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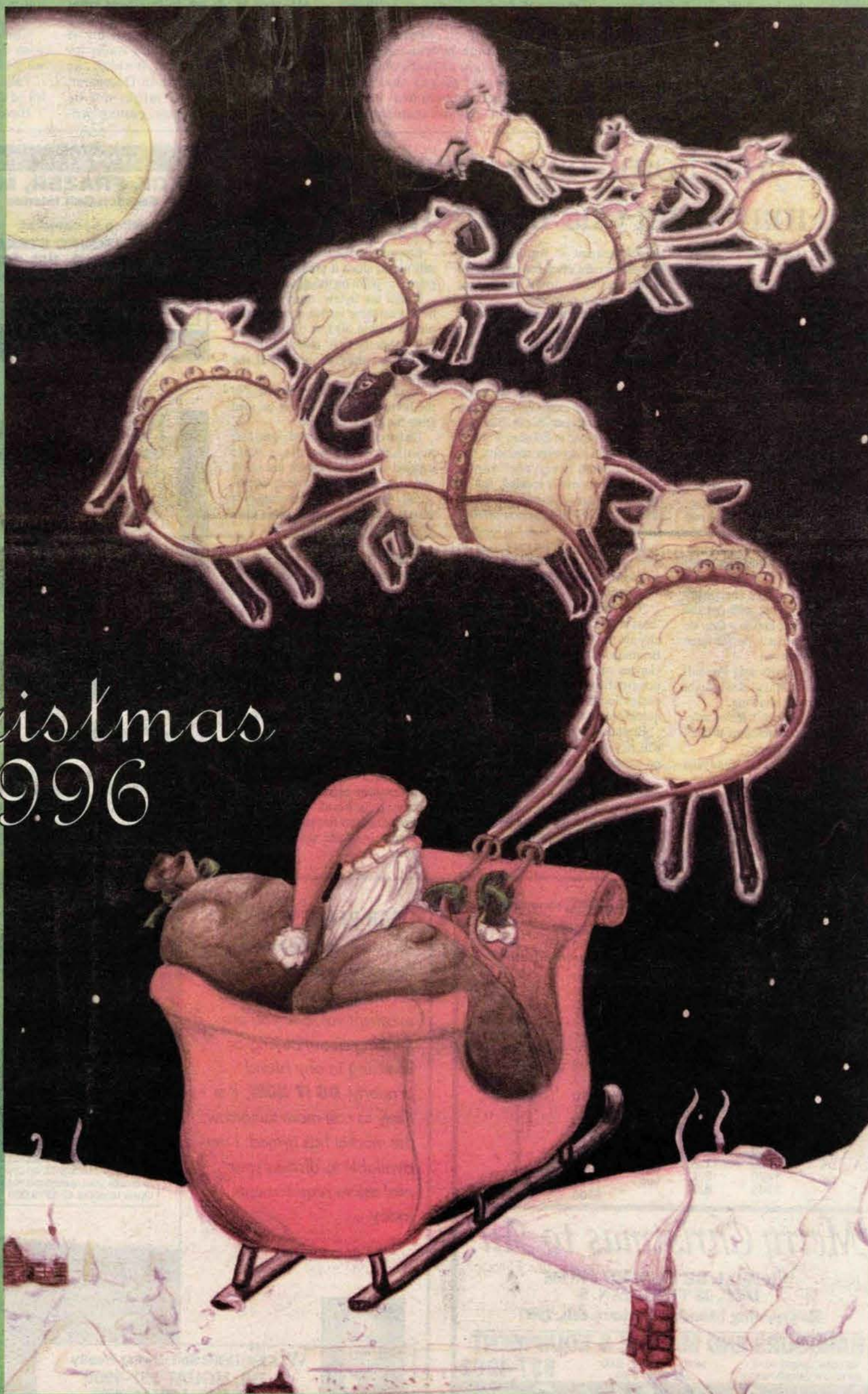
Gulf Islands Driftwood

Wednesday, December 25, 1996 Vol. 38, No. 52

Your Community Newspaper

Salt Spring Island, B.C. \$1 (incl. GST)

Christmas
1996



Commercialization of Christmas no longer big deal

I was a little surprised last week when someone spoke disparagingly of the commercialization of Christmas. Here, I thought, is a sentiment I had not heard expressed in a very long time.

In fact, the last time I heard it was probably when I expressed it myself. So what has influenced this change of heart in the way in which I view Christmas and the onslaught of intense marketing it brings?

Age, perhaps. Consider Jean Chretien. Remember those old speeches in which he used to speak passionately of the Canada he loved? Today, the prime minister has difficulty hiding his distaste at having to respond to the questions that concern his fellow Canadians.

He has lost the fire in his belly that kindled those speeches and now appears arrogant, insensitive — and old.

But it may be more than just age (and

TONY RICHARDS



its accompanying wisdom!) that have worked some subtle changes on the outlook of "children of the 60s."

We no longer view profit as a dirty word. We recognize now that profit is not only essential for the capitalist machine to work but has enormous benefit for society as a whole.

Take bank profits. Banks make profits that appear big because their gross revenues are big to begin with. Combine those high revenue figures with a healthy margin of profit and you have large sums of money that will swell the coffers of government in the form of taxation, reward shareholders

in the form of dividends and tick off those who figure the banks are ripping them off.

The shareholders who are thus rewarded are not numbers on share certificates but people, people who have invested in those banks and expect a return.

The same goes for the purveyors of Christmas goods, the manufacturers and retailers who ply us with consumer goods and rely heavily on this time of year to maintain a level of sales high enough to keep them in the black for the whole year.

Many of them are in business right here on Salt Spring and have been adding to the commercialization of Christmas by promoting their wares for the past month or more. Without the sales that normally come in December, many of those stores might not be around this time next year, putting peo-

ple out of work and eliminating another source of profit on which local organizations depend for charitable donations.

It's hard to get excited about the commercialism of the season, then, when you consider what it all means to friends and neighbours. Surely it's better to get excited about the spirit of Christmas that continues as strong as ever, as evidenced by donated teddy bears to Pat Barnes' Tangled Web and support for the Christmas hamper program.

Without that spirit, Christmas marketing truly would become distasteful, but without that spirit there would be nothing around which to market.

Christmas is as commercial as we wish to make it. It is also as spiritual as we wish to make it.

Take your pick. Myself, I'll go for a bit of the first and lots of the second.

Have a good one.

Does your home have street number? You may want one in emergency

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

If you don't have a number on your house, how is Santa going to find you?

That alone should be enough to get homeowners out to their property line with digits and hammers in hand, lest they find coal meant for someone else in their stocking.

A few more numbers have gone up on Salt Spring driveways in recent weeks, following a visit by a not-so-jolly Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw enforcement officer. Over the past three weeks, Miles Drew estimates 400 households on the north end of the island have received warning notices advising them of a 1992 bylaw requiring posting of street numbers on all lots.

"A number of people sheepishly reach into their closet, pull out the street number sign and say they've been meaning to put it up for three years," Drew observed.

One of the culprits was Firehall No. 3 at Central, which was caught without its number showing.

"He (Drew) doesn't leave anybody out. No favouritism there," said fire chief Les Wagg.

The number — 110 Vesuvius Bay Road — was up the next day.

Wagg's crew and other emergency services like police and ambulance depend on visible street numbers to help them find those in need. Wagg said the numbers are

very important — fortunately the fire department often has other clues when tracking down the many homes without numbers.

"We can usually see the smoke or flames or something," Wagg said.

What can mislead the fire department is the number of streets with similar names, so it is useful if people give the area along with the street name. For example, there is an Arbutus Place near Booth Bay and an Arbutus Road at Southey Point.

Drew said long-time residents frequently claim "everyone" knows where their home is located. But as the population increases, not every driver of every emergency vehicle knows where every home is located. Sometimes the person calling in an emergency is not the homeowner and relies on an address to identify the location.

"Our dispatch is in Victoria so 'beside the old tree' doesn't work anymore," observed Catherine Brannan, acting unit chief for the Ganges ambulance station. As much information as possible makes it easier for paramedics to respond quickly to an emergency.

Brannan noted some people are still relying on lot numbers or have no numbers posted at all.

The more numbers posted, the easier it becomes to identify every property. "We've gone and talked to some people with major buildings which can be identified by other means," Drew observed.

But numbering these buildings is still useful since it provides another reference point on the street.

Under the bylaw, numbers must be at least three inches in height and placed within 30 feet of the street-side property line, although Drew points out they should be at the street.

"It doesn't have any advantage to the homeowner if it cannot be read from the street," he said.

Enforcement started late last month and 400 warnings were handed out to homes on the north end of the island within three weeks.

"My feeling is that approximately 20 per cent of the people don't have their numbers up," Drew said.

The bylaw allows for a minimum fine of \$100 but Drew said it is so much in the homeowner's interest to comply with the bylaw that he doubts a fine would ever be required.

It's a good bylaw to enforce at the holiday season since most people are quick to comply, he said.

"This is a Christmas season bylaw."

Enforcement will continue in the new year, he added.

Anyone needing to know their address so they can erect a sign before Santa — or the CRD bylaw enforcement officer — is on the doorstep should call Erling Jorgensen at the fire hall, 537-2531, to determine their assigned street number.

Season's Greetings

JACK FRAZER, M.P.
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25	1150	9.2	SUN	0850	11.2
WE	1535	10.0		1510	7.8
	2310	1.9		1845	8.5
26	0725	11.3	30	0135	4.0
TH	1240	8.9	MO	0920	11.2
	1615	9.7		1600	7.3
	2345	2.2		1955	8.0
27	0755	11.2	31	0210	4.9
FR	1330	8.6	TU	0945	11.1
	1700	9.3		1650	6.7
				2120	7.7
28	0020	2.7	JAN	0245	5.7
SA	0825	11.2	01	1015	11.0
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	1745	8.9		2300	7.6

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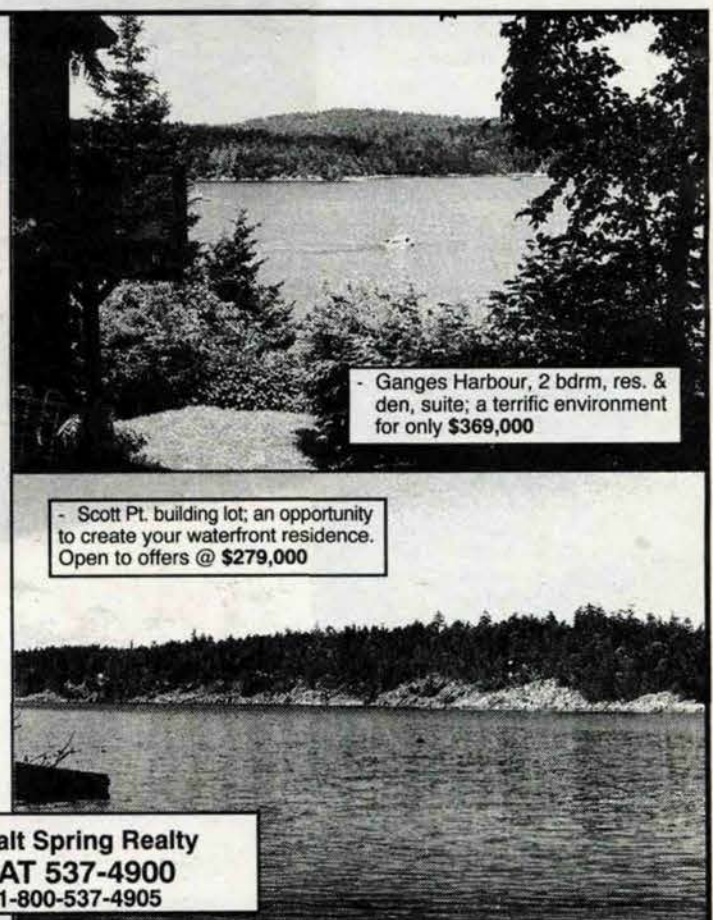
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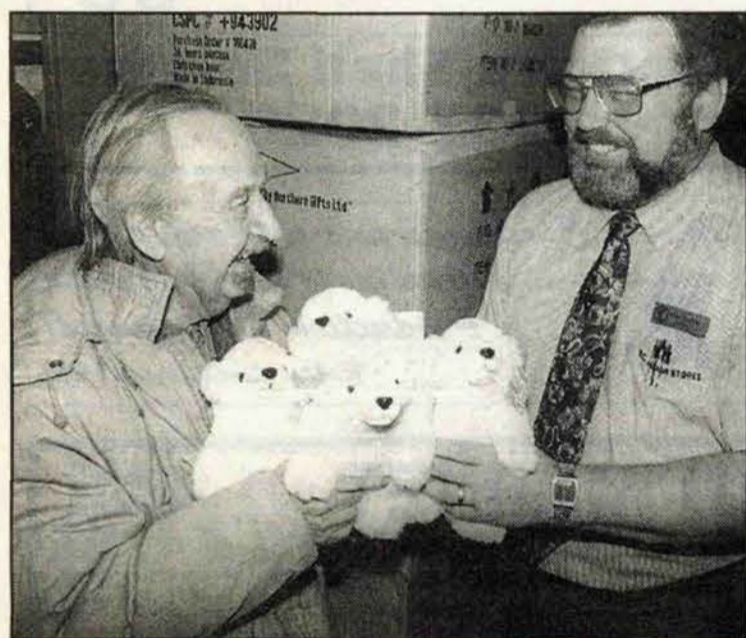


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Christmas spirit
 There was lots of Christmas spirit evident around Ganges last week when donations were being gathered for Christmas hampers. Above, from left, Mary Toynbee, Father Christmas, Manson Toynbee, Pat Hensel, Molly Frenette and Lester Shields line up behind a collection of canned goods while preparing the hampers for delivery on Friday. At left, Santa's Workshop's Bob Appleton accepts 150 teddy bears from Ganges liquor store manager Brian Gooding. Store customers purchased the bears as gifts for needy children.

Photos by Derrick Lundy and Tony Richards

Story for students part of sentence

A 17-year-old who pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention will take the story of his car accident to Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The judge ordered the youth make a presentation at the school as part of his sentence which also includes six months' probation, 60 hours' community work service and a 12-month driving prohibition.

The youth pleaded guilty to the offence which occurred just after 9 p.m. on July 6.

On that day, the court learned, the accused and a male passenger followed another young driver down Atkins Road, hitting speeds in excess of 120 kilometres per hour in a 50 km zone.

The youth hit a rise in the road, losing control of the vehicle which skidded across Rainbow Road, hit a ditch and rolled several times before coming to a stop in the front yard of Rainbow Nursery and Landscape Supply.

The young driver suffered injuries to his left hand, but his passenger was more seriously hurt, being transferred from Lady Minto Hospital to a Victoria hospital where he underwent surgery for a badly broken upper right arm and dislocated shoulder.

In handing down his sentence, the judge considered the seriousness of the accident. He also noted the youth was cooperative with police and had no prior driving or criminal record.

Prowler reported outside Salt Spring home

A report of a possible prowler outside a north Salt Spring home at approximately 9:30 p.m. last Wednesday was checked by Ganges RCMP, who found footprints on the deck outside the home.

The resident of the home heard a noise outside the patio door and spotted the footprints. No suspect

was found.

At the time, the patio door was unlocked. Police are urging residents to practise basic security. Suggestions include securing windows and doors and using outdoor motion sensor lights.

Other incidents reported to police over the past two weeks:

- The windows were smashed out of a phone booth at Central Hall December 14 at approximately 3 a.m.

- On the night of December 15 to 16, a window at the Salt Spring Golf Club clubhouse was broken. Nothing was taken and the building did not appear to have been entered.

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"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

To all our friends & customers
 we wish a healthy & happy holiday season!
 Ken, Paul and Josh
KEN BYRON EXCAVATING

76% of Mill Farm pledges paid

The enthusiasm with which islanders pledged to support the purchase of the Mill Farm has been matched by an almost equal enthusiasm in honouring those pledges.

As of December 19, 83 per cent of the money pledged had been collected, reported Salt Spring Island Conservancy treasurer Susan Evans. Of those who made pledges, 76 per cent had sent in the money.

"We're very grateful for the response of the community," Evans said. "It's been a pleasure to collect the money."

From major donors to small contributions, the majority quickly honoured their pledges.

Fellow conservancy volunteer Ann Richardson noted one donor, who pledged \$5, was so excited about the successful acquisition of the park that she doubled her pledge.

Since the successful bid October 17 to acquire the park, the conservancy received an additional \$6,418 in donations. Of that, approximately \$5,000 was increases in existing pledges and \$1,000 was new donations.

Evans noted more than 600 peo-

ple, businesses and organizations either donated or pledged donations to the conservancy in order to help with the purchase of the 160-acre Mill Farm. A coalition including the Capital Regional District (CRD), the provincial government and the conservancy successfully bid \$800,000 in court to acquire the land.

"On leaving court on October 17 there were 571 pledges totalling \$133,329 to be collected," Evans said.

The conservancy also had \$17,700 raised through an auction. In total, the group promised \$150,000 towards the land purchase and also has to cover its campaign costs and legal expenses.

Just over two months later, the conservancy had collected \$110,950 in pledges plus the \$6,418 in new and increased pledges.

Of the 133 pledges still to be collected, 81 are from island residents and 52 are from off-island. Uncollected island pledges total \$8,774 and uncollected off-island pledges total \$13,605.

Among these is an \$11,000

pledge sent from the United States which is expected to arrive soon. The conservancy received four pledges totalling \$10,000 or more, one of which came from Mountain Equipment Co-op.

The conservancy also received 33 pledges falling between \$1,000 and \$9,999; 266 between \$100 and \$999 and 294 between \$5 and \$99.

Those who have yet to fulfill their pledge are urged to send the funds to Box 722, Ganges Post Office, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2W3.

Anyone with questions is invited to call Evans at 653-4311. They are also asked to call if their donation will be delayed.

Richardson reported the Mill Farm has now been placed under a covenant by the Ministry of Environment. Plans for the park include a small parking lot, access trails, washrooms and trail signs.

The CRD is attempting to get adjoining Crown lands added to the park. Evans urged islanders to write the provincial Ministry of the Environment urging the ministry to turn over the province's properties for additional park land.

Village Market expansion in works

Ganges Village Market will be expanded by 630 square metres (7,000 square feet) under re-development plans for the property.

Approximately the same amount of commercial space will also be added to the northwest side of the existing store.

"We're just working on the drawings now," said Walter Large, a director and spokesman for Upper Ganges Holdings Ltd., which owns the 1.19-hectare (2.93-acre) commercial site.

Islands Trust senior planner Linda Adams noted there is ample allowance under current zoning for the proposed addition. So far, no formal application for a development permit has been made to the Salt Spring Trust Committee but the concept has been put informally before the Advisory Design Panel.

Adams noted current buildings on the property cover 2,880 square metres (30,988 square

feet). Under the zoning, site coverage can reach 4,000 square metres (43,040 square feet), depending on the amount of parking required.

"They certainly have room to

expand," she said.

Large said the food store is going to be expanded to the rear by approximately 630 square metres (7,000 square feet) to allow more storage space.



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- Robin, Lorraine and Alice

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Betty, Jenny, Cathy and Mona.

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New website offers Driftwood online

Comprehensive information about the Gulf Islands — including selected editorial copy from the Gulf Islands Driftwood — is now only a mouse click away for users of the Internet.

Gulf Islands Online, a new site on the Internet's World Wide Web, went "live" this week, offering information that can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

Launched by the Driftwood, the site is divided into three parts: Driftnet, a compilation of Driftwood stories and opinion pieces, updated weekly; The Gulf Islander, an online version of the Driftwood's annual visitor's guide; and Island Living, also an online version of a Driftwood publication, a twice-yearly magazine devoted to arts and recreation.

The launch of Gulf Islands Online represents the culmination of extensive research and experimentation over the past year and a half.

"It's been a long time in the making, but I'm glad we've taken that time," said Driftwood publisher Tony Richards of the newspaper's venture.

"The Internet offers some great opportunities — as long as you look beyond all the hype," he said.

Richards sees Gulf Islands Online, which has been dubbed "your community website," as the central clearing house for online information about the islands.

"The Internet's huge potential is in putting an amazing collection of information at your fingertips — right now," Richards said. Local

information is now a part of that collection.

The Internet address for Gulf Islands Online is <http://www.driftwood.bc.ca>.

Although work on the site was completed this week, improvements will be ongoing. One of the bigger changes, scheduled to come early in the new year, will see the entire newspaper — stories, features and opinion pieces — uploaded to the site every week.

That content will be offered by subscription and will target people who don't live on the islands but have an interest in island news.

While initial development of the site was carried out by the Driftwood in-house, most of the design work was done by Marc Boucher of aTerra Technologies Corporation. Boucher, whose firm operates from an office in Ganges, created Maple Square, described as "Canada's Internet Directory."

Maple Square is now licensed to Sympatico, the Internet arm of Canada's major telephone companies, including BC Tel.

Among other sites created by Boucher is Le Coq Sportif: Guide to Hockey. It has been ranked fifth in the world among Internet sports sites by the magazine Inter@ctive Week. Among hockey sites it ranks second.

Boucher also has a contract to provide content to America Online.

One feature of Gulf Islands Online is colour art which depicts the Gulf Islands. It is the work of Driftwood editorial cartoonist Peter Lynde.



MLA views bike lane site

MLA Murray Coell, left, is shown the site of a proposed demonstration bike lane by Tony Hume of Parks and Recreation and Claire Heffernan of the Cycling Advisory Committee.

A provincial grant has been applied for to construct the lane, as well as a paved bikeway between Central and Ganges.

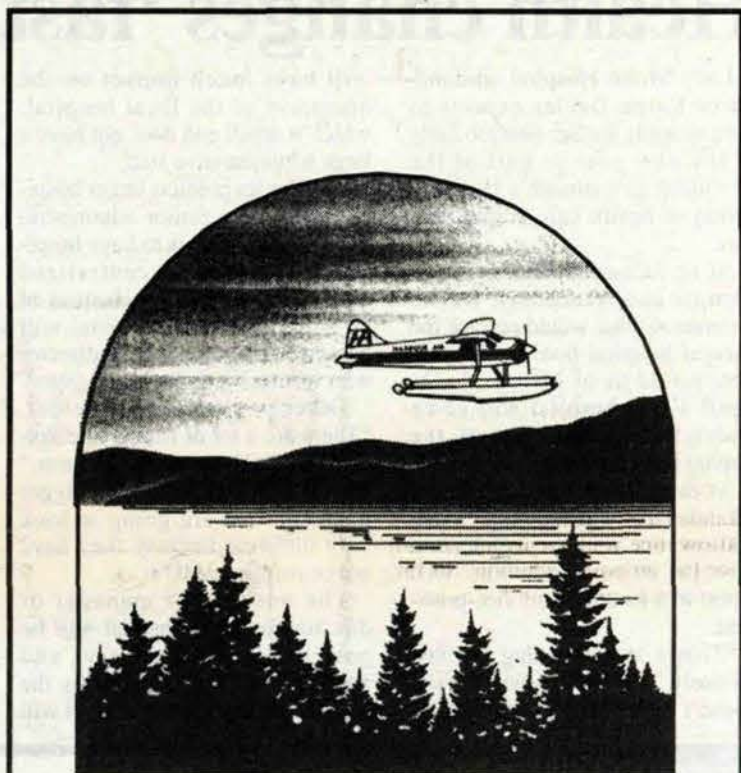
Photo by Tony Richards

House fire reveals 'Galiano gold'

Charges of cultivating marijuana are pending against a Galiano resident after a house fire December 18 revealed an indoor growing operation.

The estimated 2,000-square-foot home at 2494 Montague Harbour Road was totally destroyed in the blaze — but not before witnesses noticed the pot-growing operation and called police.

Galiano RCMP Const. Jim Pletz said enough evidence was rescued from or escaped the blaze to support the charges. "A little bit of Galiano gold," he observed.



Chipper will get rid of trees for no charge at depot

Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree once the lights are down and the needles begin littering the carpet?

Salt Spring Recycling is offering a free tree disposal service on Saturday, January 4 and Saturday, January 11. The offer is made possible thanks to a volunteer who has offered to chip the trees on site.

"It's just a good deed," said manager Peter Grant. The Rainbow Road depot will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturdays.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS

RUTH & TOM VOLQUARDSSEN
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Rita, Betty, Lena & Marg

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and a prosperous
New Year
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We three kings

Pandora Morgan, left, Angelica Bennett, centre, and Alex Corley are kings in the nativity play staged last week by primary students at Salt Spring Centre School. Photo by Derrick Lundy

Health changes 'fast, furious'

Lady Minto Hospital administrator Karen Davies expects to have to apply for her own job early in the new year as part of the provincial government's reorganization of health care administration.

At an information meeting in Victoria last Wednesday, Davies discovered what would replace the current hospital board, which is due to fold as of March 31. On April 1, the hospital will come under the jurisdiction of the Capital Health Board.

At that point, her position of administrator will no longer exist. Instead, the hospital will have a director or manager who will report to a health board vice-president.

"Things are happening fast and furiously," she said Friday. But she doesn't expect the reorganization

will have much impact on the operation of the local hospital, which is small and does not have a large administrative staff.

But Davies predicts larger hospitals could lose senior administrators since the plan is to have hospital administration centralized under the health board. Instead of an administrator, a hospital will have a manager and/or a director who will report to the health board.

Other positions will be cut. "There are a lot of health care dollars that must be saved this year," Davies reported. "It's the bigger hospitals that are going to look very different because they have senior management."

The position of manager or director for each hospital will be posted in mid-January and appointments are expected by the end of January, Davies said. "I will

certainly apply for my job."

Also on Wednesday, five vice-presidents were appointed to handle the departments of primary, secondary and tertiary care; residential long term care; human resources; operations support; and population health/clinical evaluation.

Appointed to those positions were Pat Coward, Peter McAllister, Chuck Rowe, Bert Boyd and David Newsome, respectively.

Lady Minto Hospital will be reporting to Coward, a nurse with a doctorate degree who has been chief executive officer of the Greater Victoria Hospital Society.

Davies said she has worked with all five of the new vice-presidents in the past and feels comfortable with their appointments. "They're all very highly qualified people."

No strike, says union, as ferry talks continue

Islanders can breathe easy. Enough progress was made in mediated contract talks between B.C. Ferries and the ferry workers' union to avert a Christmas season strike.

"We are pointed in the right direction at least," said Ken Michael, president of the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union.

He said minor progress had been made during four days of talks, with five contract articles signed off in principle and

progress made on apprenticeship and health/safety issues.

There has been enough progress to continue with the contract talks in January, Michael said Friday.

"There will be no strike action, not even serving strike notice, until after Christmas."

The union has been without a contract since October 31. Earlier this month, ferry workers voted 94 per cent in favour of strike action to back contract demands.

