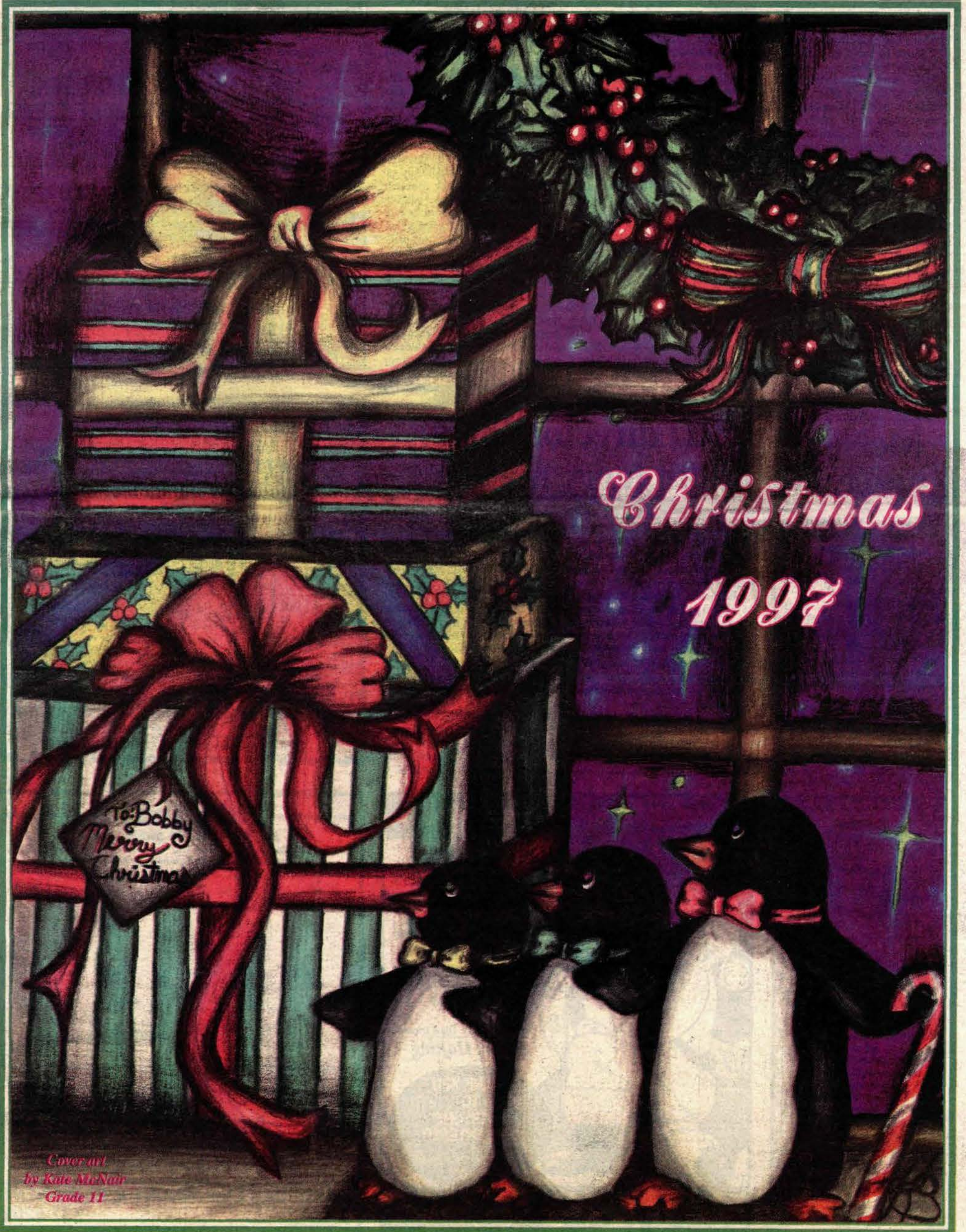


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# Gulf Islands Driftwood

Wednesday, December 24, 1997 Vol. 39, No. 52 Your Community Newspaper On the Internet at <http://www.gulfislands.net> Salt Spring Island, B.C. \$1.25 (incl. GST)



Cover art  
by Kate McNair  
Grade 11

# Ministry announces mediation

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

Islanders involved in the Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee are adopting a wait-and-see attitude over two changes announced last week, one by the province and one by the ferry corporation.

On Friday, B.C. Ferries president Tom Ward announced that the corporation would be split in two, with major routes like those linking Vancouver Island with the Lower Mainland forming one business unit, and minor routes, like those in the Gulf Islands, forming the second.

"B.C. Ferries essentially runs two kinds of services," Ward noted in a memo announcing the change. Major traffic routes have high volume traffic while minor routes are focussed on serving island communities year-round, he summarized.

He predicted splitting the services will allow each to be managed independently. Ward noted he is committed to cutting \$15 million from B.C. Ferries costs and increasing revenue by at least \$10 million over the next four years.

He also stressed the need for long-term and predictable financial support from the provincial government.

The Gulf Islands will be part of the new inter-island services unit, to be headed by current vice-president for finance Glen Brown. The changes take effect January 8.

"If this is a start of the rationalization — the downsizing — of the ferry corporation management, I'm all for it," Drew Thorburn, chairman of the Salt Spring Advisory Transportation Committee, said Friday.

Fellow committee member Ken Lee said he had been impressed by new president Ward.

"If this is his idea, let's give it a chance. If it isn't his idea, it's rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic."

A day earlier, Minister Responsible for B.C. Ferries Dan Miller announced the appointment of Saturna resident John Fryer as a mediator to meet with island representatives from B.C. Ferries' advisory committees.

Lee was surprised by the announcement, pointing out that the advisory groups had not realized they needed a mediator.

"What's the purpose of a mediator if we don't see ourselves in conflict?" he asked Friday, terming the move "the worst kind of political cop-out."

Thorburn, who initially described the mediator's appointment as Miller saving face, was among those who met with Fryer in Nanaimo Saturday. Approximately 30 representatives from different advisory groups were at the meeting.

Also present was fellow Salt Spring transportation committee member Neville Atkinson, who chaired the meeting. Advisory committee members agreed at the

outset that their most important objective was to force a retraction of the fare increases announced by the provincial government on November 14.

"We were adamant that the fares had to be rolled back," Thorburn said.

Thorburn said Fryer's mandate appeared to be explaining the government position — the need for more money — to ferry users and to take the ferry users' position back to the government.

"He was there to tell the minister what it was that we wanted and why we were angry," Thorburn said.

He noted that advisory committee members were angry because they had been asked for their input on fare increases and had strongly opposed them.

The subsequent implementation of fare increases by the government destroyed the credibility of the advisory committee process, Thorburn pointed out. An advisory committee whose advice is ignored is not functioning as an advisory committee, he explained.

Instead of increasing fares, Thorburn suspects the ferry corporation could increase revenue by improving services so more users take the ferry. Advisory committee members had planned another meeting for Monday in Vancouver but decided not to proceed until a response has been received from Miller.

"The ball is in the minister's court," Thorburn concluded.



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**McNair artwork on front**

Salt Spring teen Kate McNair is the Driftwood's Christmas cover artist this year.

The 16-year-old Gulf Islands Secondary School student produced the art that appears this week on Page 1. Her work was selected from a field of several dozen submissions by art students of teacher Sandra Locke.

It's the second time McNair's work has appeared on the cover of the Driftwood's Christmas issue. The first time was two years ago.

# CRD directors back Booth ferry motion

Capital Regional District (CRD) directors backed calls for subsidized ferry service and recognition of ferries as part of the provincial highway system Wednesday, unanimously approving a motion by Salt Spring regional director Kellie Booth.

The motion noted that ferries are an integral part of the transportation link and highways system within the province and called on the provincial government, the ferry corporation and communities connected by ferry service to:

- establish a meaningful consultation process;
- conduct an independent audit of the ferry corporation;
- recognize the ferry system as the provincial highway to each community;

• reinstate traditional subsidies to the system following a complete overhaul of the corporate structure.

Directors also demanded that B.C. Premier Glen Clark, Minister Responsible for B.C. Ferries Dan Miller and Finance Minister Andrew Petter meet immediately with elected representatives from communities served by B.C. Ferries to discuss the future direction of the government and the B.C. Ferry Corporation.

Director Frank Leonard of Saanich noted the Association of Vancouver Island Municipalities (AVIM) had approved a similar resolution as have the Comox-Strathcona and Campbell River regional districts. Leonard is the CRD representative on the AVIM.

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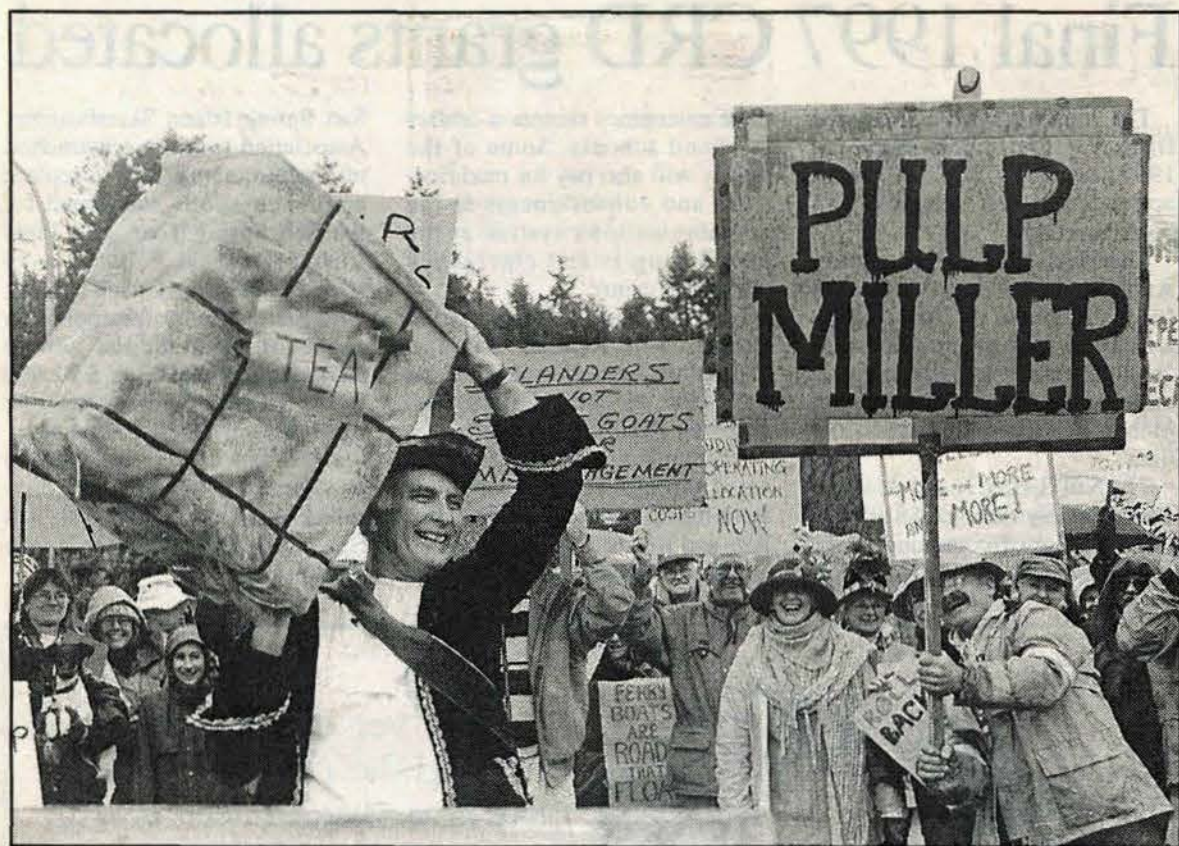
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| 25 TH  | 0345 | 9.1  | 29 MO | 0620 | 10.9 |
|        | 0705 | 8.6  |       | 1050 | 9.2  |
|        | 1235 | 10.5 |       | 1455 | 10.3 |
|        | 2025 | 3.3  |       | 2240 | 1.1  |
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|        | 0810 | 9.0  |       | 1140 | 9.1  |
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|        | 2055 | 2.6  |       | 2320 | 1.0  |
| 27 SA  | 0510 | 10.2 | 31 WE | 0725 | 11.3 |
|        | 0910 | 9.2  |       | 1230 | 8.9  |
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## Islanders protest ferry fares at Boston Tea Party styled event

By VALORIE LENNOX  
Driftwood Staff

It was cold, it was wet but islanders still worked up a good head of steam Friday at the Salt Spring "tea party" protest over the hike in ferry fares.

Despite chilly temperatures and steady rain, approximately 120 islanders gathered at the Fulford ferry terminal for the protest, organized by the Salt Spring Advisory Transportation Committee and the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

Handling the bullhorn was transportation committee member Ken Lee, resplendent in the 18th-century frock coat and tri-cornered hat which he donned for his role as Phineas Fulford, an import from the original Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1776.

Obviously practised in protesting arbitrary regulations, he led the crowd in chants against "King Glen (Clark)" and "Lord (Dan) Miller."

He also observed that the "time machine" which brought him to 1997, disguised as Eric Booth's pig farm truck, made a mis-turn and originally dumped the travellers in the year 2001. By then, Lee — er — Phineas said, only four people still rode the Gulf Islands ferry routes and B.C. Ferries, attempting to break even, had raised the fares to \$250,000 per round trip for car and driver.

Salt Spring's Raging Grannies continued the barbed tone of the protest with two numbers, Barnacle Dan the Pirate, aimed at Minister Responsible for B.C. Ferries Dan Miller, and My Daughter Lies Over the Ocean, the lament of a family divided by the high cost of ferry

fares.

Artist Robert Bateman said he believed islanders received wonderful service from the ferry staff but he said the protest was directed against the management and the government's mistaken priorities. The ferry system is part of the province's transportation system, he said, a position stressed by signs and many of the speakers.

Salt Spring Trust Committee member David Borrowman said the ferry corporation's plans would transform Fulford, extending the terminal parking lot all the way up the Fulford hill. He also praised the work and expertise of the Southern Gulf Islands Ferry Advisory Committee.

"You need to have your ferries serve you at reasonable cost," said Doug Symonds, ferry critic for the Liberal opposition.

He called for an audit of B.C. Ferries as a way to get the ferry corporation on a strong fiscal footing.

He pointed out the government is using B.C. Ferries as a way to try and build ferries for worldwide sales.

Symonds also criticized the timing of the fare increase, announced November 14, noting that the Gulf Islands ferry advisory committee was close to making its final recommendation on ferry service when the increase was announced.

Paul Reitsman, Liberal deputy critic for small business, tourism and culture, arrived on the 1:15 p.m. sailing from Swartz Bay in time to speak to the protesters. He noted that mile zero of the Trans Canada Highway still starts at Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, proving the ferries are part of the transportation net-

work.

He also criticized the previous day's announcement that John Fryer had been appointed as a mediator between ferries advisory groups and Miller. "John Fryer's appointment has the same credibility and usefulness as asking Colonel Saunders to be speaker at a chicken convention," he said.

Salt Spring regional director Kellie Booth raised three points. She noted B.C. Premier Glen Clark argues for equality for all provinces when dealing with the federal government but does not offer the same equality when handing out subsidies to transportation systems. She cited the high financial support given by the province to public transit.

The uncertainty over government subsidization of B.C. Ferries is harming the economic base of coastal communities, she said.

She also questioned Fryer's appointment, noting that both sides of a dispute usually agree on mediation and on a mediator but in this case, both were chosen by the government.

Salt Spring Chamber manager Melva Geldreich called for a B.C. Ferries audit and a reversal of the fare increase, noting "transportation costs for islanders have increased without a clear explanation as to why the corporation has managed to get itself into this grave financial situation."

The highlight of the protest was reached as the Skeena Queen turned into the terminal, at which point "Phineas," shouting the historic "no taxation without representation," led the protesters to the dock and tossed a case of "tea" — environmentally-sound leaves — into the harbour.

## Miller relents on fares

**TEA TOSSING:** Islanders objecting to ferry fare increases drew on the legendary Boston Tea Party of 221 years ago as inspiration for Salt Spring's demonstration Friday. Backed by protesters, Phineas Fulford (aka Salt Spring Advisory Transportation Committee member Ken Lee) prepares to hurl a case of "tea" off the Fulford terminal ramp.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

B.C. Ferries rolled back the price of commuter tickets Tuesday on small inter-island routes, including the Gulf Islands, to the rates in effect before the November 14 price increase.

Dan Miller, minister responsible for B.C. Ferries, also announced a freeze on rates effective for all of 1998. He said the decision was prompted by recommendations from mediator John Fryer, following a meeting with B.C. Ferries advisory group members Saturday.

The roll-back applies only to commuter tickets. Fare increases on individually purchased tickets still apply. Miller said the roll-back would mitigate the impact of the fare increases on island residents who must regularly use ferries.

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**Tug-of-war for Jesus**

Seventeen-month-old Abby O'Donnell grabs baby Jesus from the manger at a Salt Spring churches' Christmas pageant held Sunday evening at the Baptist Church. Joseph, Aaron Kyle, wants Jesus back in the manger, and a tug-of-war occurs in front of much laughter from the audience. Ultimately, Abby landed on her back, still clutching Jesus, and calling for her mother.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**Legalities prevent Trust from acting on garbage**

Garbage issues are piling up for Salt Spring Trust Committee members but a legal tangle is preventing them from taking action.

Islands Trustee David Borrowman said complaints have been received about transfer stations operating off Blackburn Road and Lee's Hill.

Legal action initiated over the Blackburn Road operation, which is in a watershed, has now been suspended on the advice of Trust lawyers.

As a result, Borrowman said trustees feel it is difficult to act on a complaint about a second garbage operation in the south end.

"The problem we face is treating all of them equally," he said.

He feels it is clear that the island does need a transfer station for garbage. "We are working actively with the Capital Regional District to identify properties on which a transfer station could operate," Borrowman said.

If a suitable site is found, he suggested, it could be shared by any garbage operation on the island.

**Final 1997 CRD grants allocated**

The remaining Capital Regional District (CRD) grants-in-aid for 1997, totalling \$23,500, were approved at last Wednesday's board meeting.

The Gulf Islands Community Arts Council was given \$5,000 for the purchase of chairs which will form part of a community chair inventory for arts, cultural and community events held in Mahon Hall and other island locations.

The Salt Spring Island Amateur Radio Society received \$8,500 for the purchase of communications equipment which will be used in

three emergency reception centres in island schools. Some of the money will also pay for modifications and enhancements to the communications system at the Salt Spring Island emergency operations centre.


For the Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue Society, \$5,000 has been allocated for the purchase of communications, climbing and safety equipment.

The remaining \$5,000 was allocated through recommendations from the Salt Spring Island Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission.

These included \$1,000 to the

Salt Spring Island Skateboarders Association towards construction of a mini-ramp; \$2,000 to replace and renew sports equipment for the Salt Spring Track and Field Club; \$500 to the Fulford School Parents Advisory Council to assist with extraordinary transportation costs for the students' annual swimming program; and \$1,500 to the Islands Farmers Institute towards a new poultry building.

Grant applications for 1988 will be considered by the grants committee early in the new year, Salt Spring regional director Kellie Booth said.



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# Island youth mourning his loss after \$5,000 racing bike stolen

A Christmas Grinch entered a Mobrae Avenue carport Sunday night and stole the pride and joy of a 14-year-old island youth.

Garrett Rice and his sister spent Monday searching the island for a sign of his bright red 1994 Honda 125 moto cross racing bike.

The bike, which cannot be insured, is worth about \$5,000. "He is absolutely devastat-

ed," said Garrett's father, Peter Rice.

Rice told the Driftwood his son bought the bike from the Spencer family last Christmas and completely rebuilt it — "he knows every single nut and bolt on that bike."

Recently, he spent a \$200 Christmas gift to put a new chain and sprockets on the bike.

"It has been a rite of passage for him," Rice said. "It has

turned him from a boy into a man."

After rebuilding the bike, Garrett spent the summer participating in Vancouver Island Moto Cross Association races, placing seventh out of 21 youths in his category.

Rice says the bike should be easy to spot if it is still on the island. It has the number 55 painted in bright red in three different spots.

# Assault nets \$300 fine

A 25-year-old former island man was fined \$300 after being found guilty of assaulting a police officer.

John Bruce Quesnel of Victoria pleaded not guilty to the offence which occurred January 6 at the Harbour House Hotel.

His trial took place at Western Communities Provincial Court on December 18.

The offence occurred when Ganges RCMP were called to assist the B.C. Ambulance Service with a report of an unconscious man at the Harbour House Hotel at approximately 1:45 a.m.

When police and ambulance personnel arrived, police say the man became extremely combative and increasingly violent. He eventually spat at one of the police officers.

# Grinches steal Santas

It won't be hard for St. Nick to determine who's naughty and nice among the group of thieves that stole two decorative Santas this weekend.

Swanson Road resident Barbara Pellerin said her three-foot tall, red and white Santa disappeared from her flower bed beside the house for the first time last week.

It was recovered by local police from the roof-top of Gulf Islands Secondary School where a Christmas scene made from stolen items had been created.

When Pellerin went to the high school to retrieve the Santa, she says, the students shouted "where are you going with our Santa?"

Pellerin says she would have gladly lent it to them for a few days if they had asked to borrow it.

Santa was put back in the garden, but on Saturday night the Pellerins heard a car and kids outside her home during the night, and knew exactly what had once again been stolen.

The thief also "stomped the shit" out of the Pellerins flower garden with its

800 bulbs in "their size 10-11 boots."

The Pellerins had lent out an identical Santa Clause to a single mother and one-year-old child on Rainbow Road. It was also stolen, this time ripped in half with the stomach, light and extension cord still left on the deck.

"It really makes me wonder," Pellerin says. "They were there for everyone on the block to enjoy."

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# Mirror taken

The Community Centre wants its mirror back.

Salt Spring Community Services was the target of a thief last Thursday night when a large mirror was taken from its driveway on Ganges Hill.

The mirror was placed on a blind corner as an aid to motorists entering or exiting the centre's parking lot.

Executive director Jane Parlee said the mirror, which measures three to four feet across, is worth about \$300. She said if the thief returns the mirror by leaving it at the back door, no questions will be asked.

# FIRE CALLS

Santa doesn't like to be singed, so Salt Spring fire chief Les Wagg is warning islanders to keep their chimneys clean following two chimney fires last week.

Firefighters were called to a chimney fire on Quarry Drive at 10:43 a.m. Friday and to another chimney fire on Seaview Avenue at 9:05 a.m. Monday. There was no damage from either fire.

Wagg also warns people to be cautious about burning Christmas wrapping paper in wood stoves or fireplaces.

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**Honouring the solstice**

Anastacia Wilde, left, and Diana Lindley carry all life as they participate in a solstice walk a prayer flag of world unity which recognizes from Fulford to Vesuvius on Sunday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**Salt Spring writer acquiring fame for book self-published last year**

Between promotional talk shows and a trip abroad, a Salt Spring writer has had an "awesome year" following publication of her book last December.

Sheri Nielson's self-published Everybody's Foodsafe Kitchen now has sales in England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, almost all of the American states and across Canada.

"I truly believe this book is going to end up in everybody's kitchen right next to the Joy of Cooking," Nielson says.

This year, she adds, "We managed to get accepted in 29 Chapter's Stores across Canada and they act as order centres for Coles and Smithbooks, so people in most large centres have access to the book."

Everybody's Foodsafe Kitchen, available in many island stores, retails for \$15.95 here, and \$18 elsewhere. The book is a step-by-step guide to the safe preparation of food.

"We've had an awesome year," says Nielson.

Part of the "awesome" has included television and radio appearances, a letter from American President Bill Clinton, plus a trip to the United Kingdom with Everybody's Kitchen Ventures Ltd.'s marketing director, Rich Bahry, last May.

While in the UK — which, she notes, has had several serious food-borne illness outbreaks in the past year — Nielson taped a BBC Radio Scotland interview which aired in June.

"They talked about doing a live call-in show which would have

had me trying to understand questions from people with Scottish accents at around 2 a.m. our time," she says. "I'll tackle that one in the new year when we start the next phase of our marketing effort in the UK."

Nielson appeared last year as a keynote speaker for several British Columbia associations, and two national conventions. She has also appeared as a guest on several radio shows.

"The call-in ones have had the lines jammed which is a good sign of interest."

Lately, she adds, many people have expressed interest in the safe preparation of Christmas dinners. Today (Wednesday), she is scheduled for a live call-in show in Halifax.

"I get to do that at 4 a.m. our time."

Nielson's first live call-in television appearance occurred in

August when she was seen on the "nerve-racking but fun" Tyabji Show.

Last June, Nielson and Bahry were accepted as presenters at the Food Safety Education Conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored under Clinton's Food Safety Initiative and at which Hillary Clinton was one of the speakers.

"I signed a book to her and the President and gave it to the secret service agents," Nielson says. "I guess they passed it on to her because about two weeks later I got a letter from the White House with thanks and best wishes, signed by Bill Clinton himself."

In the upcoming year, Nielson says, her company will be moving its marketing focus to the United States. It has recently signed up with Amazon Books on the Internet and is building a "world class" web site.

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**Christmas for the Island**

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**MELANIE GAINES,**  
 From the Board of Trustees and the Administration of School District #64

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**Shell Canada**

has helped bring the Christmas Ship to the islands by generously donating over 5000 gallons of fuel.

We would just like to say

**THANK YOU!**

Bellingham and Salt Spring Lions Club

# Take a dip in Salt Spring's 'Hawaiian' waters

If you couldn't get airline tickets to Hawaii this winter, fret not — Hawaii is coming to Salt Spring January 1.

Give thanks to El Nino and the local Chamber of Commerce, which is sponsoring the 19th annual Vesuvius Bay Polar Bear Swim on New Year's Day.

