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Gulf Islands

Driftwood

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Your Community Newspaper

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'It has been one hell of a week'



DISASTER: Rain and melting snow combined to create disaster this week as a huge slide of mud and trees, above, fell across North End Road and as rivers of water washed out part of Morningside Road, below. On Wednesday, B.C. Hydro workers Jim Ashworth and John Foley were stripping the hardware from an old power pole at the slide site. Below, Jim Andrews walks along Morningside Road while CTV camera crews film local residents.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

Mudslide closes North End Road

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Surging water from heavy rain and melting snow undercut roadbeds and eroded road shoulders all over Salt Spring Island in addition to causing two major slides.

North End Road was closed Tuesday night after a shale bank collapsed and Cusheon Lake Road was down to single lane traffic Thursday morning following another slide. Rushing water also forced the closure of Morningside and Stewart roads.

Down to one-way traffic were Walker Hook Road, Beaver Point Road and Fulford-Ganges Road.

Although Fulford-Ganges Road was still open to one-way traffic Thursday morning, JJM Maintenance superintendent John Weighill said the damage to the road was among the most severe on the island.

The section just below Cranberry Road had been deeply undercut by water. Much of the gravel from the hill had been washed down and collected at the base near the Embe Bakery, he noted.

Crews were attempting to keep Beddis and Cusheon Lake roads

repaired in order to provide a detour should Fulford-Ganges be closed, Weighill said.

He was to meet with Ministry of Highways staff and geotechnical experts to review the situation at noon Thursday.

The group was also to review the slide on North End Road, which Weighill said was the other area which suffered severe damage from the storm. He wants to ensure the bank is stable before crews are sent in to repair the road. "It's not an easy fix."

He noted Douglas Road also suffered extensive undercutting and that Isabella Point Road also needs to be assessed.

He was unable to estimate the cost of the damage or when repairs could be made before the meeting with Highways staff.

Although the run-off and rain created damage to roads throughout the island, he said most of the repairs fell within standard maintenance and could be completed quickly. There was "a bit of slippage" on Walker Hook, slippage on Isabella Point Road and minor washouts island-wide, he said.

Two local contractors had been added to the JJM crew to help with repairs, he said.

• Weather coverage: Pages 1, 3, 4, 26

By TONY RICHARDS
Driftwood Staff

The power of the elements has never been more evident to Gulf Islanders and other British Columbians as in the past week. As if the record-breaking snowfall were not enough, warmer temperatures and heavy rainfall have created havoc on island roads and flooded homes.

Damage has been the most severe on Salt Spring, where on North End Road a huge slide covered the road and took out a power pole just after 8 p.m. New Year's Eve.

It doesn't look much better near the top of Ganges Hill, where heavy runoff has undercut the lower side of the road just below Cranberry Road, reducing traffic flow to a single lane.

At one point Tuesday night there was so much water rushing across the parking lot at Embe Bakery that firefighters were barely able to stand as they placed sandbags to control the flow.

All that snow followed by heavy rainfall and rapid melting have turned the Christmas season of 1996 into one islanders will never forget. And they'll be happy not to repeat it either.

As one Salt Spring resident said on Wednesday, "It has been one hell of a week."

The experience has been an unhappy one for those families who had to evacuate their homes and many others who were left stranded as waist-high snow kept them confined to their houses.

When an elderly woman was finally able to get her driveway plowed on New Year's Day, she shed tears of gratitude as she paid the contractor for doing the job.

But the experience has had its brighter side, too. As a test of local emergency preparedness, it could not have been more useful. Damage and hardship have been widespread but there have been no fatalities or serious injuries. Yet at the same time the emergency program has had its first real opportunity to determine how well it will function in a real-life disaster situation.

And according to reports from program personnel, it functioned very well.

But it was hard on volunteers. The Salt Spring fire department received its first call New Year's Eve at about 9 p.m. Twelve hours later firemen were still busy helping control floodwaters and checking on the safety of islanders who were trapped in their homes.

Many others volunteered time and services in a situation described by one official on New Year's Day as a near-disaster.

The weather forecast for the next few days is a much kinder one than islanders have seen in a while. For those who've been working on the front lines to deliver services, and for the many trapped in their homes for a week or more, the forecast will be a welcome one indeed.



Let's consider demographics in planning facilities

ArtSpring will be a well utilized facility for the next 20-30 years but the ice rink project favoured by local skating enthusiasts will not.

That's the immediate conclusion to be reached from reading one of the more popular Canadian books of 1996. Boom, Bust & Echo examines our recent history from a demographic standpoint, one that our society seems to have overlooked in most analyses of where we have been and where we are going.

The main reason why demographics have such a big influence on our world these days is that 19-year period over which the average Canadian woman gave birth to four children. The baby boom — along with some immigration — has created a huge population bulge that has a tremendous effect on everything from economics to health care.

It can also spell success or failure for projects such as an arts centre or a skating rink. It wasn't very long ago that arts groups were having tough times. People weren't attend-

TONY RICHARDS



ing live theatre productions and symphony concerts in the numbers they used to.

Today things are rather different. Garth Drabinsky's Livent keeps churning out the shows and people fill theatres such as Vancouver's new Ford Centre to go and see them.

But as Boom, Bust & Echo author David Foot points out, people haven't changed. They're simply acting their age. The nearly 10 million people in the baby boom, who are now aged between 30 and 49, are beginning to attend more artistic events. They don't want to go to rock concerts anymore. They'd prefer to see the three tenors or Show Boat.

Hence the good prognosis for ArtSpring.

The boomers are going to be a huge market for such facilities. But are they going to play ice hockey? Not according to Foot, who strongly advises that demographics be taken into account before planning the construction of new arenas.

Here's how the population numbers figure today, broken down into the "cohorts" used by Foot. Boomers themselves account for 9.8 million Canadians, nearly one-third of the population.

The baby boom cohort was followed by the Baby Bust, the period between 1967 and 1979 when the birth rate declined significantly. There are 5.4 million Canadians in this group today, aged 12-24. Some are skating now but for how much longer? Besides, hockey is not as big in this age group as it is for the next cohort.

The boomers have produced a mini-boom of their own but, as Foot observes, they "never matched the reproductive prowess of their parents."

In this cohort are 6.9 million people, now under 12 years. As one of the most popular sports for boys aged under 15, hockey rinks are busy places these days with echo kids.

Foot forecasts that demand for hockey facilities will peak in five years and suggests new rinks be built "sparingly and selectively" and should be adaptable to curling which is popular with an older population.

It was good to see ice rink enthusiasts helping out over the past year with ArtSpring, figuring that it made sense to finish that major project before beginning another. But most of the Ice Park Society members are boomers. Maybe in the back of their minds they realized they would be patronizing the arts centre themselves over the next 20 years.

Meanwhile, they'll be wise to look closely at demographics in planning their facility, along with the possibility of providing a curling surface. That's something else they'll want to do, between attending productions at the arts centre.

Crew taking abuse for slow sailings

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Don't yell at the crew. When the Bowen Queen slows down on the "meal break" sailings between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay, crew members would appreciate passengers swallowing their ire.

"People are getting really upset," said one seaman, who asked not to be identified. "We're getting a lot of harassment down there."

On four sailings — the 10 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay and the 10:55 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. sailings from Fulford Harbour — the Bowen Queen is slated to take 45 minutes to make the crossing instead of the usual 35 minutes.

The slower sailings are intended to give the crew 30 minutes for a meal break, as required in their contract.

But that information is not on the printed schedule and passengers become irate when the ferry slows down. One seaman remarked it is surprising a fight hasn't erupted on the ferry deck,

given the abuse showered on the crew.

Under previous schedules, the crew either didn't get a meal break and was paid overtime instead or the ferry tied up for half an hour to allow for a meal break.

The slow-down is more pronounced because the crew can only go on the meal break when the ferry is between Jackson Reef and Peek Reef, both of which are marked by navigational lights.

"It takes the Bowen exactly 30 minutes to go (at slow speed) from Jackson Reef to Peek Reef," a senior ferry officer noted. During that part of the crossing, only an officer of the watch and a quartermaster to handle the steering are required to be on duty.

The distance from Fulford Harbour to Jackson Reef can be covered in approximately six minutes and the distance from Peek Reef into the dock can be covered in eight to nine minutes. Allowing 30 minutes between the two reefs, the trip just fits within the allocated 45 minutes.

That senior officer had timed the 45-minute crossings for the previ-

ous five days and found all were made within the time limit.

That the ferry is delayed is due to other factors, the officer said. "The volume of traffic now is more than the ship can handle."

Crew are left with the choice of keeping to the schedule by quickly loading vehicles and sailing off or being delayed by taking the time to squeeze on every possible vehicle before leaving the dock.

The Bowen Queen is rated to carry 70 vehicles but the crew has been able to pack in as many as 86. But when that happens, the in-dock turn-around time stretches to 20 minutes instead of the scheduled 10 or 15.

Some relief is in sight with the B.C. Ferry Corporation's plans to test the first 100-car Century Class ferry on the Fulford-Swartz Bay run for six months this spring and summer.

Although that ferry is then slated to go to Quadra Island, at least one Bowen Queen crew member hopes the Century Class boat won't leave Salt Spring.

"Once something is in place, it's very difficult to take it away."

Saltie, Sechelt Queen not finished yet

Old ferries never die; they become fishing lodges or — in one case — gambling casinos.

The Salt Spring Queen, which served Salt Spring for many years at both Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius Bay, is to be converted to a fishing lodge. According to information from the World Ship Society of British Columbia, the Saltie, as she was known to islanders, will be the fourth ex-B.C. Ferries vessel to become a fishing lodge.

Another of the four was the Pender Queen, which was converted for that purpose about 15 years ago by Don Small and Alf Carter. "I wish them luck," Small said on Friday about the Salt Spring Queen's new owners. He said the vessel's conversion would require a great deal of work.

Built in 1949, the Salt Spring Queen has been out of service for about five years.

The vessel was originally named the Delta Princess and operated on the Fraser River before the Deas Tunnel (now the George Massey Tunnel) was opened in 1959.

Meanwhile, the Sechelt Queen, the second vessel to operate on the Long Harbour-Tsawwassen route, has been stripped to the car deck by a shipyard in Mobile, Alabama. Her owners had intended to rebuild the ferry as a casino ship but work stopped after Monarch Casino and Resort was unable to get the licence needed to operate in Indiana.

The Sechelt Queen replaced the Queen of the Islands at Long Harbour, the first vessel to service that route.

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Bedlam on the roads

This van, which slid off the side of Cusheon Lake Road Monday evening, was just one of many ill-fated vehicles that suffered a similar fate. A prolonged snowfall Monday coincided with homeward-bound Christmas shoppers and "rush hour" traffic to create havoc on Salt Spring roads.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

More weather coverage - Pages 4, 16

Firemen fight rivers of water

By **SUSAN LUNDY**
Driftwood Staff

Man battled water on the islands this week as heavy rains and melting snow turned into streaming rivers that rushed across streets, burst culverts and flooded basements.

Salt Spring firefighters spent New Year's Eve and the following day working in the pouring rain and using hundreds of sandbags to divert fast-flowing water from island homes and businesses.

"Some culverts were blocked and others weren't big enough to handle the water," said fire chief Les Wagg on Thursday.

Debris from the rushing water quickly plugged culverts and rising creeks caused further threat to homes.

Firefighters were called from New Year's Eve celebrations to begin bagging sand at about 8 p.m. December 31.

"Our first priority was to make sure lives were not endangered, and then to try and see that water damage was kept to a minimum," Wagg said.

Bags were immediately taken to Broadwell Road where Duck Creek had risen to dangerous levels.

The area around Embe Bakery also needed fast attention as water poured down Ganges Hill into the bakery parking lot. Debris flooded a culvert there, unravelling a ditch and sending an estimated 10 yards of gravel and dirt into the area in front of the Purple Parrot Restaurant and Harbour Food Market.

Food store owner Stan Lam said three feet of water filled the crawl space under the restaurant and firefighters attended to turn off the furnace and propane.

Other areas of concern New Year's Eve included Valhalla Estates and the corner of Isabella Point and Roland roads.

Wagg said Douglas Road was still impassable Thursday after rushing water had washed it away.

"The water just goes down like a waterfall and eats the roads away," noted Wagg.

New Year's Day brought a new wave of work for fire crews as islanders from all parts of Salt Spring called in, worried about flooded basements. Crews attended various homes, again attempting to divert the flow of water.

Flooding also occurred in several areas of Fulford Harbour, the worst being at the corner of Morningside

and Hilltop roads where the pavement was washed away in a cascading river of water.

At one point Stowel Lake apparently flooded across Beaver Point Road, and a man was evacuated by family members from a home on the quickly rising Weston Lake.

Fears of water damage in Ganges were exacerbated by extraordinarily high tides.

Tom Toynbee of Mouat's Trading Company said a great "mobilization of troops" prior to the thaw worked at taking the weight of the snow off crucial areas of the old Mouat's building that was constructed in 1912. Crews also worked at clearing Mouat's parking lot, dumping snow into the ocean and ensuring the drains were clear and ready for the pending melt.

Toynbee said only the lower level of the Chamber of Commerce building flooded — about an inch of water covered the floor — but this was due to the high tide which also dampened the carpet at the lowest level of the Mouat's building.

"I'm thanking my lucky stars that things went as well as they did," Toynbee said. "Let's hope it's another 80 years before it happens again."

Organizers cancel swim

Most polar bear swimmers on Salt Spring were disappointed with the swim's cancellation on New Year's Day. But about dozen people went in anyway despite concerns about safety.

Organizer Gary Ball said on Thursday the event was cancelled because it was felt the bank above Vesuvius beach was unsafe. Of

equal concern was the amount of septage being washed down the beach with the heavy runoff that came with the melting of the snow.

"There was so much water with septage in it draining down the steps to the ocean," Ball said.

The swim will likely be held on the first Sunday in February, he said.

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Photo by Barbara Woodley

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EVACUATED: Emergency crews help a bed-ridden Sally Jackson from her Salt Spring home on Monday after the roof began to cave in under the weight of snow. Jackson was taken to Greenwoods until the roof could be repaired.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Baptism by flood waters for emergency program

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

A meltdown of huge snow drifts combined with pelting rain gave Salt Spring's Emergency Social Services (ESS) volunteers a baptism by flooding waters when the volunteers swung into action Monday afternoon.

In total, five homes were evacuated but no injuries were reported despite the potential for tragedy given washed out roads and collapsed roofs.

One woman left her mobile home after the roof sagged under a load of snow. On New Year's Eve, mud slides forced one family on Cusheon Lake and one on St. Mary Lake to leave their homes, which were at risk also of sliding down the slope.

Also on Tuesday, a Broadwell Road family moved out due to the flooding of their home. On Wednesday at noon, an elderly, handicapped man living on Beaver Point Road was moved to hospital after his home was flooded.

Most of those leaving their homes found accommodation with neighbours or friends. Meanwhile, an estimated 150 volunteers pitched in to help with emergency services: transportation, filling and placing sandbags, barricading washed out roads, getting food and medication to those shut in by snow or flooding and answering countless phone calls.

"Hundreds and hundreds," said ESS director Sharon Crouse, adding that calls poured in from people seeking help and people offering help.

"Every time you hang up, the phone rings again. It's ongoing," said Ganges Sgt. Cliff Doherty.

Volunteers and agencies like police, fire and ambulance services were on standby by the weekend, anticipating the emergency. By Monday they recognized the threat

posed by the meltdown and a coming storm, held a meeting at 4 p.m. and set up a coordination centre.

The phone number was broadcast on radio and television. The first emergencies were four people urgently in need of medication and two people who needed food after days of being snowed in.

Operating 24 hours a day, the volunteers drew on an already established list of 50 resource people to unearth four-wheel-drive vehicles, ferry workers skilled in directing traffic and those able to handle communications.

In addition to those already on volunteer lists and those who stopped by the emergency centre in the ambulance station, Crouse said 40 to 50 people called in to offer their help.

There was lots to do.

- The 600 sandbags already on the island were supplemented with a shipment of 5,000 from the provincial emergency program. Volunteers gathered at Gulf Coast Materials to fill 1,500 of the bags. Volunteers also placed the bags in danger spots throughout the island to control running water.