BOXING WEEK
Clearance

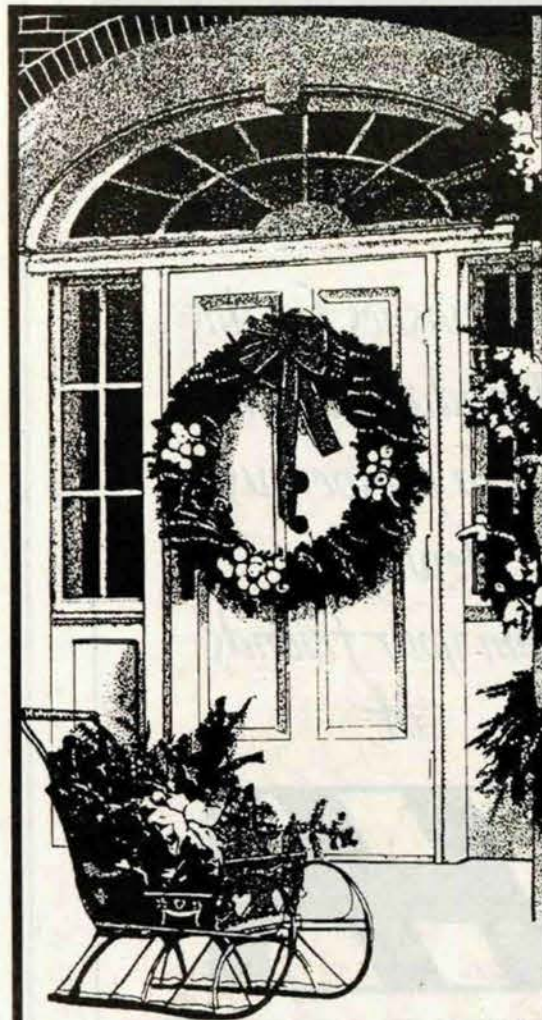
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It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

Opportunity's knocking
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In every way.

May it open the door,
For good tidings and cheer -
Merry Christmas to all
And a joyous New Year.

*From all of us at
Islands Heritage Realty*



Christmas is...

a time of joy and gladness!
May it hold many happy moments for you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
ALL OF US AT**

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CLOSED DEC. 25 & 26
Re-opening Wednesday Dec. 27/9-5:30

GANGES VILLAGE MARKET

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PRICE LEADERS ✓

CHECK & COMPARE ANYWHERE

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Limit 1 per coupon per family order. PLU#1104

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OPINION

Christmas more than commercial images

Why do we love Christmas? For many children it is an almost magical outpouring of treats, special events and presents. Some youngsters are unabashedly materialistic, fixing their Christmas morning fancy on a much-desired toy or trinket. It is a time to ask and receive — whether the request is directed to Santa Claus or directly to the parental purse strings.

For adults, the question is more complex. They are the makers of the magic that the children enjoy. For them, Christmas can be stressful — a time of un-met expectations caused by too little time or too little money.

When economic conditions are lean, the struggle to make two ends come within shouting distance of each other — if not actually meet — makes it even harder to match the expectations generated by the season.

Or, at least, the expectations generated by the commercial image of the season: a beautifully decorated home, piles of presents, unlimited indulgence.

But we love Christmas for much more than the latest toys. Ask people what they value about Christmas and the commercial images fade into forgetfulness.

Instead, they talk about spending time — not money — with families. They recall renewing ties with friends. They talk about caroling, making and baking gifts, sharing their bounty with those they know and those unknown but in need.

For many adults, the “getting” side of Christmas is much less important than the “giving” side. (Realistically, beyond the initial stages of setting out on their own, most adults have the means to acquire those goods likely to be popped in a box, wrapped and placed under the tree.)

How they choose to celebrate this season of giving varies. Some volunteer in soup kitchens or help with hamper drives. Some contribute to the many charities that find the season is their best opportunity to gather the resources they will expend to help those in need throughout the coming year.

Some focus their talents on creating or finding the perfect expression of their affection for family and friends. Christmas becomes the excuse to present these tokens to others, to enjoy their surprise and delight.

Only a cynic would rate all this heartfelt giving as commercialism generated by advertising jingles. It is more. It is a chance to express the value we place in others and weave glittering strands into the ties which make our communities and families stronger.

Gifts come in many guises not recognized by Madison Avenue: an unexpected helping hand, a plate of home-baked cookies, a spending of moments as much as money.

Our fondest memories of Christmas are built on the experiences we share during the season: caroling with friends, dinner with the family, attending church, aiding others or quietly delighting in the lights and pageantry created for the season.

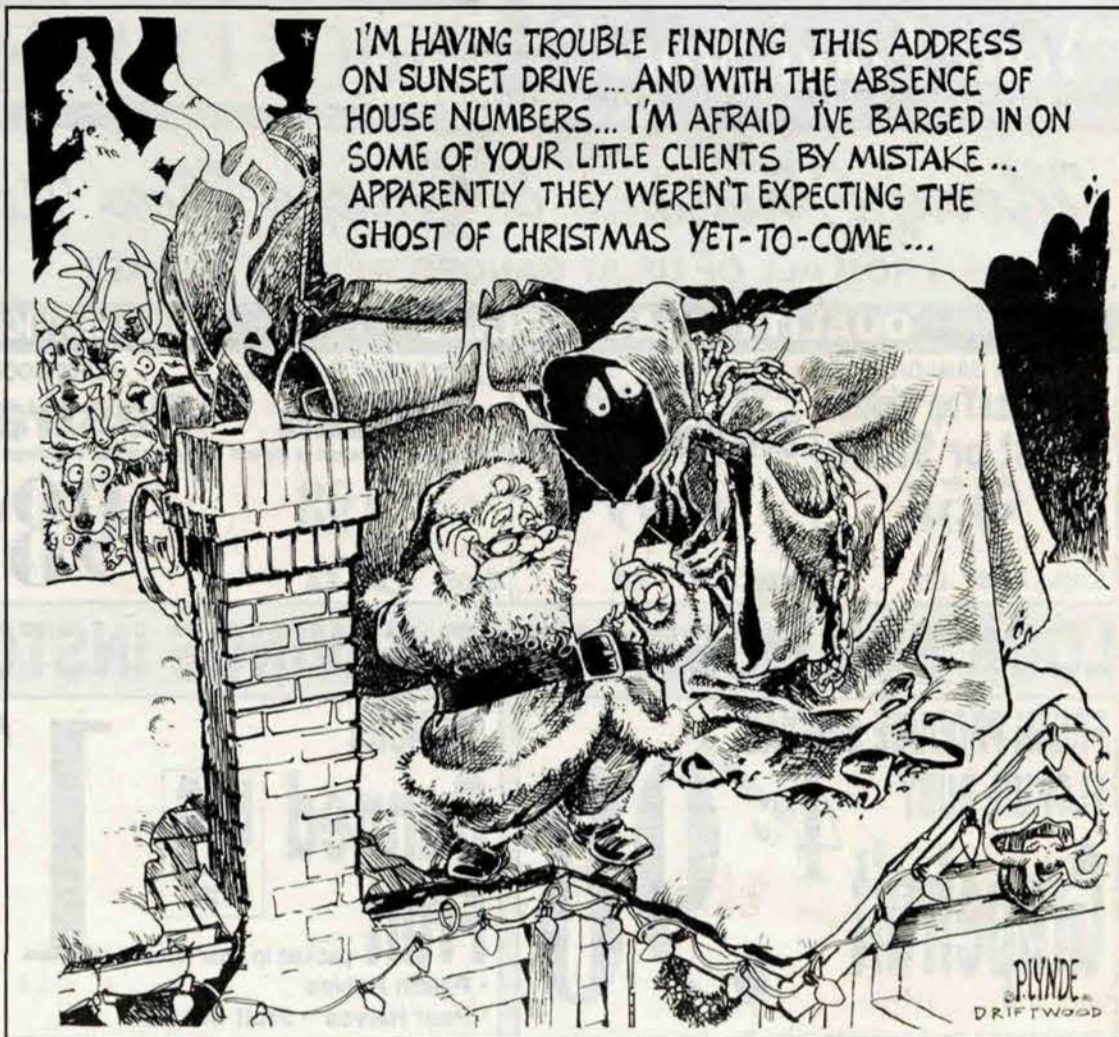
Take the annual Festival of Lights parade in Ganges, which was one of those Christmas-building moments. Young or old, all could enjoy and participate together in the magical transformation of the community into a fairyland of flickering lights, marking the arrival of our season of sharing.

It often may have been cold and wet, but those disadvantages were overcome by the delight of participants as the lights bloomed around them, carrying their own lights to add to the glow.

It was an event that was significant for its spiritual nature. It was symbolic of a dimension of Christmas that remains strong but is not always publicly evident. For that reason we should make every effort to rejuvenate the festival next year.

Christmas is often derided for being short-lived. But Christmas is not forever and should not be, for that would rob the season of its magic.

By celebrating this season of sharing, we gain a glow that warms the rest of our year.



If approved, two grants would build bike lane, paved bikeway

By CLAIRE HEFFERNAN

Last month I made a presentation to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the cycling network program.

The purpose of this program is to encourage transportation cycling by accelerating the development of cycling infrastructure. Salt Spring is eligible for 100 per cent funding from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) and the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority for the construction of shoulder bikeways or bike lanes. The grant program is not for constructing recreational bike paths.

On the recommendation of Island Pathways representatives (who have been working on cycling issues on the island since 1990) the cycling advisory committee decided to focus on two areas for improvements. The two grant requests included: a demonstration bike lane for the roadside boundary of Portlock Park; and a paved shoulder bikeway on Lower Ganges Road from Vesuvius Bay Road to Canal Road. The long-term plan is to run a paved shoulder from Portlock Park to Ganges and then up Ganges Hill to Beddis Road. This network will take a number of years to complete.

Portlock Park is located beside one of the busiest intersections on the island and adjacent to a major transportation corridor — for both cyclists and automobiles — connecting the north end of the island with Ganges. Anyone who passes by the park on a regular basis knows that there is a hazardous situation for all road users.

In order to create a safe bike route for cyclists and leave enough room for the car parking, I recommended constructing a paved shoulder wide enough to accommodate both a bike lane — where parking is not allowed — and parallel or angle parking next to the bike lane.

Planting trees just beyond the parking for shade, windbreak and aesthetic purposes was also recommended, and there would be room for a chip trail. The proposal is based on the highly successful program of bike lanes constructed in Davis, California. A MOTH



VIEW POINT

technician will be examining the feasibility of the proposal in the near future.

The second proposal is for a one-kilometre-long, three-foot-wide, paved shoulder bikeway on both sides of Lower Ganges Road from Central Hall to Canal Road. It is obvious that three feet on the Portlock Park portion of the Lower Ganges Road would not be adequate to park a vehicle — hence the wider shoulder along that section.

What is the benefit of a paved shoulder bikeway? It provides a safe place beside the road for cyclists to ride and reduces the friction between bike and automobile drivers. A paved shoulder benefits other road users like pedestrians by providing a place for them to walk. It provides an emergency stop area for automobiles and a pull-over lane for slower moving vehicles like farm tractors.

A paved shoulder also extends the life of the roadway by reducing damage to the road edge and erosion of the gravel shoulders, which undercuts the road bed. You can park on a paved shoulder bikeway.

This is the second time we have applied to the program this year. If we had been successful when the program was first developed three years ago, we might already have our paved shoulder from Portlock Park to Ganges and we'd be discussing Ganges Hill by now.

The Salt Spring Cycling Advisory Committee was established in March 1996 by Islands Trust members Bob Andrew and Grace Byrne. Our members are volunteers and represent a broad cross-section of the community. We work closely with the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, the South Island Cycling Advisory Committee, PRC, our regional director, MLA and other interested parties.

I have been involved in researching, planning and lobbying for cycling infrastructure for six years. For more information please call me at 653-4185.

Claire Heffernan is a member of the Salt Spring Cycling Advisory Committee.

The purpose of this program is to encourage transportation cycling by accelerating the development of cycling infrastructure.

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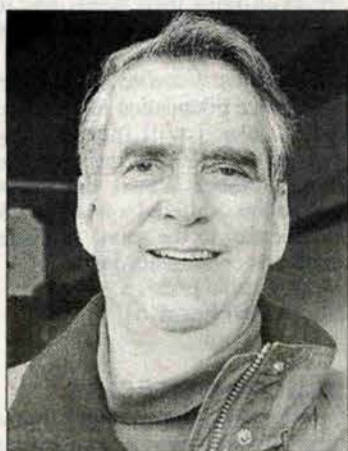
SALT SPRING SAYS

We Asked: What is the most important part of your Christmas?



Anne Chisholm

People achieving harmony together.



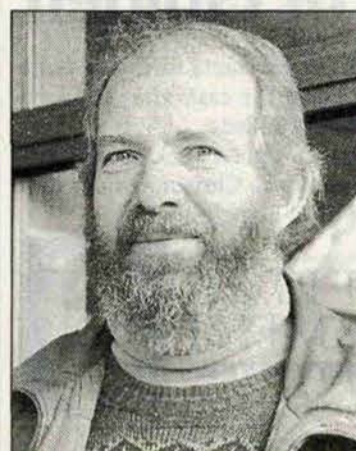
Bob Brawn

Family. At Christmas it's nice to have everyone around and this Christmas I'm going to have everyone around.



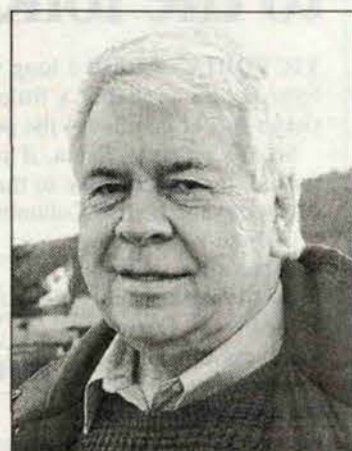
Jo-Ann Erickson

Being with my family because we don't see each other much during the year.



Peter Robinson

Being together with the family.



Maurice Walford

Being with family — ninetenths must say that.

Letters to the Editor

Candy on fridge

When I was a young girl I was taught that the very best things in life are free! Also, that "free love" was not included.

It seems strange that in today's world there is so little trust among the young people in our high schools that they must even be spoon-fed when it comes to sexual behaviour.

I mourn the loss of faith which parents could place with their children, and pray fervently for a return to some kind of responsibility and standard of morality.

According to the December 11 article in the Driftwood, teens are encouraged to abstain from having relations but, just in case, they have access to free condoms! A plate of candy left on the top of the fridge could not be more tempting!

And to think that I voted for Ms. Parlee!

D. FLANNERY,
Maliview Drive

Palms upward

Joe Clemente has it right ("Plant a palm" letter in the December 18 Driftwood).

Salt Spring is indeed subtropical; at the least, tolerant of this lovely tree.

We put in four in 1990. The two smaller expired in the first week of frost. The survivors thrive. One is now eight feet tall and healthy. The

other is nearly 10 feet and this year seeded itself not once but twice, the last time with a massive yellow pod of seeds, a true flowering.

Sorry, I can't remember what species they are. But they most certainly like the Salt Spring climate.

NORMAN KLENMAN,
Ganges

Something nice

I read with interest and some sympathy the item by Brian Hauff, developer of Salt Spring Island Village Resort on Bullock Lake (Driftwood, December 18).

He finds himself in the position of having done everything "right," but now he's "wrong."

The CRD will shortly entertain a request for a stop-work order on the project. It is difficult to imagine that this will succeed but Mr. Hauff and his fellow investors might think of taking another tack. How about digging into those developmental coffers and coming up with the relatively insignificant sum of \$355,000 to finish off ArtSpring? What a fine gift to the community! And the developers could probably give it any name they wanted, or at least put their name on a prominent plaque. (And it's tax deductible.)

This munificent gesture would perhaps not assuage all the anger surrounding the resort, but might just change the general "G-r-r-r!"

to an occasional, "Well, all right, I guess ..."

To tell you the truth, I'm a bit surprised that Hauff and his consortium have not already thought about this — or something like it, especially with the strong feelings stirred up. The idea here, Mr. Hauff, is to do something really nice for the island — not just jobs for individuals, tourist bucks for the economy. All of this ultimately comes back to what the resort can make in profit.

All right, turn a little of that profit back to the community. Something permanent; something Salt Spring badly needs and can be proud of. And something you, too, can take pride in having assisted.

RICHARD MOSES,
Tripp Road

MORE LETTERS 10

SEASONS GREETINGS

wishing you Peace and Joy
at this most
Magical Time of Year.

Our office will be closed on
December 27th and January 1st.

JAMES PASUTA
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
and staff

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We're taking time to say thanks for your patronage. We're pleased to have you as customers and proud to call you our friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Elaine Krusta

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Gulf Island Appraisals	Nina Wichman	Azure Transport
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	Arnie Hengstler	

THE WINNER OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE: ROD TERRY

Merry Christmas Everyone!

SSI Fire Dept. on behalf of Santa and crew of the 46th Christmas Ship

Santa has been good to the folks of Golden

VICTORIA — I had a long wish list for Santa this year, but I figured he's probably a little strapped for cash after taking a sleigh-full of goodies to the people of Golden.

So, it's all right, Santa, if you haven't got a heck of a lot left for me. Instead, I'd like to thank you for a Christmas story that celebrates the British Columbia spirit.

Golden needed a miracle after taking it on the nose when Evans Forest Products closed its operations, throwing about 500 workers and 300 private contractors out of work.

It took a while, but in the end, Santa, you came through. Last week, the major creditors voted in favour of a restructuring plan to save Evans from bankruptcy. A lot of people deserve credit for having saved the company and, ultimately, the town of Golden.

The workers accepted a 15-per-cent wage cut, not the kind of thing you're looking for but probably necessary under the circumstances. The provincial government kicked in \$22 million through the Forest Renewal Fund. Good decisions, better than using the money to shore up general revenue shortfalls.

Evans owner Georges St. Laurent came up with \$24.3 million, not a bad little stash for a company on the verge of bankruptcy. All creditors will get half the money they're owed now and the rest within two years.

The most asinine contribution to the debate over the future of Evans and Golden came from some environmental groups that urged the government to let the company die and damn the torpedoes.

On the other hand, considering that some of the most militant environmental activists are unemployed and on welfare — who else has the time to attend every protest? — I'm not all that surprised.

Now, if all this sounds like a great Christmas gift for the people of Golden, you had another surprise in store, didn't you, Santa? Last week, a nine-truck convoy arrived in town with food, clothing and toy donations.

The bounty had been collected by the Williams Lake-based Cariboo Communities Coalition and will help more than 200 families in Golden find the spirit of Christmas when life looked bleak only a short while ago.

One of the most active members of the coalition is Terry Taite, whom I have occasionally roasted in my columns. Terry, in the spirit of Christmas, I'm taking it all back. You're O.K.

Now, it seems to me that you touched a lot of people, Santa, to make this miracle work, and I wonder if you could keep it up after December 25. You know, hang around a little longer and gently guide some folks along the path of righteousness?

Take the government. No, I don't mean take the government please. But couldn't you make these people understand that there's a lot more to be done with the Forest Renewal Fund.

Golden was only one example, a striking one, mind you. But other resource-based towns face similar problems. Having created all these beautiful new parks is great, but folks have to work, too, and there seems to be fewer and fewer trees to cut.

So, Santa, it seems to me, we need that money in the Forest Renewal Fund to help communities adjust to the problems brought about by a dwindling resource. Now, if you could just slap Premier Glen Clark's hand a bit when he tries to dip into the fund, that would be much appreciated.

And keep an eye on Finance Minister Andrew Petter, too. He wants that money to pretty up his next budget.

In conclusion, Santa, I want to thank you again for all you did for the folks of Golden. You were magnificent.

And one more wish, if you please. Get Gordon Campbell a couple of white shirts and a few ties. No matter how many plaid shirts he wears, he just doesn't look like a logger.

Beyer can be reached at tel: 920-9300; fax: 385-6783; e-mail: hubert@coolcom.com

CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



More letters

Loves rides

I am a 68-year-old senior, dog owner and dog lover who has had his heart attack on September 1 of this year.

When I read Barry Winsor's diatribe in the letters column last week I clutched my chest and grabbed my vial of nitroglycerine.

I have no intention of leaving Becky at home when I drive into Ganges. She loves going for a ride, reads my mind 20 minutes before I start to get ready and would kiss me if I let her when I agree she can come.

She is possibly the most beautiful and certainly the one with the best temperament on Salt Spring. She does not make any noise when toddlers with their parents or grandparents pass the vehicle. But let a car park beside ours and if it contains "man's best friend," Becky's reaction can be heard inside a bank vault.

In fact, I've been known to turn to the admitting teller and say, "Why does Barry Winsor bring his friend to town? Why can't he leave her languishing at home?"

On the several occasions when I've taken her to Greenwoods to

visit the folks there she often causes those slumped apathetically in chairs to raise their heads and to reach out to touch this wonderful and loveable creature.

Every year I donate to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and the Yukon. I will increase my donation by \$500 in the year that Barry Scrooge Winsor can prove that anyone suffered a heart attack by listening to the sound of Canis familiaris communicating.

JACK C. HALLAM,
North End Road

Muchas gracias

Just wanted to say "muchas gracias" to all friends who either bought my Momostenango blankets or expressed interest in them. Next time I'll bring more!

(Also thanks to Valorie for helping to get the word out through the article she wrote and to my Voice of Women friends for including me in the Ganges sale with the other non-governmental organizations.)

This time the money raised for ADIFAM, the Working Children's Education Program in

Momostenango, Guatemala, will be divided between the "nutritious drink program" (which means that all of the 400 children enrolled will receive a drink at each of the twice weekly classes) and the rental of a vehicle that can take us out to visit the classes located a great distance from the central office. Our main longer-term fundraising goal is to have our own vehicle, which would make it possible to visit the classes on a daily basis.

In case anyone should want to help the ADIFAM program reach its goals, donations would be gratefully received by: The Treasurer, Victoria Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), 1829 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., V8R 4K4. Cheques should be made out to: Victoria Monthly Meeting, marked ADIFAM.

Tax receipts will be issued and 100 percent of all donations will be sent on to the program in Guatemala.

Please call me at 537-2010 for further information. I'll be here until January 14.

SHEILA REID,
Charlesworth Road



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To the people who worked so hard to make the Mill Farm happen.

Read this list carefully. When you want to get something done, these are the people who — if they believe in your cause — will make it happen. To each and every one of them, a very special bouquet of the brightest, happiest blooms they can imagine. And a great big "Thank you" to go with it. We hope we haven't overlooked anyone.

We still haven't received all the pledges and we still need the funds. Please try not to delay any longer. For a memory jog about the amount you pledged, call Susan Evans at 653-4311. Thank you all, and a very Happy Holiday to everyone, from the Board of Directors:

Nancy Braithwaite, Susan Evans, Fiona Flook, Dorothy Morrell, Ailsa Pearse, Ann Richardson, Bob Weeden, Doug Wilkins, and Maureen Milburn, President.



The Salt Spring Island Conservancy

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Judges select 14 story contest winners

The judges have read the stories and rendered their decisions in the Driftwood's annual Christmas story contest, selecting 14 winners from a field of 161 entries.

The winners in each category, listed in order of first, second and third place, are:

Aged six and under: Shannon Wood, Chelsea Vivian, Helena Bryn McLeod. Honourable mention: Jordan Wilson, Kelsey Mech, Kean Hayes, Ayla Lundy.

Aged seven: Pandora Morgan, Tyler Massey, Shannon Stewart. Honourable mention: Jordan Robinson, Emma Rimmer, Cole Howard.

Aged eight: Nicolas Corley, Jillian Malcolm, Luke Andrews.

Honourable mention: Zander Ritson, Josephine Duffy, Jan Simpson.

Aged nine: Lindsay Morgan Ross Bryan, Anna Hosie, Amanda Noyes. Honourable mention: Andrew Wood, Josh Finch, Addi Perkins.

Aged 10 and 11: Niko Laing, Cory Marshall, Cassandra Parlee. Honourable mention: Michelle Sullivan.

Aged 12 and 13: Alexandra Lea, Kachina Brown, Sandy Curtis. Honourable mention: Cameron Beals, Gwyneth Brogan, Lynette Theunisz, Amelia Argue, Jennifer Keating.

Aged 14 and up: Patrick Callas, Abey Rae Clark, Neacol Booth.

First and second-place winners are awarded cash prizes ranging from \$20 to \$50.

The contest's judges were Dan Davies, Don Boyes, Norma Selig, Betty Poole, Lewis Pitman and Olive Clayton.

Coordinator of the judging was retired teacher Alex Mitchell, who said judges collected some "serendipitous howlers" from among the entries.

"I don't believe in the devil," one student wrote. "It's like Santa Claus; it's your father all the time."

Another, writing on the effect of pollution on the environment, said: "I opened a can of sardines and it was full of oil and all the

sardines were dead."

The advantages of mother's milk over that in a carton were touched on by one budding young writer: "It's cleaner, it's cheaper and the cat can't get it."

Mitchell described the judging as "difficult and painstaking," but was optimistic at the end of the process. "The work was impressive — perhaps reading and writing may be around for a while."

Many of the winning stories are published in the following pages, along with some of the work submitted by Gulf Islands Secondary School art students in the annual competition for cover art for the Driftwood's Christmas issue.

Mole's Christmas

By SHANNON WOOD
First place, six years

Once upon a time there was a mole. He was one year old. He lived at the North Pole.

Sometimes he dressed up in red and white, and would pretend to be Santa. He harnessed seven mice to his sleigh and rode around shouting, "Ho ho ho."

But one day he bumped into the real Santa. He looked up to see Santa coughing

and sputtering.

"Mole," he said, "I have a terrible cough and cold. Will you deliver all the presents tonight? You could even eat the milk and cookies!"

Well, that decided it for Mole.

"Yippee!" he shouted. "But will I be able to use your sleigh?"

"Of course," said Santa. "How do you think you could put all the presents on your little sleigh?"

So that night, as soon as it got dark, Mole was on the sleigh with the reins in his hand, shouting, "Rudolph! Dancer! Prancer! Away!"

And they were off. At the first stop, he slid down the chimney and coughed because of the soot in the chimney. He put all the presents under the Christmas tree, and did likewise to the rest of the houses in the world, and at dawn he was back at the North Pole.

Chelsea's Christmas Story

By CHELSEA VIVIAN
Second place, six years

Once upon a time there was a bird, a frog, a ladybug and a bunny. Ladybug and Bunny went out to a restaurant and they woke up in the morning and Santa had come. They saw their Christmas presents under the tree. Bird, Frog, Ladybug and Bunny saw their presents. Bird got some pretend ladybugs to play with for Christmas. Frog got a real bee to play with for Christmas.

Dragonfly, their friend, went to Bear's house for Christmas dinner. They had lasagna and they had milkshakes.

One day after Christmas Eve, Bear came along and he invited Bird, Frog, Dragonfly, Bunny and Ladybug to his birthday.

The Foxes' Adventure

By HELENA BRYN MCLEOD
Third place, six years

Once upon a time it was a very snowy Christmas. There was a mother and a father fox that lived in a hollow log.

In two months they were going to have baby foxes, and two days later in their bed they had two baby foxes.


As the babies grew older their mom and dad grew older too. When the babies grew into adults, they had three baby foxes. When those foxes grew older they wanted to go on an adventure to North Africa for Christmas. When they got there they were surprised to see a ginormous elephant. The elephant chased them.

They were so scared they fainted.

When they woke up from their sleep, they decided to go and make a home. When they finished making the home, it was nearly bed-time. So they went to bed. They had a very nice sleep, but suddenly they heard clumps on the roof. They knew it was Santa!

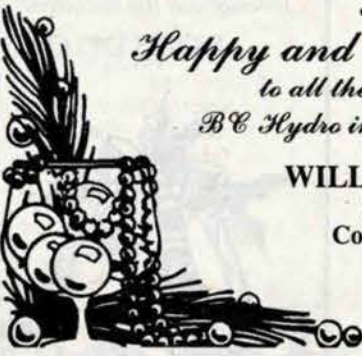
They tip-toed down the stairs and peeked out of the door and there was Santa putting one hundred presents under the tree. Then they saw Santa going up the chimney. So they decided to go back to bed. In the morning they went downstairs to open their presents. Their wishes came true! They found some charming bells.