Jan McPherson, Melva Geldreich and their helpers have planned an event-filled, Hawaiian-themed day. First off they enticed Arthur Black to provide an El Nino "diatribe" on the beach and propel the polar bears into the water with the "countdown to splash-down."

Then they organized a pineapple pancake brunch at Beachcomber Motel at 770 Vesuvius Bay Road, with fruit punch, hot chocolate and Salt Spring Roasting Company's special El Nino Blend coffee.

They are also sending everyone deep into closets to find "their most wildly vivacious Hawaiian shirt." If it has been sitting there untouched for years, "now is the time to wear it," says McPherson.

And since the resulting brightness could hurt the eyes or cause sunburn from the reflection, Geldreich advises sunglasses and UV-45-rated suntan lotion will be in order.

The water is five degrees warmer than usual, they note. Swimmers are encouraged to find the pelican colony off Vesuvius Point, or seek out the marlin and sunfish rumoured to be cruising around the island's western shores.

Another rumour is that Don Ho will make an appearance, and that a hot tub might be



available for post-swim relaxation.

If the chance to dress up funny and prove the Gulf Islands are really the Hawaiian Islands of Canada is not enough to get people out on New Year's Day, then the Mount Tuam-high pile of prizes should do the trick.

Merchant support for the polar bear swim gets stronger each year, and there is more children's prizes this year, including a child's photo album from West of the Moon and gift certificates from Kings Lane Recreation.

The Mouat's stores, Flowers and Wine, Kanaka Restaurant, Dares to be Different Restaurant, Imagen Communications, Thrifty Foods, The Wine Cellar, Vesuvius Inn, Westel Communications and the Wine Cellar are a few of prize

donors.

There will be prizes for the best male and female in Hawaiian dress, the oldest, youngest, first in, last out, best Outer Islands resident entry, best shiverer, best dancer "and anything else we can think of."

The brunch begins at 11 a.m. at the motel. At 12:15 p.m. the bathers will form a parade walking from the Beachcomber to Vesuvius Bay. The deep plunge takes place at 12:30. After the swim, people will return to the Beachcomber to change, warm up with a hot drink and collect their prizes.

Island Paddlers and Coast Guard will also be part of the fun, and any boaters are welcome to spectate from offshore.

"Too Cool" polar bear swim t-shirts are also available from the Chamber of Commerce office for \$8.

*We'll Miss You!*



**DOROTHY KYLE**

Best Wishes from the Board of Trustees and the Administration of School District #64 on your Retirement!

Photo by Gail Sjuberg

## QI GONG THERAPY

With SHERAB CHANG

For Information/Appointment Call  
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INITIAL SESSION FREE

## Early CRD budget hikes taxes

The 1998 provision budget and a host of appointments to Salt Spring committees were both approved at last Wednesday's Capital Regional District (CRD) board meeting.

The provisional budget for the entire CRD is up 4.39 per cent, to \$57.6 million from \$55.2 million in 1997.

If approved in its present form, the provisional budget would bump the tax requisition from Salt Spring by 4.99 per cent to \$1.58 million from \$1.51 million in 1997. The increase in taxes for an average residential property is projected at \$13.

On the Outer Gulf Islands, this budget would increase the requisition by 4.18 per cent to \$910,957 from the 1997 requisition of \$874,405. That would add \$5.74 to the tax bill of the average residential property.

However, approval of the provisional budget is just the first step in the CRD budget process. The budget has yet to be discussed by directors and changes are likely before it receives final approval next spring.

Also at the CRD meeting:

- Bill Puckering, Dave Howell and Jim Helset were appointed to the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Services Committee.

- Re-appointed to the Fernwood Water Local Services Committee were Dr. Ladishav

Antonik, Robert Trump and David Spencer.

- Pat McGee was appointed to the Salt Spring Island Emergency Services Commission as a representative of the Search and

Rescue Society. His term expires October 31, 1999.

- Donald Archer, Bill Puckering and Tom Toynbee were re-appointed to the Ganges Sewer Local Services Committee.

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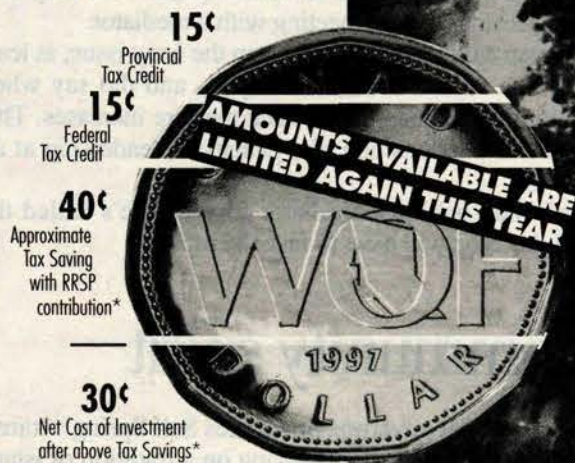
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## O P I N I O N

Miller finds  
a smoke screen

Maybe it's the downsized 90s version of a royal commission, a favourite ploy of governments faced with sticky questions best deferred.

That's the only logical explanation for Thursday's highly political appointment of mediator John Fryer to deal with those citizens protesting last month's increase in ferry fares.

What needed mediating? The government made a decision. Significant numbers of the governed objected to that decision. As unhappy governed folk are wont to do, they made their objections known. Some passed motions of censure while others painted signs and wrote songs and took their protest to ferry terminals and to the stairs of the provincial legislature, garnering a certain amount of press and air time in the process.

Surely Dan Miller, the minister who appointed the mediator, has heard of this concept before. It's called democracy and is based on the notion that the government is, above all, a servant of the governed and therefore open to censure for mistakes.

So why did Miller call in a mediator? A mediator is someone both sides in a dispute call in to help facilitate communication when talks break down.

But the islanders upset about fare increases were communicating just fine. Some were downright eloquent, outlining the impact of the increases on small ferries-dependent communities. Others were witty, producing the kind of sound bites and photo ops that make governments squirm.

Likewise, those volunteers on B.C. Ferries advisory committees who withdrew their services to protest the fare hike also clearly stated why they were taking that action: by ignoring their advice, the government had undercut the credibility of their advisory role. No lack of communication there.

Miller himself was communicating fluently, although his admission to media that he would not give in to islanders just before meeting with said islanders was, perhaps, better left unsaid.

The choice of John Fryer as mediator has its merits. He knows government, having headed the B.C. Government & Service Employees Union before his retirement. He also knows islands and their associated transportation challenges, being a resident of Saturna.

But again we have to ask: why a mediator?

The word from a meeting including islanders and the mediator on Saturday is that Fryer's job is to explain the government position to island protesters, find out why islanders are unhappy and relay that information back to Miller.

If Miller had listened to the advisory group recommendations in October, to the advisory committee representatives at their December 3 meeting in his office and to the protesters outside his office December 9, he wouldn't need Fryer.

He would know why islanders and advisory group members were upset by the second set of ferry fare increases in a year, increases arbitrarily approved by government despite the ongoing efforts of the advisory groups to find other solutions for B.C. Ferries' sinking finances.

Appointing Fryer is nothing more than a smoke screen for Miller's own inability to communicate effectively with ferry users. Nothing illustrates the lack of government consultation more clearly than the appointment itself: suddenly, ferry advisory committee members who had already delivered their message to Miller discovered they had been booked by government into a meeting with a mediator.

The move has given Miller a way to sidestep the ferry issue, at least for a few days. It's in mediation, he can say — and did say when asked if the government planned to roll back the fare increases. This is typical of a real 90s phenomenon: the paucity of leadership at all levels of government.

But Miller can't hide behind a mediator forever. He's called the tune and sooner or later, he will have to face the music.

## Community spirit

We hope the provincial government admires Salt Spring's transition house as much as we do. Drawing on a tradition of island community spirit, the house has operated since June 1995 on a mix of donations, volunteer help and the occasional government grant.

A new initiative is the opening of a thrift shop to provide ongoing funding for the facility.

We hope the government's \$80,000 grant, announced last week, means permanent funding won't be far behind.

But we also hope the initiative shown so far continues, as a model of islanders helping each other.

One true call of Christmas is  
'song of dedication to Greater'

By SHERAB

I call this Ramblings of a Buddhist at Christmas Time.

I used this title to attract attention, not because I wanted to label myself or expound any great undiscovered wisdom, but more as an

exercise in piecing my own unique puzzle together to rediscover the context of Christmas and in the process share what little I have learned with someone else.

Christmas is an odd time here in an environment where it is becoming incorrect to sing devotional carols to the greatness of Christ. Sure it's excusable to listen to the Messiah on the radio under the pretense that it is nice music, and it's okay to teach our children Away in a Manger because we learned it ourselves as kids, but it is not popular to believe the story of Christ.

When I met my guru, I asked him about the connectedness of the teachings of Christ and the teachings of Buddhism. He couldn't answer my question the way I hoped he would because he had insufficient knowledge of Christianity to discuss it. However, he told me that everyone must find their own way.

Find their own way? To what? Why go to church? Why pursue any spiritual path at all? To answer these questions one only needs to examine themselves at Christmas time.

Whether we are religious or not, why do we attach so much importance to the season? Why is this season so discouraging for so many people? Isn't it because their past experience has taught them that the surface layers of Christmas celebrations alone do not give them what they really want; the longing we all have to connect with something which is meaningful, whether it be the love of the Divine or family and friends?

It is the voice of compassion that calls to us all. This is the one true song of Christmas. It soars clear and strong but only to those with the humility to listen. It is a song of dedication to the Greater; dedication to compassion.

It is easy to speak of these things but difficult to live them. Be that as it may, within my own imperfections I can still choose to dedicate each moment to that which is greater, that is, when I remember that the



VIEW  
POINT

Greater is there. Then I have the opportunity to act out of wisdom rather than just reacting from a conditioning that has existed for God knows how long.

When one dedicates an action, it no longer becomes part of the self.

It becomes detached from the usual self-consuming nature that imprisons us in our own egos. There is freedom in dedication that exists nowhere else. I don't refer to surface religiousness that builds the ego by congratulating itself on its beautiful piety. That is only more ignorance. I am talking about intention, with acknowledgment of present imperfections. I am talking about taking refuge in that which is Greater and letting it become our teacher and guide.

Many people in our culture fear the word "guru." But the meaning of guru is "the one who removes the darkness." The darkness of our deluded selfish nature, the wellspring of sin that keeps us firmly trapped within a prison we may not even be aware of as existing. The guru of Christmas in our culture is Christ and if the veil of darkness can be removed, then under it is unchanging purity of light. Our own light is God's light: Our spirit which cries out for union with God.

Yes, we do need to be saved from sin, from our own selfish natures, so with selfless intention cling to the guru which is manifest compassion and you will find freedom — the freedom to be released from selfishness so you may live and breathe for the benefit of others only, being completely content, no matter what your circumstances may be. This is what the great teachers call detachment. This is yoga. This is why we worship Christ. This is the Bodhisattva. It is the love of God working through us. This is the only freedom.

So I ask everyone this Christmas to contemplate the qualities of Christ this Christmas and meditate on the wonder of compassion. With selfless intention take refuge in compassion, "The One Who Removes Darkness" and you will find the spirit of Christmas there.

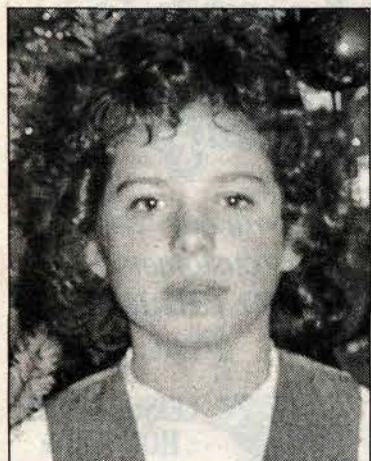
The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

With selfless  
intention take  
refuge in  
compassion...

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# SALT SPRING SAYS

**We Asked: What is Santa's favourite part of Christmas?**



**Joss Krayenhoff, 12**  
Giving away the presents to other people.



**Helena Bryn-McLeod, 7**  
Delivering the presents because he likes children.



**Ezra Fulford, 10**  
Hand-picking what he is going to put in his own stocking.



**Alexa Hardy, 6**  
Bringing all the toys to the children.



**Patrice Bowler, 7**  
Delivering the presents because he really loves the children.

## Letters to the Editor

### Share paper

The inflation rate for November was 0.9 percent. As there has been no response to my earlier requests to explain your 25 percent increase in price, I have some suggestions.

In true Salt Spring fashion we readers should purchase a Driftwood jointly with a neighbour. The cost comes down 50 percent and each household has several days to read it. With reduced sales it might persuade you not to assume that your readers have no recourse but to pay up — and up.

Secondly, as you will not do so, your readers can come up with the top 10 reasons for the Driftwood's 25 percent jump in price. Should they include:

The publisher wants a bigger holiday?

The public is too dumb to notice?

With profound apologies to Isaiah, indeed, "Are we all like sheep?"

**ELSPETH THOMSON,**  
Salt Spring

### Trust empire

Several issues of Driftwood this month contain heavy news of the Trust's power-drive. While most of us thought the "scribes in the tower" were busy on our mysterious OCP, in fact the Trust has been far more ambitious.

- They tried and failed to give the Trust executive the power of "resolution without meeting," the implication of which was the potential abuse of public process, that's all. Municipal Affairs tripped them up.

- The Trust is eager to extend Trust authority 1000 feet out to sea, but the mandate says they are to deal with "land use planning and zoning." No mention of the sea, federal turf.

- They are pushing for control over private forest — your forest, your land.

- And mapping, to better keep an eye on us, along with aerial photos every so often.

- The Trust has agreed to ask for authority to spend your property tax dollars to buy land for the Trust Fund Board. I can't bear to think where that could lead but it smells of tax increases ad infinitum.

- They want to use property taxes to reward those who covenant their land. Those who don't but who may be equally good stewards will surely pay more and more.

Our trustee David Borrowman was quoted in the December 17 Driftwood as being in support of the property acquisition power, adding that, "He could tell Salt

Spring residents how responsible trustees are with taxpayers dollars."

He could, but will he? When he wrote the Driftwood recently to refute my allegation that \$250,000 had been spent on the OCP so far, he failed to reveal the true amount. Even though he claimed to know the "smack dab" cost! So you be the judge.

- Why the panic to give first reading to our OCP before it got to the public and without a public meeting?

- And last but far from least, the Trust has asked for a legal defence fund for bylaw enforcement but hasn't even shown us, much less discussed, infractions or fines.

I think it would be responsible to publish the full list of bylaw infractions and fines proposed before the

Trust makes it law, so the public can make comment, don't you? It would also be responsible to tell us now what the true cost of our OCP is and why the rush?

They have eliminated the public process step of "comment and meeting" and forged ahead with first reading knowing full well no one has seen it, much less read it or discussed it. Frankly that worries me, as do the Trust's "teeny weeny" public notice ads.

Mr. Borrowman recently referred to the Islands Trust as a "federation." Empire looks more like it.

I am sure we all await his next revealing letter on behalf of our Islands Trust. We deserve consultation and full disclosure, not secret decisions.

**DREW CLARKE,**  
Ganges

### Short memories

I'm not sure the B.C. Ferry Corporation should be the target as much as Premier Clark and the NDP.

It would be interesting to note how many of the protesters will be willing to work on the next provincial election to Salt Spring get the boot they deserve.

As a political junkie, I've become acutely aware of how short people's memories are at election time.

**MARY COOPER,**  
Mayne Island

### Use energy

When I submitted a letter a couple of weeks ago concerning Bob Simons, I received an overwhelm-

ing response from you.

I failed, however, to mention the ongoing importance of continued prayer. I would like to stress the importance of mass prayer, visualization or meditation every Sunday at noon for one minute. Let's use time as a means of coinciding a "tsunami" of positive prayer for our friend Bob.

It does make a difference; so let's utilize this spiritual energy that is especially in our hearts at this time of year and pass it on to Bob Simons.

I can't think of a better "stocking stuffer." Can you?

**D.L. MARSHALL,**  
Salt Spring

**MORE LETTERS 10**

## The real economic impact of price hikes

By **MIKE BEST**

Blithely we roll along, an island economy, with idyllic sunrises and sunsets, sailboats in the bay, strong industry prodded along by increases in tourism when up steps that ugly term: economic displacement.

Economic displacement is the effect or consequence of a price hike on other areas of the economy. For example, did you know that as recently as five years ago, a tank of petrol on Salt Spring Island cost the same as a tank of petrol in Victoria or Vancouver? And when Thrifty's opened to much fanfare, everyone thought that grocery prices would come into line now that we had two "major" grocery stores on the island which would compete with each other.

The other day I purchased groceries in Victoria — the usual kind of thing: tea, milk, cheese, eggs, potatoes, fruit, canned sauces, meat, etc. — what we economists call a "typical basket of goods." The cost: \$27.45.

Then the light bulb went on: why don't I purchase the same basket when I return to Salt Spring and see if the latest ferry fare hike has had any impact. The cost of the same basket of goods on Salt Spring: \$32.17. Somehow it did not surprise me that shopping for groceries on Salt Spring cost me 17 per cent more than in Victoria.

The reason I wasn't too surprised was that I had gassed up in Duncan the week before for 49¢ a litre and when I checked



prices on Salt Spring, petrol was 63¢, which is a whopping 29 per cent difference.

Now normally, these kinds of things might not bug me. I mean, for example, if wages on Salt Spring were 29 per cent higher than anywhere else, I could live with this. But this economic displacement is leading to substitution of inferior goods, reduction of services and demand and, in the long run, the economic impact is extremely negative for anyone trying to make a living on Salt Spring or the other Gulf Islands.

This is like paying a substantially higher personal tax rate than anyone else in British Columbia, and with effective taxes at 81 per cent for some people in British Columbia, there isn't much room for more. (Source: Economics report, Toronto Dominion Economics Monthly, September 1997, demonstrates that the personal tax rate for "high income" individuals living in B.C. is 81 per cent, the highest of all provinces.)

So why can't Premier Clark and Tom Ward understand the true impact of ferry fare hikes? Like any economic equation, if demand and supply are at equilibrium and the price increases, fewer cars and passengers will

take the ferry, in order to maintain equilibrium.

The ferry corporation is biting the hand that feeds it. Reduced numbers may force certain routes out of existence, which may lead to job reductions and negatively impact Gulf Islands residents who work for the ferries. Second, restricted service and higher cost reduces ease of doing business for all of us.

Third, businesses feel the impact. Tourism is reduced and for some that is their bread and butter. Any check of the statistics this summer will show reduced B&B visits, reduced store sales and lower restaurant revenue. (Source: Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.)

Fourth, substitution comes into play. More people take float planes, prices for which are starting to look mighty reasonable by comparison to ferries. But that means more float plane flights out of Ganges Harbour and the economic externalities of noise pollution and reduced safety that goes with it.

Anyone who works in Victoria and has to take the ferries regardless of price (an inelastic demand curve) will reduce expenditures in other areas in order to pay the higher fares. So young Johnny gets slightly less for Christmas, or there are fewer desserts on the dinner table, less pub-hopping or movie-going. All of these substitution effects impact island businesses.

The ferry corporation has already proven to us they can't

do math. Someone announced that price hikes will average 20 per cent a year, doubling the ferry fares in five years. Aahh, hello? Is anyone home? Does anyone remember compounding?

Let me spell it out: if the fare today is \$10, a hike of 20 per cent now puts it at \$12. Then a 20 per cent hike on the new amount each year gives us \$14.40, \$17.28, \$20.74 and \$24.88 in five years time. Over five years this is a fare increase of 2.48 times, not a doubling of fares as the ferry corporation would like us to believe.

It is bad enough for the ferry corporation to try to snow us about the fare hikes, but to ignore the other economic factors affecting islanders such as displacement, externalities and substitution is just too much.

Join the protest. Make the brass answer for its attempt to ruin our lives. Either charge all of B.C.'s inland communities that currently enjoy free ferry service as part of the highways transportation network, or give us a break. We work, live, eat, sleep and contribute taxes just like the rest of B.C. It is time to be treated with equality.

*The author has an economics degree from Stanford University, an MBA from Yale University, performs economic research for brokerage firms and teaches for the UVIC Faculty of Business. More importantly, he is an island resident.*

# Clark compared to other premiers

VICTORIA — At least once a year, preferably around Christmas, I do a one-on-one interview with the premier. Last Wednesday, Glen Clark was the seventh premier sitting across from me, participating in my journalistic Christmas tradition.

These Christmas interviews are always published in question-and-answer form, because I think it's only fair to give the premier one chance a year to talk about his job and his views on topics that happen to make his life miserable at the time, without me interpreting what he says. The latest interview will be appearing in this newspaper shortly.

## CAPITAL COMMENT HUBERT BEYER



Sitting there with Clark in the west wing of the Parliament Building, I couldn't help but compare this premier with the six others that went before him.

For one thing, he's the youngest of the lot. If he were introduced to me as the doctor about to perform open-heart surgery on me, I'd ask him for his driver's licence.

And even though he is, next to W.A.C. Bennett of long ago, the most consummate of politicians to occupy the premier's office, he manages to look and act like a happy-go-lucky whipper-snapper.

Those who confuse appearances with the man, however, do so at grave risk. That boyish grin and ready laughter hide the occasional arrogance, a mind like a steel trap and a determination that will stop short of nothing to achieve whatever goal he has.

The foregoing also pretty much describes the late W.A.C. Bennett. Age and political philosophy mark the only real differences between the two. There was one other difference: Bennett could get quite emotional. I can't picture Clark with tears in his eyes, not in public.

Dave Barrett was a different kind of premier. With a background in social work, Barrett showed much more compassion than Clark does for those at the bottom rung of the economic ladder. He would, for instance, never have cut benefits for single welfare recipients by \$50.

Then there was Bill Bennett. Having lived in the shadow of his father all his life, it took him a while to feel comfortable in his job as premier. Most people considered Bennett aloof. I've seen him in situations where he showed more kindness and compassion than most of the premiers that came before or after him.

Bill Vander Zalm. Now there was a strange guy. Blessed with an all-encompassing ignorance of what our parliamentary system is and should be he simply failed to understand that he couldn't ram his views down every British Columbian's throat.

On a personal basis, he was the nicest guy you could ever hope to meet. I'll never forget Vander Zalm dashing from office to office in the Parliament Building on Christmas Eve, delivering poinsettias. The look on the faces of NDP caucus staff was priceless.

There isn't much to say about Rita Johnston. She became premier when Vander Zalm resigned and promptly lost the next election to Mike Harcourt's NDP. Forever ingrained in my mind will be her shouting at the top of her lungs into the TV cameras after the Sacred convention that confirmed her as leader: "Mike Harcourt, you will never be premier."

Well, Harcourt did become premier, and of all the premiers I have interviewed and written about, Harcourt was, without a doubt, the most decent person to hold that job. I'm not implying that the others were rascals. I'm just saying Harcourt wasn't cut out for politics. Going for the jugular to Harcourt meant saying, "You're not being very nice."

It somehow seems almost fitting that Harcourt had to leave office for something he had nothing to with — the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holdings Society scandal.

And that brings us back to "the Glenster," as one of Clark's previous press secretaries referred to him when talking to reporters.

I hear people say things like "there's no way he can win another term" and I reply, don't underestimate Clark. Remember that steel-trap mind. Remember that determination which stops short of nothing.

Beyer can be reached at: tel: (250) 920-9300; fax: (250) 385-6783; e-mail: hubert@coolcom.com

# MORE LETTERS

## Glorious

The December 14 evening performance by the Salt Spring Singers can only be described as "glorious!"

Thank you for a concert that was both a joy to listen to and beautiful to see.

I was truly "blessed in the spirit".  
KATHRYN LANDRY,  
Salt Spring

## Pension review

British pensioners will be glad to know that the new Labour government has begun an extensive review of pensions in Britain. The Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners has already made its submission on behalf of 430,000 "frozen" pensioners living in most Commonwealth countries, and some others.

For those who doubt the affordability of Britain changing its discriminatory practice, the cost is estimated at £255 million. This represents less than 1/4 per cent of the total estimated annual expenditures of social security related costs, or about 3/4 of 1 per cent of the U.K. budget for state pensions.

A separate study on health care costs estimates that the 430,000 "frozen" expatriates are saving Britain £645 million annually. Any U.K. pensioner or future pensioner who should benefit from a change in pension policy might want to support the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners by membership (\$15) or donations. The B.C. address is P.O. Box 2224, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2.

MARY C. WILLIAMSON,  
North End Road

## Prepare now

El Nino has been good to us so far, but we still have several months to go until it's over.

I would like to hear from our elected officials about what we can expect and what we should be doing to prepare for any eventuality. How can we best protect our homes? What should we have on hand in case of emergency? Where can we obtain life jackets, and what about flood insurance?

Nothing is more important than planning and preparation, and now is not too soon to begin.

JUDY MOSCOVITZ,  
Brinkworthy Road

## Ordinary people

Did Dan Miller really refer to islanders protesting ferry fare raises as "rich, pampered whiners?"

Very foolish of him if he did. Certainly the islands have their share of wealthy residents — they also have retirees on minimal pensions, welfare recipients, struggling small business owners and the working poor. For all these people the ferry is their highway.

Our elected officials would be well advised to attempt to conceal the feelings of disdain and contempt they often show for those they love to refer to as "the ordinary people" and to remember they serve only at our behest. Now voted in they can just as easily be voted out.

JOYCE WEBB,  
Menhick Drive

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| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>Dec. 30 9:30 - 5:00   | <b>FRIDAY</b><br>Jan. 2 9:30 - 5:00   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>Dec. 31 9:30 - 5:00 | <b>SATURDAY</b><br>Jan. 3 9:30 - 4:00 |

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## Price rise not based on whim

By TONY RICHARDS  
Driftwood Staff

What is the business of a newspaper? Most newspaper readers probably don't see it as anything more than putting words and pictures on paper.

And to many reporters and editors that's about all it is. I know because that's where I began, writing stories and taking photographs for the Sidney Review at the age of 15.