- Volunteers placed barricades, traffic cones and directed traffic through or away from roads washed out or blocked by slides, including the slide on North End Road, and on Cusheon Lake Road. Especially dangerous was the concave washout invisible under the pavement of Fulford-Ganges Road just below Cranberry Road, which required one side of the road to be closed.

Broadwell, Stewart, Douglas, Beaver Point, Roland, Walker Hook, Valhalla and Morningside were among the roads either completely or partially closed due to flooding or erosion.

- Volunteers patrolled neighbor-

hoods, seeking residents in need of help as well as danger spots. They worked with the pharmacy to ensure medications were delivered to those in need and got home support workers out to their clients.

At the ambulance station, they maintained registration lists of those offering to help and those in need of help, matching the two. They also answered questions, including an inquiry from a mother whose children were missing after going to Pender for a camping trip. Through Pender's emergency social services volunteers, they were able to locate the children and confirm they were safe.

Building inspector Dick Stubbs worked New Year's Day to check buildings and ensure there was no structural damage.

All of those involved, from Doherty to emergency coordinator Chuck Hamilton, praised the volunteers who turned out to help, the efforts by emergency crews and the many donations of food and materials.

"There didn't seem to be any point on the island that wasn't affected by this," Doherty said. He noted police were on standby and had offers of help from elsewhere in the province but felt the volunteers and local staff were able to keep pace with the emergency.

Regional director Kellie Booth, who spent New Year's Day and part of the next day at the ESS centre, said those involved came from throughout the community and responded in a professional manner to the demand.

In addition to showing the mettle of ESS, Crouse felt the incident also demonstrated the need for emergency services.

"I think a lot of us have realized how insignificant we are. Nature will take its course," she said.

First baby born while home flooded

Salt Spring's New Year's baby came into the world January 1 despite the disaster swirling in his parent's basement.

Scott and Veronica Hylands left friends pumping out waist-high water in the basement of their Old Scott Road home Wednesday to deliver a nine-pound, seven-ounce baby boy.

A brother for Rebecca Hylands, Lucas Alexander Hylands was born at Lady Minto Hospital at 12:01 p.m.

His birth came on the heels of a nightmarish night for the couple, who watched six inches of water covering their basement Tuesday morning rise in 12 hours to over three feet high, despite the constant use of three pumps.

"It was a nightmare," Veronica Hylands said Thursday. "I'd wake up in the night (early New Year's

Day), look down the stairs and wonder 'how much higher can it go?'"

The water eventually rose to the third step. The couple's freezer and a brand new stroller could be seen floating around the basement.

Scott Hylands was in his bathing suit passing items from basement shelves to his overdue pregnant wife waiting on the stairs, when Veronica realized it was time to leave for the hospital. Lucas was born two hours later.

The water was eventually removed from the basement with the help of several friends who joined hoses together and siphoned out the water.

Lucas, who was due on December 23, kept the Hylands on edge throughout the snow storm last week as they waited for their road to be plowed.

Snow cripples capital, delays press schedule

Greater Victoria received even more snow than the Gulf Islands last weekend, closing all roads and shutting down services. One of those services was the press division of Island Publishers Ltd., where the Driftwood is printed every Tuesday night.

Press crews were scheduled to print the paper on Monday, a day ahead of schedule to allow for the New Year's Day holiday on Wednesday. But Island Publishers staff couldn't get out of their homes until Tuesday, when they discovered a 20-foot snow drift blocking the entrance to the plant.

To compensate for the missing paper on Tuesday a special edition of the Driftwood, containing only weather-related stories, was printed locally Monday night and distributed through newsstands.

Barring further freaks of nature, next week's paper will appear at the regular time on Wednesday.

Downed lines first indication of slide

By GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood Staff

Timing was everything for some people on New Year's Eve.

Dick Stubbs was on his way to help friends Hall and Elaine Theunisz keep a torrent of water away from their home at 1411 North End Road at about 8:30 p.m.

Elaine Theunisz was in her pickup truck a few minutes behind, having left her shift at Lady Minto Hospital to do the same thing.

Following her vehicle were Joe and Pam Adams in their truck. I was in a van behind them with my partner Michael and daughter Chloe, on our way to spend New Year's Eve with friends.

Brake lights and swerving by the Adams' truck halted our conversation. Suddenly we were all trying to avoid hitting a hydro wire snaked across our lane of the road. We couldn't see why it was there until we continued a bit farther. We stopped while Elaine Theunisz and Joe Adams turned their vehicles around and passed us.

Then we could see the downed pole and, as Michael manoeuvred the van to leave the area, another line came swinging by our window. It was impossible to see what was really going on or imagine what would happen next.

After turning around we could see Elaine Theunisz had stopped ahead and more wires lay in front of her vehicle. Visibly shaken, she came up to us and asked if she could get into our van. While Michael moved her truck to a safer spot on the side of the road, I called 911.

Not long before we encountered

the downed pole, wires and slide, Stubbs had just got out of his van in front of the Theunisz' place and heard the hillside rumble onto North End Road.

"It must have already been moving as I came by," he said.

"He missed it by maybe a minute," said Elaine Theunisz Thursday.

Thoughts of the bank giving way had occurred to both Stubbs and Elaine Theunisz, knowing its history and the amount of water pouring off the hillside Tuesday.

"I knew this hill isn't good," she said, recalling how she felt after turning around and trying to escape the area, "and I thought 'I've got to get out of here'."

An image of being swept into St. Mary Lake in her truck went through her mind. And although she "knew" she shouldn't get out of her vehicle, she found it impossible to stay in it or drive away and over the two more hydro lines that lay ahead.

Heavy rains are always a concern for the Theunisz — whose home is about 300 yards from the slide — even with a culvert which carries most of the water away. They had shovelled away snow to reduce the chance of flooding, but by 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, they knew they had to take action. Friends were called to help with a sandbagging effort which kept the water from their house. They stayed until 11:30 but were advised by authorities to leave and spent the night at the Stubbs' home.

People in two other nearby homes were also evacuated.

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1996: Another eventful year

There was nothing uneventful about 1996 in the Gulf Islands, as a perusal of the Driftwood's annual year-end review will reveal. Among the more significant events of note was the snowfall which came at the beginning of the year and again at the end.

A lot happened in between, a month-by-month summary of which follows here.

January

- A record 82 people plunged into Vesuvius Bay January 1 for the 17th annual polar bear swim, which was sponsored by the Arbutus Court Motel. A record number of prizes was also offered by island businesses.

- An Angus Reid poll found 53 per cent of 300 island residents dissatisfied with the performance of Capital Regional District (CRD) director Dietrich Luth. Twenty-eight per cent approved of the job he had done since elected in November 1993. The poll was commissioned by the ad hoc group Committee for Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring Island.

- There was khaki everywhere throughout a blizzard on Salt Spring January 20 to 23. Vancouver Island RCMP emergency response team members were called to Mount Erskine drive after local RCMP Constable Gerard Choquette was grazed by a bullet or rock debris caused by a firing gun while surrounding a house where Gary Douglas Bader was living with his parents. Bader's parents had contacted police January 19 when they became concerned about their son's unusual behaviour.

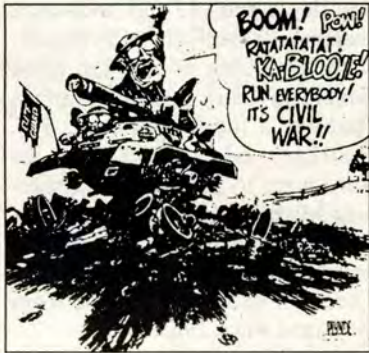
Bader evaded police and fled into the woods. He emerged January 23 and received treatment for hypothermia. He was later charged with attempted murder and a number of weapons offences.



February

- Life was returning to normal February 5 after a two-week cold snap delivered frozen pipes, empty oil tanks and stranded cars to those Gulf Islands residents who had not flown south for a winter vacation. More than 13 inches of snow had fallen in late January, followed by a cold spell with temperatures dropping to -10 C.

- Mediation sessions were under way to help resolve problems between Ganges business people and youths "hanging around" stores in the Harbour Building and



Mouat's complexes.

- Gulf Islands Secondary School Scorpions basketball team qualified for the provincial championships after earning third place in the AA boys basketball championships in Langley.

- Salt Spring Trust Committee gave first reading to a bylaw which would downzone Bullock Lake property owned by Salt Spring Island Village Resort from Commercial-4 to Rural.

- Gulf Islands Teachers' Association (GITA) took 30 grievances against the local school board to arbitration. The complaints were over class size and composition in five schools which GITA said violated their contract.

March

- Chester Ludlow went on a hunger strike to protest the "chemical soup" he said was caused by materials used to construct Gulf Islands Secondary School. Ludlow was refusing to eat until the school was tested for toxicity. He went on strike from March 6 to 16.

- Islands Trust Council passed its 1996/97 budget with an 8.4 per cent increase. The increase brought its estimated expenditures to \$3,302,325, up \$255,790 from the previous year.

- Two young men faced a variety of charges after they were apprehended as suspects in a break-in at the Core Inn youth centre. They had vandalized part of the building and a fire was set.

April

- Grantville Street resident Keith MacHattie faced legal action from the CRD after neighbours complained about his "unconventional" residence. Complaints had been made about his outdoor bathtub, scattered sheds and outhouse.

- Release of a 307-page first draft of the Salt Spring Official Community Plan (OCP) stunned a number of islanders by its sheer volume and complexity. Public meetings on the OCP, held through April and May, were packed and often nasty. The Salt Spring Preservation Committee was formed in opposition to the draft.

- Several sightings were made of a seal-like creature in St. Mary Lake. Fisherman Jim Shortt had seen the animal on a number of occasions. He was urging conservation officers to investigate.

- Gulf Islands School District would be seeking approval for a

\$300,000 deficit again.

- Salt Spring farmer and animal control officer Howard Byron died of heart failure April 17.

May

- Election fever warmed up May with seven candidates vying for islanders' votes in the May 28 general provincial election. Running were Liberal Murray Coell, Zino del Monte of the Western Canada Concept Party, Wally du Temple representing the Green Party, Reform B.C. candidate Ross Imrie, New Democrat Lynda Laushway, Progressive Democratic Alliance candidate Gary Lundy and Paul Tessier, representing the Natural Law Party.

- A proposal by B.C. Ferries to close Long Harbour was before the Southern Gulf Islands Strategic Plan advisory committee. The proposal suggested the money-losing route nine could be replaced by expanded service between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay. The committee was opposed to the idea.

- Islanders gave their input on the controversial first draft of the official community plan and trustees listened. Trustees agreed to remove some of the contentious development permit areas proposed in the plan and also to eliminate controls on the sizes of residential buildings.

- A Salt Spring musician died of a rare disease carried by rodents. The 43-year-old man caught hantavirus, which is spread by rodents. Later tests discovered deer mice on Salt Spring and in Ucluelet, where the man owned a cabin, were carrying the disease.

- Islanders were shaken by a quake in Washington state, which measured 5 or higher on the Richter Scale and was centred 30 kilometres northeast of Seattle.

- A new ferry schedule for the Fulford-Swartz Bay route had islanders scrambling to meet the new departure times. The new schedule re-arranged sailings to add more departures in the morning and also allowed the ferry to tie up for crew meal breaks.

- The Island Refugee Support Committee welcomed a four-member, Bosnian refugee family to the island. Money raised in the community was helping support the family for their first year in Canada.

- Gulf Islands Secondary School was denied accreditation by an external evaluation team. The team gave the school until the end of the year to rectify problems with its internal accreditation process and its growth plans.

- Liberal Murray Coell swept to a clear victory in the May 28 provincial election. Although island voters tended to support Salt Spring Islander Laushway — running for the NDP — former Saanich mayor Coell took the Saanich and Saanich Peninsula vote. Provincially, the NDP was

REVIEW 6

Happy New Year

FROM KELLIE BOOTH

At this time I would like to thank you, the people of Saltspring for giving me the opportunity to represent your interests at the CRD. If you need to contact me please call or fax my home at 653-4678. Any packages may be left at the CRD Building Inspection Office addressed to my attention.



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Kellie

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A Bright New Year Is On The Horizon



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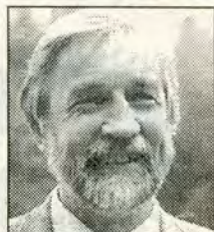
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elected to a second term.

June

• Salt Spring firefighters faced some tense moments after an old private bridge gave way under the district's mini-pumper. Fortunately for volunteer Bruce Patterson, who was driving the truck, the front wheels clung to the bridge and Patterson was able to climb out of the truck and onto what remained of the bridge. Moments before the bridge collapsed, an ambulance carrying an ill patient had rushed across the structure.

• An arbitration hearing into the hiring of Doug Bambrough as an English and drama teacher at Gulf Islands Secondary could have cost the popular teacher his job. The arbitration was over the seniority rights of on-call (substitute) teachers when applying for full-time jobs in the district.

• How control would be split between Trust Council and local trust committees marked debate at the June quarterly Trust Council meeting. Approved was a policy restricting the use of amenity zoning to uses which "achieve the object of the Islands Trust Act." Several trustees felt the policy would hamper local amenity zoning initiatives by individual trust committees.

• The Gulf Islands Teachers' Association suggested the school



REVIEW

From Page 5 district ask for more provincial funding to cover operating costs instead of asking teachers for budget-cutting ideas. The district was facing a \$300,000 deficit.

• A thief stole a pair of specialty discus shoes used by local athlete Chantelle Huth, who was working at Portlock Park. Huth was about to compete in the national trials and needed the \$100 shoes for the competition.

• The Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy fund offered to cover one-third of the expected purchase price to acquire the 160-acre Mill Farm on southwest Salt Spring Island. A court-ordered auction was forcing the sale of the unique property, which was on the market for more than \$1 million. The Salt Spring Conservancy was raising money to help purchase the property.

July

• B.C. Ferries, the Coast Guard and the military joined in a massive search of Active Pass after three passengers reported hearing a splash and seeing what might have been a body floating beside the Spirit of Vancouver Island. The ferry, en route from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay, was stopped in Active Pass for the search between 10 p.m. and 12:45 a.m.

• Local health officials welcomed a provincial government delay in implementing the province's New Directions health care program. The program would have put hospitals and other local health services under the jurisdiction of a local health council.

• A court decision upholding higher taxes for a bed and breakfast operation on Galiano could

lead to higher taxes for other B&B businesses on the islands. Area assessor Dave Hitchcock said classifications of other B&B operations could be changed, depending on the reasons behind the June 28 B.C. Court of Appeal decision.

• Mark Ward, creator of the award-winning Internet site Maple Square, moved himself and his business to Salt Spring to take advantage of Imagen's T-1 Internet access. The site had been named the best on-line service site June 25 at the Canadian Networking Conference in Montreal.

• Islanders sizzled in summer heat as Ganges weather observer Robert Aston reported highs of just over 90 degrees C. Rain was also scarce, following a drenched spring.

• Islanders turned out 100-plus strong to complain about proposed new policies for the Islands Trust. The policies touched on agriculture, amenity zoning and future requirements for island municipalities. They were to be adopted at a special Trust Council meeting July 29 in Nanaimo but the most controversial clauses were eliminated by trustees.

• A bid by Salt Spring regional director Dietrich Luth to bring the island into the regional parks function was estimated to cost islanders an average of \$26 per year to start, with the amount increasing as the Capital Regional District acquired more parks. The move was believed to be directed as bringing the regional district into a partnership to acquire the 160-acre Mill Farm and adjoining crown lands as park.

• Gary Douglas Bader plead guilty to a charge of careless han-

dling and storage of a .357 Magnum handgun. All other charges arising from the January 19-23 incident — which included a police stand-off and area-wide search — were likely to be stayed.

• Downsizing of the west coast fishing industry cost the Ganges Harbour a local landmark. The Heather Isle was sent to Vancouver to be sold after fisherman Michel Jutras surrendered his fishing license under the federal government's buy-back program. The boat had been fishing from the island since 1963.

August

• Figures from the Islands Trust suggested the total cost of Salt Spring's official community plan review would reach \$221,000. The second draft of the plan was expected out in September.

• Mountain bike trial rider Jeff Grant was hoping for a world championship as he headed to two international competitions. The top trials rider in B.C., he was competing in the Nova U.S. Championships and in an invitational meet. Winning both would give him the world championship.

