

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Tuesday Afternoon Seniors: Reg Winstone 229, 214, Vanda Winstone 242.

Special Olympics: Mahjor Baines 217, Terry Swing 149, Gloria Dale 187, Jim Beck 153.

Wednesday Ladies: Deanna Marleau 252, Dee Kinney 206, Madge Bate 207, Gwen Lee 214, Mary Walker 208.

Wednesday Nite League: Lois Kaye 215, 204, 211/620, Dennis Anderson Sr. 241, Jim Pasuta 203, Bill Baker 216, Rob Minvielle 245, 282/694, Danny Bedford 295, 214, 229/738, Julie Bedford 222, 237/647, Alex Bunyan 211, Mike Kitchen 209, Dionne Bemis 219, 217, 275/711, Brian Kitchen 216, 221, Steve Marleau 204, 244/646, Brian Hartley 206, 257, 203/666, Lorraine Toller 256.

Golf Ladies: Connie Hardy 314, 204/647, Shirley Parsons 311/643, Becky Armstrong 222, Mary Campbell 260, June Webb 223, Maddy Cooper 206, Mildred Gurney 232.

Friday Afternoon Seniors: Ken Robinson 250, 258, 283/791, Madalene Jory 276, Edie Gear 200, Jack Godwin 233, Nell Herbert 202.

Young Bowlers: Great fun was had at our Christmas parties on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school. See you again in the second week of January.

GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (GILTC) is seeking qualified contractors to undertake the following contracts:

- Road Systems Planning**
The contractor is requested to prepare a draft transportation policy, including road systems planning, suitable for inclusion in the Galiano Island Official Community Plan (OCP). This policy should be developed based on:
 - Galiano Transportation Advisory Committee (GTAC) work to date on this issue
 - analysis of the Galiano Island OCP
 - consultation with the GTAC and GILTC
 Qualifications for this contract include at least five years relevant experience, local knowledge, and quality references. The ability to work independently and the ability to work well with small groups are also required.
- Restrictive Covenant Research**
The consultant is requested to search all land titles on Galiano Island through the Land Titles Office and retrieve all covenants relating to environmental concerns, hazardous land, subdivision restrictions etc. A computer filing system of these covenants is then to be developed.
Qualifications for this contract include relevant research experience, the ability to work independently, local knowledge, and quality references.
Please provide information as to experience, proposed contract approach and charge rates by **January 15, 1996** to:

Sandra Smith
Manager, Local Planning
Islands Trust
2nd Floor, 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8

 Background information is available by calling 952-4185. Please note that the Islands Trust office will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd inclusive.

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Saturna 539-2121
Galiano 539-2002