However, in the ensuing 30 years I've learned there's more. Way more. Some things I've learned the hard way. Like the importance of having enough cash in the bank to pay your employees when they expect it. We've never missed a payroll in my 18 years at the Driftwood but there were a couple of close calls in the early days.

Selling advertising is about as far removed as you can get from gathering and writing news stories. (At some papers there is an ugly tension between the editorial and advertising departments.) But I've learned to sell ads too, and not without some occasional misfortune.

Rita Dods will cheerfully relate

the tale of National Split Pea Soup Week, an event which had ready-made ad slicks to go with it. I sold the ad to Rita, who was operating Rita's Inn (now the Tides Inn) at the time, and she proceeded to prepare huge pots full of split pea soup. Unfortunately, when the paper came out that Wednesday the ad announcing this great deal — all the soup you could eat for a super low price — neglected to say which restaurant was offering it.

I ate a lot of soup that week. Before I digress any further, I'll get to the point. We market, manufacture and distribute a product every week, on time and (usually) on budget. We do it with a very close watch on costs. And that means carefully controlling our prices so we can be competitive and yet show a profit at the end of the year. A newspaper is a unique product but the act of publishing one is a business venture like any other.

Last month we raised the single-copy price of the newspaper by 25 per cent. Subscription prices went up by the same amount. The increase made the cost of a single copy higher than that of an organic tomato, four lemons or a litre of

egg nog.

It also made it possible for us to increase by 10 per cent the amount of space devoted each week to editorial content. The extra revenue pays for that content, along with the additional time required in both editorial and production departments to edit, design and lay out pages. It also covers the not-insignificant cost of printing the extra pages.

The increase also enables us to meet increased distribution costs and avoid seeking more revenue from our advertisers, without whom there would be no newspaper.

We don't raise prices on a whim. Budgeting and planning the November increase took place over nearly six months. There was concern all along that resistance to the new price would hurt circulation. But in the end it came down to one factor: a better product.

The additional revenue would enable us to drop the ratio of advertising to editorial, a cheering prospect to anyone with a background in the editorial side. In essence it means we can put more words and more pictures on paper. And that's our business.

### Children visit hospital

Salt Spring Daycare children entertain patients at Lady Minto Hospital's extended care unit during a visit last Wednesday. The children sang and presented Christmas cards to patients.

Photo by Tony Richards

*Thank You*  
for 20 years of service!



**RICHARD TALLBOY,**  
From the Board of Trustees  
and the Administration of  
School District #64

# Raise YOUR SPIRITS!



Our spirits are lifted  
by thoughts of our  
customers. We thank  
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of serving you.

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*  
to all our island friends from the gang at  
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# Merry Christmas



FROM OUR  
YOUNGER GENERATION!

*We wish you peace, hope and joy  
for the new year.  
From our employees  
and their families to you and yours —*

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

## Foxglove Farm & Garden

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE' UNTIL 4PM  
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Re-opening Saturday Dec. 27/9-5:30

*Thank You*  
to the following for their  
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Pharmasave

Foxglove Farm & Garden Supply

Kanaka Restaurant

Liquor store

Moka Coffee House

THE WINNER OF THE 1997 CHRISTMAS TREE: ANGELA ANDERSON

## Merry Christmas Everyone!

SSI Lions Club on behalf of Santa and crew of the 47th Christmas Ship



## Christmas provides link between family, friends

Christmas was always a feast of plenty.

The weeks before Christmas were a period of expectation. Then came Christmas Day, with its bright lights, gifts from Santa and gifts from uncles and aunts whose name rarely occurred at other times of the year. While the day was marked by the joy of receiving, it was also a day of freedom. We could eat ourselves sick, though we rarely did. There were few restraints placed upon us for Christmas.

The day commenced with attendance at church. Even that was a novelty because we would be a larger group than usual. We had our grandparents and other relatives to stay for the holiday and they could not all fit in the family car, so we usually walked. The weather could prove a problem but we were like the courageous American mailman who would brave blizzards and rain, ice and snow, gales and thunder to get his job done.

Next on the great program of the day was breakfast. In my childhood home we always had a pork pie for breakfast on December 25. That was a tradition in the Haskew family and my mother would have shuddered to offer any other festive meal.

After breakfast and after all was cleared away and cleaned up we would address the collection of parcels. Christmas dinner followed gift unwrapping, for we usually ate the annual turkey at midday.

The afternoon was devoted to sleeping off the large meal or playing with the toys that had appeared that morning.

By Boxing Day the atmosphere had changed. It was still Christmas, but a lagging facsimile of the day before. The decorations were no longer bright and sparkling. But the holiday persisted and we included it in the annual festivity. Not that we had much choice in the matter.

That was Christmas, that was.

Christmas was a church event and one for which we might have been practising for weeks if we were called on to take part. Christmas was also a family event when relatives would arrive from distant parts of the country.

I was a Christmas boy. I probably took it all for granted because it was an event and a season that had been important long before I was.

Looking back, I can see that Christmas was the link with family and friends as well as the occasion to see the small crib and statuary that represented the Nativity at Bethlehem.

The accompaniment to Christmas was played out on phonograph in the traditional Christmas carols and every child knew the tunes of the more favoured hymns.

I grew up with Christmas. Write me down as a Christmas boy. I rejoiced in every aspect of the festive season. And I still do.

I am fully aware that such an admission is probably politically incorrect, but I'd far sooner enjoy my Christmas than struggle through a political correctness which is neither correct nor political.

And I nearly forgot! Have a Merry Christmas!

### Stockpiling land

Of course I'd trust my best friend with my wife and my chequebook! That's easy; I have no wife and my chequebook is slim and apart from me, myself, who is this guy, my best friend?

The future of my life and my chequebook would ever be in jeopardy if the Islands Trust or any other well-meaning body were authorized to spend public money which it doesn't have to buy property which it may or not need and charge it against my future tax liability which I can't afford.

I'm not so sure that I can afford the likely costs of financing education. And a new level of levies looms as the province finds a strange lack of loose change in its left pants pocket and is proposing that I reach deep into mine to pay for the privilege of maintaining ferry links with the outside world.

I feel deeply for the lands which might be lost for lack of a tax fund taken from my savings but at this stage of my short life I would vote against any further encroachments on my future commitments. I would abandon my wife, or her heiresses or successors, I would consign my tissue-paper chequebook to the flames and I would shoot my best friend, whoever he might be, rather than have some other guy dreaming beautiful dreams at my expense.

In fact, if I want any beautiful dreams I'd sooner dream them for myself!

### TO BE FRANK FRANK RICHARDS



## North Galiano hosts service

Coloured lights glowed on a beautifully-shaped fir tree in a corner of the hall; poinsettias, strategically placed, extending the red, green and white Christmas theme.

Julie Pearson's paper doves filled the ceiling. The Galiano Singers, 13 strong, carolled beautifully. The occasion was the North Galiano Christmas service of lessons and carols, held here on the afternoon of December 14. With Reverend Margaret Edgar in charge and six readers to assist, the story of the birth of Christ unfolded — a re-creation of times past, of love and joy.

From the piano David Clothier directed the choir in the singing of familiar carols, filling the small hall with glorious sound. Past Three O'clock, the Renaissance carol was sung.

The Angel Gabriel, a duet sung by choir members Bev Yeomans and Marion Williams, followed the seven lessons.

During the social hour after the service, Trish Cowperthwaite's table of goodies became the centre of attention. Donated white gifts and money went to Saint Margaret's for its Christmas cheer hampers and general relief work.

### Christmas weather

The winter jasmine blooms, the snowdrops show through the fallen leaves and still a few roses bloom and the geraniums show bright colour in their pots on the deck. This is certainly a contrast to the weather we had at Christmas in 1996!

The Bellingham Lions Club Santa Ship, formerly operated by the Bellingham Jaycees and Sea Scouts, came as scheduled, bringing happiness to young and old. The school concert also charmed everyone who made it to its 6:30 p.m. start at the South Hall.

Only Santa's appearance at the annual North Galiano children's party was a no-show. Was it the warm weather and lack of snow which caused the cancellation of this happy event? Whatever the reason, it did not happen this December and that is a shame.

### Christmas activities

A Christmas Eve communion service will be held in Saint Margaret's Church on Burrill Road at 11 p.m. on December 24. All are

welcome.

Galiano's annual bird count takes place on Saturday, December 27, from first light to noon.

The purpose of the count is to determine how many bird species are over-wintering on the island, and to estimate the size of the total winter bird population each year. The count is carried on by volunteers situated in as many

areas of the island as is possible.

Coordinator Mike Hoebel, always anxious for the best coverage, would be pleased to have your help. Over 50 have helped in past counts. Phone him at 539-2003.

### GALIANO NOTES

WITH ALISTAIR ROSS

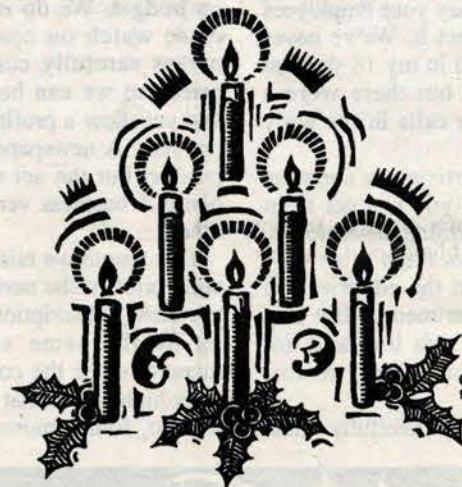


### CHRISTMAS IS LOOKING GOOD



Richard & Wendy at Gulf Islands Optical would like to wish all their valued customers a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

## BRIGHT WISHES



We've been burning the candle at both ends to get ready for Christmas, and now that it's here we'd like to say "thanks", to all of you who've helped light up our lives throughout the year!

**Martin Hoogerdyk CFP**  
and Family

### Kris Kringle and we wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS



**et cetera**  
(et cetera!)

dawn, jim, kirsten, kris, elizabeth, carolyn, tara, mattie, sue, coral

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# Christmas: sacred and festive

Christmas represents a significant yearly milestone and affords the opportunity of marking our journey.

December 25, a day of celebration, is also a time tinged with nostalgia, for following close on the heels of this holiday, another year will be rolled up and a new one spread out in its place. Christmas of 1997 is especially momentous, for with the coming new year we realize that a new millennium is at our doors, a rare chronological event witnessed by human beings only once every 30 generations. Whoever said "May you live in exciting times!" surely spoke of moderns, for we do live in an era that is still fraught with dangers on many fronts, but one that is also ripe with undreamt-of possibilities for the planet and its people.

The cosy indoors beckons at Christmas, at least in northern climes. As the year winds down, it can also be a time for journeying into inner space and gathering ourselves to the comfort of our own private thoughts and recollections.

In Dickensian fashion (Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843), I like to view Christmas as an opportunity for holding up the mirror of our own inner world and personal history, a mirror in which to conjure up the "ghost of Christmas past," "the ghost of Christmas present" and "the ghost of Christmas future." This is an enticing experiment. What do you see?

My own mirror casts back reflections that are still clear, although frosted along the edges. The spirit of Christmas past lives on into the present but was (is) a spirit blown by happy fates, bestowing the blessings of a carefree childhood and gusty youth.

The ghost of Christmas present is thankfully a blithe spirit this year. The ghost of Christmas future I face with the same confidence expressed in a lovely phrase from the Quran: "And surely the future shall be brighter for thee than the past" (113:4).

For Christians, Christmas (=Christ's mass) is, of course, a solemn and sacred yet joyous day heralding the birth of the Messiah and Saviour. At its origins, Christianity "was born and preached first in cultures in which feasts and celebrations were an organic and essential part of the whole world-view and way of life." (Alexander Schmemmann, Sacraments and Orthodoxy).

Thus has the Christmas season

continued until today, blending the naturalistic rituals of its pre-Christian past and the divine event of the Nativity. However, today, Christmas threatens to be engulfed by another ghost — the prodigal spirit of crass commercialism.

In point of historical fact — and the scriptural literalists are pleased about this — Christ was not born on December 25. Church history records that in 440 CE (common era), ecclesiastical leaders wisely chose December 25 as the birthday of Jesus in the hope of winning over those recalcitrant Christians who had steadfastly refused to abandon the celebration of the feast day of the Sol Invictus (the invincible sun), the Persian sun god Mithras, widely worshipped throughout the Roman Empire. The feast of the Sol Invictus marked the end of the long and dreary winter solstice of December 21 and the return of the light. In ancient Britain, long before the coming of Christianity, December 25 was celebrated by the Angles as Modra Niht (Mother's Night), during which the ladies kept long vigils.

The Star of Bethlehem that heralded Christ's birth is, however, historically accurate as the astronomical record indicates. Werner Keller in The Bible as History (1956) writes that the messianic star was a "conjunction" of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of

## PILGRIM'S NOTES WITH JACK McLEAN



Pisces. The conjunction, viewed from Earth, gave to these two planets in their "close encounter" the appearance of a single, very bright star. There were actually three conjunctions: May 29, October 3 and December 4. Take your pick for the date of Christ's birth.

There is, of course, a celebration of the pagan spirit in the non-religious festive aspects of Christmas. Loaded with pejorative connotations, the word pagan (Lat. Paganus= peasant) originally referred to country folk whose pre-Christian nature religions invoked spirit powers, practised ceremonies and rituals connected with the land and its produce, paid homage to the four elements and the seasons on which their health and their very lives depended, as indeed ours does today. The pagan/festive and sacred elements of yuletide correspond to celebratory and devotional moods or "felt needs" operating in different but not mutually-exclusive regions of the soul. Festive food, song and dance, laughter and gaiety all express the pagan within, that is, the natural elements of the soul.

So keep "rockin' around the Christmas tree." Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## SWEET TIDINGS OF JOY

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

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

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across from  
Mouats



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS

RUTH & TOM VOLQUARDSSEN  
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*In simpler times of slower paces  
People met with smiling faces,  
Greeting friends while children played,  
And for a Merry Christmas prayed.  
May the holiday season bring you  
and your family happiness and joy!*

| HOLIDAY HOURS   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>MOUATS CLOTHING CO.</b><br>Closed Dec. 25 & 26<br>-OPEN-<br>Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31<br>9:30-5:30<br>SHOP SUNDAY DEC. 28 11-4 | <b>SALTY SHOP</b><br>Closed Dec. 25 & 26<br>-OPEN-<br>Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31<br>8:30-5:30<br>SHOP SUNDAY DEC. 28 11-4 | <b>HOME HARDWARE</b><br>Closed Dec. 25 & 26<br>-OPEN-<br>Dec. 27, 29, 30, 31<br>8:30-5:30<br>CLOSED SUN. DEC. 28 |

ALL STORES CLOSED JANUARY 1, 1998

PUM-pa-rum-pa-pumpum  
PUM-pa-rum-pa-pumpum  
PUM-pa-rum-pa-pumpum  
PUM-pa-rum-pa-pumpum

**Joy!**

Here's hoping your season is filled with fun and tradition.  
Thank you all for making our year such a good one.

*Bruce Patterson*

**PATTERSON MARKET LTD.**  
Fulford Harbour



# ISLANDER OF THE WEEK



Born in Los Angeles, Virginia Newman moved with her husband Ray Newman to Salt Spring in 1970 as a statement of protest against the Vietnam War. Since then, this mother of five has been busy with numerous causes and activities. She was the director of Continuing Education, played in a Dixie band, and currently works for the NDP, sings with the Raging Grannies and heads V and R Productions with Ray.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Christmas builds community

Christmas comes to Saturna the same as it does to any other place on Earth, but what makes Christmas here memorable?

Perhaps it is the festivities unique to our island.

Every year the school Christmas concert is expected to be one of the community highlights. It features elementary school children who learn early to stand on the stage in front of a room full of family, neighbours and friends, and perform to the solid encouragement of a community.

The candlelight dinner has its roots in the school Christmas concert. Early in Saturna life the concert was combined with a potluck dinner but in the mid-1960s the growing population of the island overwhelmed the capacity of the hall and the two events were separated.

The dinner got its name from the first event when the power failed. Wood stoves were found to roast the turkeys and the show went on by candlelight. The tradition continues but now, usually, the candlelight is only for ambiance.

The Santa ship never came to a land-locked prairie town or a mountain community. This island tradition was started by the Jaycees to give a helpful hand to children who might not otherwise have had a happy holiday. It continues under the arm of the Lions Club as a community and island tradition. Adults enjoy this visit as much as the children.

Christmas now comes to St. Christopher's Church closer to December 25. For many years the church met only once a month and Christmas was celebrated whenever the itinerant minister from Pender Island could get to Saturna. Now, thanks to friends with boats, water taxis and ferries, the congregation

meets for an advent service, a Christmas carol service and a Christmas Eve celebration which moves to the tiny, original church building in Winter Cove.

On Christmas Eve, those living in or near Lyall Harbour can expect to be serenaded by carollers who ride, drive and walk door-to-door just for the joy of being together and celebrating the season in song. Everyone of every age is welcome to join the fun. Using candles and lanterns to light song sheets, the carollers brighten the homes and hearts of those they visit.

The family party and open house is one of the nicest traditions of the Christmas season. This happens in many communities but a small isolated island accentuates the importance of neighbourliness. Saturna is a tight-knit community but newcomers are welcomed.

Christmas shopping is often done at the craft fair or the galleries. There is a special feeling that comes with rubbing elbows with the artist who created your gift. This helps to build a sense of community.

Although seasonal events are unique to every place on the globe there is more than this about island living to set it apart. Island living is an all or nothing affair. Isolation forces choices that others may not have to face.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to drop in on family or friends who live off-island and still have an island Christmas. Many islanders choose to go away for the season and spend quality time with loved ones who live in other places. Some choose to stay at home for Christmas even though it means missing celebrations with loved ones afar.

### SATURNA NOTES

WITH GAIL TRAFFORD



Friends who live away from the island may find it difficult to understand the rushed hello when an islander drops by during a frenzy of shopping and errands in the city. But consider it a huge compliment if that happens. It is most difficult to arrange off-island social events around ferry and work schedules and fit them in with necessary city activity.

For those who choose to stay, the island becomes like a family. We're all on this rock together and in spite of the divisions that naturally occur when people are too close together, Saturna is a strong community. That is what really makes Saturna unique. To everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank You for 20 years of service!



ANNA THOMAS, From the Board of Trustees and the Administration of School District #64

**DR. RON REZNICK**  
and his staff  
would like to wish their patients  
a Happy and Healthy  
Holiday Season  
and all the best in 1998!

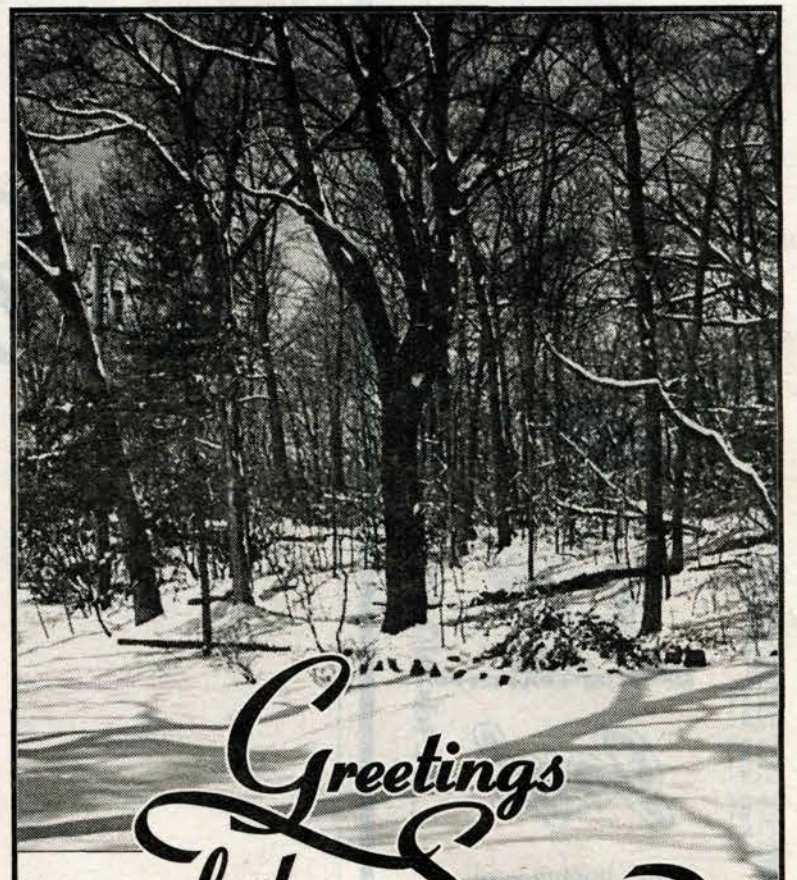
In The  
Holiday  
Tradition

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Thousand A Words* Picture Framing Shoppe & Gallery  
Elaine Krista

We will re-open January 12th, 1998



## Greetings of the Season

Peace, Joy, Love  
May all your prayers be answered  
this holiday season.  
Thank you so much for  
brightening our year with your visits.

From the  
MURAKAMI FAMILY

**IF YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE TURN 69, 70 OR 71 YEARS OF AGE THIS YEAR, WE SHOULD TALK.**

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**Christmas bears**

Santa's Workshop's Bob Appleton, right, "serves" Ganges liquor store manager Brian Gooding last week amidst a clutch of teddy bears. Customers can purchase one bear for \$10; a second then goes to a local charity. Appleton picked up 96 bears to give to needy children.

Photo by Tony Richards

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**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**

**A rose every Friday marks special love**

By **ALEX MITCHELL**  
Driftwood Contributor

When I first met my lady, 50 years ago, she was playing Gershwin on a baby grand piano.

She was wearing black, a coral necklace and had an aristocratic mien which held me, a peasant from long ago, in absolute awe.

How to woo this lady? I bought her a red rose and won her heart. I have been a rose person ever since.

Every subsequent Friday for half a century I gave her a rose. I usually bought them but in times of economic depression I stole them. Public parks, cemeteries, funeral parlours, elderly lady gardeners, but without fail, every Friday I came up with a rose.

It worked and my love life didn't suffer. Roses became an integral part of my life and when my father died I reverently placed a rose on top of his grave. It was a symbol of the love we had for each other and which we could never ever put into words.

My sons either married or enjoined with significant others but a wonderful thing happened. Every

**SENIORS SCENE**

Friday they brought home a red rose to their ladies.

I know this is true because my granddaughter told me so, and she never lies, especially so close to Christmas.

Every Friday I take a rose to Avril in Lady Minto and, although I am gradually losing her, I know she recalls that New Year's Eve when we fell in love with the help of Gershwin and flowers.

Robert Burns, the Scottish poet, was in my class in Grade 5 and he put it rather well. "My love is like a red, red rose," he used to say, "and to be with her I'd walk 10,000 miles."

Not a bad sentiment if you wish to woo a fair lady.

Ten thousand miles is not too feasible with my failing knees, but a stroll to Flowers and Wine is a wonderful alternative.

Rather than embracing seals or trees, why not hug a rose?



From left: Linda Pickell, Tao Kimball, Valorie Lennox, Gail Sjuberg, Jeff Outerbridge, Susan Lundy, Robin Richards, Derrick Lundy, Claudia French, Damaris Rumsby, Rita Bowes and Lorraine Sullivan. Foreground: Tony and Alice Richards

*Merry Christmas*

**TO OUR READERS!**

*...from the front-line staff of Claudia, Linda and Rita who answer your phone calls and greet you at the front counter; from the sales department's Jeff and Damaris who take care of your advertising requirements; from Susan, Gail and Valorie, the scribblers in editorial who write and edit the stories you read; from the production department's Lorraine and Robin who design and build the advertising; from driver Tao who delivers the finished product; and from Tony and Alice at Driftwood Publishing, who are proud to be part of a fine team.*

**FILLED WITH** *Good Wishes*

Here's hoping lots of merriment is in-store for you and your loved ones this year. We really appreciate your shopping here!

**Country Casuals**  
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Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**

# The good night before Christmas



**FAMILY MATTERS**  
WITH SUSAN LUNDY



*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the bedroom was complete chaos and utter bedlam.*

*Ma in her 'kerchief tried to pull in the reins while sugar coursed through the children's veins. The stockings were hung with moderate care — only one eggnog stain and a tiny tear. Five cookies set out with Santa's snack were gently nibbled and put right back. The carpet was tangled with tinsel and cat hair, a forgotten candy cane stuck fast to a chair.*

*But finally the moon rose over the lawn. The children slowed and started to yawn. Once tucked in bed, the coast was clear. And Ma brought out the Christmas gear. Boxes, bows, ribbons and bags, wrapping paper, tape, Christmas tags. It covers the table, the carpet, her toes. Wrap, wrap, snip, snip, on and on it goes.*

*Ma peeks at the clock and then looks away. It's getting late, tomorrow's a big day. Finally the boxes are under the tree, Ma's so tired she can hardly see. It's time for bed, yes it's really near. Then in walks dad, wanting his Christmas cheer. An hour later Ma's finally in bed, sugar plums bump and crash in her head.*

*Then there's a cry, a shriek, a scream. It's two o'clock, one's having a bad dream. Ma pulls herself up, stumbles into the night, pats a small back until all is all right. Then back to sleep, no more than an hour, the other child calls, her belly is "sour." But left the first bed just a little too soon — she had to pee and missed the bathroom.*

*Then it was quiet all through the house till the dog started scratching, the cat found a mouse. And now dawn's fingers stretched across the sky, The children stirred and started to sigh. "Wake up, wake up," they bounced on the bed. Ma lifted her eyes, they felt like lead. She grabbed those girls and smuggled in close. They fell back to sleep until the sun rose!*

*What better gift than an hour's shut eye; it adds new meaning to St. Nick's cry — "Happy Christmas to all," and he's so right when he adds "and to all a very good night."*

# Four dogs find island homes

While some could maintain that Salt Spring is going to the dogs, it is more accurate to say the dogs are going to Salt Spring.