• The Mayne Queen made an




unscheduled five-hour stop at Piers Island after it lost steering control. The ferry ran aground, stranding the 88 passengers aboard for five hours until the Mayne Queen could be floated off the rocks at high tide.

• A bid to ban bees on smaller North Pender lots had bee lovers buzzing. A proposed land use bylaw had proposed limiting beekeeping to lots of five acres or more.

• Gary Bader was found not criminally responsible for his actions last January, judge Brian MacKenzie ruled. Bader had pleaded guilty to one charge of unsafe storage of a firearm, ending a July 22-23 trial, but the

REVIEW 7

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Bullish about the new year

What's coming in 1997? We have high hopes, given some evidence from the last few months of 1996.

First, we anticipate greater cooperation among local government members. The recent public meeting on the Salt Spring Island Village Resort building permit debacle was attended by present and past trustees and the CRD representative and staff.

At that meeting, a CRD senior staff member and a former trustee both accepted some of the blame for the situation. Such an admission, or even a joint meeting, was unthinkable three months ago.

At the school district, too, we see more signs of hope. New superintendent Andrew Duncan has brought in an energy and openness that can't help but improve the district's ability to deal with its financial challenges.

And the newly elected school board, at its first meeting, decisively resolved the question of condom machines in the high school, an issue which had hung unresolved over the previous board for almost two years.

We hope this trend continues.

And we hope it spreads ... all the way to the Ministry of Education which must reverse its current policy of cutting budgets and services while maintaining current contracts, thus hanging districts out to dry.

We've also noticed an improvement in information from the local police. Being able to share information from police with residents does more than allow a bit of vicarious "cops and robbers," it also helps alert the community to social problems in its midst.

At the Islands Trust, Salt Spring Islanders voted for an interesting balance between environmental and economic interests with their choices for the local Trust committee, although it is too soon to see how these trustees will work together.

There's little doubt that we need to control growth and equally little doubt that we need enough economic activity to allow islanders to prosper. Perhaps there's room for both to be achieved.

We also welcome what looks like the end of contention over the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) appointments. At this time last year, islanders were embroiled in an acrimonious debate over the right of the regional director to appoint all PRC members.

The advent of a new, community-based process involving a number of people in recommending nominees protects the community against special interests seizing control of the commission.

There was only one trend on the islands marring the end of 1996 that we would like to see altered immediately.

We need better weather. Much, much better weather.

It brought out the best

It may have taken a once-in-80-years snowstorm, flooding and mud slides to prove it, but islanders can work together.

Last week's triple weather whammy of snow, wind and rain brought out the best in hordes of volunteers, who celebrated the New Year by stacking sandbags, guiding drivers around washed-out roads or manning an emergency phone line.

As a consequence, what could have been tragedy was reduced to annoyance.

Yes, there were losses but no losses of life.

Yes, people were snowed in but those in need received medication or food as required.

Yes, roads were hit by slides or washouts but no one was injured by a car sliding away with a road.

Some of this was luck. A car might have been caught just as mud and rocks slid across the road or the pavement crumbled. But once the slide or washout occurred, it was volunteers who put up the barricades to protect drivers.

It was volunteers who filled and piled the sandbags to control sudden streams of water, who answered countless questions and met needs ranging from clearing off snow-heavy trailer roofs to locating children on another island.

We can't control the weather. But by working together, we can mitigate its control over us.



P. LYNDE
DRIFTWOOD

New umbrella coalition sees hope for protecting forests and jobs

By VIRGINIA NEWMAN

A brand-new coalition has been formed to save what's left of B.C.'s ancient temperate rainforest, one of the most endangered forest types in the entire world. The Canadian Rainforest Network has its office in Vancouver, and, to date, has 20 member groups, including the Sierra Legal Defense Fund, Greenpeace, Valhalla Wilderness Society, Bear Watch, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound.

Ancient temperate rainforests cover less than 0.2 per cent of the earth's land mass and most of what remains today is in British Columbia. More than half of the temperate rainforest worldwide has already been destroyed, and logging companies intend to clearcut most of what remains in B.C. over the next five to 10 years.

"British Columbia still has choice. Either we stop clearcutting our ancient rainforests or we are facing a future without a viable salmon industry, without grizzly bears, without hundreds of plant species," says Ian Gill of Ecotrust Canada.

The forest industry claims it can't afford to stop clearcutting, that such protection measures will cost jobs.

"It is possible to put 4,000 people to work tomorrow in B.C. through commercial thinning of second-growth forests," says Allan McConnell of B.C. Wild. "Also, if we started making products like window frames instead of 2x4s we could quadruple the number of forestry-related jobs."

An example of ecoforestry which is happening right now is in the Slocan Valley in the Kootenays.

"Ecoforestry planning will end the polarization in forest communities," says Susan Hammond of the Silva Forest Foundation. Natives, loggers, environmentalists, and homeowners are meeting in community halls to endorse a "protection first" forestry plan that



VIEW
POINT

will see the annual allowable cut (AAC) reduced by 85 per cent.

"The good news is that special cutting, value-added products, and forest restoration more than replaces jobs lost to AAC reduction," declares Herb Hammond,

the main architect of the plan.

Another aspect of the forestry picture is the appalling amount of paper used by our high-consumption society. Do we really want to cut down our massive old trees to make mountains of advertising flyers and toilet paper? Human beings began making paper from water plants in ancient Egypt, and hemp was a source of cellulose pulp for thousands of years in China, originating around 8,000 B.C.

Happily, tree-free paper is now becoming available. An Alberta company with an office in

Vancouver is using wheat stalks for pulp; kenaf is another grain whose fibres are suitable for papermaking. The David Suzuki Foundation's newsletter is printed on non-chlorinated kenaf, an annual crop native to Africa, related to cotton and okra.

An acre of this plant can produce about twice the raw fibre in a single crop than a forest yields in 20-30 years.

Perhaps the most obvious source for tree-free pulp is the grain chaff from our prairies; the Alberta wheat stalks are being converted to paper by a company named Arbokem, with offices in Calgary and on the west coast.

There seem to be more and more ways to save what's left of our ancient forests; the availability of grain stalks is surely related to people's growing choice to eat less meat.

Perhaps we are beginning to see the powerful connections between our lifestyles and our environments. Hooray!

Virginia Newman is a Raging Granny and lives on Salt Spring Island.

Perhaps we are beginning to see the powerful connections between our lifestyles and our environments.

Gulf Islands
Driftwood



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SALT SPRING SAYS

We Asked: Did you welcome a white Christmas?



Betty Pinchin

Yes. The trees are gorgeous. We haven't had a white Christmas in donkey's years, so it's nice.



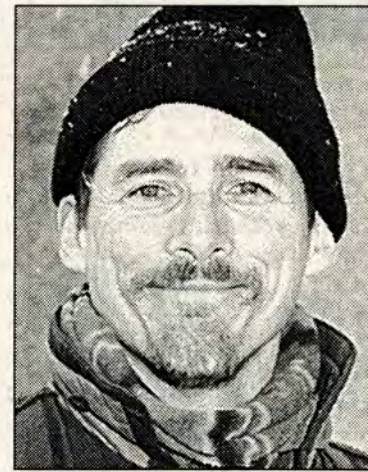
Dennis Andrews

Most definitely. Sitting in front of the fire and watching the snow come down was beautiful.



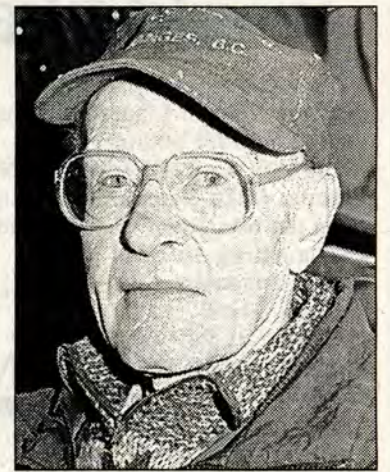
Barry Pinchin

The snow is beautiful — as long as it would stay off the road and in the fields for the kids.



Dan Clements

Sure but that's because I have days off and don't have to drive in it.



Lloyd Kinney

Not especially, no. It makes it miserable getting around.

Letters to the Editor

Overwhelmed

For many years I have earned my living by making things, many of which are purchased from me to be passed on as gifts.

As a child in England it was Father Christmas, not Santa Claus, who came down my chimney on Christmas Eve. Combine these two facts with my love of Christmas, and it is easy to see how I have often styled myself as "Mother Christmas."

This year with the help of the Driftwood and a great many elves, for a brief time I feel that I actually became that lady.

The story of the Christmas bears has been so well documented by the Driftwood I need not repeat it, but I am still overwhelmed by the generosity it engendered.

I would like to extend warm Christmas greetings to all the people who brought bears (as well as bunnies and several other cuddly species) or slipped a little cash into the box. You gave me the privilege of participating in a lovely Christmas story and confirmed for all of us the fact that there is something very special about our little island.

From "Mother Christmas" — a happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

PAT BARNES,
Long Harbour Road

Leave subsidies

It's not hard to see how the financial ineptitude of the provincial government is coming home to roost on the Gulf Islands. Consider B.C. Ferries.

By abrogating their responsibility re subsidies, the province has made it impossible for the ferry corporation to meet its service obligations to us. This is borne out by the fare schedule at Long Harbour. Rates are getting too high (to make it unpopular?).

The latest and most disturbing banter is whether or not islanders want fast ferries. The anti-everything mob seems to be all too willing to let B.C. Ferries slip us the dagger in the back. Despite the constant complaints that we hear about "the city pace," here

we have a group that seems unhappy with the calm pace of our ferry boats.

Have you all thought out, very carefully, just what ramifications you are inadvertently going to have us all saddled with as a consequence?

The highways, and thus ferries (an extension of the highways) are a government responsibility.

So what then is the duty of the province? Is it not bound in the same fashion as it is to roads and bridges? The subsidy to B.C. Ferries is not something that can be taken away. By so doing the province has told the ferry corporation to penalize any and all remote communities it can in its efforts to stay afloat!

What are the impacts of this on a thriving community bound by water? First, passenger-only service will be private enterprise. As the passengers "jump ship" to this faster alternative, several failings will become all too apparent. Fares for automobile traffic will rise sharply as ridership is diminished on the car ferries. This, of course fits in with the Ferries' plans to axe our car service in the long run. In the short term, I would ask those behind this ill-conceived idea to provide me with their best guess as to what this will do to the cost of living here.

The ferry corporation is now knocking the condition of the Fulford terminal and talking of the need for fare increases due in part to our having the dubious distinction of getting to try out their new boat. If the terminal is not up to snuff how will the ferry (Century class) they plan to use serve us any better than the one we have got now? Seems to me we get to be guinea pigs and get to pay more money for a boat we won't even have in six months.

Do you really think the fares will be re-adjusted back when we get back our old boat? So is this just another sneaky way for ferries to get more money from the poor so they can diminish service and up fares? Think about the cost to you when you feel like going off island with your car or truck, think of the fare increases

required to balance the books and what it will cost to get a semi-truck load of goods here. Think about what the cost on the dangerous cargo run and what that will do to home heating oil, tractor fuel, etc. We cannot and must not allow ourselves to be sabotaged by any groups that would cause us to fall back from the thresholds we have achieved. The cost has been too great.

We must insist that federal and provincial governments are not allowed to cut subsidies for remote communities. Not in the Coast Guard, not the lighthouses and definitely not our access to the rest of the world or vice-versa.
DREW CLARKE,
Ganges.

Chretien's dishonour

No one but a fool could disagree with your comments about Chretien. (Tony Richards, December 25). He has brought dishonour to the office of prime minister so I, like you, will not dignify a reference to him by using his proper titles. Have you noticed that he has either lost control of several ministries or, even worse, agrees with their assumption of powers that are usually only present in a police state. I am referring to the Department of Immigration and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, both of whom appear to have taken search, seizure and arrest powers that exceed those accorded to the RCMP.

Hurrah for bringing up the subject of profit! Unfortunately, too many people still think that profit is immoral. Do they not realize that corporations and businesses, both big and small, do not really pay taxes? We, their customers, pay their taxes as the tax is simply a cost element included in the price. Can you picture the boom in Canada's economy that would occur if all corporate taxes were abolished?

JIM EASTMAN,
Scott Point Drive

MORE LETTERS 10

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CAPSULE COMMENTS

with **CHERYL PERSON**
Pharmasave Pharmacist



• **When taking medication orally**, it is important to take enough fluid with each dose. Water is the fluid of choice and at least 8 ounces will do the job of getting the medication into your stomach. This is especially important if you take medication at bedtime.

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• **You doctor takes your pulse** as part of a physical examination. The first doctor to use the pulse as a diagnostic aid was the Greek physician Galen in 170 AD.

• **Peak-flow meters** are an essential part of good asthma control. They give an instant snapshot of your asthmatic condition. Check with your doctor about guidelines for use, then come see us for instructions on using one.

Another year has gone by and we would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 1997. Thank you for all your kind comments about this column. We look forward to serving you throughout 1997 with great service by our great staff.

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1996 a year that NDP would like to forget

VICTORIA - The year 1996 is one the NDP won't likely forget, nor will the Liberals. It was a year that provided a never-ending feast for political junkies.

January saw the reigning NDP government in disarray. Premier Mike Harcourt had resigned over the lingering fallout from the Nanaimo Commonwealth Society scandal, although he had nothing to do with it personally.

Polls show that the Liberals have a huge lead over the New Democrats and most observers believe an NDP defeat at the forthcoming election to be a foregone conclusion.

Also early in January, then Finance Minister Elizabeth Cull announces that the government would be bringing down yet another balanced budget. It is an announcement that will haunt the NDP a few months later.

CAPITAL COMMENT

HUBERT BEYER



In anticipation of the inevitable election campaign, the Liberals drop the first hints of a restraint program they will implement should they win the election. Still vague, the program calls for a reduction of the public service by 15 per cent.

By February, the NDP leadership race is in full swing. Glen Clark appears to be the anointed successor to Mike Harcourt, but Corky Evans is bringing a refreshing new tone to the campaign.

In a milestone development, the government signs an interim agreement with the Nisga'a over long-standing land claims.

As expected, Glen Clark wins the NDP leadership race and becomes British Columbia's new premier, but he's off to a bad start. Early in March, B.C. Hydro becomes involved in a major scandal involving an off-shore project.

Clark acts decisively, firing Hydro board chairman John Laxton and shortly after appointing former Socred cabinet minister Brian Smith as Hydro's new boss.

The new budget is introduced, and again, the government insists that it will balance the books. I point out in a column that the budget is a meaningless document that should be taken with a large dose of salt, a prediction proved to be right.

Just hours after the budget comes down, Clark calls the election. Polling day is May 28. Polls show that the brash new premier is turning things around for the NDP. The Liberal lead is shrinking.

During the election campaign, Liberal leader Gordon Campbell comes out of hiding, but too late. Clark succeeds in convincing voters that the province's finances are in good shape although, as it turns out, he must have known that we were, in fact, heading for a deficit.

On May 29, the NDP is back in the saddle for a second term, even though the Liberals got the majority of the popular vote.

By July, the icing comes off the NDP cake. Finance Minister Andrew Petter admits that instead of a surplus, the government will post a deficit. Subsequent revelations show clearly that the NDP knew about the impending deficit before and during the election campaign. The opposition and the media turn on the heat, accusing Clark of having lied to the voters.

Hard on the heels of the budget fiasco comes the government's decision to raid the Forest Renewal Fund to cover part of its budget deficit, despite previous promises that the fund would be inviolate for all time. It is the second issue that will haunt the NDP for the rest of the year.

The session is one of the most acrimonious ever to take place in the traditionally unruly legislative chamber. The budget blunder and the Forest Renewal debacle dominate the debate, and when the session is over, the Liberals are the clear winners.

For the remainder of the year, the government is under siege. Even commendable decisions such as the creation of a new ministry to deal with children or the salvage of Golden do little to improve the government's image.

In December, the Liberals score a final bull's eye. Reeling under a never-ending media and opposition barrage, Education Minister Moe Sihota caves in and resigns. The year couldn't have ended worse for the beleaguered government.