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CALL JANET 539-2002

Deadstop shoots . . . and hits the goalpost

By JIM BLACK
Driftwood Contributor

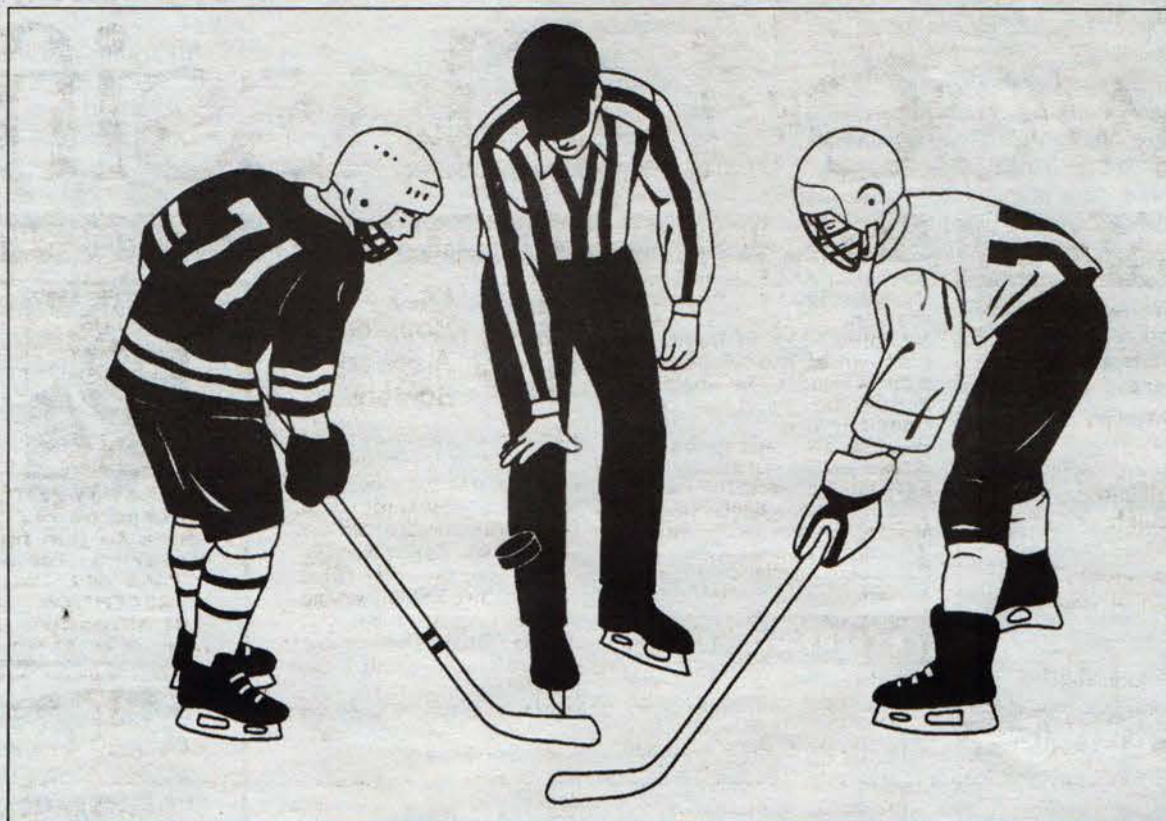
The Slugs were blessed with a second game last week, facing the Mill Bay Jets, always a feisty bunch ready for a good game.

This time we were without the services of our regular netminder, Derek Topping, and filling in for him was Chemainus native Bill White. He was a little concerned before the match, letting us know that he had only played one game in the last two seasons. We made him feel right at home, telling him he wouldn't look out of place at all, which he didn't.

The game got off to a very fast start with the Slugs taking charge early on. The line of Kevin Porteous, Johnny Procter and Paddy Akerman was flying right from the beginning and it didn't take long to connect. Porteous was the first on the board, going top shelf where Granny keeps the cookies over a sprawling netminder. He liked that one so much he added another just a few minutes later, smoking one from just inside the blueline.

The Slugs were now feeling very confident, which is always a dangerous sign and sure enough the Jets came back and added two of their own. They first undressed Deadstop (not a pretty sight) at the blueline to go in all alone and beat White under the pads, and later put one in over his shoulder. But the Slugs shook this off and took it right back to the Jets, with McIntyre wiring a blast past the netminder to give us a 3-2 lead at the end of one period.

Into the second period the lads came out flying, lighting up the net for five more markers while the Jets managed to add three for their cause. This was not exactly



turning out to be a goaltenders' duel nor a strong defensive matchup, but it certainly was exciting for all involved.

Scoring for the Slugs in the second were Porteous with his third of the night, Bernie Reynolds, Rodney Challborn, Paddy Akerman and McIntyre with his second of the night. Starting off the final 20 minutes the Slugs could taste the victory, either that or someone forgot to rinse the water bottles again. Whatever it was, we felt certain we could put this one in the win column, something we hadn't done for nearly a month.

By this point in the match White had managed to wear most

of the rust off his skate blades and was moving around with much more confidence. He wasn't alone. Even Deadstop was doing unheard of things, for him at least. Carrying the puck and actually getting a shot away from the point which hit the goal post, the closest he has come to the opposition net since the start of the season.

This seemed to have a definite effect on the rest of the team. Once they stopped laughing, they too turned it up a notch and salted the game away in good fashion, with Johnny Procter, probably our best player on the ice that night, getting two and Paddy Akerman getting his second of the game to round out the scoring at 11-5 for

the Slugs.

As usual, the Slugs saved the best to last. A few weeks ago it was Bernie Reynolds doing his rendition of Swan Lake to end the game. This week it was Deadstop's turn to try his hand at ice dancing. In the dying seconds of the game, the Jets were making a rush with Deadstop doing his best rendition of skating backwards when he tripped over the blueline. High in the air he soared, doing a one and a half twist before gently crashing to the ice in what must have been a captivating display of ice dance magic.