Four dogs slated for destruction in Prince George have been matched with Salt Spring homes following a story in the December 3 Driftwood about dogs in Prince George needing homes, reports Cathie Newman, president of the Salt Spring Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

One terrier-poodle cross, a purebred female springer spaniel, a lab-border collie cross and a small husky have either arrived or will be arriving on Salt Spring shortly, Newman said.

The Prince George dog pound only allows 72 hours before dogs are euthanized so the community's SPCA has been desperately seeking alternate homes for the animals. Former Pender Islander Gayle Burandt, who lives on Salt Spring during the summer, sent an appeal to the island for homes.

At one point, many dogs were sent to Victoria but Newman notes that city is now having difficulty placing all of its homeless dogs, so the appeal was made to Salt Spring residents. Air B.C. donates the shipping of the dogs and also returns the travel cages to Prince George free of charge.

Newman hopes interest in adopting dogs will continue. "We're hoping we'll get a few more dogs in good homes here."

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*Allan Bruce*

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# We're taking a few days off. But we'll be keeping your holidays warm and bright.



Over the holiday season, our B.C. Hydro offices will be closed on the following days:

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH; FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

To make sure you continue to enjoy uninterrupted service during this time, our Emergency and Maintenance crews will be on standby 24 hours a day as usual. For assistance, please call the B.C. Hydro Emergency Electric number in your local telephone directory or 1-800-567-5885 or 537-9966.

We hope you have the happiest of holiday seasons and a safe New Year.

**BChydro**

# Bob Patterson remembered: honest, caring, hardworking

A quiet and unassuming man who filled each day of his 81 years with activity is how the Patterson family remembers father and grandfather Robert (Bob) Patterson, who passed away December 16.

"That was one of Dad's characteristics, he liked simple, hard work," son Bruce recalled.

Other characteristics included honesty, a belief in community service and a love of the ocean and the island community in which he spent most of his life.

Bob's honesty was so well established that it became a bit of a byword in Fulford. Bruce recalls hearing that someone could drop a \$1 bill in Patterson's Store, return a year later and have the \$1 handed to them.

Bruce recalls as a teenager going out with his father one night to repair a line in the Fulford Waterworks District. Bob was one of the volunteer trustees, whose position meant serving as the unpaid repair crew.

After the last of the ferry traffic had passed over the road, the volunteers worked through the night, using picks and shovels to dig up the road, find the leak in the line, repair it and then fill in the road again.

They returned home at 5 a.m., Bruce recalls. His father caught two hours of sleep and then went to work at the store.

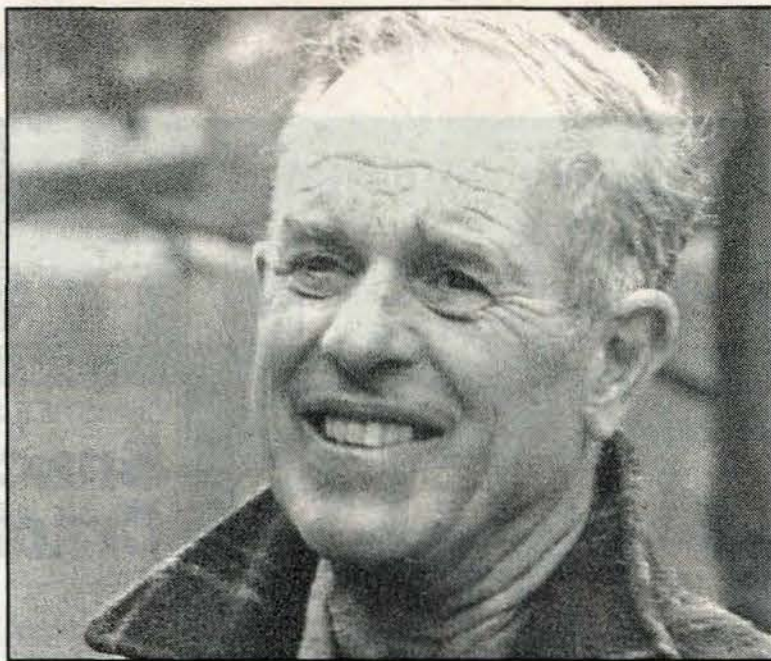
Bob was on the school board for two terms and was also a volunteer fireman for 23 years, staying active long past the usual retirement age since there were few firefighters on the south end of the island. For several years the fire truck was stored in the Pattersons' garage, across from the store.

When there was a fire, the operator would call the store and Bob would run to the fire truck and turn on the siren to alert Fred Hollings, the other firefighter in Fulford.

(The truck once proved irresistible to a very young Bruce, who climbed in and turned on the siren. "Big trouble for that one," he said.)

Devotion to his family was another trait. Elaine Fraser remembers her father coming at midnight in his 16-foot wooden boat to pick her up from her nursing shift at the hospital in Victoria to bring her home for a visit.

That boat, the "Pud" was built in the 1930s, owned by Bob for more than 40 years and used by the family for countless fishing and camping



Bob Patterson

trips. After his lung cancer was diagnosed, Bob gave the boat to Morley Myers with the understanding it would be restored and preserved. Myers finished the restoration in mid-August and Bob was able to see it.

"That was Dad's biggest thrill in the last year of his life," Bruce said.

Bob built his family's first home by taking apart an old house on the family property in Beaver Point and moving the materials to Fulford for reconstruction. Decades later he still had a hammer in his hand, spending two days helping replace a roof on a family cottage last summer.

Always active, he enjoyed fishing, gardening and chopping wood. He was in such good physical shape at 80 that he out-lived granddaughter Valerie Campbell and a group of 20-something friends during a hike through the snow. "Honestly, we couldn't keep up," Campbell said.

He was past 60 when he tried water-skiing for the first time,

despite an inability to swim. "He'd try anything once," Bruce said.

Anything included learning to care for himself to the extent of making jam, pies, bread and canning after his wife Nan died in November 1995 after 53 years of marriage.

For himself, Bob asked his family to keep any memorial tributes to a minimum, Bruce said. "Even in his last days, his primary concern was for us."

Although the family will be holding a quiet, memorial service, they have received so many requests from the community for a chance to honour Bob's memory that they will be holding a gathering this Sunday, December 28, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Fulford Community Hall. Friends are invited to drop by the OAPO room to share memories and stories with the family.

"He's going to be really, really missed," daughter Gladys Campbell said.

## Gulf Coast MATERIALS

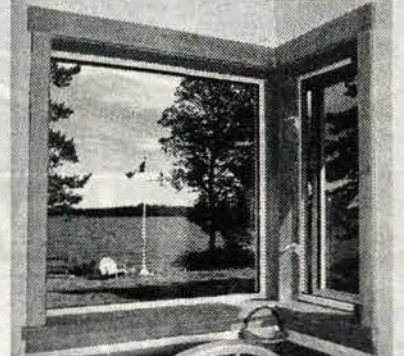
will be off loading the gravel barge on Wednesday, January 7th.

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## Season's Greetings

Our sincere appreciation for your support during 1997, and a special thank-you to the volunteers who have helped us raise funds during the year.

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.



*Lady Minto Gulf Islands*  
**HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

*"Caring is Sharing"*

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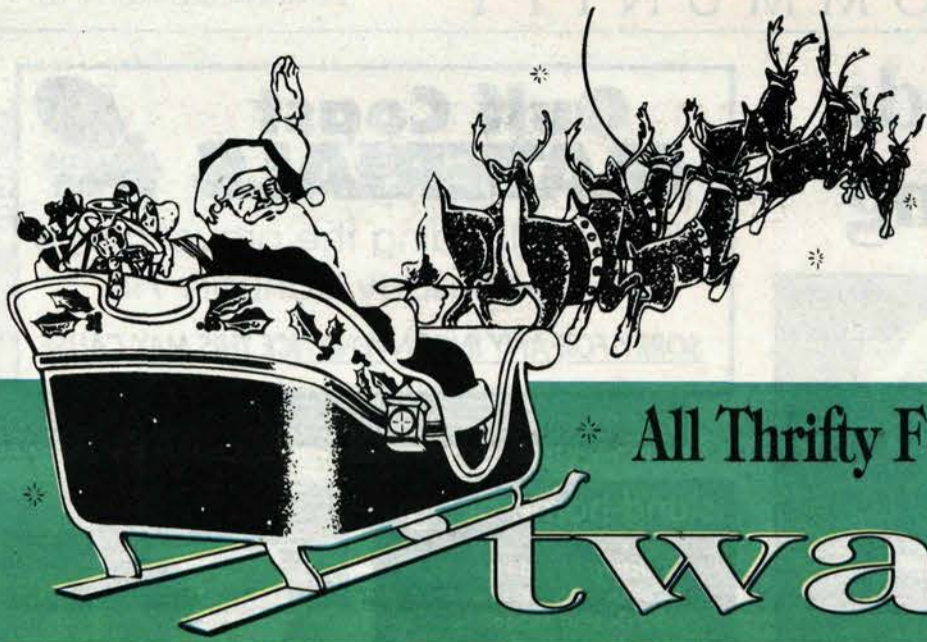
May the *New Year* bring the best to you!

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To all my friends  
at Brinkworthy and  
on Salt Spring.  
May God bless you all  
throughout the holidays!

DORIS DELONG





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ISLAND FARMS

## Christmas Ice Cream

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| NALLEY'S<br><b>Thin 'N' Crispy Chips</b> 170g <b>99¢</b>                |   | SUNKIST<br><b>Lemons</b> <b>10/1<sup>00</sup></b>  |
| HEINZ<br><b>Tomato Juice</b> 1.36L <b>1<sup>49</sup></b>                |   | MEXICAN<br><b>Limes</b> <b>6/1<sup>00</sup></b>  |
| <b>V-8 Juice</b> 1.36L <b>1<sup>69</sup></b>                            | ALBERTO BALSAM<br><b>Hair Care Products</b> 400ml <b>89¢</b>              | MANNS, SPICEY OR MILD<br><b>Broccomole</b> 15oz <b>2<sup>99</sup></b> ea   |
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| ISLAND BAKERY<br><b>12 Grain Bread</b> 454g <b>1<sup>19</sup></b>       | JUMBO OR SUPREME<br><b>Huggies Diapers</b> 36-80's <b>13<sup>88</sup></b> | <b>In Store Bakery</b><br>WHITE OR 100% WHOLE WHEAT<br><b>Dinner Buns</b> <b>98¢</b> doz   |
| PLAIN OR CHEESE<br><b>Ritz Crackers</b> 450g <b>2<sup>69</sup></b>      | MOLSON'S<br><b>.5% Alcohol Beer</b> 12pk <b>4<sup>69</sup></b> plus dep   | <b>Bulk Values</b><br>SALT SPRING ONLY, BRACH'S<br><b>Chocolate Mint Patties</b> <b>79¢</b> 100g   |
| MCLAREN'S<br><b>Imperial Cheese</b> 250g <b>2<sup>99</sup></b>          | SELECTED<br><b>Bick's Dill Pickles</b> 1L <b>1<sup>88</sup></b>           | FOLEY'S<br><b>Chocolate Covered Almonds</b> <b>79¢</b> 100g  |
| PHILADELPHIA<br><b>Cream Cheese Chip Dip</b> 227g <b>1<sup>99</sup></b> | Stoned Wheat<br><b>Thins</b><br><b>2<sup>68</sup></b> 600g                | SALTED OR UNSALTED<br><b>Whole Roasted Cashews</b> <b>1<sup>25</sup></b> 100g  |
| MOTTS<br><b>Clamato Juice</b> 1.89L <b>2<sup>88</sup></b>               |   | <b>THRIFTY FOODS™</b><br>ISLAND RACE SERIES '98<br>HARRIERS 8K, SAANICHTON, JANUARY 11 '98<br>Maurice Tarrant, Race Director 478-4122          |
| NIAGARA FROZEN<br><b>Orange Juice</b> 341ml <b>68¢</b>                  |   |  |

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# No humbugs here: Newman's Scrooge is a crowd-pleaser

By **SUSAN LUNDY**  
Driftwood Staff

Bring on the superlatives! Christmas with Scrooge was an excellent example of community theatre topped with first-rate acting, costumes and choreography.

The Newman family's adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol served all the favourite Dickens lines spiced with the Newman touch in dance, song and music, and dished-up with lots of humour.

With original music and story adaptation by Ray and Virginia Newman, Christmas with Scrooge has become an island tradition with its origins in a similar Newman presentation — Christmas Madness — first staged in 1971.

The show was directed by Virginia and daughter Sue Newman and also featured the acting talents of Sue's offspring Patrice Bowler (Tiny Tim) and Lauren Bowler, Spanish dancer extraordinaire.

Staged Friday to Sunday at Mahon Hall, the presentation felt like a festive family affair. Christmas greenery decorated the hall starting with a glimmering tree near the entrance-way and moving along with dressed-up ceiling and walls and a brightly-lit tree on stage.

With the decorated hall plus an invitation to join carollers in the singing of Joy to The World, the audience was drawn into the presentation. The production also used each of the three aisles for actor entrances: a tact that further contributed to the homey sense of belonging to the show.

Having diligently refused to watch any televised production of A Christmas Carol other than the Alastair Sim version, and having been too busy with small children to take in the Newman Christmas show in any of the last few years, I approached the production as a Christmas With Scrooge virgin.

I left Mahon Hall feeling wonderfully entertained by a cast of "friends and family" — even though I actually knew only a handful of the actors — and warmly touched by the many familiar faces in the audience who lin-

gered after the production to share coffee and snacks and seasonal good wishes. It was a true community event.

Highlighting the show was the crotchety and cleverly-aged Vaughn Fulford who portrayed the infamous Scrooge with enough cantankerous "bah humbugs" to meet even Alastair Sim's approval, I'm sure. His dour description of carollers as a "bunch of goofers" provided a little island flavour, and Fulford threw himself into the role with sufficient fervour to awe and even scare a few of the front row children.

Reid Collins excelled in the role of Marley's Ghost and again in the small-but-memorable part of Butterworth, the butler, seen dancing the polka with a tray of drinks.

The Newman show really strutted its stuff at the Fezziwig party which gave rise to several entertaining musical numbers, including some ballroom dancing and a lively performance by the aforementioned Spanish dancers.

A show within the show — featuring a dog trainer (Korena Vine who played a number of roles) and her spotty dogs leaping through a tinsel-covered hula hoop — perhaps took the Fezziwig celebration a bit too far, but the children at Sunday's matinee loved it.

Show-stealing Debbi Toole also appeared at the Fezziwig party as the shimmering and diamond-glazed French prima donna Madame Pomme de Terre. Toole paraded across the stage trilling operatic intonations and sending gullible men swooning in her wake. It was a classy act.

The show also included a number of clear and well-versed children. Especially appealing was Patrice Bowler who portrayed a very sweet Tiny Tim.

Virginia Newman aptly handled the many musical numbers on the piano and the sets and costumes were superb.

It was a grand and festive family affair — an event that will undoubtedly become one of my family's Christmas traditions.



**CHRISTMAS TRADITION:** Above, the Ghost of Christmas Present (Rachel Jacobson) confronts Ebenezer Scrooge (Vaughn Fulford), while at left, a Fezziwig party entertainer (Debbi Toole) attracts the attention of party-goer Martin Thorn in the annual production of Christmas with Scrooge.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

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**Early gifts**

Sheila Ball, left, and friend Kelly Kerr hold some early Christmas gifts, a stuffed bear and a stuffed pig. Sheila and Kelly coerced a Driftwood photographer into taking their photo at Salt Spring Middle School last week.

Photo by Tony Richards

**Wrath reunites on New Year's**

The Grapes of Wrath will grace the stage at the Harbour House on New Year's Eve.

The band recorded four albums between 1984 and their last performance together in 1992, and each release went either gold or platinum. These men do rock and roll the right way. Their savoir faire in the studio is second only to the incredible chemistry they create on stage, so prepare for the party of the year.

Tom Hooper and Kevin Kane have remained active since the split in 1992: Kane went solo with his wicked guitar while Hooper founded Ginger here on the old Salty Dog.

This event is real news within the music industry, but the band has chosen to keep it quiet because they may decide not to make this reunion permanent yet.

This one act is well worth the modest \$30 ticket price, but you get much more. Three Chord Sloth kicks off the evening's entertainment with the blues, Salt Spring style, including drums from the amazing Jerome Jarvis.

The Grapes of Wrath will be followed by another renowned group of former Salt Spring musicians called Pine Cone Fight, as well as a visit from The Cranberry Hill Gang.

Tickets are still available at the front desk of the Harbour House Hotel.

• It seems every musician on the island played this past weekend. Gene Grooms was hot at the Harbour House with Kenny Preston on drums, Ron Lukawitski on six string bass, Neil Taylor on guitar and Phil Newns on keys. These guys are

serious professionals with a flare for funky syncopation and the ability to flavour cover tunes with serious style. The evening included several sneak previews of Grooms' upcoming release Blues for the Nineties, and by this weekend's indications the CD will be popular long after the '90s are merely a memory.

• Moby's was cozy on Saturday afternoon as a real who's who of island musicians shared their Christmas cheer at the Barley Brothers'-hosted Musical Craft Faire. We arrived to the sound of Canadian folk-hero Valdy's often humorous and always life-affirming songs, and were delighted to hear members of the audience singing along.

The Stack Sisters, Cathy and Jane, sang a set of songs with the finest harmonies you will hear anywhere in the world today. Their voices are clear, their lyrics are cool, and their notes are true without exception. These two are one of Salt Spring's many amazing musical treasures.

Triskele Celtic Band entertained next with a lengthy set of Celtic songs ranging from the popular Mary Mack to several lively toe-tapping jigs. Carol

**MUSIC WITH KERRY ROTH**



Young was right on the money with the pennywhistle in the Swallowtail Jig. Scotland the Brave is an "imitation bagpipe song" which sounds like a marching bagpipe band approaching, playing to a crescendo and marching away.

Dave Roland introduced Richard Cross as a sensitive singer-songwriter de-sensitized, but whatever you call him his set was delightful. His latest release True World Planet Temple is, according to the wizard of the studio Paul Brousseau, the finest technical work ever recorded on this island. Cross played a set cut short by the restrictions of time, but still the audience witnessed a rare public performance as Brousseau joined and played a mean flute for the last song.

The show continued for several hours, but unfortunately we were not witness to the rest. The grapevine says we missed a great show at Beaver Point Hall, too, as the Carrot Revolution and many others celebrated the winter solstice.

*Merry Christmas All!*  
 WE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 & 26  
**The Kanaka Restaurant**  
 Entrance beside Travel Shop / Reservations 537-5041

*Fulford Inn*  
 653-4432  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**THREE-COURSE PRIME RIB DINNER** \$14.95  
 including soup, salad, and yorkshire pudding .....  
 IN THE RESTAURANT & PUB  
 WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH  
**"Ted Cook and the Cranberry Hill Band"**  
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**AFTER Christmas SALE**  
**DECEMBER 27 - 31, 1997**  
**25% OFF** All Regular Merchandise  
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**STONE WALRUS GALLERY**  
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**TIDES INN**  
**JOIN US For New Year's**  
 Wednesday December 31st  
**STEAK & LOBSTER DINNER**  
**INCLUDES:** French onion soup or Caesar salad, New York steak, lobster baked in brandy sauce, baked potato or rice and fresh veggie, tea or coffee  
**\$22.95** per person  
*Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to all of our customers and friends*  
**CHINESE FOOD** Eat in or take out 10% OFF FOR TAKE OUT  
**DIM SUM - 10 items** Every Saturday & Sunday 11AM - 2PM  
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**Hastings House**  
  
**Autumn Special**  
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 From now 'til Dec. 15, enjoy  
 TWO five course dinners for  
**\$89.00**  
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 Nightly at 7 p.m.  
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 Bring in the New Year  
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**HARBOUR HOUSE Bistro**  
 A five course dinner will be served.  
 Party favours & a toast at midnight.  
 Singing & dancing to  
 Murray Anderson.  
 All this for \$40.00/person.  
 Call for more information  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
 Call the Bistro  
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# WHAT'S ON

## Music

- **Hastings House** — Simone Grasky performs mellow jazz before dinner on Wednesday, December 24.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — Country Music with Kenny Byron and the Tragically Hick on Friday and Saturday, December 26 and 27.
- **Vesuvius Inn** — Boxing Day Bash with Three Chord Sloth, and special guest Gary Preston, December 26, 8 p.m.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — Barrington Perry plays piano every Saturday evening starting at 6:30 p.m.
- **Moby's Marine Pub** — Sunday Dinner Jazz with the Ray and Lloyd Quartet, December 28, 7 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Sunday Brunch Music Menu music from noon to 3 p.m. December 28: Peeter Prince and The Little Earthquakes.
- **Salt Spring Roasting Co.** — Every Tuesday evening is the Celtic Music Circle from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

## Cinema

- **Flubber** — A Disney remake on their 1961 comedy in which an eccentric scientist (this time played by Robin Williams) invents a new substance he can't control. Imagine visually dazzling antics of the green goo and imagine a shape-shifting blob of lime green Jello. Sounds like fun to me! Playing Saturday and Tuesday, December 27 and 30, at 7 p.m., and Sunday and Monday, December 28 and 29, at 4 p.m. All seats \$4. 1 hour, 30 minutes. Rated General. Cinema Central.
- **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** — Clint Eastwood's handsomely evocative adaptation of John Berendt's bestseller about the impact of a murder on the colourful denizens of Savannah Georgia is a skillfully crafted black comedy. Features fine performances by John Cusack, Kevin Spacey, and Lady Chablis, a drag queen who plays herself. Playing Saturday and Tuesday, December 27 and 30, at 9 p.m., and Sunday and Monday, December 28 and 29, at 7:30 p.m. 2 hours, 30 minutes. Rated PG, some violence and coarse language. Cinema Central.

## Family

- **Pre-School Storytime** — Mary Hawkins Library, every Monday at 10 a.m. The more the merrier!
- **Storytime at West of the Moon** — Every Tuesday morning. Ages 2 to 3, 9:30 to 10 a.m.; ages 3 to 5, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Join us!

## New Year's Eve

- **Moby's Marine Pub** — New Year's Eve Bash with the Bill Hilly Band. Dining 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dancing 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Champagne, party favours and fun. December 31.
- **Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub** — New Year's Eve Charity Concert with the Grapes of Wrath, warmed up by Three Chord Sloth. Also performing are Pine Cone Fight and The Cranberry Hill Gang. Party favours and champagne at midnight. Tickets \$30 per person, available at the front desk. December 31.
- **Harbour House Bistro** — Five-course dinner, party favours and a toast at midnight. Also, singing and dancing to Murray Anderson. \$40 per person, December 31.
- **Legion New Year's Eve Party** — Dance to the country music of Kenny Byron and The Tragically Hick. Cold buffet 10 p.m. Champagne at midnight. Tickets \$10 per person (in advance only), at the bar. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., December 31.
- **Fulford Inn** — New Year's Eve three-course prime rib dinner, and entertainment and dancing with Ted Cook and the Cranberry Hill Band, December 31.
- **Pomodori Restaurant** — New Year's Eve bash. Sing and dance to the music of Derek Duffy, December 31.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — New Year's Eve dinner, with Barrington Perry playing piano. \$35 per person, reservations recommended. December 31.
- **Seacourt Restaurant** — A Year to Celebrate, a New Year's Eve celebration. Five-course gourmet dinner with matching wines, champagne at the beginning and end, and the music of Anthony Prosk. \$98 per couple. December 31.

# 'Moving, tender' diva gives All Saints recital in January

If the name Tamara Hummel is not known to Gulf Islands music lovers, it likely will be after January 11.

That's the day the aspiring diva, who is said to be making "a meteoric rise in the opera world," gives a recital on Salt Spring at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church at 2:30 p.m.

The 25-year-old Hummel, a native of Aldergrove, has sung with the Vancouver Cantata Singers and the Vancouver Opera Chorus and was involved with the Academy's Opera Program.

Lloyd Dykk, Vancouver Sun music critic, wrote of her performances: "Her sorrow was human and statuesque at the same time. She was moving, tender, her singing shaded and silky with legato, lighting on high B-flats that her range encompassed naturally."

For the Salt Spring recital, Hummel will perform works by Schubert, Debussy, Rossini, Strauss and Rodgers & Hammerstein.

She will be accompanied by the well-known Robert Holliston of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

In 1996, after only two years of studying opera, Hummel was a scholarship winner of the Johann Strauss Foundation for study at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and a first-place winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. She currently resides in New York City where she is pursuing her final year of graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music.

Tickets for the Hummel concert are \$12 and available at et cetera, Sharon's, Ron Watson at 537-2103 or at the door. Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

The recital is being presented by the Johann Strauss Foundation as a service to the community, and is produced by the foundation's Claus Andress.

The Salt Spring-based registered charity was established in 1985 to support musical education in B.C. and give scholarship support to young B.C. musicians who wish to further their advanced music studies in the cultural environment of Austria. An annual fundraising event in Victoria combines this charitable purpose with the enjoyment of music and dance in a typical Viennese atmosphere.

Donations for scholarship purposes are welcomed at Box 681, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2W3, by phoning 537-2559 or at the door.



Tamara Hummel

**POMODORI**  
Restaurant and Inn  
375 Baker Rd.  
537-2247

REGULAR HOURS:  
Dinner 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**OPEN YEAR ROUND**

Two private dining rooms, woodburning fireplaces in both. They are available for lunch or dinner functions by reservation only. In-house catering available.

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH!**  
Sing & dance to live music by Derek Duffy

To book please call Mirjana at 537-2247  
Thank You.

**Season's Greetings**

FROM EVERYONE AT  
*Maxine's*  
BOARDWALK CAFE

CLOSED  
Dec. 25, 26 & Jan. 1

Anyway you say it...