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.
GULF ISLANDS (250)653-9343 VICTORIA (250) 386-0463

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year to all the employees of BC Hydro in the Gulf Islands



WILLIAM MANFIELD
Local Provider
Counselling Services
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Gulf Islands


Season's Greetings



We would like to wish all of our customers a joyous holiday season. We would also like to thank our patrons for being such an important part of our growth and success in the past year.

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We have seen some changes in 30 years

When I moved away from Sidney 30 years ago it was probably my last change of address. On the last day of December, in 1966, my late wife, Barbara and two daughters, Jill and Valerie, bag and baggage, came to Salt Spring Island.

It was no case of distant fields looming greener. It was distant waters looking bluer. From peninsula to sea-girt island we came and we never looked further.

My son, Tony, was not divorced from his family. He was attending school in Peru at the time. His uncle, my twin brother, Bill, was principal of his own private boarding school near Lima and Tony was learning Spanish the easy way.

TO BE FRANK
FRANK RICHARDS



On January 1, 1967 we set down to publish Gulf Islands Driftwood which we had acquired from Arlene and Jim Ward. They had, in their turn, purchased the newspaper from its founder, the late Woody Fisher.

Three decades ago the population of Salt Spring Island was about 3,000, with rather fewer numbers in the Outer Islands. Ganges was the commercial centre of Salt Spring Island but it was not the busy commercial community it is today. The newspaper office stood at the foot of Ganges Hill, where now stands the grocery store and business block of Stan Lam.

In the morning when we arrived at the office, at around eight o'clock, there might be three cars to be seen on the stretch of road running up towards Mouat's store. To meet another car at that time in the morning was an interesting experience. For some years we were destined to recognize Labour Day by the blank look of Ganges the following day. The honeymoon was over, back to the labours of the day!

In Ganges were the police on Ganges Hill, where it remains to the present day; one liquor store with its counter dividing the drinkers from the vendors. The customer would ask for the "product" he was seeking and the sales clerk would walk back to the secret stocks and bring out the bottle. Or bottles.

Those were the days of shame, when the government was ashamed of selling liquor and the customer was ashamed of buying it.

Ben's Lucky Dollar was located under Mouat's store and Salt Spring Island Trading Company was the alternative grocery and general store. Mouat's store was characterized by its central cash clerk serving all departments through the tram system where each outlet locked cash and sales slip into a small container, pulled a cord and the transaction was concluded as the container ran along its wire tracks.

Not to be accounted less traditional, the Trading Company was the climbing gymnasium. Stan Wagg, and his merry men and women, would take the order at the counter, then run up the sliding ladders to reach the required article. The customer would engage in the gossip of the day and the clerk would attend to the next hungry islander.

Lady Minto Hospital was in its present location. Somewhat smaller, it was destined to suffer growing pains for the next decades. Greenwoods was still seeded to grass.

There was a Gulf Islands School District and it is yet the administration centre of island schools, although it has grown somewhat. On Salt Spring Island were an elementary school and a secondary school with Mahon Hall filling in for lack of space elsewhere.

The hospital district was in operation, but as an improvement district rather than a part of the regional administration.

There was no regional district. That was to come later. There was no planning. That was to come later. There was no Islands Trust. That was to come later. Annual elections only considered the school board in the islands and Roma Sturdy and "her trustees" directed it.

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District enjoyed one fire hall, newly constructed where it yet stands. It also enjoyed a fleet of locally-manufactured trucks. The fire halls at Fulford and Central were to come later as were the purpose-built fire tenders which now fill them.

Travellers to the Mainland were offered limited accommodation on the Long Harbour, Otter Bay, Village Bay, Sturdies Bay-Tsawwassen ferry. Served by the Queen of the Islands the route enjoyed a singular claim to distinction. The ferry, designed and built for the islands run, was already too small the first day it sailed.

Fulford enjoyed the ex-CPR Islands Princess or the Delta Princess, and from Vesuvius sailed the Vesuvius Queen.

One beer parlour served Salt Spring Island and the Legion Hall was licensed for special occasions.

And that is, broadly, what we found and where we found it.

The newspaper was born each week in the back room of a bookstore which also sold the "makings" for wine. The newspaper world was famous for its beer-swilling and whiskey-toting weaker links. To walk into the office and discover that we didn't only swill and tote but offered to manufacture the stuff was more than we could take and shortly after acquiring the office, we relinquished that commodity. The decision was also made when it proved that deducting the time taken out of newspaper publishing, the wine business was something of an expensive luxury.

Good old days? Days, for sure; they were just the old days.

First day we were there it proved that I had not bought the typewriter in my office and I was in Victoria buying a new machine before I could start work.

In the course of the first months we acquired new equipment which we could not afford and cleaned things up a bit. In those early days I was editor and Barbara was responsible for the production. Jill and Valerie were on mailing every week.

We've watched things grow for 30 years. We've seen the community grow from a collection of impromptu shacks to a pleasant and pleasing commercial centre.

In fact, we have been so long on the island that as long as I don't open my mouth, anyone might think we were born here!

Today, as Tony and Alice face up to the chores that were my life for half a century, and Jill and Valerie look back on a childhood associated with a small newspaper, while my grandson Robin pounds the keys, I like to think that we are now one of few remaining "newspaper families" in Canada. And very proud to be so!

Santa's Big Helper

By PANDORA MORGAN
First place, seven years

One day on Christmas Eve a little elephant was sitting by the fire in her house drinking hot chocolate. Her name was Elly.

She had lots to do before Christmas. She had to hang her stocking up and find fancy stuff to put on her Christmas tree and buy presents for her friends and family. She hung her stocking up.

"Now I have to find some fancy stuff for my Christmas tree," she said.

And she went to town. She got some presents while she was in town. She found some fancy stuff for her Christmas tree. Then she went to sleep.

Elly woke up and she got dressed and went outside

and saw Santa. He said "Do you want to help me for Christmas? Ano the leader of my sled ran away."

"O.K. I'll do it!" said Elly.

"Come on, let's go," said Santa.

When they got to Santa's house they noticed she could not fly.

"Oh no, we will have to go to the bottom of the very deep pit," said Santa. When they got there they put a rope down and tied one end to a stick on the pit. Santa and Elly went down to the bottom of the very deep pit. They found a special powder called Elephant Magic and they put it on Elly and she could fly!

After a great excitement they went back to Santa's house and they delivered the presents to all the good little boys and girls. They had a fantastic Christmas!

Christmas Holidays

By TYLER MASSEY
Second place, seven years

On the first day of Christmas holidays, my mom and I made a gingerbread house.

On the second day of holidays, we made a gingerbread man.

On the third day he disappeared.

On the fourth day we made another one. I stayed up all night watching to make sure nothing happened to him.

At around midnight that night I heard a strange noise at the back door. My heart started to pound. It was a mother raccoon. She told me she had two babies and only

one gingerbread man to give to them for Christmas. I decided to give her another gingerbread man.

I think she smiled at me.

When I got up Christmas morning there were three gingerbread men with the gingerbread house. I guess Santa was watching.

Mrs. and Mr. Mofit's Christmas

By SHANNON STEWART
Third place, seven years

One day Mr. and Mrs. Mofit went walking in the cold snow. They were very poor and cold, but they were very grateful because they had two pieces of bread.

One day on the other side of the woods, a little house was just sitting there, so they just walked right up to the door and opened the door. No one was there, so they saw the kitchen and they walked in to the kitchen. They saw the living room and

they walked in and they walked all the way around the house.

Mrs. Mofit danced around the room and jumped for joy. Mrs. Mofit was so glad, and then they went back into the kitchen and opened the cupboard.

What a wonderful surprise! There were eggs and toast and pancakes and muffins and after a little while they began to go for walks and they were settled in and they lived happily ever after.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

to all my neighbours and friends.
May God bless you all throughout the holidays!

DORIS DELONG

Kris Kringle and we wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS

et cetera
(et cetera!)

dawn, jim, kirsten, kris, elizabeth, susan, carolyn, gary, tara

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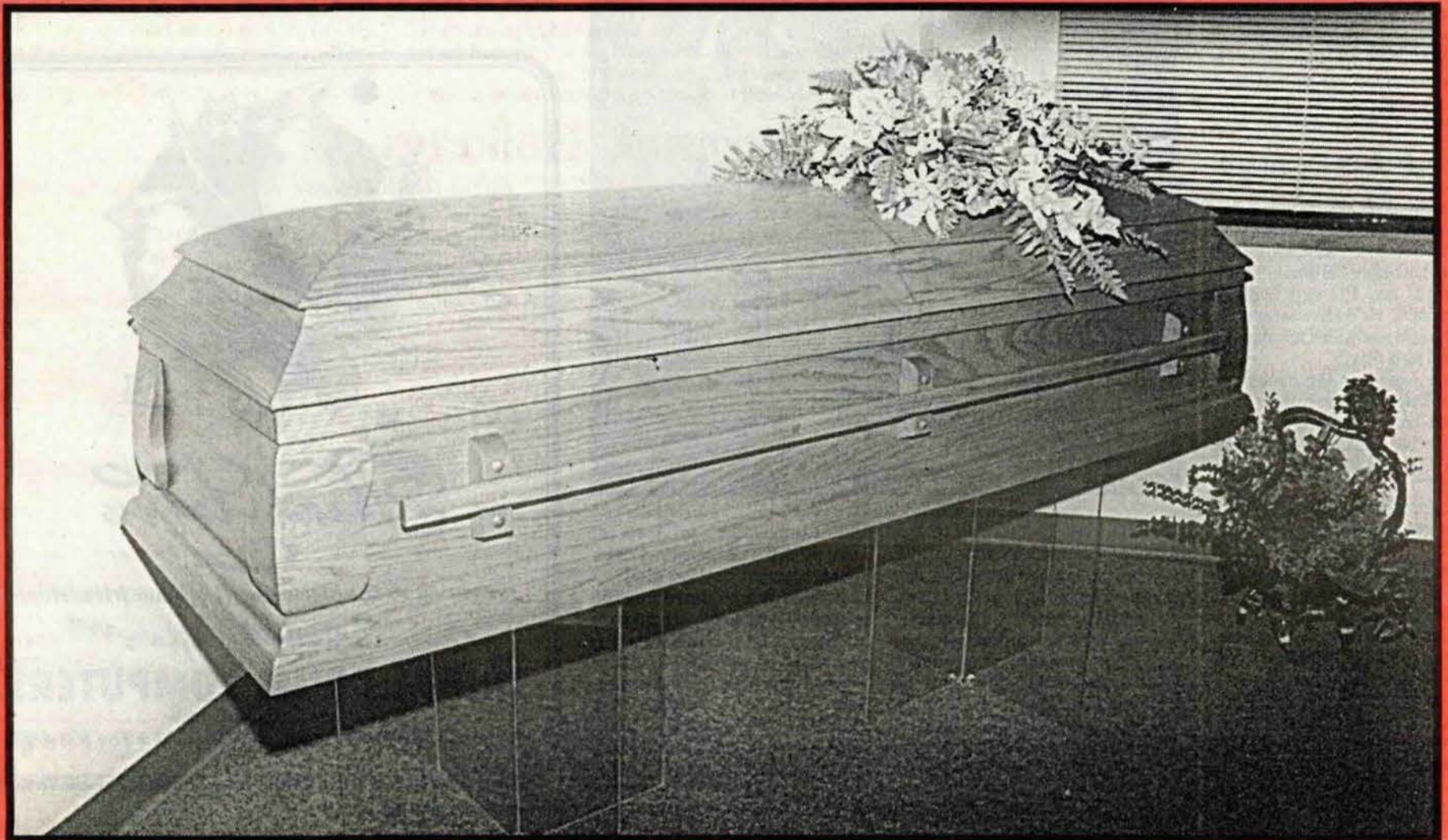
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Sam the Octopus's Christmas

By NICOLAS CORLEY
First place, eight years

One day Sam the Octopus was having a cup of tea at Koko the Dolphin's house.

When Sam finished his tea he went to his cave in the old coral reef. When he got home Sam went to bed. When Sam got up in the morning he found that his hat was missing.

He said, "Oh my gosh, my hat's gone!"

Moments later Sam looked at the calendar.

"Oh my gosh, it's the day before Christmas! This is the busiest day of my life. Somebody stole my hat and it's the day before Christmas. I know what I'll do. I'll call General Lemonshark. He'll know what to do. I have to get ready for Christmas. I'll call him right now."

Sam picked up the phone and called General Lemonshark.

"General Lemonshark, somebody stole my hat and I don't know what to do. Can you try to find out who stole it?"

General Lemonshark said, "O.K. I will send out some troops right now."

Sam said, "General, I have to go out and find a Christmas coral reef tree for Christmas."

General Lemonshark looks at the calendar and says, "Well, golly, it is the day before Christmas!"

Sam found a Christmas coral reef tree, cut it down, and took it home. When he got home with his Christmas coral reef tree, he decorat-



Art by Kris Hansen

ed it with lanternfish and bits of fire coral and a starfish at the top.

When he finished decorating his Christmas coral reef tree, Sam went to General Lemonshark's headquarters and asked him if there was any sign of his favourite cap. General Lemonshark said, "We think it might be Cool Shark who took it, but we're not sure. We are sending some troops out to see if it was him."

So Sam decided to go take a walk

and came back to General Lemonshark's headquarters later. When he went back to General Lemonshark's headquarters they had found that Cool Shark was the thief and Sam got his hat back. And then Sam went home and went to bed.

When he got up the next morning, Santa Catfish had come and brought Sam lots of presents. Sam got another baseball cap, a conch shell and a coral necklace. Sam was very happy.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25,
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The Day Santa's Boat Got Stuck

By JILLIAN MALCOLM

Second place, eight years

Winter came early to Salt Spring Island as the Ganges harbour filled up with ice and icebergs.

This became a real problem, especially to the children of Salt Spring, as this was the only way Santa could bring toys to the island. How could Santa get through all the ice safely so the children could enjoy their gifts and toys on Christmas morning?

The children of Salt Spring all got together to see

if they could help Santa get to the island in time.

Laicy said, "Let's build a bridge."

But the other children said, "Where are we going to get the wood and nails?" That was a bad idea.

Tessa said, "How about we walk across the ice?" But that was too dangerous.

Then Val said, "How about we go to the forest and talk to the animals to see if they can help us?" All the children said yes.

So they went to the forest and asked the animals. The eagles, deer and the bunny rabbits all offered

to help the children get Santa back to the island in time.

So the eagles helped by bringing a rope and tying it on Santa's boat and the deer pulled the other end of the rope and the bunny rabbits carefully hopped across the ice and chewed and chewed till the iceberg was gone and Santa was saved.

Santa gave the eagles fish, the deer apples, the bunny rabbits carrots and Santa had a great big bottle of hot cocoa and gave all the children a cup of hot cocoa.

George the Snowman

By LUKE ANDREWS

Third place, eight years

On an island called Mayne there was a snowman who was alive, but most snowmen are not alive.

There was a snow melter who did not like Christmas or Santa. The snowman loved Christmas. His name was George.

On Christmas Eve Santa came to the houses. At one house Santa saw George. George said, "Hi."

Santa said, "Hi" back.

Santa liked George so much that he made a freezer in his sleigh by magic and lifted George into it! When Santa was done giving presents to one half of the world he stopped to have a

break with George. Santa left George at the break place for an hour.

When Santa left, the snow melter came. The snow melter did not like snow. The snow melter tried to melt George but Santa came back. The snow melter was scared. He ran away. When Santa left again the snow melter came back. The snow

melter was melting George. George was disappearing quickly.

Santa came just in time. The snow melter ran far away. The snow melter never came back. Santa was done giving presents. Santa went back to the North Pole with his new friend George. George was safe at the cold North Pole.

It's Not the Gift That Counts

By LINDSAY MORGAN ROSS

BRYAN

First place, nine years

One night a star shone bright and a town was filled with joy.

The town's people were so excited that they sent their wisest men to follow the light. They all thought the star could be important so they took along some special gifts.

King Bryan, the wisest of all, gathered myrrh in a special box to take along. They rounded up their camels and set off on the journey. Soon they met two other kings who were also following the star.

"I see you have brought gifts too," said King Bryan.

"Yes, I have brought frankin-

cense," said King Ross.

"I have brought gold," said King Morgan.

The kings became good friends as they travelled through fields, across rivers and over mountains.

After many days they came to a bubbling swamp. The camels were so scared that they ran off with the gold, frankincense and the myrrh. The kings ran after the camels until finally the old men fell from exhaustion. The camels were gone!

Feeling very tired and hungry, King Morgan exclaimed, "My gold, my gold ... it's gone forever."

"Your gold ... what about my frankincense?" angrily replied

King Ross.

"Hey, hey, hey! It does not matter about your gold and frankincense. What about my myrrh?" asked King Bryan. "How can we greet the great light without gifts?"

Suddenly, the ground shook from the hooves of the running camels. They had returned to the kings. The gifts were safe and sound on the camels' backs.

"Look, look!" cried King Ross, "the sky is becoming brighter! The light is right above us!"

"Where are we?" wondered King Morgan.

"Right where we should be!" answered King Bryan. "Follow me, Men of Wisdom, and all our questions will soon be answered."

The cry of a newborn baby led them to a cattle stall. And there, in a manger, lay the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings.

The wise men gazed at the miracle and sang softly, "We three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts, we traverse so far."

It was now clear that the star was the light of God, leading the way to love, joy and peace on earth.

Christmas

By ANNA HOSIE

Second place, nine years

Christmas Eve is here,

Bring out the cheer.

After supper, the kids go to bed,

And dream of the morning that's ahead.

Santa's riding in the moonlit night,

In the morning we hear cries of delight:

"Oh goody, just what I need,
A ball of string and some pretty beads!"

"Oh boy, Oh boy,
A brand new toy!"

"Ah ... a doll,
I'm going to keep for all!"
The steaming turkey,

The fresh beef jerky,

The delicious mincemeat,

The dog at Mom's feet.

The plum pudding is done,

Oh, how the children run.

We sit down to dinner,

And hear, "This meal's a winner!"

After we're filled with these scrumptious treats,

Our parents tell stories as we sit in our seats.

Their stories are about Christmas as kids.

We enjoy listening to what they did.

Our parents then ask us what Christmas is about,

We say, "Love, Joy and Giving,
not receiving, no doubt!"



Season's Greetings

Our sincere appreciation for your support during 1996, and a special thank-you to the volunteers who have helped us raise funds during the year.

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.



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The Christmas Bell

By AMANDA NOYES
Third place, nine years

I was sleeping late one Saturday morning. My mother opened my door and shook me.

I woke with a fright. She smiled and motioned for me to come downstairs. I was deaf so I didn't know that everyone was downstairs getting ready to go Christmas shopping. I had almost missed going — like so many other things.

It is hard being deaf, especially at Christmas, although the lights are pretty. We had bells over our doorway but I could only see them moving. People are always singing Christmas carols but I'm not sure how nice they sound.

I like playing in the snow and forts and snowmen. It is fun decorating the tree, especially the bright lights and strings. I especially like shopping and seeing all the stores decorated up. I've never been able to talk to Santa but I always write him a letter.

I was in the mall with my mother. She was busy standing in line for my Christmas photo. An old man was sitting on the bench watching with great joy all the children. He was wearing some tattered old clothes and a wrinkled old hat so he looked a bit like a bum. He looked lonely so I sat down beside him.

I was looking as he turned. He whispered in my ear once or twice.

At first I did not hear him but then I heard him say, "I have something special for you Josh." He handed me a Christmas bell.

(The kind that Santa's reindeer would wear.) I could almost hear it!! My mother came over and took my arm. I was not supposed to talk to strangers. The old man looked sad but he had a twinkle in his eye when he waved goodbye.

Josh never heard anything or any other sound except that beautiful sound of that bell.

Christmas with a Sick Santa

By NIKO LAING
First place, 10 years

One snowy Christmas Eve morning at the North Pole, Santa woke up with an awful fever and a bad cough.

He called an assembly with all of his elves and said, "This year I am too sick to deliver the presents. Who will volunteer to be Santa?" Many elves put their hands up but Santa chose Joe and Fred, his most responsible helpers. Then it was breakfast and the elves raced to the table which was laden with delicious pancakes, syrup and orange juice.

When their bellies were bulging with food they waddled to their GT snowracer sleds and played for an hour. Then the elves started to pack all the finished presents into the sleigh and harnessed up the reindeer. Meanwhile, Joe and Fred were practising walking in Santa's suit. Joe was the lightest so he stood on Fred's shoulders and stuck his arms in the sleeves and Fred put his feet in the big boots and became Santa's legs.

Joe looked at the time and said, "We are running late!", and off they hurried. When they got to the sleigh all the presents were loaded and they hopped in to the sleigh with a merry "Gideup." Within seconds they were gone.

When they got to the first house they landed on the roof. They went down the chimney, landing on the hearth, getting a

few scratches on them, but nothing serious. When they got up they ate all the cookies and milk. Then they filled up the stockings and Joe just remembered that he had left the rope with a spike on the sleigh.

"We will have to sneak out the door instead and then climb up to the sleigh!"

It was easier to climb the wall than the chimney but sometimes dogs and cats got mad at them so it was lucky they had their invisible pills.

It was a long and bumpy night. In the last one this is what happened. Joe forgot to land on the roof and he landed on the snow instead. So they checked all the doors but they were locked so they climbed up the side of the wall and went down the chimney. But this time it sounded like this: BANG,

BOOM, CLANK, OUCH.

After they got up they saw a boy who was watching them from the bedroom door.

"Who are you?" he said, "and why do you walk so funny?"

He was about to call to his parents for help when Joe jumped on him and sprinkled some magic forgetting dust on his head and put him off to bed.

"That was a close call, Joe," said Fred.

They filled the stockings, ran out the door and jumped in the sleigh.

When they got to the North Pole they were so excited that they had a crash landing. A few more bruises later, they ran inside to tell the other elves and Santa about their trip.

"Hot chocolate for everyone!" shouted Santa, "and a Merry Christmas to all!"



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Lesley Denise Janet

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From all of us at
SALT SPRING PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

PLEASE NOTE OUR HOLIDAY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE


ISSUE OF JANUARY 1

Display advertising 2 p.m. Friday, December 27
Classified advertising 4 p.m. Friday, December 27
Too late to classify Noon Monday, December 30
Editorial 5 p.m. Friday, December 27
Distribution will take place one day early on Tuesday, December 31

OUR OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON:
January 1

Happy Holidays

Driftwood Gulf Islands
Upper Ganges Centre 537-9933



SEASON'S GREETINGS

To all of you who came to me To buy or sell (and paid my fee) A great big "Thank you" from my heart.

You formed a very crucial part Of my real estate family tree.

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A Doggone Christmas

By CORY MARSHALL
Second place, 10 years

Once upon a time a snowy Christmas Eve, a small, homeless dog walked down a snowy alley. Every day he'd wish that someone would take him home. But most of the time people just walked by him. What the dog didn't know was that Santa knew he wanted a home. He had sent an elf to help the dog get a home.

Just then the dog heard the elf. "Hey doggy. Come here," said the elf in a gentle voice.

The dog slowly approached the elf.

"It's okay. I'm here to help you," said the elf. "My name's Ernie. What's yours?"

The dog ran right up to the elf. "I hear you want a home. I'm here to find one for you. But first we have to go see Santa," said Ernie in a coaxing voice.

Ernie took off his hat and reached into it. He pulled out a pair of super springs. The springs could jump across Canada.

"Hold on," yelled Ernie as he finished tying the springs on.

Ernie grabbed the dog. Then he

bounced into the air. It was a few minutes before they arrived at Santa's workshop. It was a big house with lots of lights and elves walking around. They walked inside. Ernie and Santa talked about what they were going to do. Finally all the presents (including the dog) were loaded onto the sleigh.

Santa waved good-bye and flew away. After awhile it was the dog's turn. Santa climbed out and went down the chimney with the dog and presents. The dog was put in one of the stockings.

"Merry Christmas," Santa whispered to the dog.

Then Santa went back up the chimney.

In the morning, the first thing the children noticed was the dog. The kids rushed towards the dog.

"Thanks Mom and Dad!" exclaimed the kids.

"We didn't give you that dog," replied the parents.

"It must have been Santa!" yelled the kids.

The family named the dog Marley and enjoyed having a dog. Marley was happy he finally had a family.



Carolling at Fulford

Fulford Elementary School students sing carols Thursday morning at Fulford Harbour for travellers waiting to board the ferry

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Are
You
in the book?

Personal Listings:

The Lions Club will soon begin work on the 1997-98 SSI Directory.

If you are not in last year's Directory but want to be in the next one...If your phone is not listed in your name but you want to be listed...If you live on Salt Spring and don't have a telephone but want to be listed so people will know where you are...complete and mail the pre-paid, pre-addressed "New or Change of Information" card found in the Directory.

Business Listings:

a) If you are in the current Directory, do nothing - you will automatically receive an information package early in January (if you've moved, call and tell us your new address!);

b) If you are not in the current Directory, but wish to advertise in the next edition, call us at 653-2000 and tell our answering machine your name, address, telephone number and that you would like an "Advertiser Information package". You will receive your package early in January.

Lions Publications
103 Bonnet Avenue, SSI,
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As the magic of Christmas unfolds, it brings joy and wonder to young and old alike. May the extraordinary spirit of this very special holiday fill your hearts now and forever. We appreciate your patronage and look forward to serving you for years to come.

HOLIDAY HOURS

All stores closed December 25 & 26

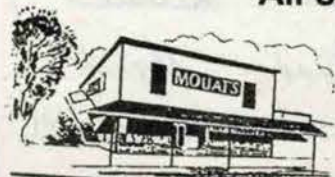
Mouats Clothing Co.
Jitterbugs
Salty Shop

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Dec. 27 - 31
SUN. DEC. 29
11-4

Home
Hardware

OPEN
Dec. 27, 28, 30 & 31
CLOSED
Sun. Dec. 29

All stores closed January 1, 1997



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The Wish

By ALEXANDRA LEA
First place, 12-14 years

Santa was unhappy. Here he was, lying on a hospital bed with his foot in traction, reading the latest "Reindeer Digest" the elves had sent him.

He and the rest of the team had been doing practice landings on the roof when he had slipped and broken his left leg. He was worried. "Today is December 23 and I need to get back in time for Christmas," he said aloud to himself.

"Ow! Ouch! Oweeee! Don't you dare try to put that horrible needle into my arm!" Frantic cries broke Santa's reverie.

"Now calm down, it's just a teeny-weeny needle, and that was the worst part," Santa could hear the nurse soothingly tell the child. "What was that all about?" Santa asked the nurse who was passing by at the moment.

"Well you see, Mr. Claus, there is this poor little boy who had to have his appendix out and right before Christmas, too," the nurse replied briskly.

Later that evening, as Santa sat watching television in the hospital lounge, he saw, out of the corner of his eye, a small boy being wheeled in. He and the boy were the only ones in the lounge.

"Hey ..." said the boy. "I'm Arnold, what is your name?"

"My name is Mr. Claus," replied Santa.

"I've just had to have my dumb ol' appendix out," Arnold explained with a hint of pride. "They put me to sleep, painted my stomach pink (pink of all colours!) and cut me open and took out my appendix. They showed it to me afterwards; I named it Morton. I wanted to bring it to school to show to Jessica to make her scream, but my mean ol' nurse wouldn't let me."

Arnold finished his tale with a sweep of his hands. "And that's all I have to say about that."

"I see," replied Santa, slightly bemused. "I, on the other hand, suffered a most unfortunate accident whereby I broke my left leg, which somewhat hinders my job," Santa explained to Arnold.

"Let's watch some television," Arnold said to Santa.

"What do you want to watch?" Santa replied.