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

More letters

Apologize

In my letter of December 11, I wrongfully attributed the infamous quote about "governments can do whatever they like," to Mr. John Cashore. It was another provincial government minister, Mr. David Zirnhelt, who in an unguarded moment allowed us that rare insight into the attitude of our politicians.

If Mr. Cashore is offended by this accidental association of his name with what Mr. Zirnhelt revealed, I do apologize.

TOM VARZELIOTIS, Ganges

More on palms

I like your letter to the editor Norman Klenman, 'palms upward' is correct.

I know your garden and I've seen your palm trees, once when one was in flower. They are both excellent examples of healthy looking trachycarpus fortunei (Chinese windmill palms).

Here is some further information on palms. The reason two of your small palms perished from frost, and the others made it is because they all vary in hardi-

ness just slightly! Seed source has a lot to do with cold hardiness. Palm seeds collected from local trees are a lot more cold tolerant than California seeds.

Also, for some unexplained reason, windmill palms planted side by side will show different degrees of frond damage after experiencing a severe deep freeze. Mature climatized palms may never show winter damage, while young, newly planted ones may show heavy damage or even be killed.

It's best to protect young or newly planted palms for the first couple of years. For best results plant a palm in the spring in well drained soil and preferably out of the east winds.

In a few years with regular applications of fertilizer, you'll have a palm tree to brag about. I know of palms growing in Vancouver that have been in the ground so long, they are actually producing viable seed. That seed has been used to produce thousands of locally grown trees over the decades.

In some cases the seeds that have fallen on the ground at the base of the palm trunks are growing as if native. With a great climate like Salt Spring's who knows what the future holds when it comes to landscaping with palm trees and other subtropicals.

JOE CLEMENTE, North End Road

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Production Tech is hands on learning about filmmaking

By BEN CHOQUETTE

The Production Tech program at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) is turning students into filmmakers.

A course geared toward the technical aspects of drama and filmmaking, the program, commonly known as PrTec, shows students how to use cameras and other filmmaking equipment, along with useful techniques on how to film scenes. The curriculum involves three projects, with only minimal guidelines to allow for personal creativity. It is not a course in acting.

One very enthusiastic student is Rob McMahon. He is now on his second year of PrTec and is currently working on his first project of the year. One of his projects last year was a music video assigned by Doug Bambrough, the instructor of the course. McMahon chose a song by violinist Ashley MacIsaac and depicted the video as a creative, yet violent account of a farmer who found a man trespassing on his property and tortured him to death.

Despite the fact that this video is now censored to younger viewers, McMahon defends his creation's moral as being satirical of the modern nonchalant acceptance of violence.

The new film is a generic police movie that could have come straight out of the 70s, except for the post-modernistic alternative soundtrack. A short interview with McMahon yielded an insider's view of PrTec, as well as some interesting hints about his forthcoming production.

Q. Please explain your movie and how you came to choose it.

A. Concrete Law is a fast-paced, action-packed, gripping battle of wits between Carlito (the villain, played by this writer) and Sgt. Jake MacLeod (the cop, played by Balazs Bagi). The new movie is a satirical look at late 70s, early 80s cop shows such as Dirty Harry, Hawaii 5.0, Magnum P.I., Chips, etc.

Q. Describe some of the equipment the PrTec program has to offer in order to allow you make movies.

A. We have high-quality cameras, boom microphones, and an editing studio. The students are taught to use this equipment and become pretty much self-sufficient.

Q. How do you motivate actors and create believable scenarios with no budget whatsoever?

A. I ask my friends (writer's note: perhaps "recruit" would be a better word) to act in my films and try to avoid using fancy stunts that cost money. For example, I use cap guns, friends' vehicles for (mock) car chases, and strategically placed cuts.

Q. How do you cast your movies?

A. I choose among volunteers who would look good in the part, and those who don't we modify with wigs and masks. I always try to accommodate everyone who wants to be in a film. Also, we recycle actors by using them once, then modifying them for a different role.

Q. Describe the editing process of filmmaking.

A. You take individual video clips, piece them together in chronological order, and make transitions to alternate between the clips.

Q. Which methods do you use to direct? Who influences you?

A. In this particular movie, I've used the styles of Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez, and Kevin Smith, not to mention several of my own ideas I have experimented with.

The film, which is very possibly the most serious attempt at a true movie the PrTec program has seen yet, possesses many admirable and clever qualities.

For example, allusions to other movies are ever-present ("Say hello to my little friend!") along with a trait common to Alfred Hitchcock and Quentin Tarantino films. In this film, director McMahon appears in a minor but quirky role in his own movie.

The film will only span approximately half an hour, and will hopefully air on Salt Spring Cable in the near future.

The plot is generic and intentionally predictable. It starts with a casual bystander hauling wood when he hears a frantic cry for help. Investigating, he witnesses a murder and flees in his vehicle, and in turn, is pursued by the three goons in another vehicle. He phones the incident in to the local police after escaping the mobsters.

Sgt. MacLeod and his partner Lt. Hendersen receive the file and find that they nearly have enough evidence to put the mob boss, Carlito, away for a long time. Meanwhile, Carlito's men try to kill the two cops before they can receive a warrant.

A flashback hints that Sgt. MacLeod already knows Carlito, and the two are not on the friendliest of terms. In the end, the sergeant pulls up to Carlito's warehouse hideout and a shootout erupts. MacLeod sneaks in and confronts the deadly mob boss in a riveting game of cat and mouse.

It seems that the PrTec projects improve yearly, and with every guest speaker Bambrough invites to lecture the class, the students gain just a bit more knowledge. Despite the cutbacks to the district's budget, the program has managed to go on, thriving on the imagination of the students and the dedication of their teacher.



Jeremy Keating in the control room

Here's a soap opera that will not fail to entertain

By TIM LYONS-HOWARD

In every high school exists a soap opera: Who's dating who? Why are Jen and Neacol no longer best friends? Could it have something to do with Allison's pregnancy? Did Leah get raped? Why did Brook and Zoltan break up? True, some of these scenarios sound a little extreme for GISS, but not for our senior drama class, who performs the intense melodramatic episodes of "As the Semester Turns" for the school weekly. Crowds of people wait at the stage door each Thursday at lunch, eagerly anticipating the continued suspense.

In effect, the soap opera is a much

concentrated and exaggerated version of real highschool life and issues. Deceit, affairs, drug abuse, love interest and jealousy are just some examples of our popular soap opera themes. While anyone who has seen an episode would say that the issues are close enough to home that our fellow students can relate to them. This provides an opportunity for the audience to laugh at themselves, in some way offering a sense of comic relief to the very issues that dominate their high-school existence.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This event took place Thursday, December 19, 1996.

GISS Pages a student project

Welcome to The GISS Pages.

This four-page-pull-out section is the result of a cooperative effort between students at Gulf Islands Secondary School and the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

The contents, from writing and photography through to computer pagination of the finished product, have been produced entirely by students.

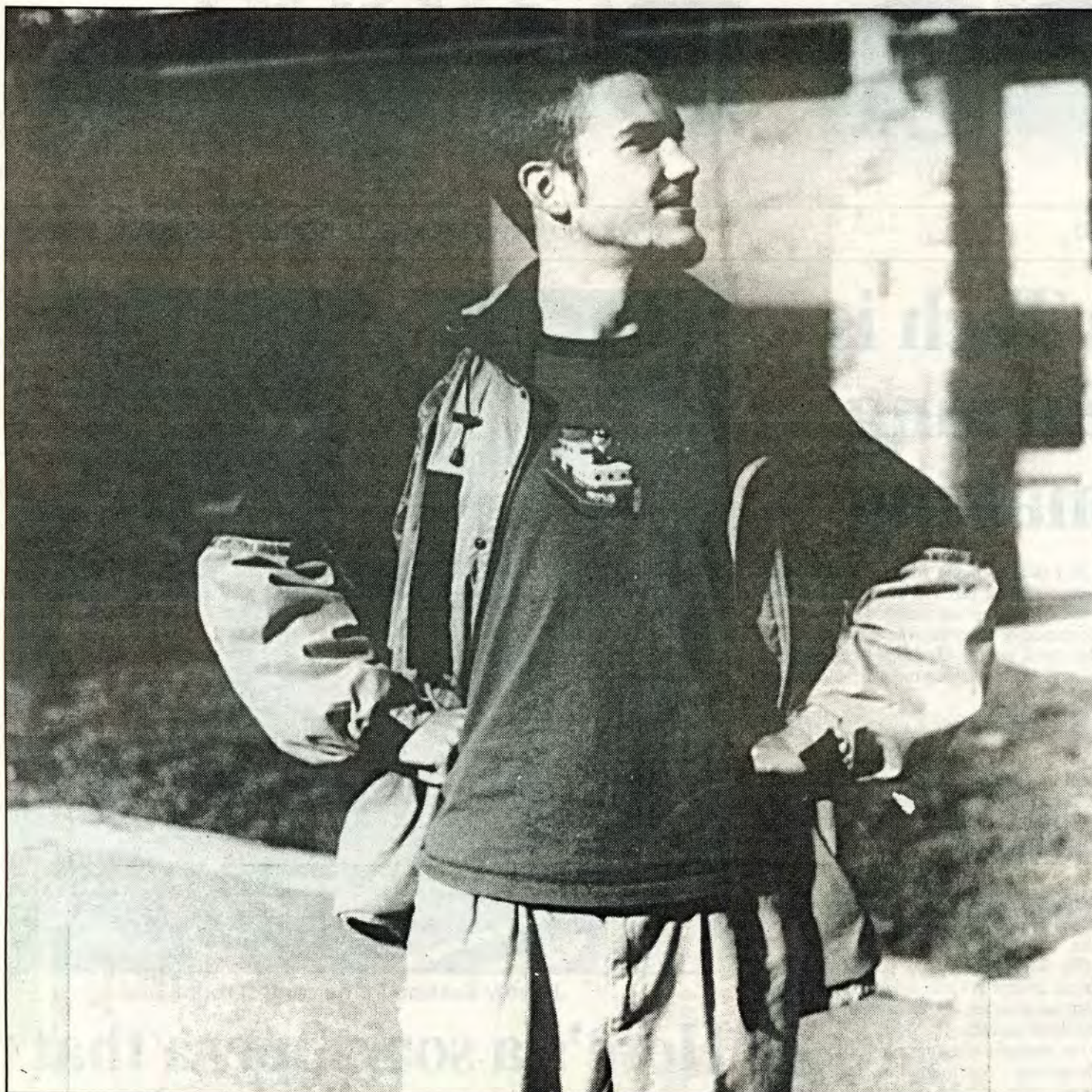
The section's editor was Ben Choquette; staff writers were Neacol Booth, Tim Lyons-Howard, Leah McColm, Jenny Storey, Chris Weinheimer, Gina D'Attilio and Travis Beals. Hanna Munneke was the photographer and Joel Carter and Travis Beals handled production.

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Jeremy Miller

1996 grad finds his dream career

By JENNY STOREY

Many high school graduates find themselves wondering what they're going to do when they finish school. Some enter post-secondary institutions, some work, and some have their dream careers walk through the door and meet them face to face. That was the situation for Jeremy Miller who graduated from GISS in June, 1996.

Jeremy had always had an interest in animation and had, during the past few years, been involved in the making of a few animated pieces. One of them was put on the Knowledge Network during the fall. He has also taught a class in computer animation with a film and television show on Galiano Island for the past few summers.

When he left high school he knew he wanted to pursue a career in animation and then, suddenly, the job appeared. Through a line of connections, Jeremy found out about jobs offered by Mainframe Entertainment. The company produces cartoons for TV, its latest one being Reboot.

Originally, Jeremy applied as a runner who does small jobs — no experience needed. He gave the company a video portfolio of his work which they liked enough to phone him back. They told him to apply for a job as an animator.

In the first week of November, Jeremy journeyed to Vancouver for an interview, during which he sat on a couch talking with the interviewer, and it seemed very informal. They told him he had to be strange to work there.

Jeremy credits some of his preparation to getting this job to Design and Computer Graphics. The course is offered at GISS and has proved helpful in his case. "Because of that class my dream is now a reality."

Shoplifting a problem but students stereotyped unfairly

By BEN CHOQUETTE

Are students victims of discrimination?

Many have often felt stereotyped, and seem to fill a negative role in society.

There is an attitude towards young people which is occasionally reflected in the behaviour of store owners and managers of small local businesses, perhaps because of the amount of shoplifting for which youth are responsible.

Are there more young people who shoplift than older people, and if so, are all patrons under the age of 20 punished for this statistic?

Theft is the invisible predator with which businesses battle every day. Stock is slowly depleted, causing inventory problems, which in turn forces merchandisers to raise prices to compensate for the loss.

In reality, we all pay for theft, not just the establishments which have been ripped off. It is difficult not to take theft seriously, if not personally. If our home stereo or our automobile is lifted, we feel a grievous loss and a sense of hopelessness. Would we not all like to catch these thieves, and show them a lesson or two?

It is this frustration which causes fingers to be pointed and discrimination to occur. One local store manager, who didn't wish to be identified, said there is evidence that students are responsible for much of the shoplifting. "I've been here 17 years and I'd say that 95 per cent of the shoplifters are students."

The same retailer also told of a case where a minor was charged for shoplifting and later linked to more serious crimes. Many of those who start out shoplifting go on to bigger offences, she said.

Of the other stores contacted for this story, none would blame young people for loss of inventory, except one man who sternly muttered about "undisciplined children." In this case, the retailer referred to curious toddlers under the age of five.

If minors are the ones who shoplift, how does that affect their general image? One shop downtown has a sign outside its window which restricts the number of students to two at a time during busy periods. The manager explained there is a lack of space for customers to move around. And, she added, "Just for the security of it."

Tim O'Connor at Island Star Video was taken aback by the question. "We're not wary of any of our customers," he explained. When faced with the shoplifting question, he explained that there is little to swipe in the store except snack foods, including popcorn (which is free) and coupons which are kept under the counter.

Only one store, the one with the sign in the window, admitted to keeping a close eye on browsing students. However, the manager spoke mainly of kids with large jackets, or those who walk into a store with their hands under their sleeves, "a ridiculous way to walk into a store," she said.

Most store owners were surprised when asked if a student had ever been angry because of a suspicious attitude on their part. All said no with one exception: "Well, they just have to see the other side of it ... We have to be suspicious, that's our job."

Why do all students suffer from this negative image? None of the retailers questioned admitted to having anything against students in general.

Sheila Johnson, a driving instructor who has a lot of contact with local teenagers, had an interesting point to make. "If you stereotype teens, then you have to stereotype everybody because there are just as many bad adults out there as there are bad kids."

RCMP Const. Gerard Choquette, who admitted that teens are more likely to shoplift than any other age group, spoke against age discrimination. "If I was a teenager and I was treated that way, I would go somewhere else. And I would tell my friends to go somewhere else. In that regard, students have a lot of power, the same as any consumer."

It may be true that much shoplifting is done by students, but it is definitely true that not all teenagers are thieves. Many hard feelings are caused by age discrimination, and many people believe that everyone, including those under the age of 20, should be treated unconditionally with courtesy and respect.

As Sheila Johnson said: "You can't look at someone and decide they're going to steal something from you."

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2. Appreciate and recognize diversity in student talents, including academic, artistic, athletic, social and organizational.

3. Believe that students should be at school attending classes.

4. Believe that a positive social environment is a key part to the school culture.

5. Believe that the school environment should provide security for all.

6. Promote the values of inclusion for all members of the school community.

7. Value and promote moments of awakening and insight that occur within the school community.

8. Believe that a strong learning environment is enhanced by staff working interdependently and collaboratively.

9. Build on the strength and uniqueness of our school which is in turn recognized beyond this community.

10. Value the important place of the Arts in the school curriculum and recognize how the Arts link us to the larger community.

11. Consider the success of everyone to be a common goal.

12. Value collegiality in the workplace and are prepared to enhance working relationships through social activities.

13. Seek honesty, openness and freedom in communication.

14. Use words like wonderment, cooperation, awakening, striving, love, acceptance, love, imagination, challenge and courage in describing their ideal of a school experience for their students and themselves.