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Feliz Navidad  
Joyeux Noel  
Merry Christmas

We wish you the best!

Susan & Tom  
Jamie & Xiang  
Lara, John & Phoebe

HOURS: 24 Dec. closed @1pm  
25 Dec. closed / 26 Dec. closed  
27 Dec. open 10-2

**UNIGLOBE Travel**  
537-5523  
in "Creekhouse"

The Johann Strauss Foundation presents:

**MATINEE**

TAMARA HUMMEL  
Soprano

ROBERT HOLLISTON  
Piano

"All about Love" from Schubert to Rodgers & Hammerstein

IN CONCERT AT  
**All Saints By-the-Sea**  
January 11, 1998 • 2:30pm

Tickets: \$12.00  
Available from et cetera, Sharon's and at the door

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE INTERMISSION

Produced by:  
CLAUS ANDRESS

**TOP 10 VIDEOS**

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. My Best Friend's Wedding (1) | 6. The Fifth Element (7)    |
| 2. George of the Jungle (2)     | 7. Speed 2 (10)             |
| 3. Men in Black (3)             | 8. Austin Powers (8)        |
| 4. Contact (4)                  | 9. A Simple Wish (5)        |
| 5. Con Air (5)                  | 10. Grosse Pointe Blank (6) |

(Dash (-) indicates last week's position)

**COMING SOON**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>DECEMBER 23</b><br>Air Bud<br>Spawn<br>187<br>Bliss | <b>DECEMBER 30</b><br>Steel<br>Conspiracy Theory |
|--|--|

Island Star: The Sequel now open at GVM

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**ISLAND STAR VIDEO**  
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**ON STAGE:** Sugar plum fairies, from left, Helena Bryn McLeod, Amber Seguin and Jenna Watson enthral the audience at Salt Spring Centre School's Nutcracker. Above right, flowers Emily McPhee and Justine Watkins watch the show from their positions

in the choir, while at right main characters, from left, Raizy Marmorstein (Fritz), Leala Gauthier (Uncle Drosselmier), Metta McLeod (Clara) and Sada Keel (Nutcracker) take their final bows.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



# Centre school serves up colour and confidence in Nutcracker

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

Attending a live performance of The Nutcracker Suite ballet is a well-starred item on my list of things to do when my daughter is old enough to truly enjoy it with me.

Until then, Salt Spring Centre School's production of the Nutcracker youth musical at Fulford Hall last Wednesday did the trick for both of us.

There was energetic choral singing, elegant and athletic dancing, humorous lines and confident acting; a bright and shiny set, and creative costumes.

For a bonus we got to chuckle over a persnickety half of a Fulford Hall stage curtain, which wasn't always ready to open on cue. However, the wrestling with the unyielding maroon opponent added to the production's character.

As most people know, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite is best known as a ballet based on the story of a girl who takes a magical dream trip courtesy of a nutcracker shaped like a toy soldier. (Russian nutcrackers are often shaped like human heads, my music history textbook reveals.)

From risers on the floor, the choir of almost 50 children propelled a strong, united sound into the hall, and didn't let its opening enthusiasm sag as various groups departed to do their on-stage dances. Collectively its members made an intriguing sight: some dressed as fairies, others as Russian, Arabian or Chinese characters, soldiers, flowers and rats — the latter complete with mischievous-looking, cone-shaped noses and stiff whiskers.

This seems to be an ideal musical play for a multi-aged cast of young people. As choir members they are involved for the whole show, and then experience the

excitement of doing their smaller group scenes.

When the children were doing their group dances, I perceived a lovely sense of cooperation. If someone in a troupe hesitated for a second, another child gently reminded them of their next move, or gave an outstretched hand to bring them into a circle or line.

**...even the youngest in the audience were entertained throughout.**

The main actors did exceptionally well, speaking and moving with confidence. There was Metta McLeod as Clara, Sada Keel playing the Nutcracker, Leala Gauthier as Uncle Drosselmier and Raizy Marmorstein as Clara's brother Fritz.

Dawn Hage played masterful piano throughout the musical. I almost fell over when I saw her there. To my knowledge, since December 10 this musician and mother of two has played

Christmas carols for two pre-school classes; sang, played trumpet and narrated a story for the Tuned Air Christmas concert; performed at the Salt Spring Centre winter fair on Saturday; and provided the music for the Nutcracker. (That's probably not all of her Christmas musical activity, either.)

The hall felt festive with strings of fir and cedar and decorated angels hanging overhead, and the hum and hurried steps of excited children.

Then there's the ultimate proof of a successful production — even the youngest in the audience were entertained throughout. The Nutcracker was an excellent introduction to theatre for my preschool-aged daughter, who sat gripped by the action and music for the entire show.

"That was a neat play, Mom," she announced as we walked to our car. "I liked how there was something different every time the curtain opened." She might be similarly impressed by the ballet version one of these years, but I'll bet we will always remember our first live Nutcracker from Salt Spring Centre School.

**SALT SPRING'S OWN**

**Cinema Central**

DEC. 27 - 30 24 HOUR INFO LINE 537-4656

**ROBIN WILLIAMS**  
**FLUBBER**

1hr 30 min  
ALL SEATS \$4 (Flubber only)

Sat. & Tues 7pm / Sun. & Mon. 4pm

**MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL**

KEVIN SPACEY  
JOHN CUSACK

2hrs 30 min  
PG Some violence & coarse language

Sat. & Tues 9pm / Sun. & Mon. 7:30pm



*Season's Greetings from everyone at*

**Golden Island**  
CHINESE RESTAURANT-LICENSED

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LUNCH.....Tues.-Fri. 11:30-2

DINNER.....Tues.-Thurs. 5-10  
Fri.-Sat. 5-11; Sun. 5-9

**DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS**  
**\$5.75**

Closed Mondays

Upper Ganges Centre, Ganges 537-2535

**CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS DEC. 22 THRU DEC. 25 RE-OPENING FRIDAY DEC. 26**

NEW YEAR'S DINNER at

alfresco

Wednesday, December 31  
Entertainment by  
**Barrington Perry on piano**

CHOICE OF: - Fruits of the sea in puff pastry  
- 2 soups in 1 bowl; butternut squash & mussel bisque  
- Veal sweetbreads in tawny port and green peppercorn sauce  
- Wild mushroom terrine

CHOICE OF: - Live Atlantic lobster with papaya, saffron and champagne sauce  
- Hickory-smoked veal loin chop with blackberry balsamic sauce  
- Pesto crusted rack of lamb with fresh rosemary, Dijon mustard and Cizano sauce.  
- Trio of vegetarian flans

CHOICE OF: - Tiramisu  
- Blackberry creme brulee  
- Trio of sorbettoes - mango, raspberry and strawberry  
- Belgian chocolate truffle torte  
                  coffee, tea

**\$35.00 per person**  
Reservations please: 537-5979

(LAST YEAR WAS SOLD OUT QUICKLY!)

PARTY ANIMAL?

Check out the **WHAT'S ON** calendar of events in the Arts & Entertainment section of the Driftwood.

# New Year's bashes planned

Elegant dinners, excellent music, dancing and toasts to 1998 are some of the options for New Year's Eve celebrants on Salt Spring.

At Moby's Pub islanders can ring in the new year with the Bill Hilly Band, a five-member Victoria group that plays sophisticated, yet "down home," acoustic music which has made them an in-demand entertainment commodity.

Promotional material states: "Their rich four and five-part harmonies have had audiences swooning from Copenhagen to Courtenay. Whether they play oldtime fiddle tunes, bluegrass, klezmer, Gypsy swing or mariachi, when they hit the stage, the joint is jumpin' and the dancers are bumpin'."

Dinner will be served from 5 to 11 p.m., with dancing from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Kenny Byron and the Tragically Hick are celebrating their first anniversary and the new year with a performance at the Legion. The party includes a cold buffet at 10 p.m. and champagne at midnight. Advance tickets only from the Legion are \$10.

The Fulford Inn's New Year's celebration includes a three-course prime rib dinner, with Yorkshire pudding, soup and salad, served in the restaurant or pub. Ted Cook and the Cranberry Hill Gang are providing the entertainment.

At Pomodori Restaurant, people are invited to welcome the new year by singing and dancing to the music of the multi-talented Derek Duffy.

The Cranberry Hill Gang are also scheduled to make an appearance at the Harbour House Hotel with recording artists The Grapes of Wrath and locally-rooted Pine Cone Fight and Three Chord Sloth.

(See Kerry Roth's music column this week for more details on the Harbour House event.)

Tickets are \$30 per person and available at the Harbour House Hotel front desk or by calling the hotel at 537-5571. Price includes party favours and champagne at midnight.

At the Harbour House Bistro, a five-course dinner, party favours and a toast at midnight is planned, along with singing and dancing to Murray Anderson on the piano. Cost is \$40 per person.

Alfresco Restaurant is also serving up a special New Year's Eve dinner, for \$35, with Barrington Perry playing piano. Reservations are recommended. A five-course gourmet dinner with matching wines and champagne, at \$98 per couple, is set for Seacourt Restaurant. Anthony Prosk, who has just released a CD called Gulf Islands Suite, will provide the music.



**Crafter**

Island musician Peeter Prince performs at Moby's Pub Saturday night as the pub presents a musical craft fair throughout the afternoon and evening.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Country music on tap

There'll be lots of country music on Salt Spring during the Christmas season.

Kenny Byron and The Tragically Hick are playing in the Wheelhouse Pub in the Harbour House Hotel this weekend, and at the Legion on New Year's Eve.

The Salt Spring band, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, plays a mix of old country and new, from Hank Williams to George Strait. The group also draws on the music of bands such as Prairie Oyster, the Mavericks and Lone Star.

Lead singer and guitarist Ken Byron formed the band in the fall of

1996. He called on his brother Darrel Byron, a singer-guitarist with many years of performing experience, lead guitarist Paul Smith and keyboard player Tony Richards to join him. Drummer Mike Stefancsik and bass guitarist Dave Bartle joined the band a few months later.

The Tragically Hick has played for several dances at the Legion in the past year and for some private parties. The band plans to make a recording in the coming year.

The Tragically Hick will play at the Harbour House on Friday and Saturday, and at the Legion next Wednesday.



*May the miracle of Christmas and the goodwill that abounds during the season be with you all through the year!*



**RE/MAX of Salt Spring**  
Salt Spring Isl, BC  
V8K 2T2

**Tom Navratil**  
(250) 537-9977

AT THE  
**LEGION**

## New Year's Eve Party

Dance to the country music of  
**KENNY BYRON**  
and **The Tragically Hick**  
(celebrating their 1st anniversary)

**Cold Buffet 10PM**      **Champagne at midnight**

Tickets \$10 per person (in advance only) at the bar

**Doors open at 8:30pm**

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME

## "A Year to Celebrate"

AT THE  
**Seacourt Restaurant**

Chef Larry Lee is teaming up with wine consultant Steve Coopman to present the first in a series of five course wine dinners.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MENU 1997

**HORS D'OEUVRES**  
served with Vernay Brut Premium French Sparkling Wine

**SOUP CELESTINE**  
chicken broth with julienne vegetables, garnished with julienne crepes  
served with Vernay Brut Premium French Sparkling wine

**TEA-SMOKED DUCK CONFIT**  
served with mixed greens and a warm tarragon-cranberry vinaigrette  
served with Calona Vineyards Artist Series Gewurztraminer 1995

**FRESH FRUIT ICE CASSATA**

**CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF ROULADE**  
stuffed with cognac pate and Chanterelle mushrooms  
garnished with a fine herb Chardonnay glaze  
served with Columbia Crest Merlot

**CAFE DIABLO**

**FRUIT AND NUT BRIE**  
baked brie encrusted with toasted ground brazil nuts  
served with pineapple-apricot coulis  
served with Quinta Do Crasto Vintage 1985 Port

**MIDNIGHT**  
toast to 1998 with Domaine Mumsms Cuvee Napa Brut Prestige

Seating is limited

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MONDAY DEC. 29

\$98/couple plus taxes

Doors open 7pm / Hors d'oeuvres 7:30pm / Dinner served 8pm

ENTERTAINMENT BY ANTHONY PROSK

**SEACOURT RESTAURANT**  
537-4611



*Thank You*  
for 20 years of service!



**CHARLES NELKEN,**  
From the Board of Trustees  
and the Administration of  
School District #64

*Merry Christmas Everyone*

**FROM THE STAFF & MANAGEMENT**

**THE WHEELHOUSE PUB IS OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY 4PM - 8PM**

*\*Off Sales Available\**

**BOXING DAY & SAT. DEC. 27**

**"THE TRAGICALLY HICK"**

GET YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE TIX NOW!

- Three Chord Sloth •
- THE GRAPES OF WRATH •

**SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY: PINE CONE FIGHT**

Tickets available at the front desk

*If it's happening on the island it's at the*

**HARBOUR HOUSE**  
537-5571

## CHRISTMAS STORIES

## Christmas in the woods

By JENNA WATSON BRAWN

Age 6

Salt Spring Centre School  
First place

One day there was an elf and he was lonely.

He was so little, he could fit into Santa's pocket! One day Santa was looking for the little elf but the elf was at the Christmas store. He went to buy some Christmas lights and decorations for the tree. He was so excited that he bought candy and junk food. Santa did not allow junk food at the North Pole. It was so good he stayed at the store until the evening, then he decided to stay overnight.

He saw a fairy in the store at night. The fairy told the elf that he should go home because it was Christmas Day! He jumped up and dropped all of his things and ran out to the sleigh. He was so rushed that he jumped right out of his shoes! He jumped into the sled just in time to help Santa deliver the presents.

## Christmas

By DANICA LUNDY

Age 6

Salt Spring Centre School  
Second place

Jane and Michael were so excited that in two days it was Christmas.

Jane was more excited than Michael because it was her birthday and she was turning 8. It was Christmas Eve, we were so busy!

Tomorrow is Christmas.

"Santa Claus has been here," exclaimed Jane. "Look in our stockings."

"Wow, look at mine."

"Time to have breakfast."

"Oh mom, we want to unwrap our presents."

"You can upwrap your presents now."

"Mine is special," said Jane. "It's Purrla."

# Christmas Creations



**READY FOR JUDGING:** Preparing to judge Christmas stories are, from left, Ken Kennings, Olive Clayton, Don Boyes, coordinator Alex Mitchell, Betty Poole, Norma Selig and Dan Davies of Salt Spring. Absent

was Lewis Pitman. The judges sifted through 85 entries before choosing the winners of the Driftwood's annual Christmas story contest. The winning entries are being published this week.

Photo by Tony Richards

## Christmas story winners named

Winners of the Driftwood's annual Christmas story contest are published in this week's paper.

Judges read entries from 85 local youngsters, and awarded prizes to 10 of them.

The winners in each of the five age groups were:

- 5 and 6: Jenna Watson Brawn, first; Danica Lundy, second.
- 7 and 8: Pandora Morgan, first; Catlin Hilyer, second.
- 9 and 10: Noah McColl, first; Alicia Coelho, second.
- 11 and 12: Danika Surm, first; Mason Bennett, second.
- 14-17: Patrick Callas, first; Matthew King,

second.

Winners receive cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$50.

The judges also awarded honourable mention to several youthful writers whom they felt deserved special recognition for their work.

They were Salt Spring Centre School students Heather MacDonald, 6, Sofia Dammel-Sherrin, Dustin McRobb, Sarah McCormick, Arlo Bryn-Thorn, Liam Budd and Tilly Morgan, all aged 4.

Judging was coordinated again this year by Driftwood columnist Alex Mitchell. Judges were Betty Poole, Olive Clayton, Dan Davies, Don Boyes, Norma Selig, Lewis Pitman and Ken Kennings.

## Elves Don't Have Small Ears

By PANDORA MORGAN

Age 8

Fulford Elementary School  
First place

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house, nothing was stirring, not even an elf. The children were sleeping but in the morning something was wrong. Santa had not come! People were in a panic all over the world!

When three kids went to

school everything seemed sad, especially Elizabeth their gym teacher. She was so sad she was too late for school. The kids' names were Mary, Joan and Emily. Elizabeth was Mary's mother. They were all in kindergarten and had short hair. Joan and Emily came over to Mary's all the time.

As far as Joan and Emily were concerned, Mary's mother Elizabeth was an elf because she wore red and green all the

time and a funny little hat. She also had little beady twinkling eyes. Mary didn't agree with the others. "Elves don't have small ears," she said.

Joan and Emily teased her and told all the other kids, "Mary's got an elf mother, Mary's got an elf mother!" Soon all the kids laughed at her.

Soon Elizabeth called everyone into the gym. The room was filled with presents and

there was one BIG present as big as a full grown man. The label on it said "To the Whole Wide World." They opened it and were surprised. It was Santa.

"Merry Christmas!" he said. "The reindeer ran away so I couldn't bring your presents but now they are back on schedule. So dig for your presents." So they did.

Mary thought maybe having an elf mom isn't so bad.

## The Disaster Christmas

By CATLIN HILYER

Age 8

Fulford Elementary School  
Second place

There was once an elf family. There was a mother, a father, a big brother, a big sister and a little sister.

I am the little one. My name is Small One because I am too small to do anything. My father's name is Big Elf because he is the biggest. My mother's name is Medium Elf. And my brother and sister's name is Weirdo Elf (well, that is just what I call them because they always act weird.). This is a story about my family and our wacky Christmas last year. Here is my story.

It was December when everything was a bustle. Mother was cooking, father was out shopping for everyone. And us kids were writing to Santa. This is what my letter said ...

Dear Santa Claus,  
I would like a new cap, a radio, and a new scarf.

From,  
Small One

My letter was always short, because I did not want to be greedy. But my brother's and sister's were always very long.

Well, let's get to a different subject. After

that we decorated the tree. One hour later, the tree was beautiful and then I just thought that I had forgotten to put cookies out for Santa.

Up at the North Pole, things weren't so jolly. Santa lost all his reindeer. The presents were going to be late and the elves were on vacation. It was a DISASTER!!!

So, Santa phoned up the elf family to see if they would mind helping. They said yes. So they got a ride to the North Pole, but their train was cancelled! So they could not go. Christmas would be cancelled. But there was a plane going soon and they could catch it. So they caught it and they saved Christmas. And the elves had a good Christmas.

## The Month of Love

By Danika Surm

Age 12

Mayne Island School  
First place

Wearily I trudged home from school. Another day had gone by with everyone preparing for the Christmas concert.

The choir was singing The Lord is Our Shepherd in anticipation of the yearly Christmas ritual. My best friend, Aja, was playing the lead angel and in her sequined costume I envied her more than anyone could guess. My parents being very strict Jews, I was not allowed to participate in the preparations for Christmas. At home, the house was bustling with getting ready for Chanukah, but to me, the excitement seemed dulled and rather lonely.

I kicked at a clump of snow that lay in my path and threaded my way around puddles of slush. Angrily I buried my hands in my pockets.

Lights flickered in my window and the silhouette of my mother drew me towards the door. Our menorah gleamed on the windowsill and all the brightly coloured candles, standing tall and perfect, ready to be burned, reminded me that nothing had changed. Tomorrow I would light the first candle, say the traditional prayers, share presents, and play games.

Nothing excited me — not the thought of seeing my relatives, nor the excitement of receiving presents. I'd been robbed of my traditions, all because of my new awareness of other peoples' beliefs. I wanted to celebrate Christmas too!

During lunch the next afternoon I shoved myself into the cafeteria line-up. As we were jostled forward, I tried to make myself heard over the sea of students. I soon became hoarse and had to wait for another opportunity to speak with Aja. Finally the time arose, and nervously fearing that she would think less of me, I asked her the question.

As I nibbled on my fingernails, I asked, "Aja ..." Stumbling over the words I tried hard to explain my jealousy, my longing to be like her.

"Aja, what is Christmas like?"

I could tell she was taken aback and I realized that our friendship had really not gone much further than school and occasional phone conversations. Her response was slow in coming, but that was just Aja.

"The smell of Christmas comes first. The scent of cookies filling the house and cakes and candies covering the counters and empty shelves. Mysterious packages loom under beds and in cupboards. The house is decorated with boughs of cedar, holly and mistletoe and the tree, covered with tinsel, angels and ornaments, is the masterpiece of all masterpieces. But really, the best feeling is the closeness of being with your parents, siblings and relatives."

I let her words wash over me, like reassuring waves. Cultures are not that different, we all share the best celebration, the celebration of love, unity, and friendship.

That evening I lit the first candle and with a new reverence whispered a little prayer. "Merry Christmas and Merry Chanukah, loved ones," I said. My parents looked up and smiled.

"Merry season," they answered.

# The Christmas Basket

By **MATTHEW KING**

Age 15  
Gulf Islands Secondary School  
Second place

One recent Christmas my Dad was telling a story about how difficult things were for families when he was a teenager.

Many of the families could not afford to buy presents or have a Christmas meal. The food bank was busy preparing baskets of food and small gifts for people who were less fortunate.

However, there were so many baskets to deliver that the people in charge didn't know how they were going to make the deadline of Christmas Eve. An appeal was read on the radio for any volunteers who had a car and some spare time to come to the downtown office. My Dad was only 18 at the time but his Dad had an old Buick that he loved to drive. Apparently his Mom was tired of him hanging around the house so

she suggested that he could go and help deliver baskets. My Dad wasn't too thrilled with the idea but since he was going to be able to drive the old Buick he would go.

The roads were not too snowy that Saturday afternoon. My Dad said that he travelled several streets delivering baskets. It was tedious work and he wasn't too pleased that his Mom had talked him into spending his Saturday afternoon this way.

The sun was beginning to set. The streets were a little harder to find. Not all of the house numbers were visible. He had just one last basket to deliver and then this chore would be over. He

was glad that he hadn't seen any of his friends.

"The last house should be just over on the next street," he said to himself. As he drove down the narrow street, he couldn't read the numbers on the houses. Finally he saw it. The house was clean but in very poor shape. The front step was starting to pull away.

He knocked on the door and waited. He knocked again. A young, tired woman answered the door. Two small children were on the floor near the wood stove. They were shabbily dressed and playing with an old wooden spool. They stopped

playing when their mother came to the door.

"Merry Christmas, here is a basket for you from the food bank," my Dad said.

She looked surprised and said, "Thank you."

The children were now hanging on to her skirts. My Dad turned and walked down the front steps in his cozy sheepskin jacket.

The next thing that my Dad heard was the voice of the little boy.

"Was that Jesus mommy?" he asked.

My Dad said that he stopped dead in his tracks. He couldn't believe what he had just heard. He had just received the best Christmas present ever. Smiling he walked the rest of the way to the old Buick with a bounce in his step. The joy that comes from giving and helping had filled his heart.

**He had just received the best Christmas present ever.**

## Ann Meets Santa Claus

BY **ALICIA COELHO**

Age 9  
Fulford Elementary School  
Second place

It was the night before Christmas and all the children were asleep.

Nobody was awake except Saint Nick who was going from one house to another. At the hour of midnight he was stopping at Ann and Pete's house. Ann woke suddenly and got up and ran into Pete's room. She said, "I heard something on the roof."

"There's nothing on the roof," said Pete, "go back to bed little sister."

"My name is not little sister," she said, "my name is Ann but you're too dumb to know that."

Just then Dad came downstairs. "Why are you two fighting on Christmas Eve?" he asked.

"It was her fault," said Pete. "But I heard something on the roof," said Ann.

"Now, now," said Dad, "get back into your rooms and go to sleep."

"Night night kids," he said as he shut the door.

Meanwhile Santa Claus was in the living room thinking about if he should give Ann and Pete a present.

He decided that he would and just as he was about to put the present under the tree, one of the reindeer stamped a hoof really hard and Ann woke up again.

She went into the living room and saw all the presents on the floor. She looked toward the chimney and saw Santa Claus. She walked over to him to see if he really was Santa or if she was just seeing things. But it was true! Santa thought that she might put him in a zoo so he picked her up and went up the chimney, got into his sled and took off to the North Pole. Before Ann knew what had happened to her, Santa had carried her into his house and dropped her on the floor. Ann picked herself up and looked around.

"Where am I?" she asked. "You are in my house," said Santa.

"Why did you take me with you?" asked Ann.

"Because no child has ever seen me even though I go to their houses every year. When you saw me I didn't know if you would be bad or good to me so I took you with me."

"Does that mean that I don't get any presents?" exclaimed Ann.

"No, no," replied Santa, "you will get presents. Would you like a cup of Coke?" asked Santa.

"Okay," said Ann.

Santa then gave her some presents.

"Wow," said Ann, "but I would like to spend Christmas with my family."

"Well," said Santa, "if you don't tell anybody about your visit."

"I promise I won't," said Ann.

So Santa took Ann back home.

"Wake up honey," said Dad, "come and open your presents."

"Okay," said Ann.

Dad looked at her and said, "Why do you have such a big smile on your face?"

Mom replied, "Why, because it's Christmas!"

Thank You  
for 20 years of service!



**DOUG SMITH,**  
From the Board of Trustees  
and the Administration of  
School District #64

### PARTY ANIMAL?

Check out the  
**WHAT'S ON**  
calendar of events  
in the Arts &  
Entertainment section of  
the Driftwood.



### Salt Spring Island Community Services

268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.  
537-9971

**ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE**

- \* **24 HR. CRISIS LINE:** Dial 0 and ask for ZENITH 2262 (no charge). Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.
- \* **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.
- \* **COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS:** "Belly Talk" is a new group for pregnant women, which meets Monday 7:30pm in the Family Place. Come & share your hopes, fears, joys & complaints about your pregnancy & up-coming 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. CLOSED DEC. 24-27 & JAN. 1.
- \* **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:** Call Sharon Glover at 537-4607.
- \* **CLIMBING WALL HOURS:** Thurs. & Fri. 6:30 - 9:30pm. Full equipment chg. \$2.50. **CLUB NIGHT:** Sunday 6:30-9:30pm.