Since they couldn't decide, Santa and Arnold watched the late night movie and the late late late one as well. They were just beginning to watch the 12 o'clock news when the nurse bustled in.

"Heavens!" she exclaimed. "What are you two doing up at this hour? Off to bed, both of you!"

Arnold and Santa smiled sheepishly as the nurse wheeled them back to bed.

The first thing Santa saw when he woke up were two grey eyes peering into his own.

"Wake up, Mr. Claus!" Arnold cried. "Today we're going to help decorate the Christmas tree!"

Santa allowed himself to be



Choirs perform
Youthful choristers from Salt Spring schools entertained the public Thursday with performances at Island Savings Credit Union. Here, the Fernwood School choir performs music for Christmas.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

dragged out of bed. With Arnold's help he hobbled up to where the Christmas tree was. As he and Arnold hung the brightly coloured glass balls on the tree, Arnold asked Santa what he wanted for Christmas.

"Hmmm ... let's see ..." Santa pondered. "I really just want my leg to heal so I can do my job again. What about you, Arnold?" Santa inquired.

"Well ... I would like to have my appendix back, but that's impossible 'cause the doctor is gonna do a bi-bi-biopsy on it. But my second choice would be to have a desk all of my own. It wouldn't be too big and it would have lots of drawers, as well as a secret compartment with a lock and key," Arnold finished.

"That's certainly an interesting wish," mused Santa. "Who knows? Anything is possible at Christmas."

At that moment the nurse came in with some good news for Arnold. "Collect your things, your parents will be coming in 10 min-

utes to pick you up."
"Oh boy! I won't have to spend the night in the hospital after all!" Arnold exclaimed happily.

"I hope that you have a happy Christmas and that you receive everything you want, Arnold," Santa said.

"You too, Mr. Claus," Arnold yelled as his parents led him out the door.

Arnold woke up early on Christmas morning. "Wake up! Wake up!" he yelled to his once-sleeping parents.

"What time is it, dear?" Arnold's mother asked Arnold's father.

"It's 2:30 a.m.," his father replied drowsily. Arnold's parents allowed themselves to be dragged downstairs and watched as Arnold opened his presents.

He thought he had opened all his presents when he noticed a bit of red ribbon poking out from behind the Christmas tree.

"Wow! A desk!" Arnold exclaimed, almost speechless with joy.

"Look at the card," his mother reminded him.

"Dear Arnold, Thank you very much for keeping me company while I was in the hospital. Thankfully, my leg has healed. I hope you enjoy your present. Santa. P.S. Look underneath the desk."

A key was taped on the card. He opened up the secret compartment with the key; and there, in a jar of formaldehyde with a green ribbon tied around it, was his appendix.

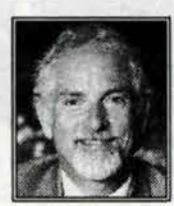


To our clients,
Past, Present and Future...



Seasons Greetings

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Allan Bruce



Mike Hardy

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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LAW OFFICE

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P.S. office closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 5/97

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Happy New Year!

All Thrifty Foods' stores will close at 6pm December 31st
All stores will be closed Wednesday, January 1st.
New Year's Day. Have a safe and happy holiday.

PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese 250g	1⁹⁸
STOVE TOP Stuffing 120g	98¢
MOLSON, EXEL .5% Alcohol Beer 6x355ml	2⁵⁹ <small>plus deposit</small>
MJB Ground Coffee 300g	2²⁸
NESSCAFE Specialty Coffees 15-23g	2/5⁰⁰
McLARENS, KENT JAR Sweet Pickled Onions, Stuffed Manzanilla Olives or Gherkins 375ml	1⁷⁹
KRAFT Mayonnaise 750ml	3¹⁹
BICK'S SELECTED Dill Pickles 1L	1⁹⁸

UNICO, STUFFED Manzanilla Olives 375ml	1⁵⁹
OCEANSPRAY, WHOLE OR JELLY Cranberry Sauce 398ml	1¹⁸
LIPTON Onion Soup Mix 4's	1⁸⁹
THRIFTY Pineapple 540ml	99¢
MOTT'S Clamato Juice 1.89L	2⁷⁸
GINGER ALE, TONIC, SODA, FRESCA, ROOT BEER, CREAM SODA, C PLUS	98¢

DELMONTE Vegetables 341-398ml	68¢
GENERAL MILLS Bugles 142-170g	1⁴⁹
COUNTRY HARVEST Snack Crackers 250g	1⁵⁹
ISLAND FARMS Whipping Cream 500ml	1⁶⁹
ISLAND FARMS Traditional Egg Nog 1L	1⁴⁹
OLD DUTCH Potato Chips 200g	98¢

NESSCAFE Instant Coffee 150-200g	5³⁹
PLANTERS Dry Roast or Cocktail Peanuts 290-310g	1⁹⁹
VANCOUVER ISLAND Herbal Teas 20's	2⁸⁹
SELECTED Ritz Crackers 200-250g	1⁹⁹
MARDI GRAS Paper Towels or Serviettes 1's or 120's	1¹⁹
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5lb case SPANISH

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THRIFTY, REG OR 1% SALT Sliced Side Bacon 500g	2⁹⁸ ea
MAMA ROSA'S PEPPERONI or Deluxe Pizza 14" 680g	3⁹⁹ ea
RESER'S Fresh Hash Browns 568g	2²⁸ ea
FROZEN, 3 VARIETIES Peter's Perogies 1 kg	2²⁸ ea
THRIFTY, FRESH QUALITY Lean Ground Beef All sizes 3.71kg	1⁶⁸ lb

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SCHNEIDER'S BEST, SLICED OR SHAVED Black Forest Ham 100g	1⁰⁸
SCHNEIDER'S FINEST, SLICED OR SHAVED Roast Turkey Breast REG. SMOKED, 'HARVESTYME' 100g	1⁷⁹
SCHNEIDER'S QUALITY, SLICED OR SHAVED Corned Beef or Pastrami 100g	1¹⁸

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FOLEY'S Chocolate Covered Raisins or Peanuts 100g	59¢

IN-STORE BAKERY

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---	-----------------------

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BARNACLE BILLS, READY TO SERVE Imitation Flaked Crabmeat 100g	68¢
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FROZEN OR THAWED Icelandic Scallops Cook before serving 100g	1⁵⁸

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The Snoopy Dog

By KACHINA BROWN
Second place, 12-14 years

Emily walked past the Knick Knack store on her way to school. There in the window of the funky little store was a huge Snoopy Dog. Towering over her it was the centre of the Christmas display, and just for the occasion they had sewn a little Santa hat on Snoopy's head. Oh what she wouldn't give for a big Snoopy Dog.

"Oh well," she thought, "maybe next year."
And she continued on her way to school.

"Hi Emily!" Megan called. "Guess what I'm getting for Christmas."

"I don't know, what?" Emily asked.

"I'm getting a Snoopy Dog. Carol is too, she saw her Mom buying it in the store. Right, Carol?" she asked as the tall blonde girl joined them in the classroom.

"Yep. Are you getting a Snoopy Dog, Emily?" she asked.

She knew Emily's parents didn't have the money, she just wanted to rub it in.

"Well I... I... don't know yet," she said even though she knew she wasn't getting one, and they knew it too.

When Emily got home she asked her mom in the best way she knew how, bringing her a glass of milk, sitting in her lap and looking really sweet and cute. Although her Mom always liked it when she was like this she knew that she wanted something, so Emily decided to skip the act and get to the point. She asked her Mom if she, too, could have a Snoopy Dog for Christmas. Her Mom sighed heavily.

"Awe sweetie, you know we can't afford something that big. But I'll try sweetie, I really will. How about you write a letter to Santa, maybe he can get you a Snoopy Dog. But don't get your hopes up too high."

"Okay," she said reluctantly and went upstairs to the small bedroom she shared with her big sister, Camile.

She took out the personalized stationery she had gotten last year. She had never used it before. Well, now was as good a time as any, so she wrote:

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? (She always started letters like that.) I've been very very good and I'd like nothing more than to have a big Snoopy Dog, like the one my friends Megan and Carol are getting. You know, the one with the Santa hat.

Thank you,
Emily Baker
She sealed the envelope and took it downstairs. She gave it to her mother who was on the couch watching TV. Then Emily went back upstairs to her bedroom to read.

Her mother opened the letter and read it. Just as she suspected, a Snoopy Dog. She looked up at the TV. There was that commercial again that read a child's letter and tried to grant their wish. She quickly snatched a piece of paper and a pen, scrawled the address down on the unaddressed letter and added a small note explaining the money situation. She mailed the letter later that day when Emily had gone to bed.

The next week while Emily was at school, and her mom was as usual on the couch, the TV program read three letters. Emily's was one of them. Her mother ran to the phone and dialled the number on the screen. She picked up the Snoopy Dog at the toy store and wrapped it just before Emily got home.

When Christmas came Emily walked downstairs. Unlike her friends who rushed to see what lay beneath the tree, Emily only walked, eyes cast down as she approached the tree with heavy thudding steps. She tried to put on a happy face while opening her presents but she knew that there was no Snoopy Dog under the tree.

"Mom, what's for breakfast?" she asked with fake enthusiasm.

"But honey, you haven't finished opening all your presents yet," she pointed, and there behind the glowing Christmas tree was a huge box wrapped in Snoopy wrapping paper

with a huge crimson bow on top. Her heart soared as she ran to retrieve the present. Ripping it open she pulled out the huge Snoopy Dog. She ran to hug her Mother and squeezed her as tight as she could. "Oh thank you, Mommy!!" she said.

"Merry Christmas, sweetheart."
Emily jumped off the bus pulling the huge Snoopy behind her. She proudly took it into the classroom and over to her desk.

"Hey Emily want to see my Snoopy Dog... Oh my God!" Megan stopped in her tracks, an itsy bitsy little Snoopy Dog in her hands, Carol was right behind her.

"That's not fair, hers is bigger than mine." She turned to Emily. "How did you get that?"

"Santa gave it to me," she said with a smirk.

"There is no such thing as Santa and you can't afford it. You stole it, it was supposed to be mine. Mrs. Clayworth, she stole my Snoopy Dog." But of course Mrs. Clayworth had seen the whole thing.

"Megan, I will see you shortly in the principal's office," she said, pointing towards the door.

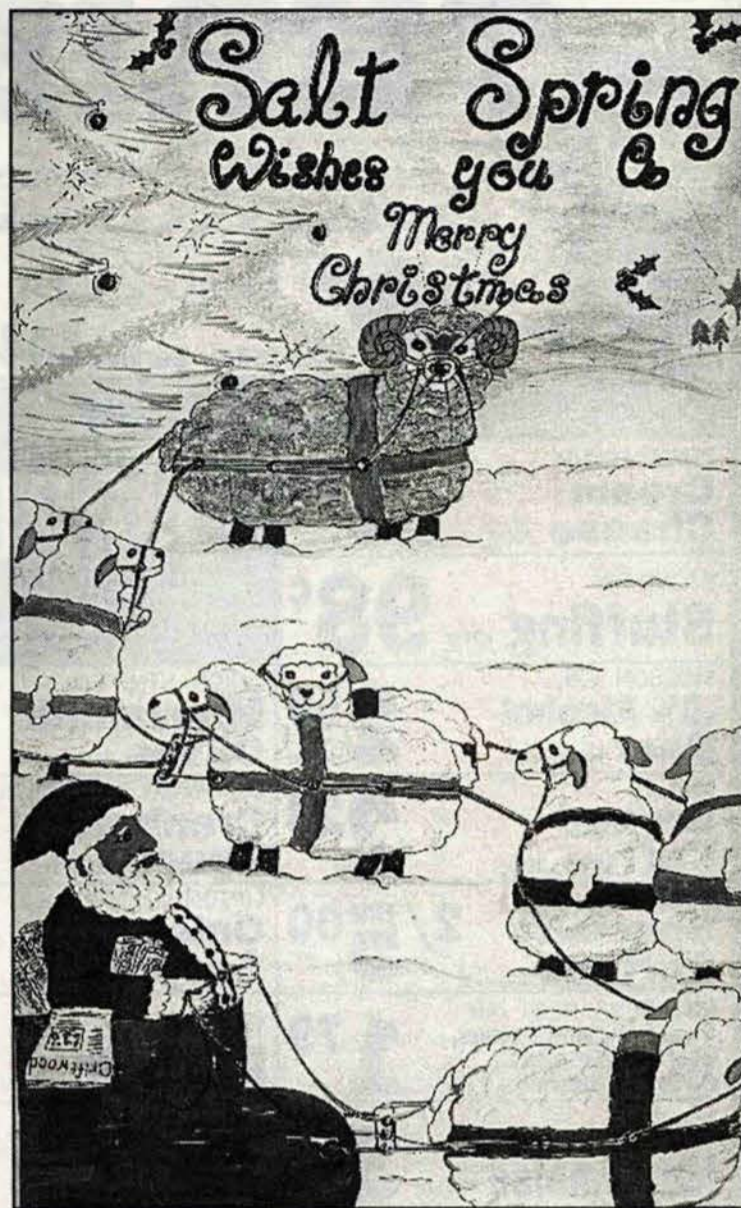
"But I didn't do anything, she stole it right out of my arms," she said.

"Megan, don't lie to me. I saw her come in here with that Snoopy Dog. Now go to the office!"

"Wow, you got a big Snoopy dog. I only got a medium sized one," Carol said after the teacher had followed Megan out the door. She brought out her Snoopy.

"Hey, you want to sit with me today?" Emily asked.

"Sure."



Art by Lisa Gardiner.

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It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

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Happy Holiday

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What's New, Santa Claus?

By PATRICK CALLAS

First place, 14 years and up

Let's start at the beginning. I have always existed in spirit and in people's hearts. I began giving out presents at Christmas several millennia ago, first to several dozen children, then to billions of children.

That's a massive amount of backbreaking labour, but in the end, it's all worth it. Before I continue, I would just like to point out that I'm not fat, I'm simply well rounded. Sure you can laugh, but you try working off a couple billion plates of cookies and glasses of milk. Let me say, the next day I live off Tums and Pepto-Bismol.

Anyway, people often have wondered if Santa Claus has changed at all during the years. Well, of course I have and I would like to think that all my changes are for the better.

Take my reindeer, for instance. Christmas Day has always been an enormous physical strain on them. Before, it would take horrendous amounts of time for the reindeer to recover. Thanks to nutrient supplements and weight-gain drinks the reindeer are now all buff. They never tire out anymore.

My sleigh has been modified by my elves. Supposedly, my sleigh can break the sound barrier. It also has radar and sonar, but I'll be jiggered

if I know what those are. All I know is my poor sleigh has even more flashing lights and beeping gizmos.

Of course, the house needs improvement also. I got fibre-optic power lines installed and a satellite dish in the back yard. Heck, I have fax machines, cellular phones, computers with modems and I even recently attained my own Internet web site. Oh, it's WWW.JOLLY.COM.

You think it wouldn't be too much trouble to pick up a pencil, write out a Christmas list and mail it. No, the kids these days with their hi-tech contraptions, always e-mailing and faxing me. I find that sad, but I suppose we gotta move forward, into the future.

Now that Christmas is drawing near again, I've got all my elves frantically testing toys and maintaining the machines. What machines you ask — why, the industrial manufacturing machines that make all our toys. The elves are excellent workers but to keep up with demand we had to bring in fully automated machinery.

That naughty or nice business; that's a tricky one. It's much harder to determine with all the complications of life that have developed over the years. Our old method of taking blood tests doesn't seem to work anymore. Now I recruit my elves to follow children for several weeks. When

naughty or nice has been established, they use their beepers to send me the information.

Coal — what an awful gift unless you want to have a barbecue. Now get this straight, I do not give useless lumps of coal! If a child has been naughty, I don't waste my time with lumps of coal, I just give the kid squat, notta, zilch, zero, a big fat nothing!

Although it's wonderful to see people living in fabulous homes, their shrunken chimneys are often a hassle to enter. Each century, chimneys seem to get smaller and smaller. It's no longer, slide down the chimney with ease, but with much difficulty and turmoil. Then I must pick the locks on the fireplace door and turn on my ultraviolet goggles to ensure I don't trip any laser alarms. Lastly, I'm forced to use night vision goggles so I don't crush any household pets or mousetraps.

I am lucky that I only fly my sleigh once a year. Talk about hazardous to your health! Between all those junky satellites in orbit and those quirky aliens, there's no room up there. Once in awhile I wish I could take one year of vacation time. But I can't complain, I only work for one month a year. Besides, I have the greatest job in the world; I'll be seeing you this year!

Merry Christmas to you! Ho! Ho! Ho!
Santa Claus

A Candy Cane from Santa

By ABEY RAE CLARK

Second place, 14 years and up

On Christmas Eve, Katie and her friend Jessica used shiny cookie cutters to extract perfect gingerbread men from the rich, brown dough they had made.

"I love this time of year," Katie sighed, gazing out the window at the falling snow.

"I know," Jessica agreed, "Christmas is the best occasion of all!"

"This is going to be the best holiday yet," Katie slid the tray of cookies into the warm oven. "Everything feels so perfect this year."

"Yeah, and tonight Santa and his reindeer will be flying through the sky."

Katie smiled, but shook her head, "I don't believe in Santa Claus, I think it's pretty silly."

"Katie! Believing in Santa is part of the fun; the magic of Christmas!"

"I don't see it that way; it's the one part of Christmas I don't get. I used to believe in Santa Claus. It was a nice story, until I grew up and realized it was a fantastic lie. I mean, a fat, jolly man flying through the sky on a magic sleigh led by flying reindeer?"

"Crazier things have happened," Jessica smiled as she pulled the sheet of golden brown cookies from the oven and they breathed in the delicious aroma.

"Every year Mom tries to tell me she has nothing to do with the gifts that miraculously appear on Christmas morning. Well, even if I don't believe in Santa Claus, it's still going to be the best Christmas ever," Katie declared as she bit off the arm of a delicious gingerbread man.

That night, Katie lay on the couch, sipping eggnog and gazing at the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. She felt her eyelids grow heavy. Much later, Katie awoke to a

soft jingling outside. Her eyes flickered open and she heard a thud. Out of the chimney, sneezing from the soot, emerged Santa Claus!

Katie was so stunned she merely stared at the jolly man, now pulling parcels from a red sack.

She whispered, "Santa, is it really you?"

"Katie Gardener," Santa Claus smiled, handing her a candy cane, "I thought you didn't believe in me."

"I can't believe you're real!"

"Of course I am, my dear." He patted her gently on the head. "Merry Christmas!"

And then he was gone, almost as quickly as he'd appeared.

Katie's eyes grew heavy once again as she heard soft jingling and a cry of "Ho, ho, ho!"

"Good morning and Merry Christmas!" Her mother whispered as Katie awoke. It was Christmas morning.



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"Mom, you were right! Santa is real!" Katie cried, growing excited as she remembered the visitor.

Her mother smiled. "I thought you didn't believe in Santa."

"I didn't. I thought it was all a story but it isn't!"

"If you didn't believe in Santa, what makes you think he wasn't a

dream?" her mother asked.

"It wasn't a dream."

Katie smiled as she looked down at her lap where she still clutched the red and white striped candy cane.

"It wasn't a dream at all. Santa was here last night. Santa Claus truly is real!"

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TAKE NOTE

OF THESE DATES

JAN. 8: SS Painters Guild, info meeting, Lions Hall, 9:30am-12:30pm.
JAN. 15: SS Painter's Guild, "Rescue Mission", Lions Hall, 9:30am - 12:30pm.
JAN. 22: SS Painter's Guild, Collage, Lions Hall, 9:30am - 12:30pm.
JAN. 27: Lady Minto Hospital Aux. Society, United Church Hall, 2pm.
JAN. 29: SS Painters Guild, critique on collage, Lions Hall, 9:30am-12:30pm.

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.)
- Core-Inn Committee Meetings, Core-Inn on McPhillips, 4:30-6pm.
- Special Olympics Bowling, Bowling Alley, 10am-11am.
- O.A.P.O. Loonie tea & video, Lower Central Hall, 1:30 (except 2nd Wed.)
- Therapeutic Touch practise group, Seniors for Seniors, 7pm (every 3rd Wed.)

EVERY THURSDAY

- Salt Spring Weavers & Spinners Guild, 10:30-2pm.
- Parkinsons Support Gr., Croftonbrook, 2pm (second Thurs. of the mo.)
- Salty Wheels Square Dance Club, 6:30pm, Central Hall.
- Scottish Dancing, Anglican Church Hall, 6pm beginners/7pm advanced.
- Luncheon, Seniors for Seniors, 12 noon.

EVERY FRIDAY

- Fulford OAP #160, bingo 2:00pm.
- Duplicate bridge, OAP Central, 1pm.
- Games afternoon, Seniors for Seniors, 1:30pm, Mah Jongg 12:30pm.

EVERY SATURDAY

- Book Sale, downstairs at library, 10am-12:30pm.
- Core Inn, volunteers needed, 10:30-noon.

EVERY MONDAY

- 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.
- Life Drawing, Windfall rm., library, 1-3pm.
- French & Spanish conversation group, Seniors for Seniors, 10am-noon (not last Monday of the mo.)
- Teen Sewing Club, SSI Middle School, 4pm-6pm.
- SS Weavers & Spinner, @ Farmers' Ins. to use the library, 10:30am (every 2nd Thurs.)
- SSI Buddhist meditation group, 135 McPhillips Ave., 7:30pm.
- Special Olympics swimming, Shelby Pool, 5pm-6pm.
- Bandimonium, Meaden Hall, the Legion, 7-9pm.
- Story hour for preschoolers, Library, 9:30am.

EVERY TUESDAY

- Duplicate Bridge, Meaden Hall at the Legion, 7pm.
- Seniors choir practices, Seniors for Seniors, 10:30am.
- Target Archery, Fulford Hall, 5-8pm.
- Chess Club, Seniors for Seniors Bldg., 7pm.

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

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- * **EMERGENCY FOOD BANK:** Open Tuesday 11-3.
- * **COUNSELLING SERVICES:** Crisis and short-term counselling provided by Community Workers.
- * **ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM:** Prevention & treatment service is free and confidential.
- * **FAMILY PLACE: DROP IN** - for parents & children under 6 yrs. Mon-Thurs 9:30-12 noon. **RUG HUGGERS** - drop in program for new parents, Fridays 11am-1pm (includes light lunch). **CLOTHING EXCHANGE** - open daily
- * **VOLUNTEER TRAINING** - starts in Oct., please call 537-9176 for info.
- * **COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS:** "Belly Talk" is a new group for pregnant women, which meets from 2-4pm every Friday in the Family Place, starting on October 4th. Come & share your hopes, fears, joys & complaints about your pregnancy & upcoming motherhood with other pregnant women. For more info call Jules Atkins at 653-4533.
- * **RECYCLE DEPOT:** Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am-5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 537-1200.
- * **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- * **CLIMBING WALL HOURS:** Thurs. & Fri. 6:30 - 9:30pm / Sat. 3-6pm. Full equipment chg. \$2.50. **CLUB NIGHT:** Sunday 6:30-9:30pm.

Historic finish for Dobson in Finland

A Salt Spring luge racer made history among North American competitors in the sport with an eighth-place finish at an international competition Sunday in Finland.

Sonia Dobson broke Austrian and Italian dominance of the sport with her 3-min., 6.03-sec. race at the Red Bull National Luge World Cup in Rautavaara. Her result was something no other North American luge athlete has ever achieved, according to the Canadian Luge Association.

Dobson arrived in Rautavaara last Tuesday having never seen the track before. But with only two days of training she was averaging over 50 km an hour and reaching speeds over 100 km on some sections of the 900-metre track.

Dobson's next race is the World Cup No. 2 next month in Poland. She is the only Canadian on the World Cup circuit.

Meanwhile, Dobson was honoured earlier this month with a Premier's Athletic Award.

She received the award

December 9 at the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame, along with 77 other B.C. athletes.

Dobson was the 1996 Canadian senior women's luge champion, first overall in the 1996 North American senior women's championships and finishing ahead of all North American men in the competition, finished ninth in the 1996 world championships and 10th in the 1996 World Cup circuit.

"These athletes, through their positive attitudes, exemplary work ethics and athletic success are exceptional role models for today's youth," said Premier Glen Clark at the awards ceremony. "They inspire others to pursue healthy lifestyles and to give their best efforts in all aspects of life."

People participating in the athlete assistance program of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture are eligible for the awards. The program helps athletes reach athletic goals while pursuing their education and career plans.

Potluck supper kicks off Trail, Nature Club plans

Following is the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club schedule for January.

January 8: Annual potluck supper for members only at Meaden Hall, Legion, at 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$3 per person. Bring food of your choice. Guest speaker is Robert Bateman, recent Rachel Carson award winner.

Membership dues for 1997 can be paid at this time.

January 7: Ramble — Merganser Pond at Beaver Point with Chris and Dick Pattinson. Meet at Drummond Park at 10:15 a.m.

Walk — Channel Ridge with John Myers. Meet at Portlock Park at 10:15 a.m. or Canvasback at 10:30 a.m.

Hike — leader's choice. Carpool at Centennial Park at 9:30 a.m. to meet at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

January 14: Ramble — leader's choice, Edna Watson. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Walk — Ruckle Park with Bill Earl. Carpool at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. to meet at Ruckle Park barn at 10:30 a.m.

Hike — Cobble Hill with Ian Fraser. Note earlier time of 8:30 a.m. at Portlock Park to catch 9 a.m. ferry from Vesuvius.

January 21: Ramble — Peter Arnell Park with Nancy Keith Murray. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Walk — Welbury Point with Joan Myers. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Hike — Safford Trail with Dennis Seward. Meet at Burgoyne Triangle at 10:15 a.m.