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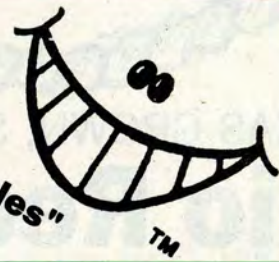
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WHITE SWAN
Bathroom Tissue 8 roll pkg. **1⁸⁸**

ALWAYS
Feminine Pads 18-48's **3³⁹**

DISHWASHING DETERGENT
Sunlight Liquid 700-950ml **1⁷⁸**

PREMIUM PLUS
Crackers 900g **2⁹⁹**

THRIFTY, WHITE OR 60% W/W
Bread 570g **88¢**

BYE THE SEA, IN OIL OR WATER
Chunk Light Tuna 170-184g **88¢**

ISLAND FARMS
No Fat Yogurt 175g **79¢**

SALT SPRING ONLY
All Boxed Chocolates **20% OFF AT CHECK OUT**

DAYSPRING, EXTRA FIRM
Organic Tofu 355g **1¹⁹**

SUNRYPE
Okanagan Apple Blend 1L **88¢**

HIGHLINER **HEAT & EAT**
Breaded Fish Cakes 100g **43¢**

FROZEN
Halibut Fillets 100g **1⁹⁸**

WILD, FROZEN
Coho Salmon Fillets 100g **1²⁸**

FROZEN
Pollock Fillets **GREAT FOR FISH & CHIPS** **65¢** 100g

POLAR SEAS
Clam Meat 1 lb bag **2⁹⁸**
MAKE YOUR OWN CLAM CHOWDER

HIGHLINER, COOK BEFORE EATING
Smoked Kippers 100g **68¢**

FROZEN
Gourmet Salmon Burgers pkg. of 2 **2³⁸** ea

Flowers and More

6" POT
Amaryllis **10⁹⁹**

Mini Cymbidium Orchid Bouquet **5⁹⁹**

6" POT
Aloe Vera **9⁹⁹**

Mixed Spring Bouquet **4⁹⁹**

BUNCH
Mini Carnations **3⁹⁹**

4" POT
African Violet **1⁹⁹**

Assorted Bulb Plants 6" **4⁹⁹**
4" **2⁷⁹**

Cyclamen 6" **6⁹⁹**
Mini Cyclamen 4" **2⁹⁹**

6" POT
Jade Plant **6⁹⁹** 

5 or more, (\$2 Charge Otherwise), Same Day Delivery on Orders in by 2:00 PM

Fresh Produce

TEXAS GROWN, SIZE 56

Rio Red Grapefruit

5/98¢

CALIFORNIA, FANCY
Blood Oranges 2.18kg



99¢ lb

FRESH SQUEEZED, TEXAS
Grapefruit Juice 1L

1⁹⁹

RIVER RANCH
Garden Salad 1 lb bag



1²⁹

LITEHOUSE, REG. ONLY
Salad Dressing 385ml jar



1⁹⁹

BC GROWN
Kiwi Fruit

10/98¢

-Specialty of the Week-
MEXICAN **Medjool Dates** The Cadillac of Dates! Sweet, tasty and full flavoured

99¢ 100g

MEXICAN #1, LARGE

Field Tomatoes

1.50 kg

68¢ lb

Quality Meats

CUT FROM CANADA 'A' GRADES

Baron of Beef

Boneless Bottom Round 4.37kg

1⁹⁸ lb

CUT FROM CANADA 'A' GRADES

Eye of Round Boneless Roasts

5.91kg

2⁶⁸ lb

THRIFTY FRESH

Regular Ground Beef

5lb pkg. or larger 2.16kg

98¢ lb

MAPLE LODGE

Chicken Wieners

450g

1²⁸ ea

SUNRISE, BC GROWN, ALL SIZES

Fresh Chicken Legs

Back attached 1.50kg

68¢ lb

MAPLE LODGE, READY TO SERVE

Chicken Polish Sausage Chunks

5.25g

2³⁸ lb

THRIFTY FRESH, NO MSG ADDED

Pure Pork Sausage

3.70kg

1⁶⁸ lb

HAMPTON HOUSE

Chicken Breast Nuggets or Burgers

907g

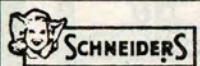
8⁵⁹ ea

THRIFTY QUALITY, COOK BEFORE EATING

Sweet Pickled Corned Beef

6.57kg

2⁹⁸ lb



CASH FOR KIDS



Schneiders will donate 5¢ for every package of their wieners or smokies sold at Thrifty Foods to the Variety Club. We will then match the donation dollar for dollar

Effective January 2nd to the 31st 1997

BUTTERBALL

Turkey Bacon

375g

3²⁸ ea

Your Home Grown Food Store

GISS says: What would make Salt Spring better for youths?



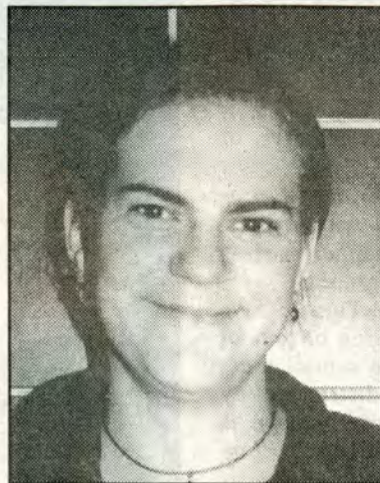
Asha Wheston, 15

Making things a little more available. If you are interested in something you have to look really hard to find it.



David Mott, 14

Starting school later—I've gotta commute every day



Mimosa Palmberg, 16

More youth-oriented course outside of the school



Lisa Stafford, 17

It would be good to have more alternative programs offered at our school. For example: music, forestry, herbology...



Cole Dobson, 17

A rec centre

Conference informative, fun, interactive

By NEACOL BOOTH

Upon a bench stand 15 teens, teetering and tottering, barely keeping balance. A girl, second to the left end of the bench, ducks down and a boy on the very end crawls carefully over her back, while she moves gently into his place. The boy then does the same procedure with the next girl, however, this time, when resuming his upright position his balance is not found. He leans forward and flails his arms, yelling "Oh, no!" as he nearly topples into the waiting hands of girls assuming roles of alligators. Quickly two hands grab him by the elbows and steady him, followed by a rain of sighs and a few nervous giggles. The game resumes, and eventually the goal is met.

Such was the scene in one of the teaching games on teamwork, planning and leadership that took place on the weekend of October 19 and 20 at the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Leadership Conference. Seventy students from five different high schools attended for one and a half days. Among the workshop topics covered were listening skills, values, personal strengths, co-operation as well as evaluation and feedback. Most students found it interesting, but all found it enjoyable.

In my opinion, one of the best parts of the conference was Saturday night. Off-island students and those from GISS who chose to stay in the school overnight for a lock-in-sleep-over. This was a great chance to meet new people and play a few more choice games. Three words used in an evaluation to describe the weekend as a whole were informative, fun and interactive.

Another point I'd like to bring up is that out of 70 attendees, approximately 55 were of the female persuasion. Could this be a sign that when generation X assumes the parliamentary chairs, more seats will be occupied by women?

I think activities like this should be right in the public eye as it shows student interest in leadership roles as well as teamwork and basic social skills. The conference is an annual affair, and I would recommend to any student, whether they be interested in the ideas of leadership or not, to attend, simply for the experience.

Budget cuts at high school mean fewer programs, fewer resources

By GINA D'ATTILIO

Students and staff at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) are painfully aware of the funds that have been cut this year. Nobody seems to know what is being cut, why it's being cut or where it's being cut but everyone seems to feel it.

Many students feel in the dark about the mysterious deficit though there have been little hints. For instance, Steve McColl mentioned that the weight-lifting equipment had to be returned. This happened last year when there was a miscommunication between the physical education department and the school board. It is a completely different story altogether but was still a clue to what was to become of the financial situation. Also a couple of years back was the paper shortage and the occupants of the school were told to use paper sparingly.

Many students are very upset and disappointed that the programs that were going to be offered had to be cancelled. George Howard said, "Three of my

classes got cancelled including one of my backups." There is also a feeling of helplessness among both staff and students on what can be done — if anything — to get ahead of the debt and at the same time still be offered the courses, programs and resources that are wanted.

John Bergsma, a course counsellor at GISS, said he's aware of the deficit and that people have brainstormed options to try to reduce it but he was not aware of any action taken.

He was simply told to "tighten up and be as efficient as possible." Many feel that "there is no way around the cut-backs" and we must merely make up for "the bungling of other people." This is not the attitude that one wants to instill in the students of our schools. We don't want students to go through life accepting everything because it's there and not even trying to change it.

Severe cuts have been made to the fine arts and applied technology departments. A student in the art program, Robin Schuurmans, said there are "so many

things you can't do, it puts a real limit on other people's talents." The students are limited with their use of paper and products as well as film and developing chemicals used by photography students. It is difficult to find funds to replenish supplies.

The technology department is also very worried and frustrated with the present economical state of our school. Dave Betts, who teaches CAD and DCG among other things said, "I've lost the rest of my learning resources." According to Betts, 35 per cent of his annual budget has been cut, totalling approximately \$1,700.

Things are not looking good for students destined for the work world. The programs that are currently being used are becoming closer and closer to being out of date.

More and more cuts are happening and that means less and less resources for teachers to use and less and less programs for students to be involved in. This is truly a tragedy.

School's new English program is challenging

By JENNY STOREY

A new English program has been launched this year at Gulf Islands Secondary School. In the past there has always been English 12 and Literature 12 offered to students. This year the school decided that it would combine English and Literature into one class for those who wanted both.

In addition, the school has added an Advanced Placement (AP) program which has left students with a heavier workload. However, the AP program gives students the opportunity to obtain a first-year university English credit. If the work required is completed and the AP examination is passed, they are not required to sign up for first-year English at a post-secondary school.

Grade 12 English teacher Paul Mackenzie says the idea for AP has been around for quite a while but there have never been enough students to bring in a teacher to teach it. This year the numbers went up and there is one full class for the English 12/Literature 12/AP program.

Carly Clark is one of the students who is taking the course. "It is a good opportunity for those who excel in English to get extra recog-

niton." Some, such as Katie Watt, enjoy the class but think it would be better if it was spread out over two semesters because of all the work. It is a fairly short period of time in which to grasp everything and store it in your memory. Students are often reminded to be constantly reviewing their notes so they will not forget them.

During the semester there is a broadening of knowledge and developing of certain skills. Students analyze English literature and study famous writers. They read and discuss classic novels, learn about the history of English and the theatre, study plays, and so on.

It is a class that requires a lot of studying and work but the rewards are nice in the end. For one, eight credits can be given for the class, instead of the usual four that a student receives. Anyone wishing to attend a university after high school will not be obligated to take the English course because they took AP.

Another benefit the program has is for your wallet. The cost of the exam, through AP, is a lot less than the cost of the exam at university.

For anyone willing to work hard, study more than usual, and take on a challenge, the results of the course will be very helpful.

Bookmark this site!

Gulf Islands Secondary School is pleased to announce our online Web Site on the Internet at:

<http://www.saltspring.com/giss/>

Smoking on the grounds: suspension too harsh

By LEAH MCCOLM

The war between students and the administration concerning smoking on school property continues. A group of school staff, administrators, and parents, known as The Committee, has set some ground rules for student smokers, causing much uproar.

Currently the rule states that no one (students or teachers) is allowed to smoke on school grounds at any time, to leave school grounds to smoke during school time, or smoke between classes. This is in support of the Capital Regional Bylaw (CRD) bylaw regarding smoking in public places and other efforts to limit tobacco use. Any student caught smoking in school time on school grounds is given an automatic suspension up to five days maximum.

Generally, students are not in favour of the automatic suspension system, and find it too harsh a punishment. "It's a waste of time," said one student. "It won't stop me from smoking."

Another echoed that statement. "If they don't like cigarette butts littered all over

the road they should put out ashtrays, or give us a shelter to smoke in."

One disadvantage of at-home suspensions is the amount of school work neglected, which puts the student behind in class and can even result in lower grades.

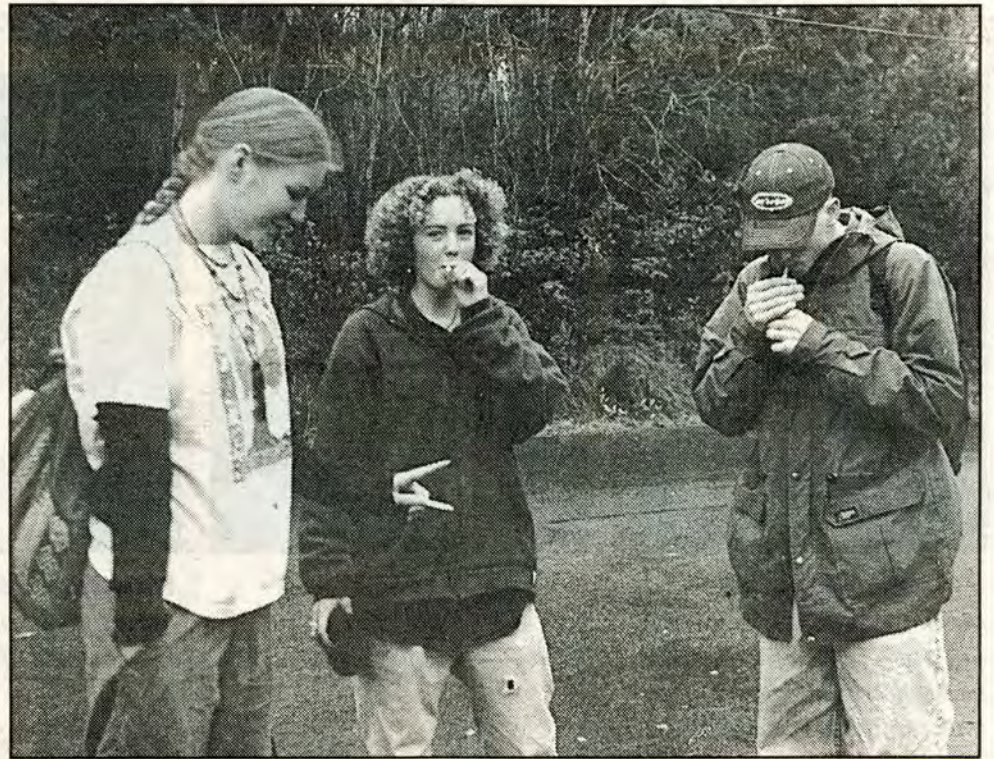
Vice-principal Nancy MacDonald says the main problems of smoking on school property are, first, that the school must obey the CRD bylaw and district policy and second, it creates excessive garbage, is a health risk, keeps students away or late for classes, and promotes smoking.

Many students, after having been suspended, have quit smoking on school grounds, so it seems to be working, she said.

The restriction is also in the interest of preventing the spread of tobacco use to children who take up the habit from peer modelling, says GISS psychology teacher Ralph Miller.

"Since the tobacco industry kills off 40,000 a year, their customers are replaced from among the ranks of teenagers."

Obviously, suspension is a worthwhile



SMOKE BREAK: Local students Clare Marks, left, Justine Wilkie, centre, and James Nicol have smoke between classes.

Photo by Hanna Munneke

solution for violence or seriously unacceptable behaviour. Smoking is neither. Furthermore, since many students continue

to smoke on the school grounds, we should be asking ourselves, is suspension for smoking really just a waste of time?

By CHRIS WEINHEIMER

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19). Avoid any rash choices, as the Christmas presence settles in. You may start to feel a very sharp mental awareness, so use your vibrant spirit to inspire others. Take time out to enjoy the sweetness of life, and to fully rejuvenate yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20). Work on your many positive expressions, your persevering nature can benefit you in your future. Appreciate the things that prove themselves worthy of time and beauty. Connect with your planetary ruler, Venus.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your present relationship might be making you feel overpowered by your mate's adventurous wanderlust. Just make sure one of your twins has their set of personal limitations... you'll need it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The crus-

YOUR HOROSCOPE

facean in you reflects your misuse of energy. At times, you act like an ocean barnacle, overbearing and smothering the feelings of others. Loosen your grip and accept the changes that come with existence. Let the tide carry you away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Presently, a great deal has happened over the last few weeks, leaving you physically elegant and dynamic, mentally, you are full of self confidence. Remember to carry out with your decisions. Your stubbornness is your worst enemy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are the type who fully enjoys romance. Look for other earth signs (Taurus, Capricorn), for a comfortable pace in a relationship. Avoid your intense attraction for your opposite sign, Pisces, as you are on com-

pletely different levels of awareness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). During the last few weeks, you may feel as if you have become spiritually or mentally drained. Remember your key phrase "I balance" Consider Tai-Chi, to create some personal harmony in your life. Take that dream trip you've been desiring.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21). Starting next year, you will begin to emphasize a period of increasing creativity and self expression. In romance, that confusing feeling of direction you want to pursue, will die, with the closing of '96. Watch for your soul-mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What better time of year to use one of your many positive attributes... your generous nature. Your Karma will prove

itself over time. Avoid standing on others with your opinions. Stay in shape.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most of the other signs look up to your sensible outlook on life. You are known as "The Pragmatist" of the Zodiac, always keeping everything operating smoothly. Be aware, that your natural sense of structure can leave you controlling and repressed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This year has been a year of sweeping changes. Now you can prepare for that needed stabilizing effect. This is a time of awakening and strengthening your opinions. Enjoy it!