# TAKE NOTE

## OF THESE DATES

**JAN. 8 & 9:** Cinderella & The Three Bears, a musical pantomime. Activity Centre, a Core Inn Benefit Production, 8pm.

**JAN. 10 & 11:** Cinderella & The Three Bears, a musical pantomime. Activity Centre, a Core Inn Benefit Production, 2pm.

### 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 Practitioners group, Seniors for Seniors, 7pm (every 1st Wed.)
- Drop in centre for people with mental health concerns, basement of SSI Community Centre, 3:30-5:30pm.
- SSI Painters' Guild meetings, Hart Bradley Hall, 9:30-noon

### EVERY THURSDAY

- Parkinsons Support Gr., Croftonbrook, 2pm (second Thurs. of the mo.)
- Luncheon, Seniors for Seniors, 12 noon.
- Chess Club, Seniors for Seniors Bldg., 7pm.
- Reading Club for 7-12 year olds, Library, 1:30-2:30, July 10-Aug. 14.
- Scottish Country Dancers, Anglican Church Hall, 6pm.
- SSI Weavers' Guild, Baptist Church, 10:30-1:00

### EVERY FRIDAY

- Fulford OAP #170, bingo 2:00pm.
- Games afternoon, Seniors for Seniors, 1:30pm, Mah Jongg 12:30pm.
- Drop in centre for people with mental health concerns, basement of SSI Community Centre, 3:30-5:30pm.
- A Course in Miracles, study group, 552 Rainbow Rd. #A, 10-11:30.

### EVERY SATURDAY

- Book Sale, downstairs at library, 10am-12:30pm.

### 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
- Spanish conversation group, Seniors for Seniors, 10am-noon (not last Monday of the mo.)
- SS Weavers & Spinner, @ Farmers' Ins. to use the library, 10:30am (every 2nd Thurs.)
- SSI Buddhist meditation group, 135 McPhillips Ave., 7:30pm.
- Bandemonium, Meaden Hall, the Legion, 7-9pm.
- Hand gun, SSI Rod & Gun Club, 7pm
- Carpet bowling, OAP Fulford hall, 2pm.
- Drop in centre for people with mental health concerns, basement of SSI Community Centre, 3:30-5:30pm.
- Autumn session, Reader's Theatre, Croftonbrook Hall, 10-12.
- Children's storytime, Mary Hawkins Library, 10am.
- Drawing class, library, 1:15-3:15.
- Health & nutrition for families, Family Place 9:30-12pm (3rd Mon. ea. mo.)

### EVERY TUESDAY

- Duplicate Bridge, Meaden Hall at the Legion, 7pm.
- Seniors choir practices, Seniors for Seniors, 10:30am.
- Target Archery, Fulford Hall, 4:30-6. Archery lessons 3:30-4:30.
- Adult small bore, SSI Rod & Gun Club, 7-9pm
- Planned Parenthood Clinic, SS Health Unit behind Lady Minto Hosp. 4:30-6:30pm.
- French conversation, Croftonbrook, 10:15am - 11:45am.

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

*Lightning Press*

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## FULFORD COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION

wishes to express thanks to all the merchants and individuals who were so generous in their support of the

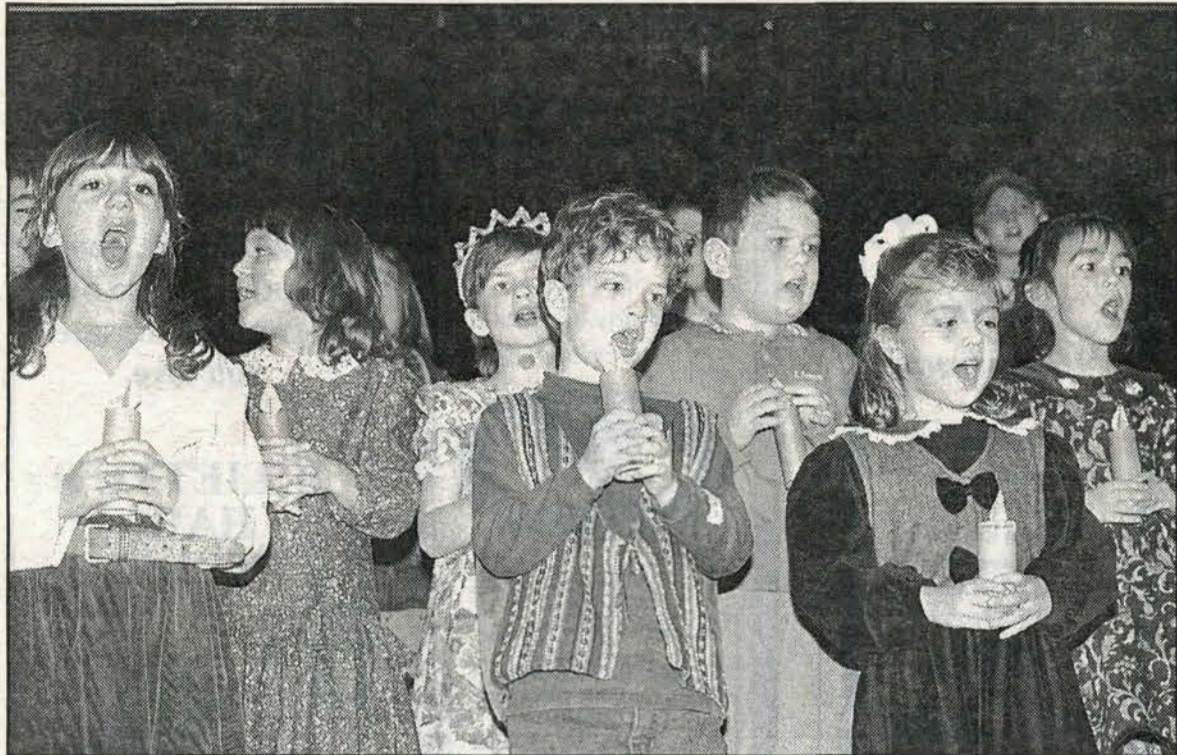
### CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AND RAFFLE:

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Robert Bateman        | Moby's Marine Pub                 |
| Fulford OAP           | Mouat's Trading Company           |
| Fulford Inn           | O.G.I.F.A.*                       |
| Ganges Village Market | Patterson's Market                |
| Ganges Payless        | Slegg's Lumber                    |
| Harbour House Hotel   | The Haircutting Place             |
| Hastings House        | Thrifty Foods                     |
| Meg Buckley Pottery   | Lynn & Drew Thornburn             |
| Lightning Press       | *Ometeppe Gulf Islands Friendship |

We wish to thank as well - A Thousand Words Picture Framing, The Driftwood, The Dog Star Market, and the many, many volunteers who donated their time and food items - especially the members of the OAP and the young women from the SS Soccer Association.

And to the many vendors:  
Thank-you all for your participation and co-operation.

We hope to see you all next year.



**Salt Spring school singers**

Grade one students at Salt Spring Elementary School sing with enthusiasm at the school's Christmas pageant held last Tuesday evening for family and friends.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**RECYCLING DEPOT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

PLEASE NOTE: the depot is always closed Sundays and Mondays. As well, it will be closed: Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th & 27th. We will be closed Jan. 1st also. The depot staff wish you all happy and safe holidays.

**A Bitter-Sweet Christmas Tale**

By **PATRICK CALLAS**

Age 17  
Gulf Islands Secondary School  
First place

Nestled in the mountains of Salt Spring Island was a regular one-story house made from pale wood and faded red brick. In this house lived one Christopher Pearson, an average man with thinning mahogany hair, a sagging stomach and beige-framed spectacles perched on the bridge of his nose.

Since the age of nine Christopher had wanted to be a doctor or perhaps a famous astronaut. However, his lack of self-confidence landed him a boring governmental office job. A dreary five-day work week from nine in the morning until five at night consumed Christopher's time.

On weekends, Christopher would stock up on food supplies and spend the rest of his free time sipping coffee, while reading the newspaper and watching the world go by.

Christopher despised winter time most of all. It was bitterly cold in the morning and his worn-down car's engine took half-of-forever to start. The thought of the occasional flurry, stranding Christopher at home, worried him. The short bleak days made Christopher even more depressed than usual.

Nevertheless, all the minor irritations couldn't compare to the utter annoyance Christopher felt towards the commercialization of Christmas. The media was always bombarded with Christmas promotions. As early as October, department stores and television stations fired their Christmas advertisement arsenal into the unsuspecting public. Commercials flaunted obnoxious ultimatums like "Buy our product to make the holidays special!" or "Buy our merchandise — it will bring Christmas cheer!" or even worse, "You want your kids to love you on Christmas day? Then buy this phenomenal toy!"

Christopher thought that every

time he got a Christmas flyer, a Christmas coupon or any other Christmas dribble, he would go bright red in the face, shake like an earthquake and then explode, but he never did.

This particular day Christopher had finished all his officially tedious governmental paperwork ahead of schedule so he decided to leave early. As Christopher sat in his frigid car waiting for the windows to defrost, he suddenly remembered he needed to pick up some milk at the supermarket.

Several minutes later, Christopher was parked in front of the supermarket. Christopher stepped out of his car, paused a second to shiver in the icy Arctic air, and then proceeded to the establishment. Christopher tilted his head down to avoid the sight of the bright rainbow of Christmas lights and the array of Christmas paraphernalia that adorned the store's outer and inner walls. As Christopher entered the supermarket, an employee dressed in a ridiculous elf costume greeted him cheerily with free samples. Christopher just pushed past the elf employee and darted straight for the milk cooler. Thoughts of malice and ill will towards the goofy elf invaded Christopher's bitter mind.

As Christopher reached for a carton of milk on the cooler shelf, a sharp shooting pain ran up his left arm like a bolt of lightning

and Christopher tumbled to the ground grasping his chest. Then all Christopher could hear was the pounding of blood in his veins and blurry, distorted voices. In a dizzied ecstasy, Christopher was floating above what resembled his body. Concerned people were gathered in a pack around Christopher's body and the elf employee was there barking commands.

Promptly the elf, a fair-haired, pleasant-looking young woman, straddled Christopher's limp body and began compressing his chest. Christopher recognized this as CPR and the next thing he knew everything went black, actually more of a smeared dark red and green colour. Christopher could perceive some form of Christmas melody mixed up with a howling siren.

Christopher awoke groggy-headed in a soft hospital bed. Shortly after that, a slightly stout, middle-aged nurse entered the room. The nurse took his pulse and then wrote on a chart that was sitting at the foot of the bed. Suddenly something miraculous dawned on Chris — instilling joy in other people's lives is the most wondrous gift one can give.

Without another thought, Chris blurted out in a faint voice, "Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas and God bless us all!"

The nurse just nodded her head passively and smiled.

*A Beautiful Season*



Here's hoping the holidays are filled with the best of everything for all our friends and neighbours, everywhere.

We appreciate your patronage and sincerely look forward to seeing you in the future.

**Happy Holidays!**

*Nancy & Laurie Hedger*

**OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The Driftwood office will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 29.

On New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, the office will close at 3 p.m. and reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 2.

Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**  
Upper Ganges Centre 537-9933

**Merry Christmas, Everyone!**

Joan Denise Lesley Janet

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1-800-286-9375

# Freckles' Christmas

By Mason Bennett

Age 12  
Salt Spring Centre School  
Second place

Everybody is always crazy at this time of year and I don't get why. Maybe it is because their brains get frozen but I doubt it. I just think that they are crazy!

"Freckles, come here!" I barked at whoever it was, to say, "you are breaking my train of thought."

Oh, but of course, I can understand them but they can't understand me and if I don't listen to them I get a "training session." I trotted off. On my way I picked up my stuffed bear, probably the only one who didn't tell me what to do.

"Hi Freckles, guess what we are going to do today? We are going to get some Christmas presents."

It was Mason. He is okay. He is the only one who lets me sleep on his bed. He clipped the leash to my collar. I hate the leash! First of all, it is not very long so when I try to run, they yell at me and yank on the leash.

Angelica was dancing around yelling, "It's almost Christmas, it's almost Christmas!"

"What is Christmas?" I wondered. Then a thought came to my mind; maybe it's Christmas that makes them go crazy.

Mason pulled the leash to get me to go to the car. Oh, how I love the car! I especially like sticking my head out the window of the car and having

the wind go through my fur.

When we arrived back home it was almost dark. Then we went down to do the horses, came back up and ate dinner. Well, I had the regular Iams puppy food. It starts to get a little disgusting after a while. After dinner was finished, Peter, the one who playfights with me, hung some big woolly things next to the fire.

Peter started to read a story. All that I got out of the book was "and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

Later, when I was sleeping on Mason's bed, I got woken up by a sound on the roof. Quickly but carefully I got off Mason's bed to go and see what was there. I saw nothing at first but then saw something in the fireplace. I started to growl but then whoever was there threw me a bone and I stopped.

When I looked up, I saw a fat man in a red suit carrying a big bag with boxes inside. Maybe it was full of bones and treats for me! I jumped up on the fat man, hoping to get my treats.

The fat man said, "Down girl, down," just like everybody else.

Being well trained, I lay down and watched him put all the boxes under the tree.

The next morning everyone was pulling the boxes out from under the tree. Everything became clear to me. I finally understood why everyone was so crazy at this time of year.

But the rest is my little secret.

## UNICORN CONSTRUCTION



*Merry Christmas*  
and  
*A Prosperous '98*

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

KAREN & JOHN PAUL

**JOHN PAUL PAINTING**  
537-2732

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Hope your holiday is filled with many wonderful surprises.



**HOLIDAY HOURS:**  
Wed. Dec. 24, 10am-4pm  
**CLOSED:**  
Dec. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 & Jan. 1  
**OPEN**  
Dec. 30, 31, Jan 2 & 3  
**SALE DAYS**  
10am-5pm  
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## Noel

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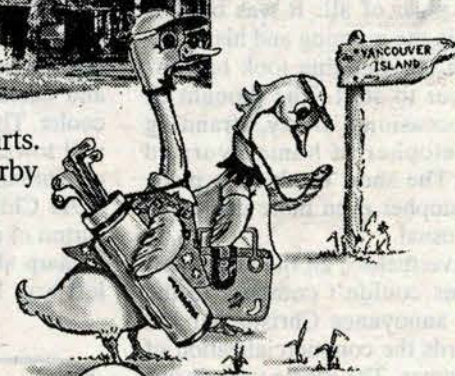
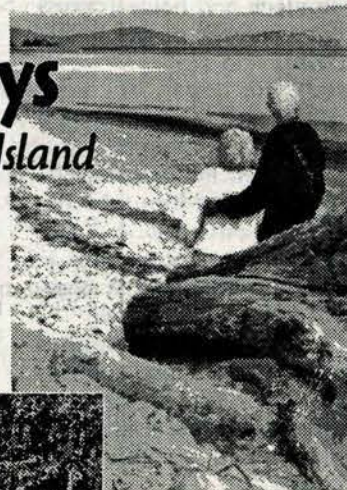
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**Beach Acres RESORT**

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## From Erny

By Noah McColl

Age 9  
Fulford Elementary School  
First place

Hello, my name is Erny. I am 36 cm. tall and I'm 638 years old and I'm an elf, an undercover elf and my duty is to see who is good and bad on the wonderful Island of Salt Spring. I'm very glad with what I see.

But I must remind you that the best child on this Christmas Eve will be going to the North Pole. There Santa will talk to them and ask them if he or she will want to be an elf. If she or he didn't want to be an elf then Santa would take him or her home in his sleigh.


If you would like to be an elf you take the royal test of the elves, which is: you have to wrap 10 presents in 10 minutes and make three toy trains in 15 minutes using magic that will be shown by the head elf called Huke.

Then you have the final test called the Champ. There you have to decide what kind of elf you want to be. You could be an undercover elf, a toy maker and Santa's helpers. I only know what the undercover elf training is like but that is top secret.

If you pass all your tests you get an elf award and are called an elf. If you fail your test you go home with Santa.

You may be wondering why you got this letter. It's because you have been chosen to come to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. I myself will take you. Meet me on the north end anywhere. I will find you.


Signed,  
Santa  
and Rudolph too.





Islands Realty Ltd.


**Salt Spring Island**  
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SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU, FROM ALL OF US!

Deadline: 2 p.m. Monday

# Driftwood Classifieds

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### Discount Thursday:

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May only be placed between 2 p.m. Monday and noon Tuesday preceding publication

### Display Classifieds

**\$10.75**

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Border: Add \$2

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Your ad runs in 100 community newspapers in B.C. and Yukon

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## PAYMENT

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- In person at our office at 328 Lower Ganges Road, Ganges
- By telephone, 250-537-9933, or fax, 250-537-2613
- By email to driftwood@gulfislands.com
- By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3.

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Announcements  
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Merchandise  
Real Estate  
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## POLICIES

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

## Announcements

### 5 BIRTHS

MEGAN & KATIE Watt are delighted to announce the long overdue but safe arrival of our mother, Maggie Ramsey, as one of B.C.'s first Registered Midwives. The birth was nearly complicated by a diagnosis of red tape dystocia, but hard work, heavy breathing and positive visualization finally resulted in a homebirth right here on Salt Spring. Proud but exhausted husband Jake and parents Les & Sue Ramsey are thrilled that she has finally got a real job.

AUNABETH WELCOMES her baby sister Mariah Lavender, November 21, 1997. Ships of wild roses to all who were there for us! Way to go Ellen Ross MacLean. Yours forever, shocked out and mellowed, W. Yule tidings.

### 6 DEATHS

PATTERSON, ROBERT (Bob) M.: May 14, 1916 - December 16, 1997. Passed away at home following several months battling lung cancer which was directly the result of exposure to asbestos while working as a shipbuilder in Victoria during WWII. Predeceased by Nancy, his wife of 53 years, in 1995. Bob will be deeply missed but warmly remembered by his son Bruce, daughters and sons-in-law Gladys & John Campbell, Elaine & Dan Fraser, and grandchildren Sarah, Gordon, and Kaitlin Fraser. Valerie, Patricia, and Suzanne Campbell and Suzanne's husband Paul Hartwig. Bob lived most of his 81 years on Salt Spring Island where he attended school at the Beaver Point (Little Red Schoolhouse). He completed high school in Victoria at Vic High. He has been a very active member of the Fulford Harbour/Beaver Point communities and represented the South Salt Spring Island Area as a trustee for several years on the Gulf Island School Board, was a member of the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fire Dept. for 23 years, was a member of the Fulford Waterworks Committee for many years, as well as supporting and participating in many community events and organizations over the years. Bob retired from the family general store in Fulford in 1985 and has enjoyed his retirement years actively pursuing his life-long interests of gardening, boating, and travelling. Most of all, Bob enjoyed the time spent with family and will be remembered by them and by others who knew him as a very kind, considerate and modest man. Members of Bob's family would very much like to thank Dr. David Woodley for his considerate care and community home care nurse Sharon Armstrong for her many hours of tremendous and compassionate support. Friends from the community are invited to share memories and stories with the family at the OAP Room in the Fulford Community Hall on Sunday, December 28 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. At Bob's request, a private family memorial service will be held in lieu of a funeral. For those wishing to make donations in Bob's memory, the family has requested they be directed to "The palliative care program," c/o Lady Minto Hospital, 135 Crofton Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1T1.

### 8 CARDS OF THANKS

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

### 8 CARDS OF THANKS

SALT SPRING Island Community Services wishes to extend special thanks to the members of the Salt Spring Island Ambulance Paramedics who carried out the Food Drive for the Christmas Food Hamper Project. We would also like to thank Thrifty Foods for their support of this initiative.

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

SPECIAL THANKS to Cedric Barker of Barker Photo Studios for his continued work in taking photographs of employees receiving special recognition from School District 64.

### GISS SCORPIONS SENIOR BOYS SOCCER TEAM

would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

- D. Barnes Clayworks
- Barb's Buns
- M. & S. Bond
- Creechhouse Realty
- Ganges Village Market
- Hastings House
- HMS Ganges IODE
- Island Star Video
- J. Langdon Logging Ltd.
- Mouat's Home Hardware
- McColl's Shell
- Rainbow Rentals
- Sea Court Restaurant
- Studio 103
- Thrifty Foods
- Bill Wilkinson
- Work World

We apologize if we have forgotten anyone.

Our trip to the provincials was a great success - 3rd place in the province!

008/52

### TRANSITIONS THRIFT STORE

The Board of the Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network wishes to thank all the donors and hard-working volunteers who made the launch of Transitions Thrift Store such a success.

A big thank you to: Eve and Ted Hinds, Mary Koroscil, John Fraser (Plumbing), Pat Hafting, Jeremy Milson of SALT SPRING LINEN AND DRYCLEANERS, Art Thompson of SEARS Canada and Sears Stores (Victoria & Coquitlam), Paul Hayward of CENTRE TO CENTRE (Alton, Ont.), Heather and John Martin-McNab. Also, lots of thanks to: Ray Newman, Pat Barnes, Susan Baldwin, Anna Klenman, Keith Shantz, McColl's Shell, Sheri Berkowitz, Tim Arnott, Bruce Comba, Lucille Adderley, Bev Brown, Lee Evans, Art and Lou Rumsey, Barb's Buns, SSI Roasting Co., Ora Mae Guinness, Marguerite Scandiffio, Arleen Dashwood of Burritt Bros., Dave Moore of Windsor Plywood, Lorna Heywood, Adam Hinds and Nausheen Bashir, HEART and Baron Fowler, Jan Jang, Nirmal Dryden, Kate Dryden, Ann Pyke and the C.A.C. Many thanks to the above who helped us get started. And thanks to those who have joined us to run the store. Happy Holidays!

- \* REDUCE \*
- \* REUSE \*
- \* RECYCLE \*

### 8 CARDS OF THANKS

JILL LOUISE CAMPBELL

would like to thank **Women of Note** and **Alan Moberg** for the wonderful entertainment they provided at the Gallery's Christmas open house!

### Transition House ~ News ~

Although we still have not received core funding, we have received one time assistance to help in the operation of the TRANSITION HOUSE!

THE GULF ISLANDS WOMEN'S RESOURCE NETWORK would like to thank Sue Hammell and her staff at the Ministry of Women's Equality as well as our MLA Murray Coell for their hard work and support.

The Board would also like to thank the men, women, various churches and service clubs for their generous donations of money, time and encouragement. This ongoing support from the community is pulling us through.

May this Holiday Season be one of peace, joy and friendship for all.

Kerry Chalmers, Chair, Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network.

011/52

### 9 SEASONAL GREETINGS

#### THANK YOU ALL!

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 "Dime Sale" raffle:

- Lorraine Campbell, Creekside Fish & Poultry,
- Karen Davies,
- Vivian Dawson,
- Lois Deschamps,
- Gordon English,
- Foxglove Nursery,
- Glenn Hewitson,
- Donald Longley,
- Mixmasters,
- Gil Mouat,
- Mouat's,
- Mulligan's,
- Salt Spring Soapworks,
- Skin Sensations,
- Island Star Video,
- Dorothy Thorson,
- Mary Walker,
- Work World.

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



009/52

Don't know what to buy that special someone who has everything?

A Driftwood subscription is the answer!!! CALL NOW!

**537-9933**

### 10 CELEBRATIONS

#### CONGRATULATIONS

to the following winners of the Salt Spring Island Judo Club raffle (draw Dec. 17/97).

1st prize: oil painting by Nicola Wheston, winner **Boris Puharich**. 2nd prize: Raku pottery cat bowl by Lee Sollitt, winner **Sandy McNeil**. 3rd prize: 1 cord seasoned firewood by Rick Laing, winner **Colin Bath**. Merry Christmas and thank you to everyone for your continued support. The Salt Spring Island Judo Club.

010/52

### 11 COMING EVENTS

PLANNING AN event? Check the Community Calendar for a schedule of community events and avoid double-booking. Located at the Driftwood Office, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.

CAROLE MATTHEWS Psychic taking appointments month of December, 537-2031. Join Carole on the Messenger Files radio show, AM 900, Saturday, 7 - 9 p.m. Call 1-888-594-8255.

THE CLIMBING Wall will be closed for Christmas holidays starting Thursday, December 25 till Sunday, January 4, re-opening January 8. Thanks to all who took part in the Everest Climb. It was a great success.

A MIDWINTER MATINEE. Strauss Foundation Scholarship winning soprano sings about love - Schubert to Rogers and Hammerstein. Jan. 11 - 2:30 p.m., All Saints By-the-Sea. Tickets \$12.00 at et cetera and Sharon's. Further info: Claus Anderson, 537-5483.

WATCH FOR your PARC Winter Program brochure coming to you the first week in January 1998. It will be mailed directly to you and available at the PARC office, Chamber of Commerce, Patterson's Store, and the Core Inn. Registration will start on January 5, 1998. Happy Holidays!

5 DAY AFTER Christmas Sale - December 27 - 31. 25% off regular merchandise, 40% off Christmas merchandise. Closed January thru February. Stone Walrus Gallery, 122 Lower Ganges Road.

### COUNTRY MUSIC WEEK

on Salt Spring!

Dance to the music of

**Kenny Byron and the Tragically Hick**

- This Friday & Saturday Dec. 26 & 27, in the Harbour House Wheelhouse Pub

- New Year's Eve at the Legion (advance tickets \$10 at the Legion).

Salt Spring's own country music band!

011/52

### T'ai Chi

T'ai Chi Classes

BEGINNERS & ON-GOING

Thurs. 9:30-10:30 am.

at Central Hall

Thurs. 7-8pm SS Elem. School

Orca Room

1ST CLASS FREE

For more info, call Tao at

**537-4487**

011/m

This paper is 100% recyclable



### 11 COMING EVENTS

#### Restaurant House Piccolo's Menu Gourmand

(For New Year's Eve and January 1st)

Gruyere Gratinated Onion Bisque Provençale

\*\*\*

Chilled Langustine And Spinach Timbale

Orange-Ginger Vinaigrette

\*\*\*

Charbroiled Ostrich Filet

Mango Coulis And Rosemary Cream

\*\*\*

Home-made Honey Vanilla Ice Cream

Belgium Chocolate Sauce

\*\*\*

\$42 / person

Incl. Tax

The Full Dinner Menu Also Available

Open Six Nights A Week

Closed Tuesdays And

24th & 25th

Restaurant

House Piccolo

108 Hereford Avenue

537-1844

011/52



Salt Spring Centre School will have a few openings in January. SSSC is a small, creative independent school which teaches the BC curriculum in multi-grade classes of 12. The school welcomes family input and participation, teaches problem-solving skills, and includes enrichment courses in the arts, french and computer technology. Call Mitch Howard, Administrator, or office manager Leah Young at 537-9130.