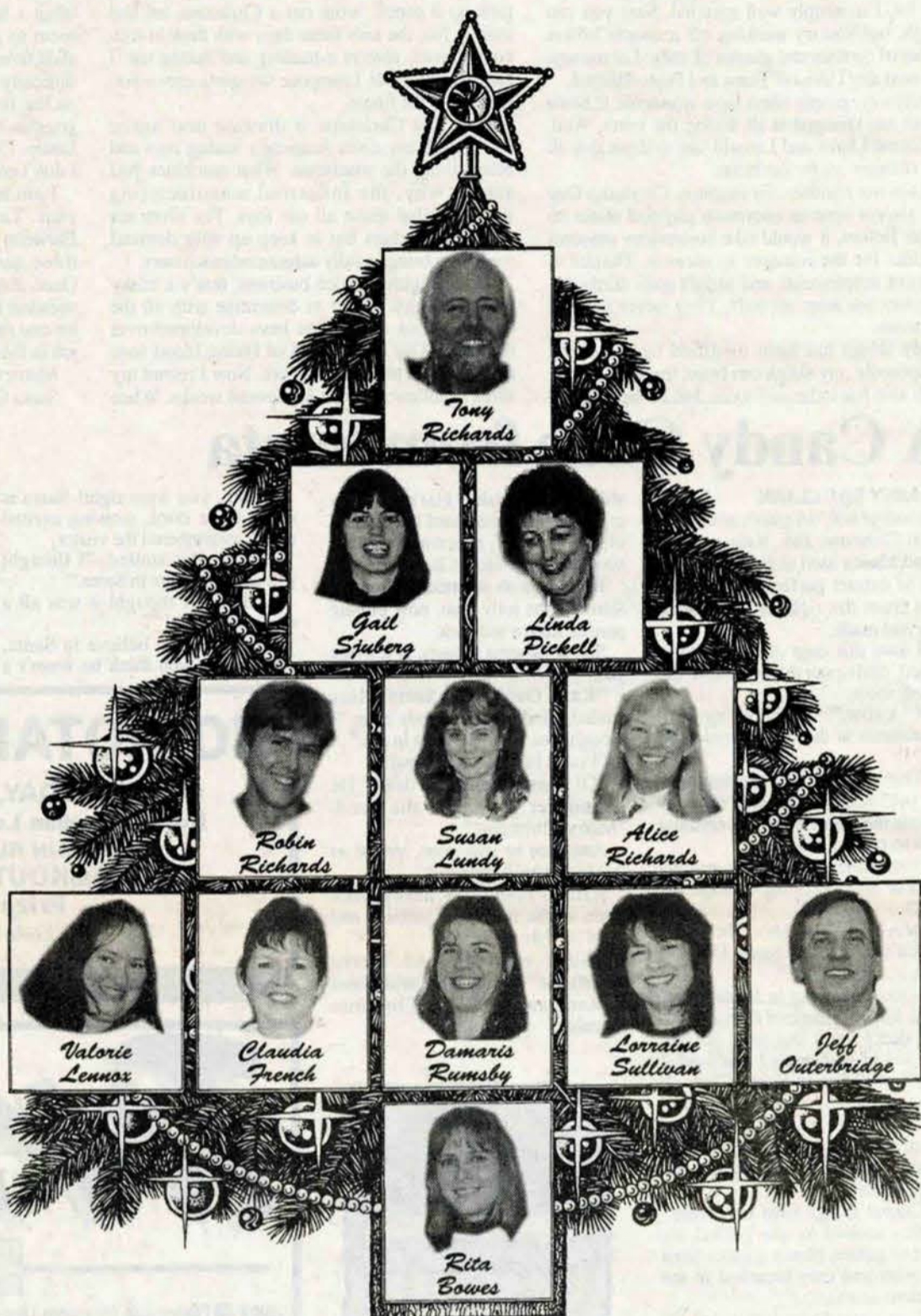
January 28: Ramble — leader's choice with Pam Taylor. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Walk — Maracaibo with Fred Eves. Meet at Centennial Park to carpool at 10 a.m.

Hike — different place in Maracaibo. Meet to carpool at Centennial Park at 9:30 a.m.

The annual general meeting for election of a new executive will be held at the United Church at 7:30 p.m. on January 23.

A Joyous Christmas to you all!



For the past 52 weeks we've toiled to bring you the news of the Gulf Islands. But now that Christmas is here we're going to take a couple of days off and reflect upon the past year. Most of our reflections will be pleasant ones because when it comes to delivering the news every week, we have a lot of fun doing it. And we sincerely hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



In the Spirit of the Season...

Here's hoping your Christmas joy is deeper, friendships stronger, and your days brighter in this and every season throughout the year.

Merry Christmas to all our loyal customers!

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Gulf Islands
Driftwood

Lots of made-in-Canada ideas at Comdex show

Bits on Bytes: Into the future — Canadian style

The future is coming and some of it will be stamped "made in Canada."

Canadians may be comparatively small in number but are big in ideas. Among the international crowd taking part in last month's Comdex computer show in Las Vegas were more than 60 Canadian companies flaunting their technological wizardry to the world.

What's coming? Ideas that were once science fiction staples — made-for-the-viewer TV and computers which respond to voice commands.

Ontario-based Televitesse brings custom TV close to reality through an innovative series of television monitoring software programs which scan television broadcasts for topics set by the user.

By monitoring the closed-captioning, video and audio of analog television programs, the software identifies key words and/or phrases. Then the relevant information is either recorded on the hard drive or the user is alerted to watch the segment.

For example, suppose a mutual fund manager — call him Norman Newbux — has set his accesTV Assistant software to watch for news stories about the Canadian economy. A news story is broadcast about the

impact of lower mortgage rates on that economy. Norman's software automatically records that broadcast segment on his computer hard drive as a digitized video clip for later retrieval.

If Norman is at the computer, the software will alert him to the news item so he can watch it live on his monitor.

Another trick of the software is "live rewind," which allows Norman to recover earlier information if a keyword is mentioned mid-way through a broadcast. If the report on lower mortgage rates starts with a review of house prices in Toronto and the trigger word "economy" is not mentioned until five seconds into the news clip, Norman can "rewind" the live broadcast back to the starting point of the news clip, provided he sets the accesTV buffer to store at least five seconds of data in the computer's random access memory.

Should the software be automatically recording the news clip to his hard drive, Norman can pre-set how much of the broadcast prior to the trigger word should be

BITS ON BYTES VALORIE LENNOX



recorded.

So far, Televitesse has aimed its products at the corporate market. But the increasing power of home computers is prompting development of a consumer version of the product.

Expected within the next six to nine months, the software will be designed for consumers, will require a less powerful system than the corporate version and could be bundled with the required video capture and compression hardware. The cost is expected to be under \$300.

Televitesse's marketing communications manager Carol Martin notes more than an hour of video can be recorded on a one-gigabit hard drive — and the cost of hard drive storage is continually dropping.

The user can also increase the length of time which can be recorded by choosing to store the information at a lower resolution or at fewer frames per second than the original broadcast — factors which affect image quality but not the information.

Just across the water in Vancouver, Seagate Software's Information Management Group is incorporating speech recognition into its Crystal Info software package. The speech recognition software is

coming from Dragon Systems Inc., recognized leaders in the field.

But what does this mean at ground level? Imagine you're the chief salesman for the Acme World Wide Widget company and you are negotiating with a big buyer. You think you have all the information you need — until the client asks you to confirm that your company can immediately fill an order for 220,000 red and white striped widgets.

Back home, it's 10 p.m. and no one is in the office. You've been on the road for six weeks and have no idea which widgets are still in stock. You excuse yourself to make a call, connect with the office computer and — shades of Star Trek — simply tell it to fax a copy of Crystal Info's most recent inventory report to your hotel.

You get the report, discover there are 220,005 red and white striped widgets available and close the deal.

"It's an additional way to access the information," explained Seagate Software spokeswoman Janine Crawford.

She expects the speech recognition feature will be a boon to those travelling on company business, working in satellite offices or working from home. Sales figures, financial information, production statistics and more will be only a phone call away.

Pre-Christmas activities provide evidence of industriousness

By ALISTAIR ROSS
Driftwood Correspondent

Islanders are busy people. A quick look at some pre-Christmas activities gives adequate proof of this.

Thirty participated in the artists guild's winter invitational show several weeks ago. Notable were the paintings of Jim Dove. His exhibited works up to now have been tonal, architectural and detailed. The latter two qualities are still in his new works but now there is colour as well.

Pottery by Sandi Dolph was on display — sophisticated shapes with interesting glazes produced in a reduction kiln.

Christopher Donnelly, calling himself "Wireboy," sat beside a

GALIANO NOTES

table of his creations, wire and pliers in hand creating new works as he chatted with gallery visitors.

It was a fine show, a credit to the organizers and the participants.

The Ladies Service Guild bazaar was held in the south hall as well (December 7) and realized funds for the group's charitable works.

There was an excellent bake table, lots of house plants and much more. A raffle with excellent prizes brought in much of the needed funds.

This year's fundraising activities made possible a grant to the Health

Care Centre and Galiano Hall, plus one to the Salt Spring Transition House, the Cancer Hospice, Queen Alexandra Hospital and the Salvation Army in Victoria, and Central City Mission in Vancouver.

Plants to island shut-ins (and to Lady Minto Hospital and Greenwood's) was another of the group's initiatives.

Santa's appearances

Santa appeared in north Galiano on December 7, arriving this year in the local fire truck with sirens screaming.

Icing of gingerbread cookies kept the young busy until the ladies had the potluck ready to be served. Carol singing preceded

Santa's arrival. Knee-side interviews for the 30 or so youngsters present delighted both the children and Santa with his puppet helper.

Santa's next appearance was by boat at Montague Harbour on December 14, accompanied by members and friends of the Bellingham Jaycees. The children's visit with Santa was held under trees hung with coloured lights for the occasion. Ninety-six met Santa this time, parents looking on.

Members of the Lions Club favoured all with hot chocolate and hot dogs, served around a cheery bonfire.

Church services

Choir members, pianist Jeanne

Pletz and oboist-director David Clothier travelled to the North Galiano Community Hall for that community's service of readings and carols on December 16.

In the decorated hall with a very symmetrical Christmas tree, retired Reverend Margaret Edgar led the service aided by local readers. A sing-song followed and a reception with Bea Robson in charge.

Christmas services at Saint Margaret's Church were held on December 22 — carols and lessons — and at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The latter was a service of Eucharist led by co-rectors Rob and Ellen Wingham of Pender Island.

A Merry Christmas to all!

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Missing from photo: Erica, Shannon, Maureen, Patricia, Amanda, Aaron & Tina

Yearbooks, tutoring certificates are potential Christmas gifts

By NEILL ARMITAGE
Driftwood Contributor

Past and present yearbooks remain on sale at the high school as potential Christmas gifts. And if you are looking for another different sort of gift, perhaps a gift certificate for some tutoring time with one of our local tutors will help a student you know get that "can do" feeling. We have the names of several private tutors. Call 537-9944 or, during the afternoon when there is no staff available to answer the telephone in the counselling centre, leave a voice-mail message for Anne Marshall, John Bergsma, or me, at 537-9262.

Again, the community service clubs have demonstrated support for the efforts of students. Jason Metcalfe, Tawnee Chips and Christina Behrens were all cash winners in the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day literary contest. Jason's entry has been forwarded for inclusion in a provincial competition.

INSIDE GISS

Fiona Wolf-Milner, on behalf of the GISS parents advisory council, says thank you to all the parents who helped with the sale and baked and bought cookies at the Cookies for Christmas.

Senior students who are looking for information about post-secondary schools would do well to consider that there are several means of getting information other than reading the calendars in the counselling centre. Most large colleges and universities now have web pages on the Internet that provide a wide variety of information including details about admissions. Phone numbers and fax numbers are available in the individual calendars.

Information about McGill, for instance, is available by phone from 514-398-3910 or by fax, 514-398-4193. Also,

most post-secondary schools provide guided tours so it is not necessary to get all of the information from one career day at the school. UBC provides guided tours throughout the year on most Friday mornings starting at 9:30 a.m. Phone at least a week in advance to 604-822-4319 or use the Internet: <http://www.student-services.ub.ca/sclo/>.

Specifically in relation to UBC, new students who are considering living in residence during their first year need to submit their applications for residence by March 3, 1997. In considering whether or not to live in residence, several of the students who have been away to universities and colleges across the country advise me that residence living is a good idea for students who are making their first move away from home to a school. The residence setting provides a relatively easy transition because of the built-in community that it provides.



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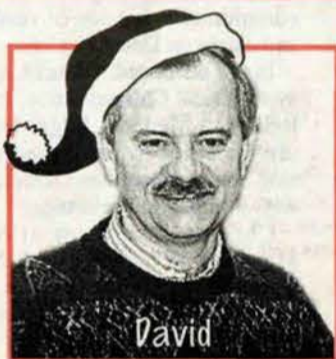
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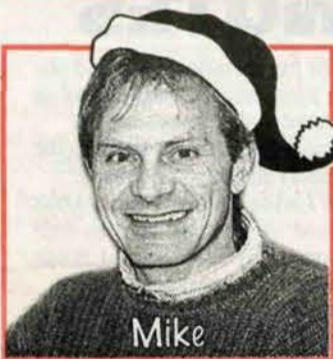
David



Harris



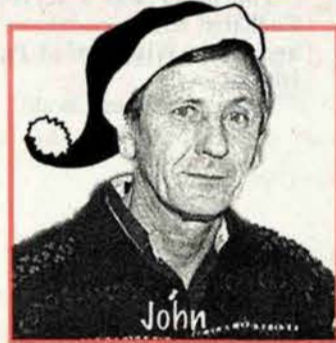
Ken



Mike



Eva



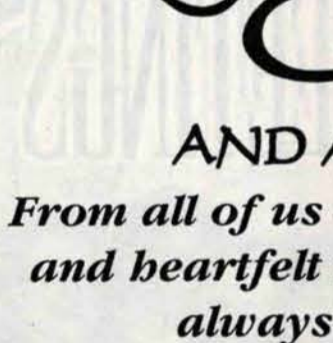
John



Wes



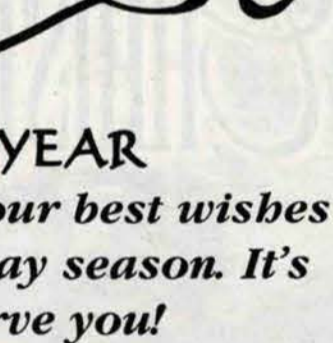
Richard



John B



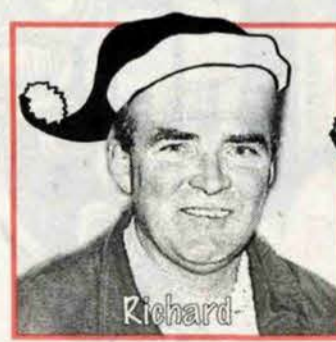
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Derrick



Jeannette



Andrew



Bob



Greg



Bob



Greg

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There's lots to do New Year's

Where are you ringing in the new year?

There's plenty of on-island action as local restaurants and pubs line up a range of special meals and entertainment.

At the Harbour House Hotel Bistro, a feast of crab, shrimp, prawns, salmon, prime rib and more will be served as part of a New Year's Eve seafood buffet from 7 to 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing.

Murray Anderson will be tickling the ivories, accompanied by Pierre Bosnell on drums, providing background music for dining and then music for dancing. Tickets are \$35 each and reservations required since seating is limited. For information call 537-4700.

Across the road at Moby's Marine Pub there's a New Year's Bash with party favours, champagne and dancing to Caravan. Dinner will be served from 5 to 11 p.m., dancing is from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be no cover charge and reservations are not required.

New Year's at the Fulford Inn will see dinner specials in the dining room, while the pub will present a Wing Show Down and DJs from Prime Time Sound playing old and new favourites.

There will be free champagne, finger foods and party favours. Full course dinners — choices are beef prime rib, roast leg of lamb, baked spring salmon or a vegetarian feast — will be served starting at 5 p.m. with prices from \$16.95 to \$23.95. Reservations are recommended (required for vegetarian meal) and can be made by calling 653-4432.

At Alfresco's the New Year's Eve accent is on fine dining. For \$35 per person, the restaurant is offering a

choice of four appetizers, four entrees and four desserts. On the menu are such delicacies as duck foie gras, yam pancakes and flying fish caviar; veal sweetbreads in phyllo pastry; live Atlantic lobster, beef tenderloin, vegetarian flans or rack of lamb; lime soufflé, tiramisu or sorbetto.

The dinner will be served between 5 and 10 p.m. to music by pianist Barrington Perry. Reservations are required at 537-5979.

House Piccolo is serving a New Year's Eve five-course dinner between 5 and 11 p.m. On the menu is a crayfish bisque, spinach and poached pear salad, salmon tartare and a choice of four entrees: pan-roasted breast of Muscovy duck, mixed seafood brochette, roast venison mie de pain and charbroiled lobster tail. Finish up with a selection of desserts, all for \$48 including taxes. For reservations call 537-1844.

At Hastings House, the dining room is already fully booked for a special New Year's Eve five-course dinner which includes roast lobster consommé, Fraser Valley duck ravioli and grilled leg of Salt Spring Island lamb for \$60 per person. Salt Spring jazz artist Simone Grasky is performing. Complimentary champagne will be served to ring in the new year.

They might have a cancellation — call 537-2362 to check.

Also planning special menus for New Year's Eve are the New Tides Inn, Kanaka Restaurant and Sea Court Restaurant.

At the Tides Inn, the specials include steak and lobster and will be served from 5 until 11 p.m.; the Kanaka Restaurant will be offering a variety of dinner specials between

\$8.95 and \$16.95 from 4:30 to 9 p.m.; and the Sea Court is offering a special three-course dinner at \$25 per person in addition to the regular menu. Reservations for the Sea Court are recommended at 537-4611.

Over at the Legion, a band that made a big hit at the Fall Fair is booked for their first formal performance. Ken Byron and The Tragically Hick is the island's newest group. When not working at their day jobs — from operating backhoes to publishing newspapers — they've been sharing their passion for music by polishing up a series of old and new country hits.

Band members are Ken Byron, guitar and lead vocalist; Paul Smith, lead guitar and vocals; Darrel Byron, rhythm guitar and vocals; Reg Young on bass; and Tony Richards on keyboards. Guests will hear everything from Hank Williams favourites to contemporary hits by Allan Jackson and Charlie Major.

The Legion party begins at 9 p.m. in the lounge and is open to members and guests. A buffer dinner will be served. There is no cover charge.

One place to be seen — but not recognized — is the second annual New Year's Eve party organized by Mark Consiglio as a fundraiser for a local organization. Last year's party was a cruise. This year, the party is a masquerade ball at the Pomodori Restaurant on Booth Bay.

The evening starts with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner, a salmon and lamb buffet, at 7:30 p.m. Fill in the rest of the evening with dancing to a live band featuring Derek Duffy. For information and tickets, call 537-0003. Tickets are available by donation. As of Friday only a dozen remained.

Going swimming Jan. 1? Try porridge for breakfast

There'll be some fortification for New Year's Day swimmers at Vesuvius Beach next week.

Salt Spring's 18th annual Polar Bear Swim will be preceded by a pancake and porridge breakfast at the Beachcomber Motel on Vesuvius Bay Road. That will begin at 10 a.m.

At 11:15 swimmers will show off their bathing costumes with an official parade, before they plunge into the waters of Vesuvius Bay at 11:30.

Gary Ball of the Beachcomber said swimmers can compete for about 30 prizes. Hot drinks and changing facilities will be offered at the motel after the swim. Swim t-shirts will also be available.

Last year, close to 300 people watched as 82 fellow islanders braved the 7-degree-Celsius waters. Sponsorship of the event has been taken on by the Chamber of Commerce this year.

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Fri. door prizes, Sun. & Mon. get movie bucks, Tues \$4, Adult \$7, student \$6, senior & child under 14 \$4
Advance seating for physically challenged.

VESUVIUS INN

Remember
Kitchen open till 9pm and...
The wonderful designated driver in groups of 4 or more guests, will eat free with unlimited pop & coffee

All of us at the Vesuvius Inn Neighbourhood Pub would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We also extend a special thank-you to all our clientele for your valued patronage and support over this past year.

The Pub will be closing December 27th, 1996 through to February 27th, 1997. We will be re-opening on Friday, February 28th, 1997, at which time we invite you all to attend our second anniversary celebration. We look forward to seeing you then.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.
The Management and staff of the Vesuvius Inn Neighbourhood Pub.

Boxing Day Bash

Three Cord Sloth

with special guest
Gary Preston

8pm

COME ON OUT AND JOIN IN THE FUN!
Great food, Great times, Great view!

The Vesuvius Inn

NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB
It's An Island Tradition

537-2312

PUB HOURS: Daily 11:30-11:30 / Sunday 11am-11pm

MOBY'S

marine pub

From all of us at Moby's

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

NEW YEAR'S BASH!

featuring

"CARAVAN"

DANCING DINNER

Dinner 5pm - 11pm, Dancing 9pm - 2am

PARTY FAVOURS! CHAMPAGNE!

NO COVER!

Nothing humbug about Scrooge

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Only an unreformed Scrooge wouldn't like Christmas with Scrooge, the annual performance of Charles Dickens' classic as envisioned by Virginia and Ray Newman and company.

There's nothing "humbug" about this lively mix of song, dance and story, designed for family entertainment and involving many families in the cast.

The overall effect is happily homespun — like the March girls putting on their Christmas show in their parlour — family and friends tossing their talents together for a turn on stage in costumes assembled from closets.

At Friday night's performance in Mahon Hall — the show ran Thursday to Sunday — Ray Newman chose a few audience members as "shopkeepers" to hand gifts to Scrooge. "This is known as the old involve-the-audience ploy. Get them on your side right away," he admitted.

Ploys or not, the audience was obviously on-side as Christmas Fairy Sue Newman wafted in magic with a song and a truly stunning special effect: the sudden colourful glow of lights on the centre stage Christmas tree.

By contrast, Eric Booth's Scrooge stumped in, carrying a load of miserly malice that was palpable even before he uttered his first memorable "bah, humbug." His incarnation of old Ebenezer was so deliciously nasty, it was disappointing when he was transformed, in due course, into an ordinary, decent human being.

At a glance, the original Scrooge terrifies six carol-

ers, a pair of charity workers and the downtrodden Bob Cratchit. Even the ghostly Marley pales beside the apparition that is Scrooge.

The production is reasonably true to the original tale: Scrooge the miser is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet-to-Come and learns lessons about himself and others which reform his attitude to his fellow man.

Clever staging ensured a smooth flow between scenes. One side of the apron became Scrooge's office, the other his bedchamber and when the curtains open, they reveal, first the Fezziwigs' Christmas Ball from Scrooge's past and, later, the Crachits' humble home in Scrooge's present.

The ball was the showpiece of the production. In the original story, Fezziwig spent only a few pounds on the party but this ball is much more lavish. Dancers come from Spain and performing dogs from Dalmatia — plot additions which allow a lively Spanish-styled dance number by Lottie Devendisch, Mike Krayenhoff and Sue Newman and also puts some cute tots tumbling on-stage as spotted puppies.

Myles English's touching portrayal of the lonely young Scrooge also highlighted the Christmas Past segment.

Christmas Present featured the warmth of the Cratchit clan, exuding a togetherness which would have made the Waltons look dysfunctional.

As Ray Newman observed, the production has been part of Island Christmases Past, on-and-off, since 1971. May it glow at Christmases Yet-to-Come for another quarter-century.

Christmas special time for singing

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Staff

For many people, Christmas is a special time for singing. At their annual concert last weekend, members of the Salt Spring Singers choir made it even better.

They gave their audiences everything from J.S. Bach to a jazzy I'll be Home for Christmas at their popular seasonal concert, and then invited us all to sing some well-known carols.

Bach's Sicut Locutus Est from the Magnificat was a perfect piece to set the tone for Christmas worship, followed by other Baroque and Classical-period "carols."

The concert's centre-piece and title was G.F. Handel's The King Shall Rejoice, with Shirley Bunyan conducting. It contained some amazing passages, including a striking beginning and times when the tenors entered heavenly vocal heights. When the whole group sang "of thy salvation," it was as if the entire room would be picked up and sail away.

There were too many highlights to mention them all, but I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, featuring young Adrian English, along with some extra lyrics thrown in by Peter Lynde, was a big hit with

Sunday's audience, along with two upbeat pieces by choir director Lloyd English, accompanist Diana English, Ian Van Wyck on bass and Lynde.

Sleigh Song and Still Still Still, performed by the Salt Spring Children Singers, were another special treat. Lloyd English pointed out that the young group usually numbered 18-20 but the flu had ravaged its ranks, (and done the same to the adult choir). The remaining 10 children accomplished three-part harmony, had memorized their pieces and warmed the church with their enthusiasm on Sunday.

Audrey Wild's reading called The Best Christmas Pageant Ever was another fun element of the presentation.

I am usually intrigued by contemporary compositions, and was impressed with A Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen by Canadian composer Vijay Singh.

We were treated to the uplifting

Go Tell it on the Mountain, with alternating slow and swinging parts, and the concert ended with a bouncy and joyous rendition of Deck the Halls.

A poinsettia and cedar-decorated All Saints by-the-Sea was packed Sunday and, no surprise, a number of seats were filled by singers and musicians.

A funny comment by choir director English underscored that fact.

After determining there were some visitors in the crowd, he asked them, "Don't you wish you lived here?"

He explained with tongue in cheek that musical events like this took place on the island every week.

"We just sing," he said. "Very few of us work."

But it was obvious the Salt Spring Singers work very hard at their singing, and are happy to share the results with their audiences. Islanders and visitors can look forward to their next concert after the snow has long departed in spring.

500 CLUB
Sponsored by Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island
THIS WEEKS WINNER OF \$500
Congratulations Mouat employee #296 SUSAN WESTON of Edmonton
License #803266

Best Wishes
FROM ALL OF US!
Join us Dec. 31 & Jan. 1
for
NEW YEAR'S DINNER SPECIALS!
CLOSED DECEMBER 25 & 26
The Kanaka Restaurant
Harbour Bldg. 537-5041 Open 7 days a week
CLOSED MONDAY EVENINGS

New Year's Eve' DINNER SPECIAL
Steak & Lobster **18⁹⁵** per person
ASK ABOUT OTHER DINNER SPECIALS ALSO AVAILABLE!
RESERVATIONS PLEASE
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THE NEW TIDES INN
132 Lower Ganges Road
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VERY **Rude** Desserts

at... **Sweetness Light** Cafe

Come in and pick up dinner to take home tonight!
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VEGETARIAN
VEGAN
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SIDNEY, B.C. V8L 4M9
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PH: (604) 655-9279
FAX: (604) 655-0792

HARBOUR HOUSE
Salt Spring Island
THE WHEELHOUSE PUB
FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEC. 27 & 28
Auntie Kate
Get your tickets now for
New Year's Eve in the pub with
"AUNTIE KATE"
(INCLUDES PARTY FAVOURS & NEW YEARS CHEER)
Don't forget our Boxing Day Party, Dec. 26th
OPEN STAGE AND JAM starting at 2pm
hosted by "Father of Justice"
PUB OPENS AT 1:00PM
If it's happening on the island it's at the
HARBOUR HOUSE
537-5571

Fulford Inn
BOXING DAY BASH
with
KELLY CAVANAGH & FRENZ
(Oscar Riley & Doug Rhodes) local musicians from 6:30pm on
Enter to win...
WING SHOW DOWN
Monday, Dec. 20 / 7pm - 9pm
****SUICIDE WINGS****
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!
Lunch specials available from 11am
Three course dinners available from 5pm
SERVING:
PRIME RIB OF BEEF AU JUS \$19.95
with Yorkshire Pudding
ROAST LEG OF LAMB \$21.95
with Brown Mint Sauce
BAKED SPRING SALMON \$23.95
with Stuffed Black Tiger Prawns
VEGETARIAN DINNER ALTERNATIVE \$16.95
RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED
DJ's from **"PRIME TIME SOUND"**
Rocking you into the New Year
Playing all your favourites from the oldies to the goodies. Free bubbies, finger foods, and party favours for all! Excellent specials all night long. Open til 2am — Don't miss out!
653-4432

WHAT'S ON

Your Guide To Arts & Entertainment This Week

Dance

- **New Year's Eve Party** — At the Legion, dance to the country music of Ken Byron and his Tragically Hick in the lounge. Party favours and a pot luck buffet at 11 p.m. Members and guests welcome. Tuesday, December 31. 120 Blain Road.
- **New Year's Eve Fundraiser Masquerade Ball** — At the Pomodori Restaurant in Booth Bay. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; Dinner at 7:30 p.m.; Live band at 9:30 p.m. Door prizes. For info and tickets call Mark at 537-0003.

Music

- **Fulford Inn** — Boxing Day Bash with Kelly Cavanagh and Frenz (Oscar Riley and Doug Rhodes). Local musicians from 6:30 p.m. on. Thursday, December 26. 2661 Fulford-Ganges Road.
- **Vesuvius Inn** — Boxing Day Blues. Gary Preston joins "3 Chord Sloth" for Boxing Day bash. Thursday, December 26 at 8 p.m. 805 Vesuvius Bay Road.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — Boxing Day Party, open stage and jam starting at 2 p.m., hosted by Father of Justice. Thursday, December 26. 121 Upper Ganges Road.
- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Open stage every Friday night at 8 p.m. 109 McPhillips Avenue.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — Auntie Kate is in the pub on Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — Barrington Perry plays piano every Friday and Saturday evening starting at 6:30 p.m. 3106 Grace Point Square.