PISCES (Feb.-Mar. 20). The planets' positions couldn't be any better for us, but why do we still feel so lost in our surroundings? We fish are known for creating our own realities, but as '97 approaches, we should face clear water, as we finally swim to our goals.

Does Sihota have confidence in public school system?

By TRAVIS BEALS

As Minister of Education, it is Moe Sihota's job to ensure that public schools maintain a safe, enjoyable learning environment and high academic standards. Just a few weeks ago, Sihota was touting the public school system. So why is his daughter enrolled in a private school?

Sihota originally came under fire for the source of his daughter's tuition, not for sending one of his children to a private school. Some believed that the logging company MacMillan Bloedel was paying his daughter's way as a payoff for favours received while Sihota was Minister of the Environment. Minister Sihota has since explained that the tuition is paid by his in-laws. The fact that Sihota's daughter attends a private school has not drawn much criticism.

Sihota claims that it was his 10-year-old daughter's decision to attend a private school. If so, why did she make that choice? Are public schools some-

how lacking, and, if so, why has Sihota not used his position to rectify this? According to Sihota, his daughter has an interest in languages (particularly Japanese), which is why she wants to attend a private school where Japanese is an option.

In a recent initiative, Sihota made Japanese and a number of other languages options for students in higher grades, but these extra languages are not currently available for elementary school children. Why not extend this initiative to include the lower grades? With the importance of Asian markets to B.C.'s economy, this could be a great help to many students. Most parents don't have the opportunity to influence and improve their children's educations in the way that Sihota can. How unfortunate that Sihota should choose to ignore this and send his daughter to private school.

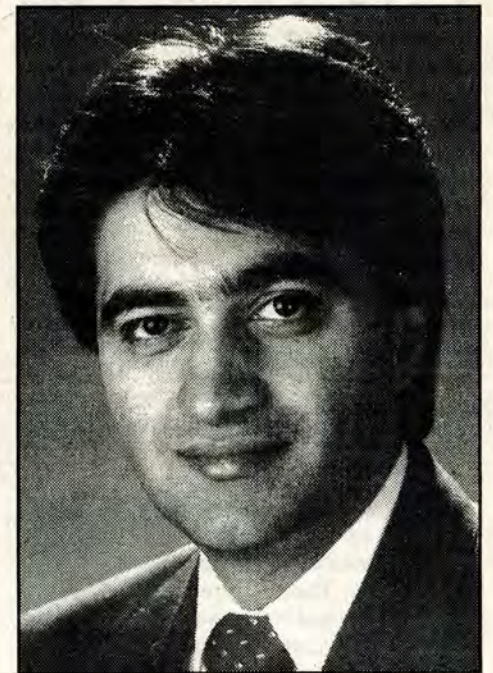
Sihota must know where his daughter can find a good education, and, seem-

ingly, it's not at public school. Imagine the uproar if the CEO of Ford drove a Mazda. Customers would take it as a clear statement of a lack of confidence in Ford products.

Sadly, this is only part of a trend. Many public officials send their children to private school while praising the public school system. Both President Clinton and Vice-President Gore send their children to private schools.

The first thing Sihota must do to rebuild confidence is send his daughter to public schools. Why should the public trust the public schools if the Minister of Education doesn't? By sending his daughter to a private school, Sihota is demonstrating his lack of faith in the public school system.

Editor's Note: This piece was written prior to Sihota's resignation as minister.



Moe Sihota

CONGRATULATIONS

...to the students and staff involved in the production of the GISS Pages

We were pleased to be involved in this project with you!

Gulf Islands
Driftwood

**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER**



Perfect pet

Rosalie Beaudoin holds her pet hedgehog, given the grand name of Olive — for “all-of the other reindeer” — by Rosalie’s father Henry Bade. The youngster and her pet were seen in Ganges on Christmas Eve.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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 GENERAL
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January 3 - 6, 1997

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

TOP 10 VIDEOS

1. Tin Cup(6)	6. Dragonheart(5)
2. The Rock(1)	7. The Frighteners ..(10)
3. Chain Reaction(7)	8. Eraser(8)
4. The Cable Guy ... (2)	9. Striptease(4)
5. Matilda(-)	10. A Family Thing(-)

(indicates last weeks position)

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DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 7
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The Stupids	Fled
Love and Shadows	The Dentist

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 Fri. & Sat. 11-10 / Sun. 11-8:00

WHAT'S ON

Your Guide To Arts & Entertainment This Week

Music

- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Open Stage every Friday night at 8 p.m. 109 McPhillips Avenue.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — Barrington Perry plays piano every Friday and Saturday evening starting at 6:30 p.m. 3106 Grace Point Square.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — Dance to a live D.J. from RSM Productions, Friday and Saturday, January 3 and 4. 121 Upper Ganges Road.
- **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. 2661 Fulford-Ganges Road.

- **Moby's Marine Pub** — Sunday Dinner Jazz starting at 7 p.m., January 5. 124 Upper Ganges Road.
- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Every Tuesday is Irish Music Circle Night from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Cinema

- **101 Dalmations** — A live-action remake of the classic animated 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 from January 3 to 6 at 4 and 7 p.m., with additional matinees on January 4, 5 and 6 at 2 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.

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Apple wood wizard

Salt Spring carver Michael Lees shapes a piece of apple wood into the likeness of a wizard in his Burgoyne valley studio. The piece was commissioned by admirers of Lees' work.

Photo by Derrick Lundy



Larissa Sayer, 16, produced cover art

A whimsical twist on Santa's reindeer-drawn sleigh took first place in the Driftwood's Christmas cover art competition for 16-year-old Larissa Sayer.

Sayer, a Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School, took approximately three hours to complete her pencil crayon entry, which showed Santa's sleigh soaring over rooftops, drawn by eight woolly sheep.

Sayer said she was doodling when the idea occurred to her.

"It's the typical Salt Spring sheep so I thought I'd do something with that. It seems cute."

Sayer's piece was published last week on Page 1.

Her details included bells on the sheep's harness, a green ribbon tying Santa's toy sack shut and a

glowing red nose for the lead sheep — a take-off from the legendary Rudolph.

The toughest part of the project was finding an illustration of a live sheep so she could capture the look in her drawing. "You'd think there would be a lot of pictures of sheep and I couldn't find anything."

Sayer said she has been drawing "according to my mom, since I was about two." She has lived on Salt Spring since she was six and has sold her drawings, watercolours and beadwork in the Salt Spring market.

Her previous creations have earned some honourable mentions in the past and some ribbons in the fall fair. Last September she won a trophy recognizing one of her



Larissa Sayer

paintings as the best entry in hobby arts.

She also created the whimsical dog house sign for the dog shelter outside the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library.

Her favourite mediums are watercolour and sketching. She hopes to become a professional artist.

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Driftwood



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REVIEW

From Page 7

- More than \$100,000 damage was done to Ganges Marina when gale-force southeast winds and high waves hit the island. The storm resulted in damaged boats and docks throughout the area.
- The second draft of Salt Spring's Official Community Plan was released just over two weeks before the election.
- B.C. Tel announced a plebiscite for 653 subscribers which would give south end residents toll-free access to Victoria in exchange for an additional \$6.50 charge on their phone bill.
- A final appeal to B.C. School Sports failed to allow GISS student Harley Comeau to play on school teams. The body refused to change its decision, leading the school board and staff to focus their efforts on changing the B.C. School Sports' regulation at the next annual general meeting. The trustees' complaint was also backed by the B.C. School Trustees' Association.

November

- Another operating deficit, expected to total \$300,000, faced the school district. Lower enrollments, changes in funding formula and unanticipated expenses were leading to the projected deficit. A retreat was held to discuss ways of tackling the district's ongoing financial problems.
- Public protests were staged in Ganges by residents who wanted to stop the Salt Spring Island Village Resort project on Bullock Lake. More than 100 people turned out to the first protest, which started at Bullock Lake, hit downtown Ganges and ended up at the Driftwood office.
- Closing smaller island schools, enticing paying students from off-shore and turning GISS into a summer convention centre were some of the ideas proposed at a brain-storming retreat on ways to handle the school district's ongoing financial problems.

ing financial problems. The district was also trying to arrange a meeting with the provincial minister of education to discuss the problem.

• Local elections saw new faces assuming new jobs across all five islands. Elected as Salt Spring regional director was Kellie Booth while Outer Islands regional director Jacques Campbell was returned by acclamation.

Elected to Trust council were Bev Byron and David Borrowman for Salt Spring; Larry Holbrook and Rich Tamboline for Mayne; John Money and William Sheffield for Saturna; John Rumble and Steve Wright for South Pender; and George Ravenscroft and Tom Ward for North Pender.

Elected to the school board were Charles Hingston, Jane Parlee and Judith Boel for Salt Spring; Bonnie MacGillivray for Galiano; Russell John Searle for Pender and Susanne Middleditch for Saturna. Mayne trustee May McKenzie was returned by acclamation.

• An early snowfall hit the island with 5.3 inches falling midway through the month.

• Salt Spring regional director Dietrich Luth lost his bid for a recount of votes in the November 16 election. He lost his seat to Kellie Booth by 47 votes.

• Hope for a new care facility on Salt Spring to deal with growing waiting lists were dashed when the Capital Regional District (CRD) announced it would not consider funding the proposed 100-bed facility until after the turn of the century.

December

• The province's New Directions/Closer to Home program was abruptly axed by the provincial government which announced dramatic changes to the system following a review of the three-year-old process. One of the changes was elimination of the Gulf Islands Community Health Council, which was poised to take over management of island health facilities.

• Salt Spring Trust committee asked the Capital Regional District to put a stop work order on the Salt Spring Island Village Resort project. The Trust maintained the building permits had been issued for the resort before there was proof of potable water.

• Donors flooded store owner



Pat Barnes with teddy bears after five bears were stolen from the Christmas display outside her Tangled Web store. She had planned to donate the dozen bears in the display for Christmas hampers. When the community learned of the loss, Barnes was swamped with more than 100 donated bears, which were turned over to Santa's Workshop for hampers.

• David Borrowman acted on his campaign promise to "bring home the Trust" at his first Trust Council meeting. He moved a study into moving the Victoria Trust Council offices onto the islands be included in the list of projects for the 1997-98 budget.

• CRD manager of municipal services Yoon Chee admitted the CRD could have handled the Salt Spring Island Village Resort building permit application better during a review of the process with residents and trustees. Former trustee Grace Byrne also admitted the Trust had not handled the situation well as the property was not downzoned before the building permits were issued. The CRD would not be dealing with a Trust request for a stop work order on the project until mid-January.

• B.C. Ferries and the union both agreed there would be no strike over the holiday season despite a 94 per cent strike vote. The union had been without a contract since October 31.

• Islanders were being reminded to post street numbers with a visit from a CRD bylaw enforcement officer. In three weeks more than 400 addresses on the island received warning notices, including the firehall at 110 Vesuvius Bay Road.

• The Driftwood launched its on-line version at <http://www.driftwood.bc.ca>. Included in the site was an online edition of the newspaper, the Gulf Islander visitors' guide to the islands and a copy of Island Living.



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Pat Burkette of Salt Spring had her wishes come true!



Retail merchant representative Marguerite Lee congratulates "Win Your Wish" winner Pat Burkette

Pat submitted the winning entry in our "Win Your Wish" contest.

Her ten wishes were supplied courtesy of the following local merchants:

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- Mouats Home Hardware
- Thrifty Foods
- Volume Two Bookstore

Happy New Year from your local merchants!

Audience likes Maitland show

By ALISTAIR ROSS
Driftwood Correspondent

Alan Maitland, narrator, and Sylvie Proulx, guitarist, entertained at the second concert of the 1996-97 series. The south hall was filled – and attractive with a lighted tree and other seasonable decor.

Anticipation in the audience was great, for many there felt they knew reader Maitland through his many years as co-anchor on CBC Radio's As It Happens. They were not disappointed. Here was the friendly voice they had known, matched in friendliness in the man before them.

Maitland read selections from Charles Dickens, Stephen Leacock, O. Henry, Robert Service, Margaret Atwood and others. Descriptions of the couple's adventures on tours made over the last three years in various parts of Canada were appreciated – a unifying influence to be sure.

Proulx's guitar was right for works by Albeniz and Piazzolla and for three South American dances, her playing secure and artistic. In the second half of the program she accompanied Maitland in several of his readings.

For the record

It was not my intention to do so, but in one of my submissions before the Trust and school board elections last November I gave the impression that some of those

GALIANO NOTES

seeking office were there to represent the interests of a particular group.

To clear the air, I include the following statement here: "The board of directors of the Ratepayers Association wish it to be known that their association is a non-political organization and has not been in any way a sponsor of any candidate in the recent election. The purpose of the association is simply to foster the interests of householders and property owners without prejudice."

Firefighters' year end

North Galiano volunteer firefighters enjoyed their pre-Christmas gathering. With a lighted tree atop the number one station, the faithfuls brought a quiet and uneventful year to a close in good fellowship. Short-staffed, with only 11 firemen at this time, the group would be pleased to welcome four or five newcomers to bring their force to its optimum number.

In South Galiano 20 members serve, some of them newly joined. Assistant Fire Chief Fred Stevens resigned recently due to business pressures. Long-time members, Fred and his brother Bill were honoured for 25 years' service at a

firefighters' gathering not so long ago. The community appreciates their long and faithful service.

Birds, birds, birds

Are there more birds around this winter? There seem to be. Literally hundreds of crows were here in North Galiano several weeks ago. Then there were the starlings, a hundred or so, seen noisily searching for grubs in the grass. Ravens are around as always, and smaller birds frolic at the bird feeders. At least a dozen varieties have been identified to date.

The annual bird count this week will verify whether there are, indeed, more birds around – they seem "to go into hiding" on bird count day. Hopefully an accurate account of the count will be available next week.

Pioneer visitor

Visiting Galiano in late September was Aileen Grubb, 97. Grubb is the last surviving member of her generation. Born on Galiano, her parents lived beside Active Pass at the turn of the century. On moving to Victoria, their property was purchased by farmer John Bellhouse and family, one of whose members later opened an inn on the site (Farmhouse Inn).

Eldest son Thorney and his wife Jessie operated the inn for many years. Jessie still lives on part of the original holding.

It's a winter to remember

By JENNIFER CATCHPOLE
Driftwood Correspondent

We will all remember this Christmas as the Great Snow Adventure of '96 – getting on or off the island, and particularly up and down some of our ski-slope driveways, has been most exciting. But it seems that everyone got where they were going somehow (including me – a tale unto itself) to celebrate with family and friends.

The Sunday carol sing at the church went ahead as usual, but the Christmas Eve service at the old church was cancelled, and no one seems to know if the carolling hayride ever happened!

I do know that snow and flu have been keeping lots of folks home. Kudos are due to the road crew, Pat Ropars and Barry Crooks, for keeping the roads open. Thanks, guys.

And now for some older but still important news. A Community Club meeting was held on December 16, and it proved to be a long one. There was much discussion about how members of the Advisory Planning Committee to the Islands Trust are to be chosen. A decision will be rendered at the next meeting.

January 11 is the date for the hall clean-up; call Barb Ropars for more

SATURNA NOTES

information and to volunteer for this most necessary task. Thanks went to Barb for all her hall work. It was decided that hall fees could be waived or reduced for non-profit or community service events; contact the club for details.