It must have been captivating because the Jets were laughing so hard they forgot to shoot the puck before the buzzer went.

Bruins mop floor with Slugs—again

By JIM BLACK
Driftwood Contributor

Following the cancellation of last week's game due to the ice storm, the Slugs were raring to go when they travelled to Sidney to face the Shoreline Bruins, a team that mopped the floor with us the last time we met.

This time, however, the Slugs had a game plan.

First they got rid of Deadstop before the game by telling a bunch of little kids he was really Santa Claus in disguise. The last time he was seen, he was backed into a corner of Rodrigo's and was being buried under a stack of Christmas wish lists.

The second part of the plan was to reactivate our very occasional part-time sniper, Pete Schure. In case you didn't know, Schure is a fine hockey player who now limits himself to only a few hockey games per year, due to a nagging back injury, which only bothers him while he is playing the game. Some of us have suggested he put

down his golf clubs before putting on his hockey gear, but he just doesn't listen.

This game started off very quickly with the Bruins doing what they do best against us, namely, scoring. But then the Slugs launched the secret weapon. We were convinced a power forward line consisting of Schure, Pete Huser and Todd McIntyre would work wonders. It did. The Bruins quickly made it two to nothing.

The rest of the game didn't fare much better for the Slugs as we trailed 4-1 after the first period and 7-3 at the final buzzer. Slug goal scorers were McIntyre with one and Schure with the other two, one of which was a howitzer the netminder couldn't even see the postage on, let alone stop. The power forwards, it was rumoured in some quarters, (everyone else on the team) were a one-way line and were actually on the ice for all seven goals against. By press time this much-maligning accusation could only be confirmed by a small majority of team members.

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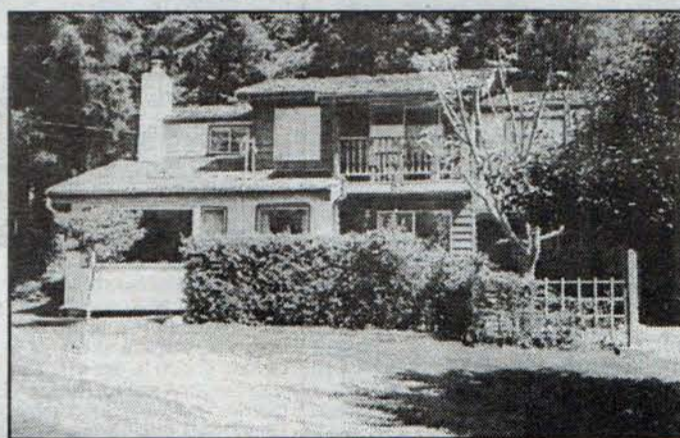
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Members of the Fulford Hall Committee served up about 500 pancakes to more than 80 children plus parents and grandparents Sunday morning. Following the breakfast, Santa paid a visit, bringing oranges and candy canes to island children. At top, Santa chats with one young fellow, while others await their turn; and almost three-year-old Liam Budd enjoys the food, complete with a Christmas bib. At side, young Cora Muellner takes a closer look at the decorative Christmas tree.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



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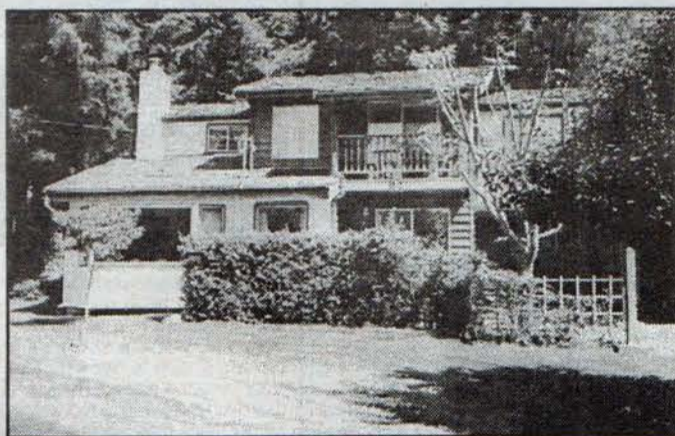
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