- **The Purple Parrot Restaurant** — Simone Grasky sings jazz standards, rhythm and blues and contemporary ballads every Saturday evening from 7 to 10 p.m. 170 Fulford-Ganges Road.
- **Fulford Inn** — Pickin' and Grinnin' with Buck. Acoustic musicians and singers welcome! Every Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Every Tuesday is Irish Music Circle night from 6:30 to 9 p.m.
- **Moby's Marine Pub** — New Year's Bash featuring Caravan. Dinner from 5 to 11 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Party favours and champagne. No cover. Tuesday, December 31. 124 Upper Ganges Road.
- **Harbour House Hotel Bistro** — Featuring a seafood buffet from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with dancing and fun from then on. Reservations only. Tickets \$35 each. Limited seating. Tuesday, December 31. 121 Upper Ganges Road.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — Celebrate New Year's Eve with Auntie Kate. Includes party favours and New Year's cheer. Tuesday, December 31.
- **Fulford Inn** — New Year's Eve Party. Lunch specials available from 11 a.m., three course dinners available from 5 p.m. DJs Prime Time Sound will rock you into the new year. Free bubbies, finger foods and party favours for all! Open until 2 a.m. Tuesday, December 31.

Cinema

- **101 Dalmations** — A live-action remake of the classic ani-

mated tale about Cruella De Vil (Glenn Close) and her thoroughly un-PC quest to steal a litter of dalmation puppies from a kindly couple (Joely Richardson and Jeff Daniels) and turn their fur into fashion. This surefire holiday hit is one adults will like too. Playing on December 27 at 7 and 9 p.m.; December 28 and 29 at 2, 4 and 7 p.m.; December 30 at 4 and 7 p.m. All seats are \$4. This movie is rated General. B.C. warning: some scenes may frighten very young children. Salt Spring Cinema, Central Hall. Please note: Salt Spring Cinema will be closed on Tuesday, December 31.

Galleries

- **Vortex Gallery** — Christmas exhibition and sale of gallery artists' works will be shown for the month of December. 3202 Grace Point Square.

Grab Bag

- **Crystal Communion** — Sparrowhawk invites all to a day of Crystal Communion. Large selection of Atlantean and Lumerian crystals, tools and Life Force Enhancement information. Sunday, December 29. 160 Westcott Road.
- **New Year's Day Levee** — Talented musicians to entertain you! Concert of organ, trumpet and singing. Delicious refreshments to sustain you! A joyful celebration of the new year. The whole community is welcome. Wednesday, January 1, 1997 at 12 noon, at All Saints By-the-Sea.

Season's Greetings from everyone at

Golden Island

CHINESE RESTAURANT-LICENSED

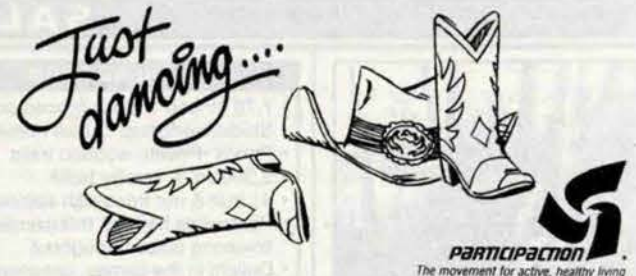
LUNCH.....Tues.-Fri. 11:30-2
DINNER.....Tues.-Thurs. 5-10
Fri.-Sat. 5-11; Sun. 5-9

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS \$5.75
Closed Mondays

Upper Ganges Centre, Ganges 537-2535

CLOSED DEC. 25 & 26



TOP 10 VIDEOS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Rock(2) | 6. Tin Cup(-) |
| 2. The Cable Guy(1) | 7. Chain Reaction(-) |
| 3. Independence Day .(6) | 8. Eraser(4) |
| 4. Striptease(5) | 9. Mission Impossible (9) |
| 5. Dragonheart(3) | 10. The Frighteners(-) |
- (indicates last weeks position)

COMING SOON

DECEMBER 23

Car Pool
Stupids
Island of Dr. Moreau

DECEMBER 30

A Time To Kill
The Stupids
Love and Shadows

Island Star VIDEO
156-C Fulford Ganges Rd. 537-4477
Mon. - Thurs. 11-8:30
Fri. & Sat. 11-10 / Sun. 11-8:00

SWEET TIDINGS OF JOY

May you and yours share all the joys of the holiday season, and may you have a new year filled with blessings and happiness!

Your friendship and patronage is greatly appreciated!
Happy Holidays from all of us at

Glad's

537-4211
in the ♥ of Ganges across from Mouats

See you in the Spring!

strike up some cheer!

Here's hoping that your Christmas season is right up your alley!

Thank you for bowling us over with your kind patronage.

All participants in the **1997 POLAR BEAR SWIM AT VESUVIUS BAY** are invited to enjoy a FREE cup of hot chocolate and game of bowling. Bring your certificate in as proof of swimming. (RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED)

HOLIDAY HOURS
Dec. 24 9-2 / Dec. 25 closed
Dec. 26 10-6 / Dec. 27-30 9-9
Dec. 31 10-6 / Jan 01 12-6

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

KING'S LANE RECREATION

154 Kings Lane (behind the Legion) 537-2054

Getting in Gear for the New Year

HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL BISTRO

features a **SEAFOOD BUFFET**
Crab, Shrimp, Prawns, Salmon, Prime Rib, and much more.

Murray Anderson on piano accompanied by Pierre Boswell on drums, for your dining and dancing pleasure.

Buffet from 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Dancing & fun from then on.

RESERVATIONS ONLY
TICKETS \$35.00/ea
LIMITED SEATING
CALL NOW 537-4700

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SALT SPRING PROPERTIES



DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!

I am one of the nicest 5 acre properties located on Sunset Drive. I have piped water, a driveway roughed in, partially cleared building site, and some views with all day sun.
\$150,000 MLS

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SOUTHEND FARM
• 7.75 fenced + cross-fenced acres
• Studio/workshop • 3 stall horse barn
• Ponds • Private wooded trails
• 2,300 sq. ft. quality build
• 41 fruit & nut trees with apples
• Perennials herbs & thousands of flowering bulbs throughout
• Delight in the camas, oceanspray, orchids & violets
• Sunny southend setting
• Perfect for hobby farm, market garden, B&B & the list goes on...
• Close to Fulford ferry
\$420,000 MLS

CALL KERRY 537-9981



GARDENERS' DELIGHT

This .6 ac property has lots of gardening areas with flowers, veggies, trees etc. Riding lawn mower a bonus! 3 br. home, deck, atrium, woodstove, double carport, RV parking, outbuildings & more. Call to view.
ASKING ONLY \$205,900 MLS

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SUBDIVIDABLE!
• 20 acres • subdivision potential
• Close to Ganges
• Beautifully finished 3 bdrm home
• Oak floors • Vaulted ceilings
• Cherry cabinets
• Many more features PLUS!! 1450 sq. ft. workshop • Call today
\$499,000 MLS

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

• Multi-family zoned property
• Potential for 4 units alongside well established townhome project.
• Call Carol for details
\$155,000MLS

CALL CAROL 537-9981



WORK FROM HOME

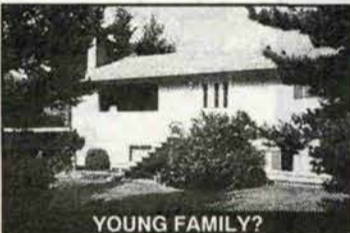
• Peaceful pastoral setting
• 3 bdrm home on 2+ acres
• Oak floors • Studio & wrkshp area
• Great for home occupation /retail on route to Ruckle Park
• Landscaped with fruit trees & shrubs
• Sunny southend location
\$197,000 MLS
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PERFECT STARTER HOME

This one level rancher makes for a perfect starter home. Offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and sunroom. Fenced in yard with greenhouse, garden shed and workshop. Great for kids and pets.
\$171,900 MLS

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YOUNG FAMILY?

• 3 bedrooms • Sunny • Quiet
• Mature landscaping
• Partially finished full basement
• Workshop area
• Oceanview while you enjoy dinner
\$183,000 MLS

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PICTURESQUE SETTING OF YOUR DREAMS

• 3.72 acres overlooking Roberts Lake & majestic rock cliffs where eagles nest.
• Delightful 2400 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms & 3 baths.
• Beautiful finishing • Fir floors
• Maple kitchen cupboards
• Mexican tiles, lots of windows
• Decking on 3 sides of house
• Stone fireplace, vaulted ceiling
• 2 bay garage has studio area
• Guest cottage allowed, some open field as well as protected and private wooded areas.
\$345,000 MLS

CALL KERRY 537-9981



MOVE IN AND ENJOY

Meticulously kept ranch style home on beautifully landscaped 1/2 acre. 1300 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. This yard is totally fenced in with fruit trees, greenhouse and workshop.
192,000 MLS

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A PLACE TO START

• Sunny southfacing 5 acres
• Timber frame, 2 bdrm. cottage
• Fir floors, skylights • Private deck & hot tub
• Goat barn, chicken shed
• 2+ acres in fenced pasture
• Excellent well • Cleared building site
\$225,000 MLS

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CLOSE TO TOWN
• Single level 2 bedroom home
• Retirement oriented
• Easy care landscaping
• Club house
• Walk to shops
\$99,000 MLS

THE VIEW FOR YOU!

• West Coast style home, 3 bdrms, 2 baths
• Expansive views of Trincomali Channel & Mt. Baker
• Vaulted ceilings, skylights
• Fir & tile floors, rock fireplace and much more!
\$272,000MLS
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PRIVACY & TREES ABOUND

This character 2 br. home is nestled in the trees. Kitchen recently reno'd, plus 3 bay garage added with a suite overlook. Lots of potential here! Call for more details and/or viewing.
ASKING ONLY \$249,000 MLS

CALL JANET 537-5359

HOME OCCUPATION?
• Gourmet cook's dream kitchen
• Garland stove • Lots of decking
• 5 private oceanview acres
• 2000 sq. ft. studio/workshop with guest quarters
\$375,000 MLS

SUN BAKED SETTING

• Super sunny .52 of an acre
• Area of fine homes • Easy to develop
• Driveway in **\$89,000 MLS**

BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY!

• .82 acre near Beddis Beach • SW exposure • Treed with cleared building site • Water in to site • Hydro at lot line • Good soil for garden
\$112,000 MLS
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NEW HOUSE

Exceptional waterfront, super location. 1580 sq. ft. of brand new contemporary living, by one of the finest builders on Salt Spring Island. Phone Eileen for more information.
\$649,000 + GST

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OUTER GULF ISLANDS

SATURNA



WATERFRONT HOME OR B&B

This near new home of almost 4500 sq. ft. has 5 bedrooms and six baths. Easily convertible to 4 units all with private entrance plus one whole floor for the family. Share a dock or build your own.
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100 ft. ocean-frontage, 3/4 acre very private with lots of trees. Excellent place to moor your boat in summer, good fishing near by. Build your dream home or a summer cottage.
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An acre landscaped with 3 bed, 2 bath and den. Huge workshop and extra room. 3 sun decks and much more. **\$196,000**
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SATURNA

SATURNA BEACH
Waterfront lot. Natural rock outcrop makes for an interesting building site and natural steps to the water. Use of common dock and adjoining park. Nestled near a new Estate Vineyard and backed by splendid cliffs. You must come and see.
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Over 9 acres with sea views, a pond near one of the building sites, good well and hydro on the property. Well treed and very private.
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PENDER



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Solid, 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with quality throughout! Spacious living room, separate dining area with french doors to covered deck and bright kitchen with eating area and walk-in pantry. Sunny location.
\$219,000 MLS
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We have a nice selection of serviced lots on which to build your dream home. Starting at **JUST \$43,000**
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32 ac. estate with THREE separate homes and approx. 2000' of ACCESSIBLE OCEANFRONT. This magnificent property also boasts a pitch 'n putt golfing area, orchard and private marine ways. **\$1,798,000**
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PENDER

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...in this 4 bdrm, 4 bath OCEANFRONT home on 1 ac., with 180 degree ocean views, your own PRIVATE DOCK and approx. 325' frontage on Browning Harbour. Double garage, paved driveway and stairs to the beach. Owner will consider financing.
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GREAT VALUE!!

2 bdrms, 2 baths, and 1148 sq. ft. of pure comfort in a private setting. Vaulted ceiling & cosy wood stove in the living-dining room.
\$133,900
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OCEANFRONT ACRES...

TWO properties, one acre each, with over 200' oceanfrontage, drilled wells and driveways in to delightful building site. Starting at **\$165,000 + gst.**
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For these and other premium Pender Island properties, contact JOHN & SUE FOOTE
Ph: (250) 629-6417
or Fax: (250) 629-3839

email: john@suefoote@gulfislands.com

PENDER

OCEANVIEW ACREAGE
This 11.67 acre property has it all. Ocean and valley views, privacy, lots of sunshine a good well and great location, next to stores and a marina a few minutes away.
\$249,000
CALL ALEX FRASER 629-6494

VIEW PROPERTY

Partially cleared sloped lot with valley and mountain views. Located on quiet cul de-sac serviced with community water.
\$43,900
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OCEAN VIEW ACREAGE

1.5 acres ocean view property in Hope Bay area. The land is private, mostly level, underground power. On the property are two cabins both with power, water, plumbing, one bedroom.
\$199,000
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Over half an acre sloped lot on quiet cul-de-sac serviced with sewer and water, & is in an area of good homes.
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Semi Display: \$10.08 per col. inch; border, add \$2. Frequency discounts available.

Too Late To Classify: Classifieds placed after noon Monday & before noon Tuesday, will be published unclassified, but not proofread, subject to availability of space. 15 words, \$7.74, 30 cents each additional.

Network Classifieds: Run your ad in community newspapers across the country or in the province of your choice. 3,000,000 readers - \$275. Call us for details.

Regular deadlines for classified ads: Monday at noon. Too Late To Classify from noon Monday to noon Tuesday.

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TERMS

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Announcements

8 CARDS OF THANKS

SALT SPRING Island Community Services, wishes to extend special thanks to Daniel Kent and the members of the Salt Spring Island Ambulance Paramedics for their generous community spirit in carrying out the Food Drive for the Christmas Food Hamper Project. We would also like to thank Thrifty Foods for their support of this initiative.

SALT SPRING Island Community Services, is grateful for the tremendous volunteer effort of Bob Appleton and Judy Willett who, again this year, dedicated countless hours to Santa's Workshop preparing toys and gifts for approximately 150 children. Thanks are also extended to the hundreds of people who donated toys to Santa's Workshop.

SALT SPRING Island Community Services, wishes to thank the volunteers, donors, merchants, businesses, churches, schools, and all other individuals and groups on Salt Spring Island, who so generously contributed time, food, money and good will to the Christmas Hamper Project. We wish all of you, and the recipients of the food hampers, a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

SALT SPRING Community Services sends a special thanks to the staff at Embe Bakery for going the extra mile.

1st Ganges Scouts

would like to thank the following for their continued and loyal support for the sale of Christmas trees:

- The staff at Thrifty Foods
- The staff at G.V.M.
- Menno Banman
- Joe Millizer
- Ross Miller Roofing
- Ken Rainsford
- Ian Hayes

Special Thanks to the community for their support.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BOUZOUKI GREEK CAFE

Steve, Georgia and their family wish to again thank all of their customers and friends for their overwhelming love and support. We are happy to announce that the "Tough Greek Cookie" is well on the road to recovery:

Merry Christmas Everyone! We hope that the new year brings you all good health and happiness.
SEE YOU AT BOUZOUKI CAFE WHEN WE RE-OPEN DECEMBER 27. 537-4181

9 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

to all my clients and friends.

I look forward to serving you again in 1997.

**Ann Heeley-Ray
H-R Tax Services**

9 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SOCIETY

At this special season of Christmas, our greetings and best wishes to members and volunteers.

Our thanks to them and our volunteers for the devoted and untiring help given to the patients in the Hospital, Extended Care, and Greenwood Intermediate Care Facility.

To those who knit and sew, and those experienced craft workers who make our Showcase in the Hospital so outstanding and attractive.

The delightful flower arrangements in the Hospital are always appreciated.

The hardworking team who 'man' the Thrift Shop so very regularly deserve special greetings, as do our friends who donate the merchandise and the customers who buy.

The Thrift Shop will be open until Saturday, December 21 4:00pm and closed until Thursday, January 6, 1997.

10 CELEBRATIONS



Donald and Betty Ogilvie will be celebrating **50 Years of Marriage on December 25, 1996**

They were married in Elkhorn, Manitoba

Love and best wishes Mum and Dad

- From Bronwyn, Graham, Katy & Jill Lorimer; Martin, Camille, Melissa & Nicholas Ogilvie

11 COMING EVENTS

COMING SOON. A workshop presented by Markus Business Consulting, "Everything you always wanted to know about Bookkeeping for Small Business." This will be an educational and fun workshop if you are in business already or plan to be, please pick up your pre-workshop questionnaire from Flader & Greene, C.A.s (above the post office), at cetera drop box (Hereford Ave.) or call Marion Markus at 537-4911.

PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the administration of Mahon Hall with the possibility of forming a community based Hall Committee. Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 pm at Mahon Hall.

STEP AEROBIC Classes continue Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 5:30 - 6:30, @ All Saints by-the-Sea, no classes on Christmas or New Years Day! Drop-ins welcome. All levels, more info call Damaris 653-4877.

WING SHOWDOWN: Be the Best in '96, all previous winners to compete. Contest open to all, prizes for all. One Grand Prize to be awarded. December 31, 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm at the Fulford Inn. 653-4432.

ACT NOW! A.S.T.A.R. classes beginners to advanced 10 years - 80 years commence January 14, '97. Registration Saturday, January 11, '97 10 am - 2 pm. Call 537-1067 for details.

11 COMING EVENTS

TRANSFORM YOUR Life with Spiritual Exercise. You know the healthy benefits of physical exercise. But did you know that spiritual exercises build inner strength and vitality? Experience it for yourself. For a Free Book call Eckankar 1-800-LOVE GOD, Ext.399.



Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island invites you to a **NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVÉE** at **All Saints by-the-Sea 12 noon**

Talented Musicians to entertain you!
Delicious refreshments to sustain you!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

AUDITION

for **the Murder Mystery "I'll Be Back Before Midnight"** Salt Spring Community Theatre's Feb/Mar Production. Casting two male and two female roles. **Jan. 5, 7:00pm** Croftonbrook, Corbett Rd. **Everyone Welcome! 537-0609**

NEW YEAR - FRESH START THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY is offering a Quit Smoking Programme called FRESH START starting on Jan. 6, 1997 and running twice weekly for 4 weeks. It will be held in the mobile unit behind the hospital from 6:30 - 8:30pm. The cost is \$35.00 per person which includes all materials. For more info call 537-4394 and leave a message.

Sparrowhawk invites all to a day of **Crystal Communion**

Large Selection of Atlantean and Lumerian Crystals, tools and Life Force Enhancement information
NAMASTE
DEC, 29/96
at **160 Westcot Rd.**

2nd Annual New Year's Eve Fundraiser MASQUERADE BALL

at the **POMODORI RESTAURANT** Booth Bay
Cocktails 6:30
Dinner 7:30
Live Band 9:30
~ Door Prizes ~
Info and tickets call Mark **537-0003**
Complimentary pick-up & drop off bus service

11 COMING EVENTS

Planning a public event?

Refer to the **Community Calendar**

in our office at 328 Lower Ganges Rd. to avoid conflicting dates.



Mt. Washington

Ski Bus

Every Sunday

Bus Ferry & Lift Ticket

Adults \$49.00
Youth \$44.00
Senior \$44.00
Child \$36.00

Bus & Ferry only \$25.00



Charter the bus Any Day!

Ask About School Holiday Trips!

Reservations required **537-4737**
Salt Spring Tours

AT THE LEGION

New Years Eve' **Party** Dance to the country music of **KEN BYRON** and his **"TRAGICALLY HICK"**

Party Favours
Pot Luck Buffet
11pm

IN THE LOUNGE
Members and guests welcome.

School District #64 (Gulf Islands)

Inaugural Meeting 8:30 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees, School District #64 (Gulf Islands) will be held in the School Board Office, Wednesday, January 8, 1997, commencing at 1:00 p.m. Public Welcome!

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Driftwood
328 Lower Ganges Rd., V8K 2V3

11 COMING EVENTS

T'ai Chi
T'ai Chi Classes
FREE CLASSES
DEC. 26 & JAN. 2
CENTRAL HALL
9:30 - 10:30 am
NEW CLASSES
STARTING JANUARY
537-4487

Happy New Year!
Sat. Jan. 4, 1997
10 am - 1 pm
1st Ganges Scouts
ANNUAL CHIPPING OF CHRISTMAS TREES
by Ian Hayes
at Ganges Firehall
ALSO:
Beer/Pop
Bottles/Cans
Drop Off
SEE YOU THERE!

SSI UNITED CHURCH
(111 Hereford Ave.)
invites you to their
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Tues. Dec. 24
Pre-school Family
Christmas Eve Service
4:00pm
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
of Lessons & Carols
7:00pm
Wed. Dec. 25
Christmas Day
Service with Holy
Communion
10:00am
Sun. Dec. 29
Sunday Service
10:00am
Sun. Jan. 5
Epiphany Service
10:00am

14 COMMUNITY SERVICES

CRISIS LINE for Salt Spring - toll-free 1-804-975-7054.
DRESSINGS FREE to cancer patients by the Order of the Eastern Star. Contact Dee Roberts, 653-4655.
FAMILIES OF Schizophrenics meet in homes for mutual support. Call 537-9237 or 537-5264.

SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION "CATCH THE ISLAND SPIRIT"

Donations of cash, property or life insurance now or through your estate will help enrich the lives of Salt Spring Islanders for generations to come. "In Memoriam" gifts will be acknowledged with a card. Include names and addresses of recipient, next of kin and donor for tax receipt. Scholarships, land for parks, and relief of hardship are but a few directions in which your foundation serves the community. Please mail donations and requests for information to The Salt Spring Island Foundation, #2 - 110 Purvis Lane, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2S5 or call Bob Rush at 537-2501.

Driftwood is OnLine!
Reach us on Raven Net to place your classified ad!

14 COMMUNITY SERVICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICES MEETINGS
Salt Spring 537-2317 or 537-2270
Galiano 539-2222
Pender 629-6946
Women's only -
Thursday nights 5:15 p.m.
Please call 653-4197 or 537-2993. Babysitting provided.
Alanon/Alateen -
A program for family and friends of alcoholics.
For further information call 653-4288 or 653-2030.

17 EDUCATION

HELICOPTER LOGGING -
Training for men and women in an exciting, high paying career in the forest industry! Comprehensive 5 week ground crew training program. For information call (250) 897-1188.
COUNSELLOR TRAINING
Institute of Vancouver offers correspondence courses for the Diploma in Counselling Practise beginning this month. For a brochure phone Toll-free 1-800-665-7044.
A NEW Career? Trained apartment/condominium managers needed - all areas. We can train you right now! Free job placement assistance. For information/brochure call 681-5456, 1-800-665-8339.
DUBRILLE FRENCH Culinary
School professional training programs. Classical French Culinary /Pastry and Desserts/Breadmaking. Enrolling now for January 1997. Student financing/job placement. (604)738-3155, 1-800-667-7288.

23 IN MEMORIAM

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
IN MEMORY/IN HONOUR
In B.C. & Yukon, the Canadian Cancer Society supports research, education and patient services. Mail gifts to Cancer Society, 207-225 Canada Ave., Duncan, B.C. V9L 1T6. Please include name of person being honoured or name of deceased and where to send cards.

Hayward's Funeral Service
320 Upper Ganges Rd.
Serving the Gulf Islands Since 1867
Marge & Scotty Dickson
Don Goodman (Goody)
Licensed Funeral Directors
We honour all Memorial Society Contracts
24 hr. service
537-1022

29 LOST AND FOUND

FOUND JEWELLERY at recycling depot Saturday, December 7. Owner may claim by identifying at 537-4667.
LOST: AT Salt Spring Elementary Christmas Concert last Tuesday; Porcupine quill choker, sentimental value, please call 537-1337.
LEFT AT K.I.S. with no name, computer manual, "ResEdit Complete". 537-4243.

34 NOTICES/PERSONAL

WIN \$20,000 OR free trip to Hawaii, 2 weeks all expenses paid, rental car and \$2500 spending cash. 537-1456.
FREE BROCHURE: Septic System Maintenance - A Guide for Home Owners. Reserve yours, call Santy Fuoco 537-2773.
PERSONAL GROWTH and self discovery with Rebecca Young - Relationships - substance abuse - self-esteem - personal crises. 13 years of supporting people to their highest potential. 537-9835.
caimar a tha thu an diugh. I am looking for someone who speaks Scots Gaelic. Cliff Mills, 537-4798.

34 NOTICES/PERSONAL

\$25,000 BONNYVILLE BIRDHOUSE Building Bonanza '97. Numerous categories. Information: Bonnyville Wetlands Society, Box 5257, Bonnyville, AB, T9N 2G4. Phone: 1-403-826-3496. Contest April 19, 1997.
WANTED! MODEL & Talent
Prospects for Vancouver International Convention. Call (604)331-9950 for further information.
DR. ALSBERG'S CLINIC will be closed from Friday, 20 Dec. to Thurs. 2 Jan., and will reopen in Fulford on Friday 3 Jan. Happy Holidays to all.

FOOD BANK
donations accepted at
The Driftwood

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

REGISTER NOW for Winter/Spring programs in: Gymnastics, volleyball, dance, yoga, tai chi, first aid, writing, music, woodcarving, coaching, step aerobics and more! For information refer to the Island Living brochure available at Chamber of Commerce, Driftwood and Portlock Park Office. Call 537-4448 to register or drop by the office.

ISLANDS TRUST
Salt Spring Islands Trust
Office will be closed for the holiday season from Dec. 25th thru Jan. 1st.
Re-opening Thurs. Jan. 2nd.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM ALL OF THE STAFF!

the Treasure Chest
all stock
20% off
Including the Mountie!
across from
Petro Canada
open 10am - 4:30pm

Salt Spring Island Parks & Recreation Commission
VOLUNTEERS WANTED
FOR COMMISSIONERS
1 and 2 Year Terms,
Starting March 1997
Please mail or fax, not later than January 31, 1997, expression of interest and relevant previous experience to:
Administrator, SSI PRC
145 Vesuvius Bay Road
V8K 1K3
Fax: 537-4456
Phone 537-4448 for more information

APPLE PHOTO REPRINT SPECIAL
Every Wednesday:
30¢ each
5" X 7"
ENLARGEMENT
Every Day Low Price -
99¢
105 Hereford Ave.
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30
537-9917

ADVERTISING DOESN'T COST - IT PAYS!
Call Jeff or Damaris
537-9933

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

Cecilia Glass Art
Antique or Contemporary
537-1264

Market in the Park
Seasonal Permit Holders - renew as of Jan. 2/97 and before Jan. 31/97. New applicants may apply as of Feb. 3/97. Must apply in person at the Parks and Rec. Portlock Park Office.