Used books from the library are now for sale for 50 cents at the top store, and the library is now allowed to have a used book table at the lamb barbecue.

The Community Club continues to support the police advisory committee to provide a liaison between our community and the police, and deal with problems in a general, not specific context. Meetings are once a month and open to the public. Call Barb for times and dates.

The Community Health Council has been disbanded, with thanks for all their good work. The Empress Hotel in Victoria has free rooms for islanders accompanying emergency hospital patients. We're getting a new ambulance in January, and Scott Pierce has joined the ambulance team.

Happy New Year!

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TAKE NOTE

OF THESE DATES

JAN. 8: SS Painters Guild, info meeting, Lions Hall, 9:30am-12:30pm.
JAN. 9: SS Weavers & Spinners meeting, Farmers Institute, 10:30am.
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.



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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.

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163 Insurance	450 Mobile Homes
164 Interior Design	460 Wanted
165 Lawyers	RENTALS
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Announcements

6 DEATHS

TYLER: WILFRED Philip, passed away at home in Duncan, surrounded by family on December 22, 1996. Born June 26, 1933 in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. Wilf is survived by his loving wife Irene; daughters Barbara (Helmut) Gruber, Pam (Wayne) Desjardins, Sharron (Robert) Tyler and Wendy Tyler; four grandchildren; Brothers Colin of Saanichton, Trevor of Winfield and Ron of Whitehorse; nieces and nephews. Dad will be sadly missed by his loving family. Special thanks to Dr. Dan Phillipson and the Duncan Home Care Nurses who made it possible for Dad to remain at home as he wished. A Service of Remembrance will be held in McCall Bros. Floral Chapel, corner of Vancouver and Johnson Streets at 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 9, 1997. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, 2206 Richmond Ave, Victoria, V8R 4R5.

8 CARD OF THANKS



The Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital Foundation

would like to thank the following Salt Spring businesses and individuals for their generous donations towards our recent "Nickel Sale" raffle:

Mouat's Hardware, Chris Gosset, Parkside News, Salt Spring Soapworks, Pegasus Gallery, Bevan's Hair Salon, The Plant Farm, Harbour Air, Sharon's, Ethel Davidson, Pharmasave, French Country Fabric Creations, Volume II Book Store, The Cottage Resort, Gordon English, Valerie Doucet, Marie Hopkins, Off The Waterfront Gallery, West Of The Moon, Leisure World, Country Casuals, Karen Davies, Mary Walker, Phyllis Meagher, New Leaf Papermill, Harlan's, Salt Spring Gems, Radio Shack, Love My Kitchen, Harbour House Hotel, Hastings House, Dorothy Thorsen, Laurel Gordon, Webs N' Things, Terry Simard.

We would also like to thank the Ganges Village Market for providing space for our display, and all those members of the community who helped out with this very successful fundraiser.

11 COMING EVENTS

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.

THE NO-EXPERIENCE-Necessary Musical Theatre Classes starting January. Ages 6 to 12. 537-1532.

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.

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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.

11 COMING EVENTS

URGENT COMMUNITY MEETING ON LOCAL HEALTH CARE

What happened to "Closer to Home"? Come ask questions and discuss the loss of our Community Health Council and our representation (or lack of) to the new Regional Health Board. **FEATURING:** Murray Coell, M.L.A. Monday January 13/97 4:30pm, Lady Minto Board Room. Hosted by: Salt Spring Island Health Association. Call Jane Parlee 537-9971 for questions or info.

"Studio Tour Map"

~ GENERAL MEETING & REGISTRATION ~ For participating studios, Galleries and new entries, the final draft on the 1997 Studio Tour Map. **Date:** January 8, 1997 **Time:** 7:30pm **Location:** Sophisticated Cow (basement) 133 Hereford Ave. Ganges. The 1997 registration fees will be collected at this meeting.

Gulf Islands Association for People with Disabilities ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday, January 12, 1:00pm Harbour House Hotel New members welcome.

T'ai Chi FREE CLASS JAN. 2 9:30 - 10:30 at CENTRAL HALL New Classes Starting Thurs. Jan. 9 9:30 - 10:30am Central 7 - 8:00pm SS Elementary School Music Rm. For more info call Tao 537-4487

AUDITION for the Comedy Thriller "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!** For further info call: 537-0609

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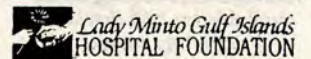
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14 COMMUNITY SERVICES

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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.

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23 IN MEMORIAM

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29 LOST AND FOUND

RING FOUND: in Anglican Church Sunday December 22. 537-9800.

DIAMOND STUD earring lost December 18 downtown Ganges. Reward. Please phone 537-9524.

FOUND BRACELET Saturday, December 21, near Glad's. Owner may claim at the Driftwood Office.

LOST: OR borrowed from dock at Burgoyne Bay, Large Dog Crate, Veri Kennel, with a peg board insert floor, no door, colour beige, sadly missed by "Spirit". If seen or in your possession call Walter or Damaris 653-4877, no questions asked!

FOUND ON Mansell Road a mountain bike. Call 537-2753.

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.

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

IF YOUR Driftwood subscription label has the date highlighted, now is the time to renew!

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Jan. 2/97 10% off
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Country Casuals
128 Lower Ganges Rd.
(across from Tourist InfoCentre)
537-5844

"THE QUALITY ONE STOP PHOTO SHOP"
Enlargements
From prints in minutes with Pictostat...
Only at:
APPLE PHOTO
105 Hereford Ave.
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30
537-9917

ATTENTION LAND OWNERS
•Contract Falling & Skidding
•Forest Management
•Competitive rates
•Prompt payment
•Local References
•Fully insured

TIGHTLINE LOGGING
Jack 537-9327
Ryan 653-9372

* REDUCE
* REUSE *
* RECYCLE *

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

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

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.

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

GRACE POINT CONFERENCE CENTRE

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

off the waterfront gallery
Excellence in Island Crafts
Christmas Sale
This Year Week After
David Barclay Wood
Meg Buckley Pottery
Kathryn Christopher Fantasy Jewelry
Two Danes Wrought Iron
Victoria Lighting Candles
Terry Warbey Sterling Silver
Wolf Wickman Hand Tied Flies and more...
10% & 20% OFF
next to the Post Office open Mon-Sat from 10 to 5
537-4525

35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL

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

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+.

CANADA'S BEST Meeting Place.
Talk openly to other adults for romance & more. All lifestyles welcome. Call 24 hours 011-592-588-758. Low id only 18+.

THE SWAN and The Rose Matchmakers Ltd.
1-800-266-8818. Why be lonely? We have people in B.C. sincerely looking to meet others for long term relationship.

ADULT VIDEOS. Order the best by mail and pay less. Free video offer! Free explicit catalogue, Discreet. HMC Video, 4840 Acorn, 2001, Montreal, Quebec H4C 1L6.

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.

42 TRAVEL
EVA'S TRAVEL TIP
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!
Best wishes for 1997 from Eva, Jamie, & Susan.
Come see us for all your travel needs.
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

Call us first at THE TRAVEL SHOP
537-9911
M-F 9 am-4:30 • Sat 9 am.-2

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.

MAKE SERIOUS Money. Looking for self-starters. Major company in rapid expansion. Work from home. No Sales. No Investment. High income potential. 1-800-353-9190. (24Hrs).

EXPERIENCED FORD Partsperson required immediately by Northern Interior Dealership. Minimum 3 years Ford experience. Fax resume to (250)992-8220 or mail to: Cariboo Ford, 266 Carson Ave., Quesnel, B.C. V2J 2B1, Att: Cindy Sandbach.

55 HELP WANTED

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY needs English and second languages. Customer service & management positions. P/T, F/T. 537-1456.

HOUSE CLEANER needed 2 to 3 hours per week. 537-4442.
WANTED OLD fashioned rub down and massage by amateur to elderly person. Apply 230 Cedar Lane, afternoons.

55 HELP WANTED

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 or Kathy Mara at 537-5056.

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 7 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.

ONLY THE Best need apply. Licensed Mechanics needed for busy auto shop in Whistler. Own tools required, apprentices welcome. Resume to: 2101 Lake Placid Road, Unit 2, Whistler, VON 1B2, Attn: Joanne.

CHARGE HAND H.D. Mechanics N.Vancouver Island Log. Co. has an opening for a H.D. Mechanic chargehand. Permanent Full-time position. Apply with resume by Fax (250)956-4888 or phone (250)956-3123.

PRESENT AND PAST U.I. CLAIMANTS ACT NOW
Free Employment Counselling and Assistance with Job Search on Salt Spring
Call For Appointment to Marta/Carol
Toll Free 1-888-993-2299

60 WORK WANTED
DREAMS WILL come true. Solid and beautiful renovations just for you. Peter Blackmore 537-4382.

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

SALT SPRING ESSO
COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS
ESSO Tires Batteries Accessories
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.

PROMPT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

DON IRWIN COLLISION LTD.
• Certified Body Men
• Expert Body & Frame Work
• Custom Painting
• Glass Work
• IBCB Claims
• Rust Check Service
537-2513
115 Desmond Cres., Ganges

FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IN THE DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

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

HAZENBOOM CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Ph. 537-1080 Fax 537-2556
Res. 537-2680
Box 374, Ganges, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2W1
• General Contractors
• Commercial Construction Management
• Custom Homes
• Residential Renovations

BESLEY ROSE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
CUSTOM HOMES
RON BESLEY
653-9160

LANCER CONTRACTING LTD.
•CUSTOM HOMES
•RENOVATIONS
•COMMERCIAL
Over 25 years on S.S.I.
653-4437
Perry Booth

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

137 CONTRACTORS

Villadsen Construction (1980) Ltd.
"QUALITY HOMES OF DISTINCTION"
231 Salt Spring Way,
Salt Spring Is., B.C. V8K 2G6
Serving Salt Spring for 32 years
Telephone 537-5463

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

BLINDS DRAPES and UPHOLSTERY FABRICS WALLPAPER
ABBEY WINDOW COVERINGS

ISLAND DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY
Grace Point Square
537-5837

THE BLINDS GUYS

FREE ESTIMATES AND INSTALLATION
Vertical • Roller • Venetian Pleated • Cellular • Screen
537-1737

148 ELECTRICAL

ACCENT ELECTRIC LTD.
ANDRE 537-2156
COMMITMENT IS THE PRICELESS INGREDIENT!

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

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

152 FIREWOOD

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
 • GUARANTEED CORD
 Cut, Split & delivered
 • Cedar fence rails
537-4161

152/tn

KONIG & SON FIREWOOD
 Serving Salt Spring 15 years
Competitive & Reliable
FIREWOOD LOGS WANTED
 (will compensate owner)
537-9531

152/tn

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



All Classes Of Insurance
OFFICE HOURS:
 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
 Monday - Friday

537-5527

Fax 537-9700

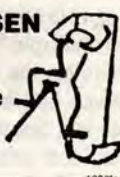
115 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Ste 1104
 Salt Spring Island, V8K 2T9

171 MISC. SERVICES

HAIR CUTS by Brenda. Barbering specialist, 20 years experience. Call for appointment. 537-1561.

183 PAINTING

TOM VOLQUARDSEN
537-5188
 P.O. Box 385
 Ganges Post Office
 SSI, BC V8K 2W1
 Wall papering & painting



183/tn

195 PLUMBING

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS CALL...

"Lee the Plumber"

* 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE *

Tel. 537-1068
 New and old construction

195/tn

201 RECYCLING

TIRED OF recycling? Great service, for pick-up, Zoe. 537-5790.

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

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)

244 WELDING

PROFESSIONAL MOBILE Welding Services, Stainless, Aluminum, Black Iron, Wire Feed, TIG, Mig, repairs and fabrication. 20 years experience. Call Lance 537-7222.

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.

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.

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.

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.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Include fix up around the home? We can help!

Windsor Plywood
 OPEN Mon.-Fri. 7am - 5:30pm
 Sat. 8am-5:30pm
 166 Rainbow Rd.
537-5564
 Fax 537-1207

315 CARS & TRUCKS

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.

315 CARS & TRUCKS

'85 TEMPO; NEEDS engine work; parts? New carb., battery, muffler and more \$500 obo. 537-0065 after 6 pm.

1980 DODGE D-50 pick up, 94,000 km. Good running order. Great island truck, \$1000. Phone 537-5119.

TIRED OF being stuck? 1981 Datsun 4 x 4 pick-up, new tires, clutch, brakes & battery. Asking \$1500 obo. Phone 537-9328.

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 1-888-583-9322.

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.

CREDIT PROBLEMS your job is your credit. Low payments, purchase or lease. Cars, Trucks, Vans, new or used. Trades welcome. Delivery anywhere in B.C. Adam 760-0602.

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.**

315/tn

327 EQUIPMENT

PLOUGHTRUCKS, SANDERS D-6 Cat, Four Hiab Trucks, Six Grapple Loaders, Six Lowbeds, Three Ford Loaders, Tilt Trailers, Excavators, Fuel and Water trucks, Seven Backhoes, Firetrucks. Call Vic (250)493-6791.

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

343/tn

350 MISC. FOR SALE

STORAGE TANKS - Polyethylene water storage, septic, Whitewater Mechanical Sewage Treatment System for difficult areas. Gulf Islands Septic. 653-4013.

18" SATELLITE DISH \$199. When you purchase one year programming for \$300. Total price \$499 US funds. Call: 1-800-555-5424.

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.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

BEEF BY the side or half side, \$2.00/lb cut and wrapped. 537-5356.

SELLING COMPLETE Gym. Has cardio strength and free weight. Like new. (604)877-0048. Ask for Lou.

January Clearance
20% - 50% OFF
MEN'S & WOMEN'S SELECTED ITEMS
STOREWIDE
Country Casuals
 128 Lower Ganges Rd.
 (across from Tourist InfoCentre)
537-5844

350/02

370 PETS/LIVESTOCK

PEEK-A-POO. 4 month old female has all her shots. Mother P/B apricot Toy Poodle; father P/B white Pekinese. No papers, \$400. 537-0072.

2 BABY RING-NECKED Doves. Ready for hand feeding & taming. 537-4763.

375 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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.

ARBUTUS SIDNEY R.V. Centre wants to sell your R.V. Three locations to serve you. Personal service on Salt Spring Island. Call Nick Reedecker, 656-6129 or toll free 1-888-272-8888.

379 FREE/RECYCLABLES

THIS COLUMN is designed for free recyclable items 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).

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.

FREE MATTRESS, 39" great condition. Free couch. 537-9648.

SIGHTFIRST
 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

379/tn

385 WANTED

SEWING MACHINE in working condition for teaching young girl. Needed by January 11, 537-4667. Thanks.

* REDUCE *
 * REUSE *
 * RECYCLE *

Real Estate

410 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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.

3 1/2 LEVEL ACRES; totally arable; 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 north of Ganges Harbour's end. \$325,000 537-5976.

Norman Rothwell

ISLAND REALTOR SINCE 1986
 WINDERMERE SALT SPRING REALTY
 Office: 537-5515
 Toll Free: 1-888-537-5515

410/tn

420 FINANCING

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

420/tn

460 WANTED

South End Listings Needed.
 I have several qualified buyers, ready to Buy.



PATRICK AKERMAN
 24hrs call 537-9977
 RE/MAX Salt Spring

460/tn

Rentals

500 APT./SUITES FOR RENT

1 BDRM. SUITE, new paint, bright, close to ocean, Malview area, separate entrance. \$450/mo. inclusive. 537-2476. Sorry, no dogs.

VESUVIUS OCEANFRONT. Magnificent views, 1 bedroom furnished suite, private entrance, also furnished room, cable, deck. 537-5638.

FULFORD VILLAGE. Two bedroom, comfortably furnished, cable, laundry, \$550. Small s/c suite, \$400. 653-2348.

2 BEDROOM, PRIVATE entry, parking, coin-op Laundry, storage available, February 1 97, \$675/month. Tony. 537-5363.

Don't know what to buy that someone who has everything? A Driftwood subscription is the answer!!! 537-9933 for more info.

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.

800 SQ. FT. RETAIL/office space on Hereford Ave. Phone 537-1045.

520 HOUSES FOR RENT

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.

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.