011/51



### SSI United Church

(111 Hereford Ave.)

invites you to their CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00pm

Thursday Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion 10:00am

Sunday Dec. 28 Sunday Service 10:00am

Sun. Jan. 4 Epiphany Service 10:00am



011/52

### WANTED ADS REALLY WORK FOR YOU!

Try our special offer! "Buy 2 ads, get one free" Private party merchandise ads only Visa/MC/Cash 537-9933

**11 COMING EVENTS**

**Market in the Park**

Seasonal Permit Holders must renew as of Wed. Jan. 7/98, and before Jan. 31/98. Previous Day Vendors with seniority may apply as of Feb. 2/98 to Feb. 27/98 for space, if available. Must apply in person at the Parks, Arts & Rec, Portlock Park Office.

011/01



**NORTH END GOES AEROBIC!**

Run Jump Smile Hop Box Stretch Laugh Step Pump Cheer Sweet Skip Kick Play

All under one roof in Gasoline Alley! Wall to Wall Mirrors! Sprung Floor! The Best Instructors! The Best Sound! The Best Prices!

Everyone Welcome!

Look for Grand Opening January 11 for information, prices and schedule phone or visit

North End Fitness  
**537-5217**



**Special Christmas Present idea from Parks & Recreation!**

Punch Cards or books of 10 for any of our fitness classes, \$35 each.

- Pump Primers with Catherine
- Step 'n' Strength with Brenda
- Prime Time with Rosemary & Ila-Mae
- Step 'n' Tone with Damaris
- Total Body Conditioning with Betty-Lou

ALL CLASSES START THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY.

Watch for our brochure in the mail or Call the PARC Office at 537-4448 for more information.

011/52

**14 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

CRISIS LINE for Salt Spring - toll-free 1-888-324-3299.

DRESSINGS FREE to cancer patients by the Order of the Eastern Star. Contact Dee Roberts, 653-4655.

FAMILIES OF Schizophrenics meet in homes for mutual support. Call 537-9237 or 537-5264.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS - Are you having a problem controlling your eating? If you're interested in helping yourself, we're interested in helping you. Info. call 537-5607.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS - Meetings 8 p.m. Thursday, in back of et cetera building, off Rainbow Road.

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

**14 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICES MEETINGS**

Salt Spring 537-2270

Galiano 539-2222

Pender 629-6946

**Women's only** - Thursday nights 5:15 p.m. Please call 537-1733 or 537-2993.  
**Alanon/Alateen** - A program for family and friends of alcoholics. For further information call 653-4288 or 653-2030.

**Overeaters Anonymous** - Are you having a problem controlling your eating? If you're interested in helping yourself, we're interested in helping you. Info.....537-5607

014/51

**SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION "CATCH THE ISLAND SPIRIT"**

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

014/alt/ev/tfn

**17 EDUCATION**

NCCP THEORY 1 Classes. Time of classes to suit each coach. Cost \$40.00 Instructor experienced in many sports. Will instruct to needs of each coach. Instructor will make it relevant, fun and easy. Phone 537-2781 Betty.

A NEW Career? Trained apartment/condominium managers needed - all areas. We can train you right now! Free job placement assistance. For information/brochure call 681-5456, 1-800-665-8339.

**23 IN MEMORIAM**



The Canadian Cancer Society appreciates your generous support. Please send name of deceased, name/address of next of kin and name/address of donor for tax receipt (VISA/MC accepted) to: Canadian Cancer Society 207 - 225 Canada Ave, Duncan, B.C. V9L 1T6 or 1-800-663-2524



023/tfn

**Hayward's Funeral Service**

320 Upper Ganges Rd. Serving the Gulf Islands Since 1867

Marge & Scotty Dickson Don Goodman (Goody) Licensed Funeral Directors

We honour all Memorial Society Contracts  
**24 hr. service 537-1022**

023/tfn

**29 LOST AND FOUND**

MISSING: LIGHT coloured female Golden Retriever from Weston Lake area. If anyone has seen this dog please call 653-9912.

**29 LOST AND FOUND**

FOUND: CHILD'S bicycle on Lee's Road, Thursday, December 18. 653-9188.

FOUND: SMALL female calico manx Cat. Meyer Road area. 653-9755.

FOUND: FLUFFY tabby cat on Lee's Hill. Black & White short haired female found on Byron Road. Fluffy grey & white tabby cat found at Walker's Hook wearing a pale blue collar. S.P.C.A. 537-2123.

PRESCRIPTION SUN-GLASSES found at Island Car Wash, Monday, December 22. Owner may claim at The Driftwood.

**34 NOTICES/PERSONAL**

SCHOOL IN MELAQUE, Mexico. Kate Holmes will teach students wishing to keep up with core subjects. November - April. Info: 604-274-7213.

**35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL**



**We've got:**

- 10 lads a chopping
- 9 ladies cleaning
- 8 painters painting
- 7 waiters waiting
- 6 haulers hauling
- 5 strong backs
- 4 guys with hammers
- 3 skilled typists
- 2 handy persons

And a lot more besides that!

Call when you need us!

**537-8800**

035/52

**Picture These Savings!**

~REPRINT~ Every Wednesday **30¢ ea.** 5" x 7" Enlargements **99¢** ~Everyday~

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105 Hereford Ave.  
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30  
**537-9917**

035/52

**TAXI 537-3030**

Silver Shadow Taxi will be on duty throughout the Christmas Holiday season, maintaining its 24 hours, 365 days a year service.

Jana, Jerry, George and Paul wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

**MOBY'S CHRISTMAS HOURS**

- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Closed at 5pm
- DEC. 25 Christmas Day Closed
- DEC. 26 Boxing Day Closed
- DEC. 31 New Year's Eve Dinner 5 - 11pm Dancing 9pm - 2am
- JAN. 1/98 New Year's Day Brunch 11am - 3pm
- JAN. 1/98 New Year's Day 11am - midnight

**MOBY'S marine pub**

Reduce Reuse Recycle

**35 NOTICES/COMMERCIAL**



**CHRISTMAS is here!**  
It is never too late to find the Right Gift  
Merry Christmas from all of us!

next to the Post Office open Mon-Sat from 10 to 5 Sun from 12 to 5 **537-4525**

**40 PERSONALS**

MATCHMAKER'S IS local, fun, low-priced and has all ages. Meet someone special. wkm@knet.kootenay.net Toll-free 1-888-368-3373.

PSYCHIC SECRETS! Unlock your potential. Honest, accurate answers by Canada's most gifted Psychics. Live & Personal. 1-900-451-3778, 24hrs. 18+ \$2.99 per min. I.C.C.

**42 TRAVEL**

**UNIGLOBE Travel**  
156 Fulford Ganges Rd. (in Creekhous) **537-5523**

042/tfn



**HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS?!!** If you're in the mood for a quick holiday...register with us (name & possible destination)...have your bag packed.

We will watch for last minute holiday "leftovers".  
**Call us first at THE TRAVEL SHOP 537-9911**  
M-F 9am-4:30 • Sat 9am-2

042/52

**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.

CHRISTIAN BUSINESS: up to 81% profit for you or your ministry. No inventory. Home based servicing Christian Market. Complete training and support. Select territories 1-800-663-7326.

INTERNET EXPLOSION! \$186 Billion by 2000. Revolutionary system. Seize it! Apply now for the world's fastest growing Internet Franchise. Investment required. 1-888-678-7588.

\$110,000+/YR POTENTIAL. Mooov-ve inon this proven cash cow. Progressive multi-media franchise system makes money 24 hours/day. Low investment, low overhead. Immediate cash flow. 1-888-889-1010.

**50 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

KWIK KERB - Own your own business. Part-time or Full-time installing on-site, continuous concrete, landscape edging, total equipment, proven system, training. 1-800-667-KERB.

INCREASE YOUR 1998 Income! Invest in a prime location Eagle Vending Route. Earn cash up to 24hrs/day! Minimum 20% return on investment guaranteed. Financing available. Phone Eagle Profit Systems 1-800-387-2274 (Dept 168).

WCB ACCREDITED/CSA Standard. Occupational Scuba Courses: New legislation took effect 01/01/97 which requires trade certification for commercial scuba. We offer: Working Diver's Upgrade & Basic Occupational Scuba. For more information call us Toll-free: 1-888-356-2288. Nordlys Diving Ltd.

**55 HELP WANTED**

LOSE WEIGHT fast and safely. Make a head start on New Year's. Call Geoff, 537-1456 or 1-801-323-1703.

EXPERIENCED LEGAL secretary required in the New Year. Reply in writing with resume to Dept. M, c/o The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 2V3.

SOMEONE TO Chop/split seasoned arbutus rounds. 537-9558.

HOUSEKEEPER, FULL time/part time. Apply in person at the Fulford Inn.

PERMANENT PART time (2 days/week) Office Staff Qualifications: Computer Bookkeeping experience, accounts payable, receivable and payroll, as well as above average typing skills. Successful candidate will be organized, able to work well on own and have excellent "people skills." Wage: \$13.00/hour. Current staff will be considered for this position. Applications accepted until January 7, 1998 at Dept. O, c/o Gulf Islands Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2V3.

MAC PROGRAMMER. Must have C+ or Frontier programming experience on Macintosh. Post-secondary programming education a necessity. Experience w/SQL an asset. 250-537-4312, fax 250-537-4353, e-mail: ccsmith@pinc.com.

**SSI Employment Services 537-4662**

Are you unemployed? We have a variety of programs available to help you find work and achieve financial independence. No charge for this service. Call 537-4662 to receive help with your job search. Located in the Lancer Building at #204 - 321 Lower Ganges Rd.

**60 WORK WANTED**

ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS, finish carpentry. Need help building your new home? Call Steve 537-5345. 35 years building on Salt Spring.

WORLD FAMOUS on Salt Spring for exceptional renovations. Call Peter Blackmore for advice and estimates to improve your home. 537-4382.

TRUSTWORTHY, RELIABLE lady with much experience and references will clean and treat your home as my own. Please call 537-5305.

THE JOB Line. Yard maintenance, painting, house cleaning. Reliable, quick and economical. \$8/hour. Call Brad White at 537-9525.

**Business Services**

**100 ACCOUNTING**

**John T. McMullan Public Accountant**  
150-1 Fulford Ganges Rd.  
**537-1550**

100/alt.eve.

**105 ARCHITECTS**

**Jonathan Yardley Architect**

Providing full architectural services. Initial consultation free

1121 Beaver Point Road Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 1X2

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105/tfn

**106 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNERS**

**LET'S GET STARTED!**

Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

CALL **HELSET DESIGN 537-1037** ask for Jim

106/07

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**PAYLESS**

We value the island™ COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

Unleaded Fuels • Diesel Tires • Batteries • Accessories **537-4554 or 537-9300** Monday-Saturday 8 am-7 pm Sunday 9 am-6 pm Corner of Rainbow Rd. and Jackson Ave.

110/tfn

**PROMPT, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**DON IRWIN COLLISION LTD.**

- Certified Body Men
- Expert Body & Frame Work
- Custom Painting
- Glass Work
- ICBC Claims
- Rust Check Service

**537-2513**

115 Desmond Cresc., Ganges

**131 CLEANING SERVICES**

**GULF ISLAND WINDOW CLEANERS JANITOR SERVICE**

Carpets Steam Cleaned

We also offer **CARPET GUARD TREATMENT 537-9841**

131/tfn

**134 CONCRETE**



**MATERIALS**

Serving the Gulf Islands Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Penders

- \* READY MIX
- \* WASHED GRAVEL
- \* REINFORCED STEEL
- \* BAGGED CEMENT
- \* SEPTIC TANKS
- \* SCAFFOLDING RENTAL

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Rainbow Road

134/tfn

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Check it out at:  
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UNICORN CONSTRUCTION Remodel, Repair, Renovate... most of all, Reliable! 537-2732

BESLEY ROSE CONSTRUCTION LTD. CUSTOM HOMES RON BESLEY 537-8885

WALTER HUSER & SONS Construction Ltd. Residential & Commercial Personalized service from plans to completion 537-5247 - 537-5092

Villadsen Construction (1980) Ltd. "QUALITY HOMES OF DISTINCTION" 231 Salt Spring Way, Salt Spring Is., B.C. V8K 2G6

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

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SAVE 'TIL THE COWS COME HOME! Buy two classifieds and get a third one free! Private party merchandise ads, cash only. For further details call 537-9933

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

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Gulf Islands Optical Tuesday-Friday 10:00-5:00 Closed Saturdays 323 Lower Ganges Road (Lancer Building) RICHARD WEATHERALL (Optician) 537-2648 Office 537-5294 Residence

152 FIREWOOD

WOOD: CUT, split and delivered to your specifications. Get ready for winter now! Please call Walter. 653-4877.

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

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Salt Spring Insurance Agencies (1972) Ltd. Motor Vehicle Office Autoplan All Classes Of Insurance OFFICE HOURS: 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m. Monday - Friday 537-5527 Fax 537-9700 115 Fullford-Ganges Rd., Ste 1104 Salt Spring Island, V8K 2T9

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MAJOR ICBC Injury Claims. We take the fear out of ICBC. Joel A. Wener, Trial Lawyer for 28 years. Call free 1-800-665-1138. Contingency fees. Simon, Wener & Adler.

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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 \$290. (up to 25 words), call

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD 537-9933 FAX 250-537-2613

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

195 PLUMBING

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING and PROPANE FITTING NEEDS CALL... "Lee the Plumber" \* 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE \* Tel. 537-1068 New and old construction

196 PRINTERS

Barnyard Grafix FOR PRINTING IMAGSETTING AND DESIGN Where Imagination runs Wild T: 537-1897

203 RENTALS

PARTYTIME RENTALS - We rent dishes, glassware, cutlery, linen, tables, chairs, assorted party supplies. 537-4241/days, 537-4577 (evenings.)

RAINBOW RENTALS LTD. Holiday Hours: Closing Dec. 24 at 1pm Opening Dec. 29 8am Closing Dec. 31 at 1pm Opening Friday Jan. 2 8am In case of Emergency call 537-5250 Equipment Rental Sales & Service 537-2877 FAX 537-5504 364 Lower Ganges Rd. (next to GVM)

231 TREE SERVICE

Wayne Langley Gulf Island Tree Services Dangerous trees Sectional removal Views, limbing & Topping Forest landscaping for fire safety and beauty. 537-1728

239 UPHOLSTERY

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Merchandise

302 APPLIANCES

18 CU. FT., SIDE by side, G.E. fridge, 8 years old, runs perfectly, off white, \$250 obo, 653-9141. WASHER & DRYER pair of Maytags, good working condition. \$300. 537-0636. QUALITY APPLIANCES available at Sandpiper Supply, located in the Home Design Centre, 320 Upper Ganges Road. Kitchen Aid, Whirlpool, Hotpoint, G.E., Maytag, Dacor, Sub Zero and more! Free delivery to your home. Call Dave or Mary-Anne at 537-5035.

310 BUILDING SUPPLIES

ATTENTION - WATER Systems. For Sale. - 30 only 20 ft. lengths of 4 inch PVC 160 p.s.i. potable approved pipe. Located on Galiano. For further info. Phone 539-2444. POST/BEAM DRY timber. Cancelled church project; 3" to 24" widths, 4' to 33' lengths. Big selection all sizes. 1-250-652-8059.

DON'T MISS OUR GIANT 3 DAY Year End Sale Dec. 31, Jan. 2 & 3.

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

315 CARS & TRUCKS

92 ISUZU SPACE Cab, good shape, \$9,500. obo. Phone 537-1599. 1984 FORD E-150 ECONOLINE Van. Good working condition. New shock absorbers, radiator, front brake pads. \$2200 obo. 537-1414. 91 FIREFLY, LADY driven, in great condition, asking \$3,500. obo. Must see. Call Valerie at 537-4906. 1981 CHEV 3/4 TON heavy duty c/w 4 speed transmission. Ready to go. \$1,200. Set of 4 steel belted 70Rx14 Snow tires like new \$150. Call Jim 537-2154. 1989 JEEP CHEROKEE Limited, 4 x 4, loaded, leather. 537-4846. 1990 DODGE SHADOW 2.5 litres, 4 door, excellent condition. Reduced to \$2,995. obo. Call Orval, 537-4011. 1970 JEEP WAGONEER 350, very good shape, winch, air shocks. Too much to list. Sacrifice \$3950. Call Randy, 537-9402.

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NEW & USED\* Car/Truck Financing. No turn downs! Good credit, bad credit, no credit, even bankrupt. No one walks away, everyone drives away! Minimum \$1,500. down. Laura 1-888-514-1293.

315 CARS & TRUCKS

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1983 Cavalier 4dr. sedan, 4 cyl. automatic, good transportation...\$1150. 1985 Ford Tempo 4dr sedan, 4 cyl. automatic, air conditioning, power windows...\$1650. 1985 Mercedes-Benz 4dr sedan, automatic...\$1750. 1987 Aries W... automatic, new brakes...\$1750. 1989 Ford Tempo 4 dr sedan, air conditioning, automatic...\$3250. 1986 Chrysler... loaded...\$2050. 1988 Mercury Sable 4dr. sedan, loaded...\$4350. 1986 Olds 88, luxury...\$1750. 1994 Ford Aerostar XLT, extended, loaded...\$14,250. 1994 Pontiac Sunrunner 4x4, auto, am/fm radio...\$13,250. 1988 Dodge Cargo Van, 1 ton, heavy duty...\$2750. 1993 Mercury Topaz, 4dr. air...\$7500. CALL ALEC EVENINGS 537-2581

322 COMPUTERS

TRIBAL DRUM Computers - your community computer store featuring a full selection of computers, printers, software, plus service and repairs. Next to Driftwood. 537-0099.

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BOOKKEEPING TRAINING - MYOB accounting software. Do your own books on the easiest system on the market. IBM or MAC. Bookkeeping & Internet services also available. Specializing in B & B and farm businesses. Call Ron at 537-2068.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? Set-ups, installing software, tutoring, Internet. Your place or ours. Yes, we make house calls. \$25 per hour, 10 hours for \$200. Phone Robert, 537-2888.

329 FARM ITEMS

HAY FOR sale at Camp Narnia: mulch \$1.00/bale, bedding \$1.50/bale, \$20 minimum, phone 653-4364.

335 FURNITURE

LOVELY 2 YEAR old (three or four seater) Couch - Cloth patterns of blues, tans and creams. \$375. Phone Carolyn 537-2682.

The Pine Factory

Vancouver Island's largest selection of quality pine furniture. Bedrooms, dining rooms, TV centres, bookcases, bunkbeds, futons, computer desks, and much more.

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340 GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE Sale, 103 Bonnet Ave. Every Thursday, Friday, Saturday. 10 am. - 12 noon. Come & browse, we just may have it. New merchandise arriving daily. Good, clean merchandise wanted. Call 537-2000 for pick-up or info.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

ADDRESS LABELS, rubber stamps, made to order - et cetera on Hereford. 537-5115. STORAGE TANKS - Polyethylene water storage, septic, Whitewater Mechanical Sewage Treatment System for difficult areas. Gulf Islands Septic. 653-4013. SNOWBOARD, used for two seasons, new \$800, asking \$375. 653-2322.

350 MISC. FOR SALE

12' x 16' CABIN. PLUMBED, wired and drywalled. Kitchen sink, shower, toilet, laundry tub, cabinets, shake roof, cedar siding. \$7000 obo. Moved to your location. 653-9739, leave message.

DREAMING OF A warm Christmas? Give an attractive, island crafted, natural heat pack. Soothes arthritis, stressed muscles, winter chills. 25% of proceeds to Salt Spring S.P.C.A. Call Leisure Thyme, 537-5198.

MAYTAG WASHER, Admiral dryer, \$600/ pair. Two twin mattresses, like new. Kitchen dinette suite. Queen size box spring & mattress. Too many renovation items to list. 537-1957.

5 DISC, AM/FM, double cassette stereo with speakers, \$200. Men's size 10 Doc Marten boots, bought too big, barely worn, \$90. Clarinet, \$200 obo. Large dog house, \$75. 653-4601.

WOOD LATHE, 37" stock, 12" swing, variable speed. Never used. Was \$180, now \$100. Two wood stoves. 537-4452.

ANTIQUE 3-DRAWER dresser with mirror, \$125. Filing cabinets, \$10 each. Electric lawnmower, \$25. Aluminum stepladder, \$20. Wine-barrel planter, \$25. Double futon frame, \$60. Wicker clothes hamper, \$10. Cotton deck chairs, set of four, \$20. Large assortment of houseplants. Bookshelf. Please phone 537-8330.

PANASONIC MICROWAVE for sale, \$100. 537-2092.

AFTER -CHRISTMAS SALE - 5 DAYS - December 27 - 31. 25% off regular merchandise, 40% off Christmas merchandise. Closed January thru February. Stone Walrus Gallery, 122 Lower Ganges Road.

THE GREAT GANGES Junk Co. wishes all its customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank you for your patronage during our first 4 months of business and we look forward to serving you again with many interesting second hand items and antiques. Holiday hours: Closed December 25 & 26 and Jan 1. Otherwise business as usual. 120 B Hereford Avenue. 537-4507.

MOVING: FREEZER, 27" w x 35" h X 62" l, \$125, you move. Tony Little's Gazelle Glider and video, \$175. 537-1195.

WHY SETTLE for Vin Ordinaire when you can order award winning Summerhill Estate Winery's 100% natural wines and Pyramid aged Champagnes with no sulfites added! Find out why we are the talk of N. America. 1-800-667-3538.

FRASER'S THIMBLE FARMS

175 ARBUTUS 537-5788 7 days a week 10 am - 4:30 pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PLEASE NOTE: We will be closed Dec. 25 to Jan. 2, 1998.

WE GIVE PERSONALIZED SERVICE

Season's Greetings from Vic, Toni, Dean & Cindy

BUY & SAVE 9818, 4th St., Sidney We invite you to our annual

BOXING DAY SALE Starts Dec. 26, 11-4 Continues Sat. and next week, 9-5.

**350 MISC. FOR SALE**

The North End Fitness **Fit Kit**  
 One Month Membership  
 Unlimited Tanning  
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 Body Composition Analysis  
 The Best Fit Kit Ever Offered!

**\$59.95!**



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 24 inch Dish for Laser quality picture HDTV.  
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**537-4522**

**370 PETS/LIVESTOCK**  
 GOOD LOCAL grass hay for sale, \$3 per bale. 537-2282.  
 HEREFORD CATTLE for sale. Registered, high quality. Camp Narnia. 653-4364.  
 GERMAN SHORTHAIR Pointer pups ready for good homes! \$500 includes CKC papers, vaccinations and tattoos. Great with kids. 537-5963.  
 AKITA/SHEPHERD CROSS young, 2 plus years, neutered male, quiet, affectionate and gentle. Free to a good home. S.P.C.A. 537-2123.



I would like to thank all my 4 legged friends and their owners for keeping me in business over the past 10 years. I would also like to say that all your thoughtful gifts and well wishes are truly appreciated and heartfelt. May you and your pet have a Happy, Healthy 1998.  
 Sincerely, Andrea Sowden

**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.

CAMPER FOR import pick-up, 4 hydraulic jacks, sink, stove, ice box, sleeps 4, clean N/S with side mirrors. \$1,200. obo. Phone 537-4959, leave message please.

**379 FREE/RECYCLABLES**

SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call the recycle depot at 537-1200, or community services at 537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

THIS COLUMN is designed for free recyclable items only (no animals). 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 2 pm.).

RECYCLE YOUR old Christmas tree by bringing it to the recycling depot anytime (Tuesdays through Saturdays) until January 10. There they will be chipped at no charge.

MOFFAT FRIDGE, 24" x 57", clean and working. 537-5667.

COUCH & CHAIR. Harvest gold electric stove, works fine. 537-9327.

**Recycling Depot Holiday Schedule**

Please note: the depot is always closed Sundays and Mondays. As well, it will be closed: December 24, 25, 26 and 27. We will be closed Jan. 1 also. The depot staff wish you all happy and safe holidays.

**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

**385 WANTED**

WE BUY furniture, everyday or antique, plus a wide assortment of items. Call us. The Great Ganges Junk Co., 537-4507.

WANTED: ARBUTUS branches, all sizes. 537-8342 or 537-0710.

**Real Estate**

**410 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

3.5+ SUNNY ACRES with small home on N.E. corner of Long Harbour & Upper Ganges Roads, 800 metres north of Ganges. \$357,500. 537-5976.

B&B POTENTIAL? Meandering garden paths, and pond with bridge on flat, 2.74 acres. Pasture, barn with power and water. Country style 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, full basement home. More info Rick, 537-1440.

NEED REVENUE to relocate family members? Try 5% down CMHC on SxS duplex. Very well maintained. \$236,000. Call Jean at Re/Max. 537-9977.

**410 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

61 SMALL AND Large Acreages, beside the Thompson River, West of Kamloops. Financing available. Phone: (604)606-7900, Fax: (604)606-7901. sales@niho.com. Internet: www.niho.com

**450 MOBILE HOMES**

MANUFACTURED HOMES. Delivered and set on your site. Low maintenance and affordably priced. 14' wide from \$46,900. Doubles from \$59,900. 537-5779 or Fred at 1-800-826-3888.