MOBY'S CHRISTMAS HOURS
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Closed at 5pm
DEC. 25 Christmas Day
Closed
DEC. 26 Boxing Day Closed
DEC. 31 New Year's Eve
Dinner 5 - 11pm
Dancing 9pm - 2am
JAN. 1/97 New Year's Day
Brunch 11am - 3pm
JAN. 1/97 New Year's Day
11am - midnight
MOBY'S
marine pub

The Fishery
will be closed
Wed. Dec. 25
Thurs. Dec. 26
Wed. Jan. 1/97
and from
Jan. 5/97 - Feb. 13/97
Our year end
Dutch Auction
will be:
Jan. 2/97 10% off
Jan. 3/97 20% off
Jan. 4/97 30% off
DON'T MISS IT!
Merry Fishmas and a Happy New Year to all!
Arnie & Julia
151 Lower Ganges Rd.
537-2457

Ganges Marina
Winter Hours
Open for fuel purchases from
9:00am to 1:00pm
DAILY

SYLVAN FORESTRY
Forester Arborist
Terry Gordon
537-0017
-environmental forest projects
-danger trees
-wind hazards
-wild life trees
-gary oak
-arbutus
-maple
-fruit trees
-hedges
-land restoration

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

GRACE POINT CONFERENCE CENTRE
GRACE POINT Square
Fully appointed Conference/Meeting Room available by half day, day or hourly rental. Accommodates groups to 30. For reservations, phone **537-2059**

CUSTOM SEWING FOR YOUR HOME
Placemats, Runners, Pillows, Slipcovers, Draperies and Bedspreads
FREE IN HOME CONSULTATION
Sharon's
Grace Pt. Sq. **537-4014**

ATTENTION LAND OWNERS
•Contract Felling & Skidding
•Forest Management
•Competitive rates
•Prompt payment
•Local References
•Fully insured
TIGHTLINE LOGGING
Jack 537-9327
Ryan 653-9372

WANTED!!!
LOGS OF ALL SPECIES
Top Prices
Reliable Weekly Payment
Delivery points on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and Gulf Islands.
Available for private landholders:
Forest management advice
Seedlings for replanting
Call Dave Kral Direct
1-800-667-3171

40 PERSONALS

CLAIRVOYANT PSYCHICS!
Master the power to choose your future. Truthful, accurate answers by authentic psychics. Problems solved, destiny awaits. 1-900-451-3778, 24hrs. 18+ \$2.99/min. I.C.C.
HEAVENLY PSYCHIC
Answers. Thousands Satisfied Callers. 1-900-451-3783, \$2.99 per min. 24 Hrs * 18 Yrs+.
BEST WISHES for the Holiday Season! The Swan and The Rose Matchmakers Ltd. Specializing in long term relationships, possibly marriage. 1-800-266-8818.
MALE IMPOTENCE easily corrected. Overcome all impotence problems caused by aging, medication, surgery, diabetes, etc. Get the facts: Performance Medical, Box 418, Valemount, B.C. VOE 2Z0 1-800-663-0121.
20/20 WITHOUT GLASSES! Safe, rapid, non-surgical, permanent restoration in 6-8 weeks. Airline pilot developed, doctor approved. Free information by mail: 1-406-961-5570, Ext.249; Fax 1-406-961-5577. http://www.visionfreedom.com Satisfaction guaranteed.

41 PERSONALS/BUSINESS

EVANLY-RAYS Psychic. Answers rated #1 in Canada ... Police use us. Answers about love, money, career, lucky #s, '97 predictions. In Canada call 1-900-451-4055. 24 hrs., \$2.99/min. 18+, 1-900-451-4055.
NEED ADVICE? Call one of our many Live Psychics. They will help you with: Love, Money, Relationships etc. \$3.99/min 18+, 24hrs. 1-900-870-1025.

42 TRAVEL

EVA'S TRAVEL TIP
WEST EDMONTON MALL
Discover the world of Adventure at the Fantasyland Hotel. The "themed" rooms - with jacuzzi - let you experience the lifestyle of the rich and famous at affordable prices.
See us for full details and reservations.
EVA TRAVEL
LOCATED IN CREEKHOUSE
156 Fulford Ganges Rd.
Open Mon. - Fri. 9 - 4:30 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
537-5523

Employment

50 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT FUNDS.
Government assistance programs information available. For your new or existing business. Take advantage of the government grants and loans. Call 1-800-505-8866.

55 HELP WANTED

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY needs English and second languages. Customer service & management positions. P/T, F/T. 537-1456.
PARTICIPANTS WILLING to be interviewed for a SSI Community Services survey. Honorarium of \$10 paid. Participants should have or have experienced periods of depression, manic depression or schizophrenia. All responses kept confidential. Please call Ellen Garvie at 653-4755.
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL Exchange - Ages 18-30 with agricultural experience to live/work with family in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Japan. Costs/details - 1-800-263-1827. #105, 7710 - 5 Street S.E., Calgary, AB, T2H 2L9.

FULL OR Part-time employment for Frammer/Builder or with building yard experience preferred. Call Chris (604)795-4575.
SEA CHANGE Seafoods is currently accepting applications for part time and full time positions beginning in January and February. Please apply only if you have a strong back, a driver's license and good long term availability Monday through Friday including summer. The work is repetitive and exacting, but the people are great! Resumes will be accepted until January 3 at 152 McPhillips Ave in Ganges.

BIDS ARE being accepted for Clubhouse Janitorial Service for 1997. Existing contract outlining requirements can be picked up at the Salt Spring Island Golf & Country Club pro-shop. 537-2121. Deadline for bids January 12, 1997.
FULL TIME and part time cooks needed, catering experience an asset. Leave resumé at Sweet Arts Patisserie next to G.V.M.
NORTHLAND PLYMOUTH Chrysler Ltd. in Prince George B.C. has an immediate opening for a qualified parts-person. Chrysler experience is an asset but not essential. Apply to: Northland Plymouth Chrysler Ltd., 2995-20th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2L 5R7. Phone: (250)562-5254, Fax: (250)562-9180, Attn: Rick Mintz.

60 WORK WANTED

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVERS with European nursing certificate available to give personal care and assistance, any situation including travelling short or long distance. I have a Class 4 driver's licence, excellent references and I am bondable. Call 537-1264 or toll free page 1-604-975-0482.
DREAMS WILL come true. Solid and beautiful renovations just for you. Peter Blackmore 537-4382.
NANNY, TUTOR, newly arrived, experienced, French teacher, looking for work starting the end of January. Fiona, 537-1721.
DO YOU need help in your home, someone to take you shopping, prepare meals, run errands? Reliable woman with car available any time. References. Phone 537-4259.
JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER available for work. Quality and integrity. Reasonable rates, free estimates. 537-9124. References.

Business Services

105 ARCHITECTS

Jonathan Yardley Architect

Providing full architectural services. Initial consultation free
1121 Beaver Point Road
Salt Spring Island, B.C.
V8K 1X2
Ph: 653-4931 Fax: 653-9931
Cel: 537-7631

110 AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

PROMPT, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

DON IRWIN COLLISION LTD.
• Certified Body Men
• Expert Body & Frame Work
• Custom Painting
• Glass Work
• ICBC Claims
• Rust Check Service
537-2513
115 Desmond Cres., Ganges

SALT SPRING ESSO

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS
Tires Batteries Accessories
ESSO
537-4554 or 537-9300
Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 7 pm.
Sat 8 am - 7 pm; Sun 9 am - 6 pm.
Corner of Rainbow Rd. & Jackson Ave.

112 BODY CARE & HEALTH SERVICES

UNBELIEVABLE! LOSE weight and inches and eat all the foods you love. Appetite control - and increased energy. Doctor recommended. 537-1456.

131 CLEANING SERVICES

GULF ISLAND WINDOW CLEANERS JANITOR SERVICE
★ Carpets Steam Cleaned ★
We also offer CARPET GUARD TREATMENT
537-9841

134 CONCRETE

GULF COAST MATERIALS
Serving the Gulf Islands
Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Penders
* READY MIX
* WASHED GRAVEL
* REINFORCED STEEL
* BAGGED CEMENT
* SEPTIC TANKS
* SCAFFOLDING RENTAL
537-2611
Rainbow Road

137 CONTRACTORS

WALTER HUSER & SONS
Construction Ltd.
Residential & Commercial
Personalized service from plans to completion
537-5247 - 537-5092
Salt Spring Island

137 CONTRACTORS

BESLEY ROSE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
CUSTOM HOMES
RON BESLEY
653-9160

Villadsen Construction (1980) Ltd.
"QUALITY HOMES OF DISTINCTION"
231 Saltspring Way,
Salt Spring Is., B.C. V8K 2G6
Serving Salt Spring for 32 years
Telephone 537-5463

LANCER CONTRACTING LTD.
• CUSTOM HOMES
• RENOVATIONS
• COMMERCIAL
Over 25 years on S.S.I.
653-4437
Perry Booth

LaFORTUNE CONTRACTING
CUSTOM HOMES • ADDITIONS
• RENOVATIONS • FOUNDATIONS
Customer satisfaction is our priority.
-Jobs completed on time-
Over 30 years experience on Salt Spring
537-5345
Box 507, Ganges P.O.
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2W2

143 DRAPERIES

THE BLINDS GUYS
FREE ESTIMATES AND INSTALLATION
Vertical • Roller • Venetian
Pleated • Cellular • Screen
537-1737

BLINDS DRAPES and UPHOLSTERY FABRICS WALLPAPER
ABBIE WINDOW COVERINGS

ISLAND DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY
Grace Point Square
537-5837

148 ELECTRICAL

ACCENT ELECTRIC LTD.
ANDRE 537-2156
COMMITMENT IS THE PRICELESS INGREDIENT!

WANTED ADS REALLY WORK FOR YOU!
Try our special offer:
"Buy 2 ads, get one free"
Private party merchandise
liner ads only Visa/MC/Cash
537-9933

151 EYEGLASSES

Gulf Islands Optical
Tuesday-Friday 10:00-5:00
Closed Saturdays
323 Lower Ganges Road (Lancer Building)
RICHARD WEATHERALL (Optician)
537-2648 Office
537-5294 Residence

152 FIREWOOD

KONIG & SON FIREWOOD
Serving Salt Spring 15 years
Competitive & Reliable
FIREWOOD LOGS WANTED (will compensate owner)
537-9531

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
• GUARANTEED CORD Cut, Split & delivered
• Cedar fence rails
537-4161

156 GARDENING/LANDSCAPING

ALAN'S LANDSCAPING and Garden Maintenance. Booking now for winter pruning, clean-ups and more. 16 years experience. Island references available. Call now, 537-5607 or toll free pager, 1-604-979-6576.

160 HEALTH & FITNESS

RELIEVE STRESS and muscular tension through acupressure body work, certified practitioner at the Lancer Building, Call Chantale for your Free, Holiday trial session. 537-1803.

163 INSURANCE

Salt Spring Insurance Agencies (1972) Ltd.
Motor Vehicle Office
Autoplan
All Classes Of Insurance
OFFICE HOURS:
9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
Monday - Friday
537-5527
Fax 537-9700
115 Fullford-Ganges Rd., Ste 1104
Salt Spring Island. V8K 2T9

165 LAWYERS

CONTESTING WILLS and Estates. Major ICBC injury claims. Joel A. Wener trial lawyer for 28 years. Call free 1-800-665-1138. Contingency fees. Simon, Wener & Adler.
CRIMINAL RECORD? Canadian pardon seals record. United States waiver allows legal entry without risk of arrest, deportation or property seizure. For a free consultation 1-800-347-2540.

168 MASONRY

WARMENHOVEN MASONRY. Chimneys, fireplaces, bricks, blocks. 653-9899.

171 MISC. SERVICES

HAIR CUTS by Brenda. Barbering specialist, 20 years experience. Call for appointment. 537-1561.

WHAT IS A NETWORK CLASSIFIED?

A Network Classified is an ordinary classified ad that appears in all 106 member newspapers of the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspaper Association if you want to reach over 3,000,000 readers for only \$250. (up to 25 words), call **GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD 537-9933 FAX 604-537-2613**

174 MOVING & STORAGE

SALT SPRING MINI STORAGE
SAFE, CONVENIENT & ECONOMICAL
RATES FROM \$49/MONTH
Features:
• Electronic access
• Security monitoring
• Climate controlled
• One level loading
• 8 affordable sizes
LEGALLY ZONED AND INSURED
SAFER THAN ANY OLD BARN!
537-5888
347 Upper Ganges Rd.

183 PAINTING

TOM VOLQUARDSEN 537-5188
P.O. Box 385
Ganges Post Office
SSI, BC V8K 2W1
Wall papering & painting

195 PLUMBING

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS CALL...
"Lee the Plumber"
• 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE •
Tel. 537-1068
New and old construction

201 RECYCLING

TIRED OF recycling? Great service, for pick-up, Zoe. 537-5790.

202 RENOVATIONS

WINTER IS Coming! Need help with home maintenance, renovations, or winterizing your home. Call Jewell's Renovations. 537-1810.

203 RENTALS

RAINBOW RENTALS LTD.
HOURS:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Holidays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays
Equipment Rental Sales & Service
537-2877
FAX 537-5504
364 Lower Ganges Rd. (next to GVM)

213 SEWING

CUSTOM SEWING. Need something new, or something old repaired? \$15/hr. Call Val Konig at 537-9531.

239 UPHOLSTERY

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY ISLAND DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY
Grace Point Square
Showroom: 537-5837
Upholstery Shop: 537-5263

Merchandise

302 APPLIANCES

GOOD SELECTION of clean, reconditioned appliances at Island Furniture in Sidney, 656-3032.
WASHER & DRYER, Kenmore heavy duty white, like new, used for 1 1/2 years, top of the line, paid \$1000 selling for \$675 obo. 537-5261.

302 APPLIANCES

QUALITY APPLIANCES available at The Home Design Centre! Kitchen Aid, Whirlpool, Hotpoint, G.E., Maytag, Dacor, Sub Zero and more! Free delivery! Call Mary-Anne or Dave at Sandpiper Supply. 537-5035.

310 BUILDING SUPPLIES

STEEL BUILDINGS: "Cheaper Than Wood". Quonset-Straightwall quonset, Structural Steel Buildings. B.C. Company, we won't be undersold. Service and satisfaction guaranteed! Western Steel Buildings 1-800-565-9800.

STEEL BUILDINGS from one of B.C.'s largest steel companies. Quonsets and pre-engineered buildings. Erecting and foundation services available. Phone: Norsteel Building Systems Ltd. 1-800-773-3977.

PRE-ENGINEERED METAL Buildings. Commercial high quality, functional and economical. Sales erection and foundation. Call for estimates toll-free 1-800-888-8888 - 66STEEL(78335). *Kodiak Steel.

NAUGHTY OR NICE,

The Quad Drill Guide is the device...great gift idea!

OPEN Mon.-Fri. 7am - 5:30pm Sat. 8am-5:30pm 166 Rainbow Rd.
537-5564 Fax 537-1207
Windsor Plywood

315 CARS & TRUCKS

1980 CHEV CITATION, 4 door, auto, 2 tone Blue, Runs well, \$700. 653-4877.
1983 PONTIAC GRAND Le Mans s/wagon. Runs well, clean, snow tires. \$1250. 653-4551.
'77 GMC 4 X 4 1/2 ton, \$1100.
'93 Toyota X-cab, 4 x 4, v6, \$21,500. 537-1070.
1989 VOLVO, 240 DL, excellent condition, new tires & brakes, blue, offers to \$8900. 539-2883.
1973 AUSTIN MARINA. Runs well. \$600 obo. 537-9265 before 10 pm.
'78 GMC VAN with raised roof, removable bed frame, good for work truck or camping, \$1000 w/out stereo. 653-4453.
1993 CHEV W.T.-1500 pick up, 4.2 V-6 auto., canopy, boxliner, running boards, like new, 46,000 km. \$12,900 obo. 537-5755.
'78 FORD GRANADA coupe. One owner. Good looking, needs minor engine work. \$300 obo. 537-2042.
1989 JEEP CHEROKEE, leather, sunroof, 4 wd, white, limited edition, damage to drivers side doors. Best offer. 537-4951.
'85 TEMPO: NEEDS engine work; parts? New carb., battery, muffler and more \$500 obo. 537-0065 after 6 pm.
1982 TOYOTA TERCEL 4 door sedan, 150,000 km., well maintained. \$1250 obo. 653-9104.
1980 DODGE D-50 pick up, 94,000 km. Good running order. Great island truck, \$1000. Phone 537-5119.
FREE DELIVERY anywhere in B.C., cars and trucks. Gas, diesel, 4X4's, all makes available. O.A.C. For pre-approval call Albert (604)597-2184 or 1-800-663-7918, DL# 7348.
O DOWN 4X4's, Supercabs, Crewcabs, Diesels, Sport Utilities, Lease Returns. Flexible terms, Free delivery. For pre-approval call Mike Roessler 671-7775, Toll-free 1-800-211-6644.
\$0 DOWN LEASE or purchase any make or model. Car or truck. New or used. Best rates in B.C. Will deliver. Call Rick. (604)341-8489 anytime.. Toll-free 1-800-583-7421.
F250 4X4'S EXPLORERS. Jeeps, Diesels. All makes, all models, lease, returns, trades. o Down, good financing. Free delivery. For free approval call Lawrence(Gino) Siccia 1-800-993-3673, 327-7752. 2791-3-51

315 CARS & TRUCKS

LEASE REPOS. Returns 4X4's, Trucks, Vans, Luxury Cars, Gas Savers, Caravans, Jimmys. Take over lease. G.M., Dodge Club-Cab, 4X4's, Gas, Diesel. Marty Kozak (604) 464-3941, (604) 525-0408.

Heritage Car Rentals

1980 Fairmont Wagon, 6cyl. low kms. excl. con.,\$1600
1979 Dodge, 4x4 flat bed.....\$4400
1983 Cavalier, auto\$1700
1987 Topaz\$1900
1988 Reliant, 4 dr.\$2900
1990 Sunbird, 4 dr.\$4900
1993 Topaz, loaded\$8500
1994 Aerostar, van.....\$16,500
1994 Sunrunner, 4x4\$13,500
Drop by the Ganges Marina or call
537-4225 days
537-2581 eves.

330 FOOD PRODUCTS

THE FISHERY for your Christmas smoked salmon. Hot smoked pinks and chums. Lox style, cold smoked - sockeye and coho sliced, chunks, sides and double smoked salmon strips. We have Vancouver Island's largest selection of smoked salmon at 151 Lower Ganges Rd., 537-2457. *Ask where it's been caught.*

FISHY GIFTS from The Fishery - A wide selection of Ray Troll T-shirts, hats, mugs and Leaky Fish. Perfect for the fish lover on your Christmas list. Gift certificates available. 537-2457, 151 Lower Ganges Rd.

343 HEALTH SUPPLIES

SALT SPRING MEDICAL SUPPLY
For all your home health care supplies.

• Walkers & Canes
• Bathroom Aids
• Wheelchairs & Scooters
• Full range of Foam Products
• Supports, Braces & more.
Mon.-Fri. 10-5
Sat. by appointment
Upper Ganges Centre
537-1990

350 MISC. FOR SALE

COZY CHRISTMAS Comforters, all natural wool comforters by SSI Fibre Studios at Sophisticated Cow, Ganges.
BAN COLD Weather. Make your hat from alpaca, mohair or wool. SSI Fibre Studios yarns and kits at Sophisticated Cow, Ganges.
STORAGE TANKS - Polyethylene water storage, septic. Whitewater Mechanical Sewage Treatment System for difficult areas. Gulf Islands Septic. 653-4013.
ADDRESS LABELS, rubber stamps, made to order - et cetera on Hereford. 537-5115.
LIGHT OAK roll top desk, immaculate, cost \$700 asking \$500. A great gift. Victorian white metal head board, \$100 genuine antique. Geimemhardt flute, used 6 weeks, \$375 obo. 537-9607.
15' TRAILER, SLEEPS 4, \$400. RV/size propane furnace, \$150. Antique Singer sewing machine and cabinet, \$200. 3-way camper fridge, \$250. Gold coloured bathtub and sink, \$75. Brother AC/DC typewriter, \$50. 537-2766.
18" SATELLITE DISH \$199. When you purchase one year programming for \$300. Total price \$499 US funds. Call: 1-800-555-5424.
CARVER CD PLAYER, 10 disc changer with remote control, \$300. 537-4875.
SALT SPRING kayaking has gift ideas for your favourite paddler: On-deck bags, sails, chart cases, dry bags, paddles, new and used kayaks and gift certificates for gear, tours and rentals. On sale now at Island Spoke Folk, 653-4222.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

MUST SELL: Antique oak dining set. Bookshelf with built-in bar. Lawn mower. Double bed. Night table. Great prices. 537-1117.

A COURSE IN Miracles audio tapes by foremost teacher Kenneth Wapnick. Miscellaneous books. Group under wholesale. 537-2298.

LACROSSE EQUIPMENT. Mac Plus & personal word processor with Laptop. \$550. 537-1975.

CAMERA LENSES: Asahi 40 mm. Takumar zoom, 70 - 200 mm. Vivitar 2X converter. Pentax AF-160 flash. Bayonet mount. Pentax MV Body for parts, after 5:00 pm. 537-9733.

BEEF BY the side or half side, \$2.00/lb cut and wrapped. 537-5356.

STEEL WOOD cook stove and two small antique dressers. Call after 5 pm 537-9782.

SELLING COMPLETE Gym. Has cardio strength and free weight. Like new. (604)877-0048. Ask for Lov.

NEWSPAPER - FLYER Inserter, Kansa 320 - 3 stations up to 10,000 p/hour. Can be seen running in Edmonton area. Low usage since factory re-build, complete spare parts kit. A steal at \$12,000. Contact Roger Holmes at the Wainwright Star Chronicle 1-403-842-4465.

PROFESSIONAL, AFFORDABLE, Skin & Body Products. A blend of the best recommended ingredients. To order or a complete list of the product line call (604)943-3783.

CAMERA MAN

462 Island Hwy. Duncan B.C. The best selection of used photo equipment on the island. Buy, sell, trade, consign and repair. 715-0969

FRASER'S THIMBLE FARMS

175 ARBUTUS 537-5788 7 days a week 10 am - 4:30 pm

Boxing Week Sale Dec. 27 - 31st Everything 20 - 50% off



WE GIVE PERSONALIZED SERVICE

AB-TONER!



The ultimate machine for losing inches off your waistline!

\$99.95! (Reg. \$129.95)

Complete with instruction video and leg weights. The perfect Xmas Present!

FIT KITS!

A North End Membership Package with goods and services worth over \$160.00...

\$79.95!

Give the Gift of Fitness this Year!

North End Fitness (above the Moka House) 537-5217

Don't know what to buy that special someone who has everything?

A Driftwood subscription is the answer!!!

CALL NOW!

537-9933

350 MISC. FOR SALE

AFTER BOXING DAY SALE

Friday, Dec. 27 and Saturday, Dec. 28

EVERYTHING AT LEAST 20% OFF

(except consignment items, books, and "Byers' Choice")

UP TO 50% OFF

Selected merchandise and Christmas stock

20% OFF

Christmas books at



120 Lower Ganges Rd. 537-1966

365 OFFICE EQUIPMENT

TYPEWRITER: ELECTRONIC Panasonic KX -R320 as new, \$90 obo. 537-9733 after 5:00 pm.

370 PETS/LIVESTOCK

PEEK-A-POO. 4 month old female has all her shots. Mother P/B apricot Toy Poodle; father P/B white Pekingese. No papers, \$400. 537-0072.

2 BABY RING-NECKED Doves. Ready for hand feeding & taming. 537-4763.

375 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

ARBUTUS SIDNEY R.V. Centre wants to sell your R.V. Three locations to serve you. Personal service on Salt Spring Island. Call Nick Reeder, 656-6129 or toll free 1-888-272-8888.

TRIANGLE R.V. CENTRE offers excellent highway exposure for your consignment vehicle. Also parts, service, propane, sanitation and 24 hour car and R.V. wash. Vancouver Island's only complete R.V. centre. Triangle Homes Ltd., Sidney. Your first R.V. centre off the ferry. 656-1122. DL 5916.

27' AIRSTREAM TRAILER, good condition, 3 way system. \$4700. obo. 537-5338 evenings.

379 FREE/RECYCLABLES

SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call the recycle depot at 537-1200, or community services at 537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

THIS COLUMN is designed for recyclable items to be given away only. There is no charge to place items in this column. Ads must be submitted in person at the Driftwood office (328 Lower Ganges Road) by normal deadline (Monday noon).

FREE CHILD'S Musical Organ. 537-4763.

COUCH & TV need a new home. 537-9876.

OLDER KENMORE stove, works well except oven wants to broil. 537-4324.



A LIONS PROJECT

RECYCLE YOUR OLD GLASSES

Your old prescription lenses can be a gift of sight Boxes located at:

- Pharmasave
- Bank of Montreal
- Bank of Commerce
- Island Savings Credit Union
- Gulf Islands Optical

385 WANTED

TABLE SAW and other workshop power tools in used but excellent condition. 537-4566.

WANTED: SEWING machine in working condition for teaching young girl. Needed by January 11. 537-4667, thanks.

Real Estate

410 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

"BRINKWORTHY PLACE" retirement homes. Easy care, single storey, relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Currently for sale 2 bedroom modulars from \$91,000. Peter Jaquest 537-4041. VMHP Holdings Ltd. DL#7904

DUPLEX IN very good condition. Ideal investment or first time buyers mortgage helper. Located in family oriented neighbourhood. Walking distance to school, beach and store. Can be strata titled, \$229,000 obo. 537-4577 or 537-4450.

BEST DEAL on Salt Spring, must sell 2 bedroom home on 1/2 acre. Priced below appraised value of \$155,000. Immediate possession. 1-250-954-1649.

3 1/2 LEVEL ACRES; fenced & cross-fenced; pastures; 2 bedroom home & outbuildings; merchantable timber; mature orchard trees, apples, pears cherries; all day sun; pond & garden area; excellent, clean, clear, cold & abundant well water year round; good views; 800 meters south to Ganges Harbour's end. \$325, 000 537-5976.

TONY BROGAN



has no slogan but... When you want your property Sold... Tony Brogan should be told 537-5515 or 1-800-286-9375 Windermere Salt Spring Realty

Norman Rothwell



ISLAND REALTOR SINCE 1986 WINDERMERE SALT SPRING REALTY Office: 537-5515 Toll Free: 1-888-537-5515

JUST LISTED!!!

- unique 3 level home 3 bedrooms - 1 1/2 baths *** MUST BE SEEN *** - Just minutes from town offered at \$149,000

Call Gary Greico (24 hrs) 537-5892 (TOLL FREE 1-604-975-7546)



Driftwood is OnLine! Reach us on Raven Net to place your classified ad!

410 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL!

Reduced to \$475,000

EXCEPTIONAL OCEANFRONT FOR YOUR YEAR ROUND VACATION!



- Architect designed home
- Sundecks, solarium, hot tub
- 187' of lowbank oceanfront
- Exclusive Reginald Hill area
- Near marina

CALL DARLENE at 653-4386, FAX 653-4396 or e-mail: odonda@islandnet.com **Island Bound Realty Ltd.**

420 FINANCING

CONSOLIDATE ONE easy payment. No more stress. No equity-security. Good or bad credit. Immediate approval, immediate relief. National Credit Counsellors of Canada. 737-8285(VAN) 951-1073(SRY) 864-9700(ABBOT) 1-888-777-0747. Licensed & Bonded.

BUILDER'S INTERIM

Developers' Loans Land Mortgages ANYWHERE IN B.C. Most approvals same day **DOUG HAWKES** 1-800-667-3883 (wk days) 812-1366 collect any day including holidays 3690 Shelbourne St., Vic.

HAWKES MORTGAGE

460 WANTED TO BUY

3 PLUS ARABLE acres on Salt Spring Island. Sunny exposure, raw land or land with buildings. Contact Dept. M, c/o Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2V3.