TWO BEDROOM rancher, private and sunny, large deck, close to Ganges. Suits couple or single person. N/P, N/S, refs. req'd. \$650/month. 1-604-531-6770 eves.

NEW UNFURNISHED 1 bedroom cottage, short term rental until April 1. No appliances. \$500/month. N/S, N/P. References. Robin, 537-5242.

2 BEDROOM HOUSE close to Ganges, 4 appliances. \$725/month. Phone 653-4266.

FREE JANUARY rent. Three bedrooms, spacious, comfortable, playroom, garden, storage. Malview, long-term, \$750. 653-2348.

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.

LARGE 2 BEDROOM Mobile. Fenced yard, view, available February 1. \$595. 537-1194.

Island Explorer Property Management Limited
537-4722
1-800-800-9492



• 2 br. suite, close to town \$550/mo, plus utilities,
 • 2br. Duplex Malview \$625/mo.

520/50

ISLANDS HERITAGE REALTY INC.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
 • 3 bedroom, modern home, wood stove, Now available, Long Term. \$1200.
Call Sunny 537-2198

520/51

530 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

CO-OP VEGETARIAN family home, 2 bedrooms available, separate bathroom. Prefer female, single parent January 1. 537-4271.

FULFORD VILLAGE room with view, own entrance, cable, utilities, laundry, \$350. Small suite, \$400. 653-2348.

2 ROOMS AVAILABLE in large, beautiful, casual, Long Harbour House. \$400.00 each. Call 537-2272 or 653-9600, ask for Jenny or Jim.

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

MATURE COUPLE and adult son need 3 br. 1 1/2 to 2 baths, home of moderate size for short or long term rental. N/P, N/S, furnished or unfurnished. From February 1. 1-905-274-9304.

Buy two classifieds and get a third one free! Cash/Visa/MC Only
Call 537-9933
 for details

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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 Kathy Mara at 537-5056 or Ellen Garvie at 653-4755.

PLEASE NOTE: Too Late to Classify ads are accepted only after 12:00pm Monday and before 12:00pm Tuesday at the rate of \$7.25 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.

COMPRESSOR, CONTRACTOR type, twin tank, 110/220 motor, U.S.A. \$400 obo. 537-4695.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

BACHELOR SUITE. Renovated, suitable for one. Non Smoking, No Pets. Close in. \$650.00 inclusive. 537-2446.

LOST: OR borrowed from dock at Burgoyne Bay, Large Dog Crate, Veri Kennel, with a peg board insert floor, no door, colour beige, sadly missed by "Spirit". If seen or in your possession call Walter or Damaris 653-4877, no questions asked!

BOB & SUSAN of the Music Emporium in Gasoline Alley thank Islanders for your tremendous support during our first Christmas. Lots of new CD's coming in. Bring us your used CD's & cassettes for cash or trade. 537-9129.

LOST BRIEFCASE, Saturday, December 28, Vesuvius Bay Road area, black, containing important documents. 537-1282.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

THE CARTER Family of Musgrave Landing wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone at B.C. Hydro, especially Rick, Jim and Ben, who were with us Christmas and Boxing Days, working under difficult conditions. See you next time guys.

COSTERTON FARM is now delivering organic produce and grocery items on a regular schedule. Call for info 537-5240.

EARRING FOUND Boxing Day in front of Work World. Owner may claim at Driftwood Office.

POTENTIAL B & B or home-based business? Beautiful views of Trincomali Channel from this 2433 sq. ft., 2 level, 4 bedroom home. Wonderfully quiet, clean and bright. \$279,000. 537-1037.

FOR RENT: brand new, open-plan suite, private, ocean view, N/S, N/P, \$700/month including utilities. 537-5067.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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Mahon Hall on agenda

Future options for the historic but deteriorating Mahon Hall will be discussed at an open meeting next Tuesday starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Ganges hall.

Organizer Herb Burnett hopes everyone who cares about the hall will attend.

"We want as many people as possible who would have an interest in the hall," he said. At present the hall is owned by the provincial Ministry of Education, given to the school district just before World War II.

But in recent years there has been no money to maintain the hall and for the past two years, the hall has been operated by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) under an agreement with the school district.

Burnett, a member of the Ganges Residents' Association, would like to see the hall operated by an on-island hall committee, like the other community halls on the island.

The residents' association had even passed a motion at one point backing the return of the hall to the Islands Farmers Institute.

Parks and Recreation Commission administrator Tony Hume said a study into the condition of the hall showed the structure was sound but a lot of work needs to be done if it is to be used for another 30 to 40 years.

"Structurally the building is quite solid," he observed. But the electrical system needs to be upgraded, the washrooms and the kitchen need work and a new roof is required. Although no formal work has been done to determine costs, Hume suggests the hall needs anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in renovations and repairs.

Burnett said an earlier meeting with some of the groups involved with the hall — the historical society, community arts council, residents' association, Salty Sweaters, farmers' institute and school district — suggested that efforts should be made to bring the hall under local, community-based control.

Burnett has invited 20 different groups to attend the meeting. "It's a call for all members of the community to come and sit down," Burnett said. "It's going to be a real democratic process."

Outer Islands storm damage less severe

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Emergency crews on Galiano Island have likely saved one of the island's main roads from being washed away.

Driftwood correspondent Alistair Ross said Thursday that water from Murcheson Creek, which drains all the land on the back side of Galiano, pooled up behind the road at Murcheson Bay.

He said sandbagging the area has probably saved the road which provides the island's main access to the B.C. Ferries terminal at Sturdies Bay.

Ross noted that flooding from heavy rains and melting snow has occurred in other parts of the island including Shaw's Landing, where the creek is eroding Porlier Pass Road, and Ellis Road.

"I also heard somebody's building site is completely under water," Ross said. "We have water lying where it never lies."

Galiano residents have also suffered frequent power outages this week, including one that lasted

about 24 hours

On Saturna, the storm wiped out power from New Year's Eve until Thursday, rain eroded road shoulders and a slide early New Year's Day closed East Point Road for four hours.

Telephone service was also out between Wednesday evening and Thursday noon.

Early in the week, islanders waded through snowdrifts. Lorraine Campbell reports a dozen people, including herself and her husband, were stranded at their farm for four days.

"We had a piece of the mountain fall," she said, noting there had been a rock slide on Mount Warburton Pike.

Pat Ropars, road foreman for JJM Maintenance on Saturna, said that area was still inaccessible so he was unable to determine if that slide had caused any road damage.

But a slide early New Year's Day did close East Point Road for four hours until it was cleared by the road maintenance crew.

Ropars reported some washed out road shoulders and said drivers

should be cautious.

He also urged islanders to stay off roads when it is snowing and not to park their vehicles at the side of the road, since the parked cars hamper road clearing efforts.

"We're all very tired," Ropars said at the end of a long week. "Spring is coming," he added hopefully.

On Mayne Island, RCMP Const. Terry McLachlan said the storm caused little damage and few incidents, thanks in part to the good sense of residents.

"They did the smart thing. They stayed off the roads," McLachlan said.

During the snowstorm Sunday, one boat almost sank due to the weight of the snow but was rescued in time. McLachlan picked up Dr. Jean Keegan-Henry so she could make a house call — after the doctor reached the main road from her home on cross-country skis.

McLachlan said JJM Maintenance crews put in 18 and 20-hour shifts to keep main roads clear and to save roads from being

washed out.

RCMP Corp. Henry Proce noted North and South Pender islands escaped major damage from the storm. There have been no road closures due to wash-outs or flooding and no major flooding.

By Tuesday night, he estimated, 90 per cent of the roads had been cleared of Sunday's heavy snowfall and by New Year's Day, he said, all roads were clear.

There were only two emergencies. One was an emergency evacuation Sunday night from a waterfront home. Proce used the police four-wheel-drive vehicle to take the doctor to the house, following a plow pressed into service to clear the road.

The Coast Guard vessel Skua then took the patient from the shore to Sidney where he was taken into hospital.

The second medical emergency occurred Monday when a patient was picked up by police and transferred by water taxi to hospital.

Proce noted the ambulance was snowed in until midday Monday.

High winds, mudslide keep Hydro busy

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

Hydro crews from around the province landed on the Gulf Islands from Tuesday night on, joining in a round-the-clock struggle to keep the lights on.

Hardest hit were the Outer Islands, where all power was wiped out by Tuesday night's wind storm. Wind, falling trees and heavy rain combined to cut power throughout the system, including knocking out a pole on Galiano's main feeder station, which eliminated power to Saturna and Mayne islands.

"It took everything out," reported manager Murray Smith. "We lost all the Outer Islands during the storm."

Also hard hit was the north end of Salt Spring, after a mud slide bordering North End Road affected 17 Hydro poles, transformers and wires. "It ripped things apart pretty badly."

Smith said that outage affected an estimated

1,000 customers on the north end of Salt Spring. However, some "fairly imaginative" re-routing of electrical power helped restore limited power to between 600 and 700 customers between Tuesday night and Wednesday noon.

The re-routing stretched the capacity of the system and could not be extended to the Trincomali Heights and North Beach Road area, Smith said. Both those areas remained without power from Tuesday night until Thursday.

Customers on the re-routed system were asked to restrict their power use.

"If we put just about one more customer on it, we would have blown it up," Smith noted.

Joining with island crews to work on repairs throughout the Gulf Islands were two Hydro construction crews from Nanaimo totalling five men, three linemen from Vancouver and three linemen from Williams Lake.

Smith noted most have worked 16-hour days.

Snow's weight sinks floatplane, destroys car

A record-shattering snowfall followed by heavy rains and a massive melt-down made Christmas '96 one to remember.

The worst of the snow started with a fall of 23.5 inches (60 cm) recorded by Ganges weather observer Robert Aston between 4 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. The storm added to snow already on the ground, bringing the depth to three feet in many areas.

Aston said the snowfall widely exceeded any previous snowfall he has recorded in more than 20 years of recording island weather.

As snow clogged island roads, B.C. Ferries cancelled sailings and Hydro crews struggled to repair power outages caused by snow-laden branches falling across lines. JJM Maintenance recruited Salt Spring contractor Norman Twa to

help its crews keep roads open on the island.

Only main roads were cleared during the height of the storm, leaving many islanders trapped in their homes.

The weight of the accumulated snow also caused some damage. A car owned by Jay Gillespie of Charlesworth Road was crushed when the roof collapsed on the garage in which it was parked.

Hanna Air's Cessna 185 float plane sank at its mooring on the north side of Ganges Harbour, burdened by three feet of snow on the wings. By the time owners Brenda and Randy Hanna arrived, only one wing and the engine were visible above the water.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000.

The roof of a mobile home on

Stark Road also sagged under the weight of the snow, forcing owner Sally Jackson to leave the home.

At Foxglove Farm & Garden Supply, two greenhouses collapsed, causing an estimated \$5,000 in damage. The roof on a shed housing pheasants also collapsed.

At Portlock Park, the tennis bubble collapsed Sunday, despite efforts to brace it by increasing the air flow into the inflated structure. Throughout the islands, there were reports of sheds, barns and canopies collapsing.

One islander reported to police that her deck had collapsed under the weight of the snow.

Firemen used their four-wheel-drive vehicle to help paramedics reach emergency calls when the ambulance could not be used

through the deep snow.

Aston's records underline the magnitude of the snowfall. The previous maximum annual snowfall during the past 20 years occurred in 1980 and measured 31.5 inches (80 cm.), the previous maximum snowfall during the same period occurred in January 1982 when 28.6 inches (68 cm) fell.

For December, Aston's previous record was 16.8 inches (47.7 cm) in 1984.

Total snowfall as of December 30 was 52.7 inches (133.9 cm). Aston noted that total is four times the average annual snowfall over the past 10 years, which stands at 13.2 inches (33.5 cm).

Total snowfall for 1996 had reached 78.7 inches (199.9 cm) as of December 30.

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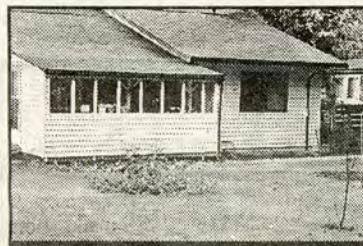
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Missing players don't prevent Slugs beating Nanaimo 8-5

By ANDY NAUMANN
Driftwood Contributor

Just as the snow started falling in Vesuvius, December 22, the Slugs boarded the Slugmobile, bound for Fuller Lake to take on the Nanaimo Red Wings.

We were missing a few regulars: Peter Huser, who was somewhere over the Pole with an eye open for Santa, on his way to a family celebration west of Zurich; and Deadstop, last rumoured to be singing A Holly Jolly Christmas in a mall in the city. Paul Sinclair, of course, is still convalescing. Their places were taken by our most consistent fan, Kim McIntyre, and our newest, Brenna, providing us with an incentive to perform.

So, we had eight skaters, two of whom were defencemen (Rod Chalborn and Brad Patchett). Stoppag filled in for Deadstop for the first period, leaving two spare forwards on the bench.

It took half the first period for the Slugs to become accustomed to the ever-changing line combinations, but finally they came through with the first goal. On a pass from Peter Schure, Todd McIntyre skated into the Wings' end, drew the lone defenceman and the goalie towards him and fed the puck to Pat Akerman who couldn't help putting it in the empty net.

Minutes later, Patchett, on their blue line, shot the puck into the corner where Akerman dug it out and relayed it to Chalborn in the deep slot, surprising their goalie with a long, hard shot. The Red Wings were getting warmed up too. Their first goal resulted from an under abundance of effort on the part of the Slugs' "backchecking" forwards to help their defensive unit in the face of a five-man Red Wing assault.

Their second goal came off a face-off to the left of Derek Topping. Stoppag, adding a new page to the Deadstop "How Not to Play Defence" manual, was caught flat-footed and open-mouthed, allowing his check to get his stick on a fat rebound in the crease which he easily tapped into the net to tie the score.

The Slugs regained the lead minutes into the second period when McIntyre's hard shot from in front of the Wings' net smoked through the goal-tender's glove and dropped behind the goal-line. He was set up by Schure and Chalborn. The Red Wings tied the score again on a close-in tip-in, as the Slugs were twirling like turn-styles trying to defend Topping. The Red Wings' wives and children roared, sending chills up the Slugs' spines.

But not for long. Our free-wheeling style and loose attitude resulted in chance after chance we just barely missed — hitting more than one goalpost and being robbed by their goalie's quick glove hand. Finally, near the end of the period, Patchett, who had left

the game with a partially separated shoulder, re-established our lead on a pass from McIntyre with a blast from the blue line.

The Slugs started to rock and roll. The third period turned out to be their best, beginning with a goal by McIntyre who deflected a hard, accurate Schure pass from the left wing into the crease under the goalie, as he was being mugged by a defenceman. The Slugs made it 6-3, after Patchett and Akerman, in turn, worked the puck into the neutral zone to Schure who dippy-doodled his way through the remaining Red Wings and fired a low shot past the helpless netminder.

The Red Wings scored twice more, but each time, Andy Naumann scored to maintain our three-goal advantage. The first time, Patchett chipped the puck up the left-wing boards where Naumann, a step ahead of their defenceman, scooped it up, curled into the slot, defending off his checker with his right hand, waited for the goalie to challenge him, dropped his free hand to his stick and slid the puck under him at the last

possible moment. Everyone was surprised, including Naumann, who hadn't made that play in 20 years.

The last Slug goal, salting the victory, after the Red Wings had made it 7-5, was banged in by Naumann parked at the far side of the crease, on a tape-to-tape pass from Schure in the corner.

During the slippery ride home, enjoying the Christmas spirit, we recalled all the games we've played so far, almost satisfied with our record of seven wins, eight losses and two ties against some very good teams.

We also figured out the scoring statistics: Schure, who's half way to the club record — 30 goals (28 assists); Akerman — 17 (16); McIntyre — 10 (14); Naumann — 6 (15); Huser — 8 (12); Patchett — 8 (9); Reynolds — 3 (13); Chalborn — 5 (6). Everyone else, of course, chipped in with contributions whenever they were able to play.

And, surprisingly, we ended our first half of the season outscoring our opponents in 17 games, 98 to 96.



Hockey at Burgoyne

Mount Maxwell provides a backdrop to ice skaters Jesse Weinert, left, Ed Carson, centre, and Hal Sheeter, who were playing hockey with friends on a frozen field in the Burgoyne valley last week.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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