South End Listings Needed. I have several qualified buyers, ready to Buy.



PATRICK AKERMAN 24hrs call 537-9977 RE/MAX Salt Spring

Rentals

500 APT./SUITES FOR RENT

1 BDRM. SUITE, new paint, bright, close to ocean, Maliview area, separate entrance. \$450/mo. inclusive. 537-2476. Sorry, no dogs. BACHELOR SUITE close to Ganges, suitable for one person. No smoking, no pets. \$650/month. 537-2446.

* REDUCE * REUSE * RECYCLE *

510 COMMERCIAL SPACE

LANCER BUILDING. Choice of premises on upper floor. Large, bright, ocean view, deck. For info call Donna Regen, Gulf Islands Realty, 537-5577 days.

400 SQ. FT. FOR rent, call Jamie or Barry at Moby's. 537-5559.

515 HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

KIHEI, MAUI, Hawaii. Air conditioned, one bedroom condo, all amenities, 200' from beautiful beach, island owned, available from Jan.5-20 and March 3rd on. Great daily and monthly rates. Phone 537-5083.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

NEW UNFURNISHED 1 bedroom cottage, short term rental until April 1. No appliances. \$500/month. N/S, N/P. References. Robin, 537-5242.

5 BEDROOM HOUSE on 5 acres. Hot tub, close to Fulford, Feb. 1. \$1100/mo. 1-604-224-2127.

FEB. 1. 1500 SQ. FT. one year old home, Quarry Dr., double garage, 2 bedroom & study, efficient fireplace, basement storage room. No pets. References. \$1000/mo. 537-5345.

2 BDRM. OCEANFRONT home with large studio, beautiful location near Fulford Harbour. Available Jan. 1/97 to 1 or 2 adults. Rent & term negotiable. 653-4386.

1 BEDROOM HOUSE, Cusheon Lake area, \$750 per month, N/P, N/S, 537-9110 after 6 pm.

SELF-CONTAINED private 1100 sq ft Fernwood Cottage, 3 - 6 month lease. N/S, N/P. \$700. plus utilities. 1-604-937-3475.

SMALL CABIN, for single or couple. Available January 15. \$550/month. Lauris Stephens. 1-604-277-5770.

TO RENT: Available now - 2 bedroom duplex, 111 Maliview Dr. \$600 per month. Call 537-4415.

TWO BEDROOM rancher, private and sunny, large deck, close to Ganges. Suits couple or single person. N/P, N/S, ref's. req'd. \$650/month. 1-604-531-6770 eves.

3 BEDROOM HOME, view property, 225 Charlesworth, \$900/month. Available January 1, lease or month to month. Call 1-604-650-4571, leave name & number to view.

1 BEDROOM HOUSE, ocean-view, walk to Fulford, suitable for quiet single, or couple. \$650/month. 653-4520.

2 BR. HOUSE near GISS and downtown, on pleasant .46 acre lot. \$600 month for good tenant. References a must. Apply in writing to Dept. K, c/o Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2V3.

LARGE 3 BEDROOM house, fully or partially furnished 1.38 acres. Fenced pasture, round pen, barn, large back yard, walking distance to park, pool, golf course. View of St. Mary's Lake. Long term lease required. References please. \$1500/month obo. Call 537-2035.

SPACIOUS FRESHLY decorated, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home available January 15 or February 1. Situated on wooded lot in nice area with ocean glimpses. \$900/month. 1-604-251-7696.

Island Explorer Property Management Limited 537-4722 1-800-800-9492

2 BEDROOM CABIN secluded, with fantastic view. Extra room for washer & dryer. Available immediately, long term. \$600 plus utilities. 537-4998 days, 537-2837 evenings.

FOR SALE: Snow plow, mounts to pick-up. 537-5708.

TIRED OF being stuck? 1981 Datsun 4 x 4 pick-up, new tires, clutch, brakes & battery. Asking \$1500 obo. Phone 537-9328.

COMPRESSOR, CONTRACTOR type, twin tank, 110/220 motor, U.S.A. \$400 obo. 537-4695.

LOST: COLLIE/CHOW mix, "Lady" went missing Cranberry/Mt Belcher area. She is reddish brown, female. Please call 537-2837.

SOFA, LARGE and comfy, good condition, brown & beige \$50. 537-1502.

A JOYOUS SEASON to all. "Be the change you want to see in the world". Love Jewel.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

ISLANDS HERITAGE REALTY INC. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT • 3 bedroom, modern home, wood stove, Now available, Long Term. \$1200. Call Sunny 537-2198

530 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

ROOM FOR rent in large, shared, house; close to Ganges. Call 537-4943.

535 SITUATIONS WANTED

CARE-TAKING OR work for rent situation wanted by island couple. We have a wide range of skills including health care, gardening, forestry and construction 537-8872.

540 WANTED/RENTALS

WANTED: ACCOMMODATION, smoking permitted. Steadily employed tradesman, total abstainer. Long term with parking, preferably furnished/partially furnished. 537-1204 leave message after 7 pm for January 15, 1997.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

PLEASE NOTE: Too late to classify ads are accepted only after 12:00pm Monday and before 12:00pm Tuesday at the rate of \$7.74 for 15 words or less and 30 cents for each additional word. They are accepted on a first come first served basis and are printed only if space permits. The Driftwood cannot be responsible for errors or omissions as these ads may not be proof read because of time constraint.

SSI COMMUNITY Services is looking for participants to be interviewed for a survey. Honorarium of \$10 paid. Participants should have or have experienced bouts of depression, manic depression or schizophrenia. All responses kept confidential. Please call Ellen Garvie at 653-4755.

FOOD BANK donations are being accepted at the Driftwood office.

HAVE YOUR Organic cake and eat it too! Freshly ground flour daily at the "micromill" \$2.50/lb. 537-4147.

IF YOU have donated food for the Christmas Hampers or the food bank, please call Herb Burnett at 537-2270 for collection over the Christmas period.

FISHERMEN! WE have the best knife sheaths known to man!! Check 'em out at Love My Kitchen, 140 Fulford-Ganges Rd. 537-5882.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Joseph Benge at Moby's through December.

AFTER BOXING Day Sale. Friday, December 27 and Saturday, December 28. Everything at least 20% off (except consignment items, books and "Byers' Choice"). Up to 50% off selected merchandise and Christmas stock. 20% off Christmas books at: West of the Moon, 120 Lower Ganges Road. 537-1966.

FOUND: CHRISTMAS necklace has been turned in to the Driftwood Office. Owner may claim by identifying, 328 Lower Ganges Road.

THE-NO-EXPERIENCE-Necessary Musical Theatre Classes starting January. Ages 6 to 12. 537-1532.

2 BEDROOM CABIN secluded, with fantastic view. Extra room for washer & dryer. Available immediately, long term. \$600 plus utilities. 537-4998 days, 537-2837 evenings.

FOR SALE: Snow plow, mounts to pick-up. 537-5708.

TIRED OF being stuck? 1981 Datsun 4 x 4 pick-up, new tires, clutch, brakes & battery. Asking \$1500 obo. Phone 537-9328.

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SOFA, LARGE and comfy, good condition, brown & beige \$50. 537-1502.

A JOYOUS SEASON to all. "Be the change you want to see in the world". Love Jewel.

BEST OF the Season to all Crisis Line and Transition House Workers! Great Job. So...Thank you very much. Tom.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Diversity intrigues new RCMP chief

After 48 hours on Salt Spring, Sgt. Cliff Doherty was impressed.

"It's obviously a very nice community," he said soon after starting his new job.

The new head of the Ganges RCMP detachment is intrigued both by the different lifestyles on the island and by the friendliness of islanders.

"I'm looking forward to working with all the diverse lifestyles. There's several communities on this island."

The level and type of crime is different from Squamish, his previous post where he served as watch commander. He feels that community is developing a more urbanized level of crime.

"Salt Spring is blessed by not having an urban influence on the type of crime here," Doherty observed.

The ferries are an obvious barrier as is the distance between the island and urban centres.

In moving from Squamish to Salt Spring, the 42-year-old Doherty gained a promotion to sergeant from corporal and the chance to head a detachment. He is now entering his 22nd year on the force.

He left behind a 2,500-square-foot home which he just finished building in Squamish and will lose some of his family life since he will be working on Salt Spring for the first few months while his family remains in Squamish.

For the last three years, he says he was "consumed with work," either at the Squamish detachment or drawing on his woodworking skills to construct a home. He enjoys working in a shop and hopes to put his interest in design towards the new detachment office planned for Salt Spring.

"Policing, as I see it, is the solving of the community's problems that fall within our mandate," Doherty said.

The problem could be as severe as an armed robbery or as common as speeding traffic. The solution could be a criminal investigation,

ticketing or working with community agencies to resolve a local issue.

One of Doherty's experiences in Squamish illustrates his problem-solving approach. A 13-year-old girl, whose mother was a drug addict, was repeatedly picked up by police for wandering the streets at all hours of the night.

Working with the girl and social agencies, Doherty managed to find a more stable home for the child. She is now back at school, no longer on the street and no longer a problem for police.

"I see policing generally as problem-solving," he stressed. But it is important that police focus on solving the problems which fall under their mandate, he said.

Challenges on Salt Spring include trying to identify the repeat offenders, who are often those responsible for home and business break-ins, while helping people secure their premises against thieves.

Although the island is not yet afflicted with urban crime, Doherty says times have changed and people can no longer rely on minimal security.

Another local issue is out-of-control parties, which Doherty feels can best be countered by monitoring, frequent patrols of the party area and taking action to keep the party from growing beyond manageable levels.

He noted a party host can be charged with mischief if the quality of life in a neighbourhood is disturbed by the party.

Working with the Crown counsel office to ensure appropriate charges are brought against offenders and processed through the court system is also part of the job, Doherty noted.

His arrival, and the addition of Constable Paul Seymour to the Ganges detachment, brings the local office up to full strength with six uniformed officers, two support staff and two auxiliary officers.

Seymour, a 17-year veteran of the RCMP, was transferred from the Maple Ridge detachment.



Rock Crusher victim

Towtruck operator Ron Dewar pulls Dan Behrens' car from the gully on Rock Crusher Corner on Salt Spring on the weekend. Drivers

were reintroduced — for the second time this year — to the challenges of driving in snowy conditions.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Substandard weather conditions hit month 14, reports weather observer

A build-up to a white Christmas on the islands — and much of the Lower Mainland — began falling at 10 p.m. Saturday and had not stopped as the Driftwood went to press Monday.

Ganges weather observer Robert Aston reported rainfall Saturday afternoon and evening chilled to snow at approximately 10 p.m. By approximately eight a.m. Sunday morning, 2.5 inches of snow had fallen.

Another snowfall Sunday night added a further 5.7 inches by approximately eight a.m. Monday morning, when Aston took his next measurement.

"We're having month 14 of our below-expected-standard of weather," he observed.

Police reported numerous accidents, vehicles in ditches and abandoned vehicles as the snow iced island roads.

On Monday morning at 5:22, the fire department was notified that a power line was down near the Fulford Inn. Fulford-Ganges Road was closed until 7:40 a.m. to allow the line to be removed.

As a result, the ferry crew and many passengers were unable to reach Fulford Harbour and the

Bowen Queen missed the first two sailings of the morning: the 6:20 a.m. from Fulford and the 7 a.m. from Swartz Bay.

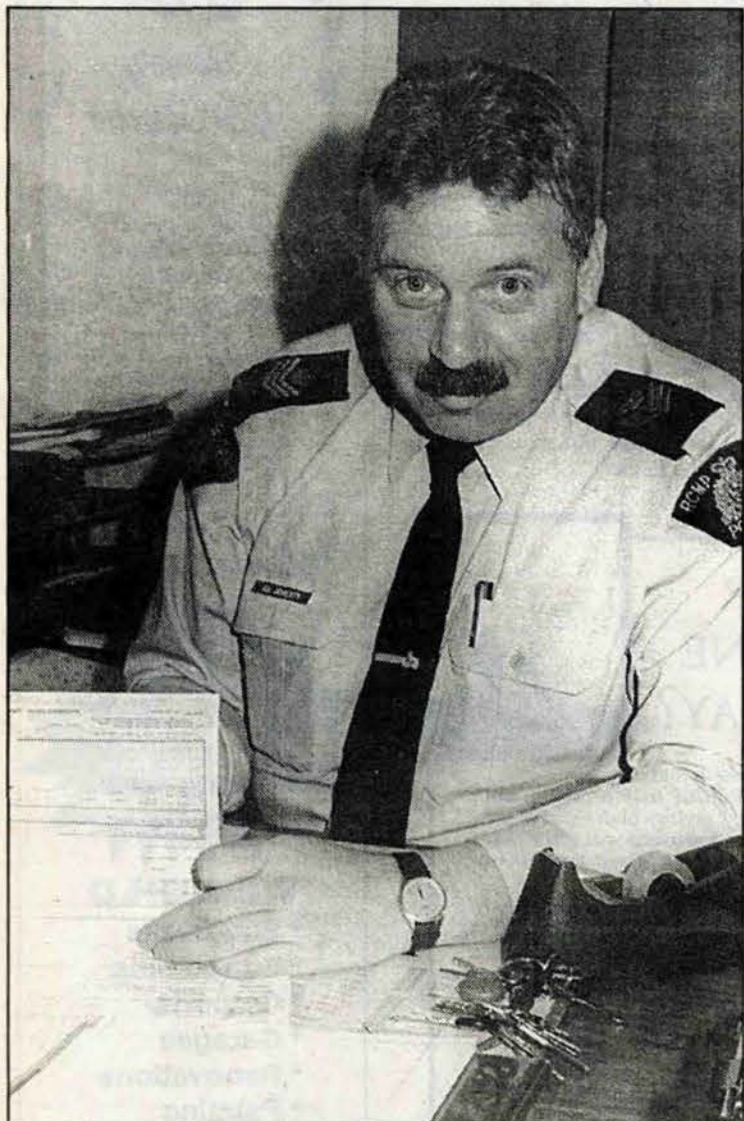
The 8:30 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay left approximately 15 minutes late but B.C. Ferries spokesman Stephen Nussbaum said that by 11:30 a.m. the Bowen Queen was back on schedule. The Cumberland, serving the Outer Islands, missed its first scheduled sailing due to electrical problems.

Power outages occurred on the south end of the island and in Ganges Monday morning after a tree branch fell across a line near Blackburn Road and Fulford-Ganges Road.

B.C. Hydro field manager Murray Smith said an estimated 1,300 to 1,400 customers lost power in the Ganges area, some from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and some from 6:30 to 11:10 a.m.

Parts of the island south of Blackburn Road were also without power between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. Power was not restored to the area furthest south, in Fulford and along Isabella Point Road, until 11:15 a.m.

By Monday afternoon a few isolated trouble spots remained, Smith said. There were also five small outages on North and South Pender islands Monday morning but all those were repaired by noon.



READY TO ROLL: Sgt. Cliff Doherty took over command of the Ganges RCMP detachment December 11. He transferred to Salt Spring from Squamish.

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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

To make sure you continue to enjoy uninterrupted service during this time, our Emergency and Maintenance crews will be on standby 24 hours a day as usual. For assistance, please call the B.C. Hydro Emergency Electric number in your local telephone directory or 1-800-567-5885 or 537-9966.

We hope you have the happiest of holiday seasons and a safe New Year.

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Reliable but slow

When snow put their motorized transport out of commission Sunday, Eline Koopman, left, and Brenda Scolk harnessed a horse and rode the buggy to town. The two women look after the horses at Camp Narnia and took advantage of the camp's horsepower to get into Ganges.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Computer software has hard time with analyzing Gulf Islands ferry routes

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

How complicated is the Gulf Islands ferry system?

Bruce MacLeod, B.C. Ferries' manager of planning analysis, tried to analyze the system using the ferry corporation's specially-developed software.

The computer crashed — twice.

After some tweaking and optimizing, MacLeod was able to run the program. But he notes it still takes half an hour, compared to a three-port route under study which can be analyzed by the software in eight minutes.

The software, MacLeod said, is among the best available as a traffic planning tool. It was developed for B.C. Ferries and is being used to help with long-range planning of future ferry service.

MacLeod explained the software at a December 13 meeting of the B.C. Ferries-Southern Gulf Islands Advisory Committee.

Salt Spring resident Ken Lee

noted many residents still confuse that committee with the "transportation committee." Transportation committees on various islands work with B.C. Ferries on current schedules; the advisory committee is trying to design a ferry system which will serve the islands in the future.

Saturna representative John Money said he would like to see Salt Spring residents consider a Salt Spring terminal in a location which is on a direct route to and from the other islands and the Lower Mainland. Both Fulford Harbour and Long Harbour require the ferry to travel north to reach those terminals.

Although Isabella Point and Cusheon Cove have been suggested in the past, B.C. Ferries' director of strategic and corporate planning Len Roueche said the concept — comparing the cost of the Fulford terminal to a terminal further south on the island — is more important than the specific site. Road construction costs to a

new terminal would also have to be considered, he said.

Also at the December 13 meeting:

- Salt Spring's Neville Atkinson urged committee members to renew their commitment to take the issue of ferry service funding to the provincial government. Committee members agreed.

Atkinson also advocated more communication with island communities so residents become acquainted with ferry issues and are able to join in the debate.

"We should be very much more forward about what we're doing. In most communities, peo-

ple wonder what we've been doing for 18 months."

- Committee members got their first look at the new edition of Soundings, a newsletter the ferry corporation plans to distribute in January to update residents on the long-term planning for the ferry system. The first Soundings newsletter was distributed to islanders last summer.

- The advisory committee will meet in early February and again in April. "I think each meeting becomes more exciting," Atkinson remarked, citing support from B.C. Ferries with helping committee volunteers grapple with the issues.

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Gulf Islands Duplicate Bridge Club winners on December 10 were Gordon Parsons and Norm McConnell, Bill Buckler and Stella Bruce, Wim and Ima Krayenhoff, Irene Hawksworth and Jean Herring.

Peter Jacquest and Ron Dickson took first place on December 17 followed by Pat Warman and Jim Burford, with Helen Shandro and Isabelle Richardson sharing third place with Conhor Hunt and Ian Thomas.

In the games at OAP Central, December 6 saw Fred Struve and Kit Kosior in first place, Derek

BRIDGE TRICKS

Arnold and Molly Frenette second, with Brian Dawson and Elaine McAndrew tied for third with Ron Dickson and Peter Jacquest.

On December 13, winners were Kit Kosior and Fred Struve, Peter Jacquest and Ron Dickson, June Knowles and Norm McConnell.

There will be no games on December 24 or 31, but the Friday games will be held as usual.

Storm blamed for Christmas Ship mishap

Thirty-five years ago

• Santa could have used a few flying reindeer after the Christmas Ship ran aground on mud flats about 150 yards from shore. Efforts by the RCMP boat could not budge the 73-foot Karmac and it was after 9 p.m. before those aboard the Christmas Ship could be brought ashore. A rising tide eventually freed the ship. Salt Spring children had to wait until the following morning to greet Santa and his helpers from the Bellingham Jaycees. Darkness and a storm were blamed for the accident.

• The Salt Spring fire department was holding the grand opening of its new fire hall on Boxing Day, starting at 2 p.m. Three years earlier the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce had first proposed establishing a fire protection district.

Thirty years ago

• Fundraising was flourishing on the islands. First, George Pearson's Christmas CARE tree on Pender Island had raised \$515 in donations. Each light on the tree represented a donation. Pearson expected total donations would exceed the record of \$600 collected in 1965.

• North Salt Spring Scouts and Cubs groups were richer by \$225.25 following their annual bottle drive. The youngsters collected 2,625 pop bottles and 558 dozen beer bottles plus \$18.76 in donations.

Twenty-five years ago

• An arbitration board in Victoria awarded Gulf Islands teachers a 7.6 per cent pay increase, a compromise between the eight per cent

DOWN THE YEARS

raise requested by teachers and the 6.5 per cent increase offered by the school board. The provincial government had announced it would not pay any increases over 6.5 per cent and that any higher settlements would have to be paid by the local school district.

• Newly elected regional director Jim Campbell of Saturna asked the Capital Regional District board to withdraw the present zoning bylaw for the Outer Islands. He said the bylaw required some changes. Other directors agreed to withdraw the bylaw.

Twenty years ago

• A successful protest by island residents prompted a promise from the Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC) that insurance adjusters would continue to visit the island every week. Jack Bell, manager of the Victoria claims office, said the visit had been cancelled one week due to a flood of work in the Victoria claims office, but confirmed the service would continue.

• The Pearson CARE Tree Fund on Pender Island was expected to reach a record \$7,800 in donations. The fundraising drive invited islanders and others to contribute to CARE, an international charity, instead of sending Christmas cards. A bulb on the tree was lit for each donation. The project was being managed by the Pender Island Lions Club and George Pearson.

Fifteen years ago

• Plans to enlarge the dock facil-

ities at Mayne Island prompted transportation committees on the southern Gulf Islands to call for a meeting with the B.C. Ferry Corporation. Tenders had been called for the project and islanders were speculating that the larger docks would serve a new shuttle service between the islands and a service between Mayne Island and Tsawwassen.

Ten years ago

• Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club was raising its membership fee in order to cover an increase in insurance costs. Insurance fees had been \$1.25 a year per member but were expected to triple. Each member using the club shooting range was to be charged \$20, up from \$10. Social members would continue to pay \$10. The club was also eliminating its \$15 rate for couples.

• Approximately 80 local residents and families had a brighter Christmas thanks to hampers prepared and delivered by volunteers throughout the island. The hampers included everything for a Christmas dinner plus toys for children and a \$10 gift certificate for each child.

Five years ago

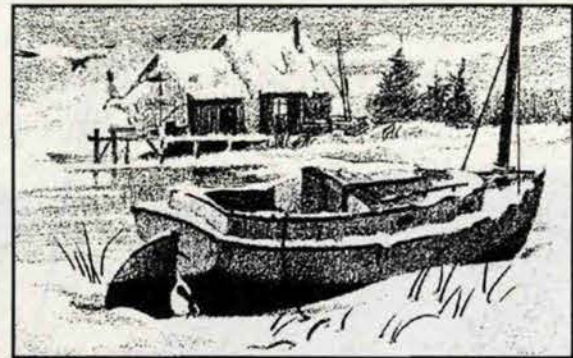
• The permit for Norman Twa's landfill on Blackburn Road was to be revoked effective December 31, 1991, according to Ministry of the Environment official John Finney. A court date challenging that decision had been moved to January 9 from December 23. Meanwhile, other residents were expressing concerns over a proposed transfer station on Rainbow Road. The Salt Spring Trust committee had issued a permit for the operation.

• RCMP solved 14 break-and-

enter offences after nine boys admitted to committing the crimes. Involved in the break-ins, which occurred between September and December, were eight 13-year-olds and one 14-year-old.

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Wishing you and your family smooth sailing this holiday season. We value your friendship and patronage, and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Laurie & Nancy Hedger

On-island Yule celebrations planned

By JENNIFER CATCHPOLE
Driftwood Correspondent

The wheel of the year has turned and Saturna residents have been preparing once again for the holiday season.

Some of us are going off-island to spend time with family and friends, and others are hunkering down for an island Christmas/Hanukah/solstice celebration.

The ferries are full of people "to-ing and fro-ing" — off to airports and bus stations, or simply day-tripping to complete that all-important shopping. Might I remind you that we have two excellent galleries and two excellent grocery stores full of gifts and good food for your last-

SATURNA NOTES

minute needs. There were several on-island Christmas celebrations this year, including a December 22 carol singing and readings with Rev. Bryant-Scott and a Christmas service at the Winter Cove church.

Maitland and Proulx

A full house was entertained at the hall by the first presentation of this year's concert series, an evening with Alan Maitland and Sylvie Proulx on December 17.

Maitland told some seasonal sto-

ries, including the classic Gift of the Magi, and one by Margaret Atwood, interspersed with impeccably-played classic and Spanish guitar pieces from Proulx. Everyone had a wonderful time.

At the end of the evening everyone sang Silent Night together, accompanied by both Proulx and Nancy Angermeyer on the cello. A reception followed with a marvelous array of goodies brought by one and all.

That's all for this week. Next week I will report on two important meetings that took place recently.

In the meantime, I wish everyone happy holidays.

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Gulf Islands
Driftwood
537-9933

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PORT TRANSFER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Consulting services are required to undertake a Port Transfer Feasibility Study for port facilities that are currently owned by Transport Canada in the Outer Gulf Islands and adjacent islands, specifically:

- Port Washington - North Pender Island
- Miners Bay - Mayne Island
- Montague Harbour - Galiano Island
- Sturdies Bay - Galiano Island
- Fernwood - Salt Spring Island
- Swartz Bay - North Saanich
- Piers Island

THE PROJECT
The Port Transfer Feasibility Study for the above ports will enable local governments to make informed decisions regarding the assumption of some or all of the ports in their jurisdiction. To successfully undertake such studies, consultants and/or teams of consultants are required with experience in: port operations, marine infrastructure, marine tourism, municipal governance, public consultation, group facilitation, environmental issues, land use planning and business planning.

INSTRUCTIONS
A copy of the detailed Request for Proposal including the terms of reference can be obtained by application to:
The Pender Island Wharves Society,
6601 Razor Point Road,
RR1 Pender Island, B.C.,
V0N 2M1

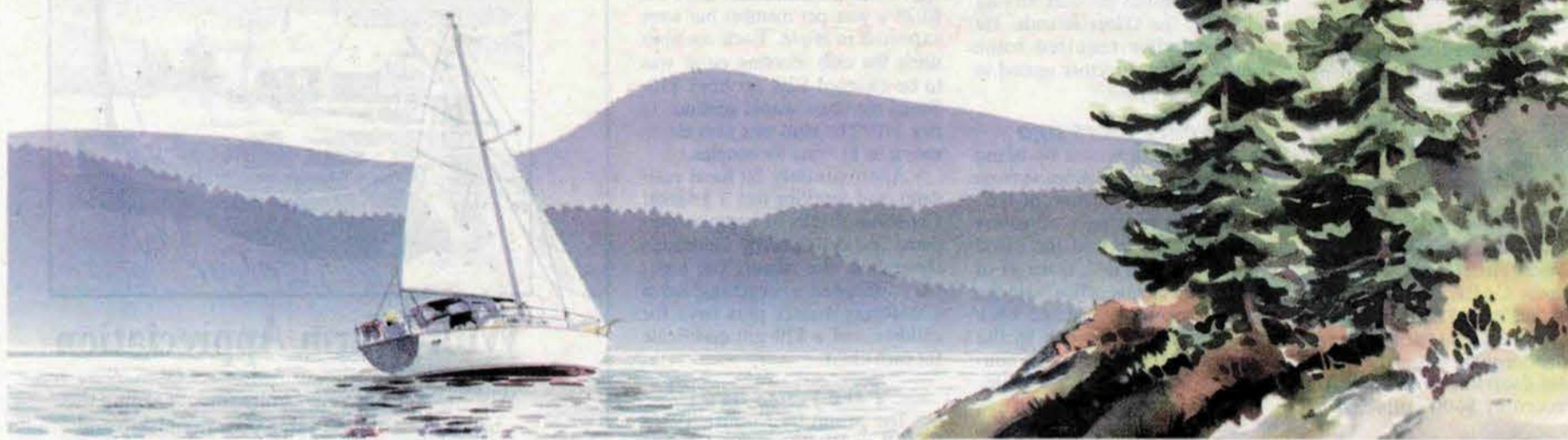
The application must be accompanied by a certified cheque or postal money order to the order of The Pender Island Wharves Society for an amount of \$10.00

Proposals are required by January 24, 1997.

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