DOUBLE WIDE mobile home located in Cedarview. 4 appliances, covered parking, sun deck, fenced garden area, \$26,500. 653-4154.

QUALITY MANUFACTURED Homes Ltd. Ask about our used single and double wides. "We Serve - We Deliver". 1-800-667-1533, DL#6813.

**Rentals**

**510 COMMERCIAL SPACE**

PRIME DOWNTOWN Office space for rent with large private deck over looking Ganges Harbour. To view call 537-5669.

RETAIL SPACE for rent at Fulford Harbour Marina. Large 1800 sq. ft. oceanfront space with deck. Could be two units. 660 sq. ft. space with ocean view. Call Wed. - Sun., 9 - 5 at 653-4467.

PRIME RETAIL store available subject to purchase of leasehold improvements and equipment. To view please call John at 537-1550 or 537-1633.

MCPHILLIPS AVE. 760 sq. ft. retail space downtown. Available January 1, 1998. Call 537-2015 for information.

**OFFICE SPACE**  
 AT UPPER GANGES CENTRE

- Second Level (has chairlift)
- Air Conditioned
- Low Rates

Call Ron 537-5521

**520 HOUSES FOR RENT**

SPACIOUS 1 BEDROOM ocean view home with gourmet kitchen, private, near Fulford Harbour and suitable for 1 or 2 quiet adults. \$750/ month. 653-4386.

LARGE 3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 baths, ocean view, Duplex. W & D, on Maliview. Long term. \$750. 537-4413.

1 BEDROOM A-FRAME cabin for rent Jan. 1/98. \$525 per month, water included. 537-5515, ask for Myles at Windermere Salt Spring Realty.

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX with big back yard and a space for a vegetable garden, available January 1, 1998, \$700 plus utilities, long term. Phone 537-4998 days and 537-2837 nights.

3 BEDROOM VESUVIUS, sea view, available January 1 or 15. No dogs! N/S. Garage, airtight, 5 appl., references needed. \$900 + utilities. Dick 537-5553/ 537-2236 eves.

PRIVATE, BEAUTIFUL, 3 bedroom home with fabulous ocean views on large acreage. Available now. Long term lease, \$950/month. Call 537-4621, leave message.

OCEAN VIEW, large 3 bedroom home, very clean, private and sunny, close to Ganges and beach. Available January 1 or 15. N/S, N/P, references. \$900/month. Call evenings, 604-531-6770.

2 BEDROOM GUEST house. \$625 includes hydro. Long term, walk to town. Pat, 537-1263.

CUTE ONE bedroom home on waterfront with white picket fence available for February 1. \$810/month. Call Walter to view, 653-4877, messages.

LONG TERM. 2 bedroom, Vesuvius Home. Fireplace, W/D. Available immediately. Reduced rent for good tenants. 537-9100.

**520 HOUSES FOR RENT**

COZY 3 BEDROOM Bungalow with spectacular view, located on secluded acreage minutes from Ganges. 1 1/2 bathrooms, fireplace, deck, garage, W/D. \$850. per month. 380-8023 until January 2. 537-9525 weekdays after January 4.

LONG TERM, bright, sunny 1 bedroom & loft, 3 appliances, for quiet persons. No pets please. \$625 + utilities. 653-4500.

LONG TERM, Cusheon Lake area, clean, bright, 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, double carport. Electric heat & fireplace. 4 appliances. No dogs please. \$725 + utilities. 653-4500.

LONG TERM, brand new 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, on large property, 6 appliances, electric & wood heat. Large pond & waterfall (not suitable for children) \$750 + utilities. No pets please. 653-4500.

NEAR NEW, upper duplex, large deck & ocean view, 2 bedrooms, electric heat & fireplace. Mud room. No pets please. \$625 + utilities. 653-4500.


1 MONTH RENT Free, long term, 3 bedroom 2 bathroom, ocean view, duplex. Children welcome, no pets please. \$700 + utilities. 653-4500.

SMALL CABIN for rent. Kitchen, bathroom, living/sleeping area, ocean view. Available Jan. 1. \$400/month. Call Gayle, 537-1432.

FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM house, 1 1/2 bathrooms. Available January 15. \$695 per month. Phone 537-5202.

FOR RENT: 1/2 duplex in Ganges, \$525/mo. plus utilities, N/S, N/P, W/D hook-up. Call John, 537-5017 and leave a message.

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



- 2br. N/S, N/P, Walker Hook, \$675/mo.
- 2br. 5 acres, view, Sunset Drive, \$650.
- 3br. suite, close to town, \$650.
- 2br. North Beach, semi waterfront, \$750, N/S.
- 3br. close to town, N/S, N/P, \$825.

**530 SHARED ACCOMMODATION**

DELUXE FURNISHED Room with private bath (2 beds). Condo behind GVM. \$385. per month plus utilities. Available January 98. 537-9467.

**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 \$290. (up to 25 words), call **GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD** 537-9933 FAX 250-537-2613

**DEATHS**

MAYO: JAMES William "Jim" Mayo of Red Deer, passed away at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, on Sunday, December 21, 1997 at the age of 91 years. Jim was born on June 3, 1906 at Hamilton, Ontario. His career in management saw him transfer to many areas of Canada. On October 25, 1933 Jim was united in marriage to Margaret Milne, at Edmonton. During World War II, Jim enlisted in 1942, and served four years in England, as an officer in the R.C.A.F. In 1968, he and Margaret retired to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. In the following years, Jim was active in the community and served as president of the Royal Canadian Legion, as well as president of the Salt Spring Island Golf Course. He served as a Grand Officer of the Order of the Eastern Star, and was an active Shriner. Jim and Margaret also enjoyed square dancing and travelling. In 1994, Jim and Margaret moved back to Red Deer to be close to their family. He is survived by his loving wife Margaret, of sixty-four years; his son, Robert Mayo, his wife Betty and their three sons, Jim (Nicole), John (Alexis) and Don (Beth), all of Toronto, Ontario; his daughter, Sandra, her husband Bruce Handley of Red Deer and their two daughters, Cheryl (Marty) of Red Deer and Stacey (Dean) of Vancouver; and six great grandchildren. Funeral Services were held at the Eventide Funeral Chapel, Red Deer, on Wednesday, December 24, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. with the Reverend Joel Den Haan officiating. Interment followed in the Alto-Reste Memorial Gardens. Arrangements in care of Eventide Funeral Chapels, 4820 - 45 Street, Red Deer. Phone 347-2222.

**TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY**

PLEASE NOTE: Too Late to Classify ads are accepted only after 2:00pm Monday and before 12:00pm Tuesday at the rate of \$10.50 for 20 words or less and 35 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.

5 DAY AFTER Christmas Sale - December 27 - 31. 25% off regular merchandise, 40% off Christmas merchandise. Closed January thru February. Stone Walrus Gallery, 122 Lower Ganges Road.

CHRISTMAS BUNNIES: Snow white dwarf Rabbits. 2 months old. \$5.00 each. 537-5159.

TAXI 537-3030 - SILVER Shadow Taxi will be on duty throughout the Christmas holiday season, maintaining its 24 hours, 365 days a year service. Jana, Jerry, George & Paul wish our customers a Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year.

NEW YEAR'S Babysitting available. Over-nights welcome. Phone 537-4776.

CHRISTMAS KAYAKS, matched pair of Necky Kyoaks complete with: paddles, skirts, and life jackets and in perfect condition, \$2400. 537-2840.

FOR RENT: cozy townhouse, 2 bedroom with fireplace, washer/dryer, no pets, \$850 per month. Available February 1. Contact Alane, 537-4266.

\$500 REWARD FOR the return of one red and white 1994 Honda Motocross bike, racing plate #55 stolen Sunday night from Mobrae Ave. Salt Spring Island. Another \$500 is offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of the thief. Call 537-1923. All calls confidential.

DEJA VU DOWNSTAIRS Mouat's Mall, rent a dress or Tux for New Year's Eve. Open 10 - 5, December 30 & 31. 537-8806

AVAILABLE JANUARY first 1998. Cozy cabin, quiet, north end. Garden, pond, ducks, out-house. \$400/ month. 537-1677. Merry Xmas S.S.I.

JUDITH & JULIE of Skin Sensations wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and wish to remind you that this is your last chance to purchase our half day spa special (manicure, pedicure, facial, bodywork and lunch at \$99.95). We will be open until 4 pm Christmas eve. 537-8807. 2102 Grace Point Square. Still lots of stocking stuffers!

**TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY**

SEASIDE KITCHEN in Vesuvius will be closed December 29 to January 11. Reopening January 12. Happy Holidays everyone.

BLACKBIRD HOME & Garden year end sale begins on Saturday, December 27. All stock on sale, 25 - 40% off. Soap, candles, books, baskets, cards, collectibles, plants. (Sale does not apply to consignment items). Open Saturday, December 27 to Wednesday December 31. Closed January 1, reopening January 2. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fulford Village. 653-9113.

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**Driftwood**  
 328 Lower Ganges Rd.  
 Salt Spring Island,  
 B.C. V8K 2V3

# THE GRAPE VINE

BY STEVE COOPMAN



Champagne has been referred to as the wine a young man drinks on the evening of his first mistake.

For most of us it is the wine of celebration, but is also one of the most versatile of wines. Tony Aspler, wine columnist for the Toronto Star, relates the story of asking Alain de Vogue, chairman of Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin, "When is the best time to drink champagne?"

His reply was, "Before, during and after." I presume he was referring to a meal, but since champagne is also known as the wine of lovers, you never know.

The popularity of champagne has spawned a plethora of sparkling wines from all over the world, many of them wonderful, quite a number on the level of "pop." With the holidays at hand it is a good time to look at a few of those available at our local outlets.

But first a little information about the "champagne method." How do they get it to tickle your nose? First, an ordinary still white wine is made (a classic wine for champagne is a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier grapes).

After the first fermentation of the grape juice is complete, a little yeast and sugar is added and the bottle is capped and a second fermentation takes place in the bottle. This creates carbon dioxide which cannot escape, hence the fizz.

Then, to get rid of the sediment of dead yeast cells, the bottles are over many days gently shaken and moved from the horizontal to the vertical, neck down. The sediment now rests against the cap, so the neck of the bottle is frozen in a vat of super-cooled brine, the cap is removed and out pops the plug of frozen sediment. The bottle is then topped up and corked and allowed to age further. It's the labour-intensive method of removing sediment, a process called "riddling" that makes champagne so expensive, but it is worth it.

A good champagne has a refreshing crispness, imparted to it by the Chardonnay grapes, plus a more earthy, full-bodied quality that it gets from the red grape varieties included in the classic blend.

Now let's look at the bubbles you may want to try this coming week.

At the lower end of the price scale, Veuve Du Vernay, Blanc de

Blancs, Brut French sparkling wine at \$11.35 is outstanding value. The Blanc de Blanc designation means that this is a wine made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes, making it a fresh, light wine perfect to start off an evening, or to have at lunch or even breakfast. Why not? The "Brut" description signifies a dry wine. With champagne it means that less than 15 grams/litre of sugar has been added in the final stage of topping up the bottle after the sediment has been removed.

In the middle price range we have a local wine that is getting lots of attention. Cipes Brut from Summerhill Estate winery in Kelowna costs \$19.95 and is a sparkling wine using 100 per cent Riesling grapes. According to the winery, this wine has a fruity, light quality that makes it perfect for all occasions. For those of you who find wine difficult to drink because of the sulfites, Cipes is not only made from organically-grown grapes, but no sulfites have been added, and to give a little of that west coast quality, it states on the bottle that this wine is pyramid aged.

For a classic "Champagne" champagne you have to pay a little more and for me, Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Brut is worth the \$45.95 price tag. If you buy this wine, open it as a good champagne should be opened: without spilling a drop. The cork should be removed with just a kiss of a sigh, the wine should be poured carefully into champagne flutes so that you can delight in the multitude of long-lasting, tiny bubbles. Notice, as the wine warms up, the complex flavours created by mixing the three different grape varieties as well as blending the wines from a number of different vintages. (Most champagne is non-vintage, only in great years do the good houses bottle a vintage wine). If you taste carefully you will detect a chalky quality that is a hallmark of the soil that underlies Champagne.

I hope everyone has a happy holiday and a joyous New Year. I'll be ringing in '98 hosting a special celebration at Seacourt Restaurant. For me there is no better evening than one spent eating good food and drinking good wine with people who share a like enjoyment, and when there's dancing to be had then life is perfect.



**MAD HATTERS?** Hoping to get Gulf Islands Secondary's ban on wearing hats in the classroom removed through a fundraising effort are student council members, from left, Chris Coulter, Matt Hayes and Matt Gee.

Photo by Valerie Lennox

## Students working on hat ban

Opposition to the "no-hat" rule at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) has been transformed into a student council fundraiser by the efforts of three student council members.

But Matt Gee, Chris Coulter and Matt Hayes are aiming for more than the two-week event which has been authorized for early next year. Their goal is elimination of the school's regulation on hats, which allows hats to be worn in the hall but not in the classroom.

Gee and Hayes are co-presidents of the students council but the fundraising idea came from Coulter. He proposed that students pay a minor amount for a weekly licence to wear a hat in class, with the money going to the grad fund, to the students council or shared between both.

Gee and Hayes picked up on the

idea and the trio has pitched it at a school policy meeting — "the reception to that wasn't so great," Gee notes — and then to a staff meeting on December 5 and to a GISS parents advisory council meeting on December 10.

"It was generally well received at the PAC meeting," Hayes reported. He estimates 35 per cent of the student population would like to wear hats in class.

So far, the youths have received permission to sell the hat-wearing licences for two weeks in January, both as a fundraiser and as a test of the idea. They hope the policy on hats will eventually be abolished.

Not because Gee, Hayes or Coulter wear hats but because they believe the policy creates problems for students and teachers.

Gee suspects the policy reflects the old tradition of removing hats

upon entering a home as a sign of respect.

But Hayes points out respect should be earned and not regulated. Moreover, he notes, the hat issue has become a bone of contention in classrooms. Some students refuse to take off their hats when entering the classroom and if a teacher tries to enforce the rule, the situation turns into a debate which disrupts the class.

Hayes feels some students are tired of hats being an issue in the middle of their classes. He is also unhappy that hats are often confiscated.

"My personal foremost hatred is that teachers have the right to take someone's hat and keep it indefinitely. I believe it's called theft," he said.

GISS principal Eric McMahon could not be reached for comment.

## Party out of bounds to Driftwood reporter

Is a journalist a spectre at the feast?

Organizers of the pre-Christmas get-together for members of the Southern Gulf Island Ferry Advisory Committee seemed to feel that way after Salt Spring member Ken Lee suggested Driftwood reporter Valerie Lennox be included in the gathering. Lennox has covered every meeting of the full committee since the process started three years ago.

But organizers felt the presence of the press might

deter participants from participating, specifically from singing some of the tongue-in-cheek songs reportedly being prepared to take a jab or two at the ferry corporation.

Lee reports that some of the B.C. Ferries' staff, including planning services manager Ian Curtin, have hitherto hidden musical talent and had formed their own performance group.

The two-hour open house was held last Wednesday.

*Happy Holidays*

We thank you for your patronage and hope you will be surrounded by good fortune, good friends and good health throughout this festive season.

**DICK TRORY**

**CREEK HOUSE REALTY LTD.**  
164 Fulford-Ganges Rd.  
Salt Spring Island, BC

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*Welcome Wagon*  
SINCE 1930

**Jill Urquhart**  
537-5431

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**537-9933**

**Driftwood**

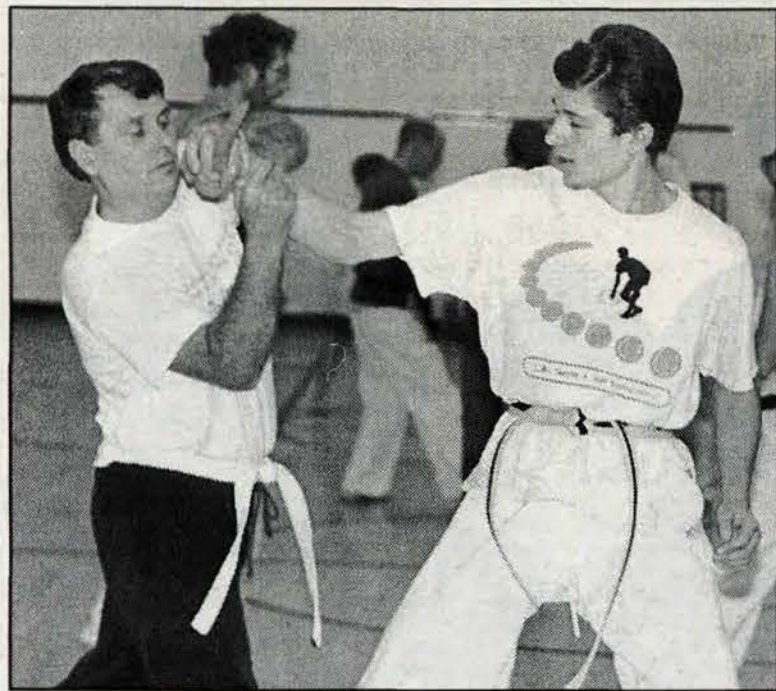
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**Good form**  
 Jim Duffy, left, and Rod Sheeter try out some karate moves as the local club finishes up the last practice prior to the Christmas break. The class is led by Pat Byron and takes place in the Salt Spring Elementary School gym.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

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**Deadstop stays in garbage can while Slugs battle it out for a tie**

By **JIM BLACK** and **ANDY NAUMANN**  
 Driftwood Contributors

The last time the Salt Spring Slugs took on the Sidney Blues, we crushed them by a score of 16-5.

It has to be noted, unfortunately, that in that game their netminder didn't show up until the third period. At our game two weekends ago, he was there right from the start and playing pretty well too. Back in our zone Topping was once again between the pipes and looking as solid as ever.

The only unfortunate thing that the Slugs had to deal with was that Deadstop somehow managed to get back into the lineup. The reason he missed the last game, as we found out, was that he had been arrested for impersonating Santa Claus. But he was released when his lawyer successfully argued that he much more closely resembles Burl Ives than old Saint Nick.

In spite of this, the Slugs really came out flying in this game. Right from the opening face-off the Slugs took control of the match and had a number of good scoring chances, only to be stymied by the netminder.

Back in our own zone, Topping was making short work of any shots coming his way and things were looking good for the lads in this one, until

**SLUG TRAIL**

Deadstop actually made a good play. With one of the Blues bearing down on him in the Slugs zone, Deadstop managed to poke-check the puck away from him in an uncharacteristic display of hockey skill. Unfortunately for the Slugs, while Deadstop was busy patting himself on the back for this, a second Blues player picked up the loose puck and snapped it past a screened Topping.

Deadstop, fully expecting the wrath of his teammates, voluntarily went and found a garbage can and jumped in it for the remainder of the period. Now that he was out of the way the boys got back to work and continued to press the Blues for the rest of the first period and most of the second, but still couldn't beat the Blues netminder, so we went into the third still trailing by a score of 1-0.

In the third period things finally started going our way. Right off the bat the Slugs opened the scoring when Paddy Akerman stopped a clearing pass in the Blues zone and fed a pass to Brant Weninger, who wasted no time getting the Slugs on the score sheet. Shortly after

that Andy Naumann and McIntyre set up a perfect give and go in front of the Blues net. First Naumann slid it over to Mac, who waited for the netminder to make his move before feeding it back to Naumann who had a wide open net yawning right in front of him.

This gave the Slugs a much-needed confidence booster so much so that they even let Deadstop back in the game. He didn't let them down, at least for a while, and even managed to get a shot on net, although it posed no threat to the netminder.

It wasn't until halfway through the final period when the Slugs were killing off a penalty that two mistakes at once cost us the victory. First we put Deadstop out to kill a penalty and at the exact same time as he got caught up in the play, his defensive partner Rodney Challborn caught a rut and fell down, allowing a two-man breakaway on poor old Topper. He made a terrific effort to stop the play but they managed to just squeeze it past him.

The Slugs didn't let this one bother them too much, they just kept on taking the play to the Blues, but in spite of a number of good chances, they couldn't get another one past their netminder and had to settle for a tie.

**HIGH ROLLERS**

High bowling scores from only one league at Kings Lane Recreation were reported this week.

In the Tuesday afternoon seniors league, high scorers were Deke Noonan, 243; Vanda Winstone, 213; and June Webb, 216.

*SEASON'S GREETINGS*  
*wishing you*  
*Peace and Joy*  
*at this most*  
*Magical Time of Year.*

**JAMES PASUTA**  
 BARRISTER & SOLICITOR  
 and staff

**GARBAGE**

*With Heartfelt Thanks*

Sincere best wishes and a round of good cheer to all the great folks who stopped by this year.

**REGULAR HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:**  
 Saturday & Wednesday 8am - 5pm  
 Corner of Park Drive and Lower Ganges Rd. (next to GVM)

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL RECYCLING EFFORTS!

*Laurie Hedger*  
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*In Appreciation*  
**FOR YOUR PATRONAGE**

'Tis the season to be jolly  
 To deck the halls with boughs of holly  
 And so we feel we're right on cue  
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**The Staff at**  
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# Santa visited island three times

## Thirty-five years ago

• Santa was dropping by Salt Spring three times in the days before Christmas. First, he was to fly into Ganges for the Lions Club Christmas carol singing on December 22 at 2:30 p.m. in Ganges. Next he was on the Jaycee Christmas ship from Bellingham, due at Ganges at 9:30 a.m. December 23. Finally, he was expected to sneak back on the island sometime overnight December 24 to ensure a merry Christmas morning for island children.

## Thirty years ago

• Salt Spring ratepayers approved three referenda, one for six classrooms at Gulf Islands Secondary School, one for improved dormitory facilities and one for a teacherage on Pender Island. All three had been defeated in two previous votes. The final vote was 70 per cent in favour of the classrooms, 67 per cent backing the improved dormitory and 62 per cent supporting the teacherage.

## Twenty-five years ago

• Salt Spring voters approved two referenda, one for a \$50,000

## DOWN THE YEARS

activity centre for Ganges as part of a new elementary school gymnasium and one for an increase in the mill rate for recreation. The activity centre referendum had been defeated a year earlier but gained 68 per cent approval while the recreation referendum was backed by 71 per cent of voters.

## Twenty years ago

• No further accesses to beach or lake were to be allowed on Salt Spring until the Salt Spring Trust Committee drafted a regulatory bylaw governing such accesses. The Ministry of Highways had also ruled that Maycock Road could not be used as a recreational access to St. Mary Lake. Both decisions followed a meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs Hugh Curtis by island residents concerned about recreational use of lakes which also supply water to residents.

## Fifteen years ago

• Pender trustee John Zacharias was chosen new chairman of the

Gulf Islands School Board and Charles Hingston of Salt Spring was chosen vice-chairman at the board's December meeting. Before retiring to Pender in 1976, Zacharias had been a school principal for 32 of his 35 years in the Saskatchewan education system.

## Ten years ago

• Regional status for the Islands Trust was the recommendation of an all-party review committee of the provincial legislature. The committee's report said the Trust area should be reorganized as a regional district with the islands excluded from current regional districts. Committee members also agreed the Trust should retain its preserve and protect mandate.

## Five years ago

• A proposal for a 24-unit affordable housing complex on land owned by the Catholic Church was put before the Advisory Planning Commission by the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society. The society had received applications from 130 people in need of subsidized housing.

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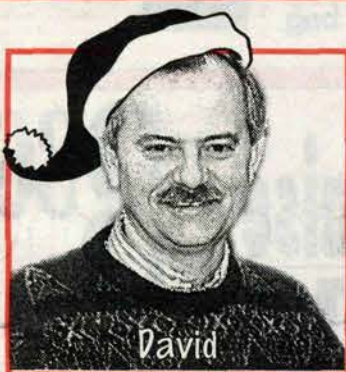
**All Our Holiday Best**

Debbie, Ethel, Jeremy, Ivy, Karla, Lee, Mary, Mary-Anne & Pat

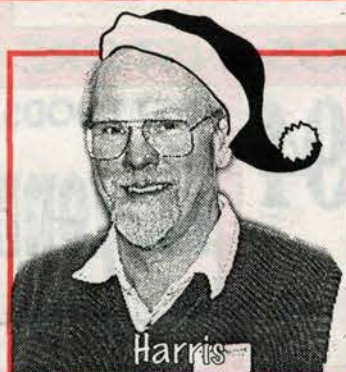
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Closed: Dec. 25 thru Dec. 30  
Open: Dec. 31 Closed Jan. 1  
RE-OPENING JAN. 2

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David



Harris



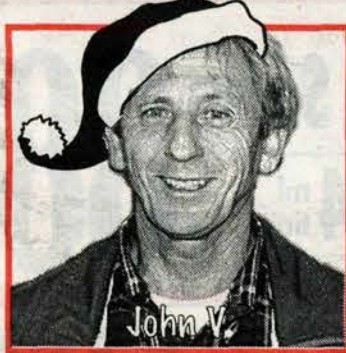
Ken



Mike



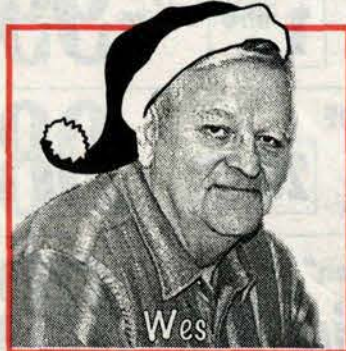
Eva



John V.



Gordy



Wes



Jeannette



Ernie



Jason



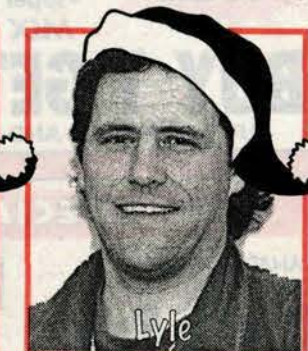
John B.



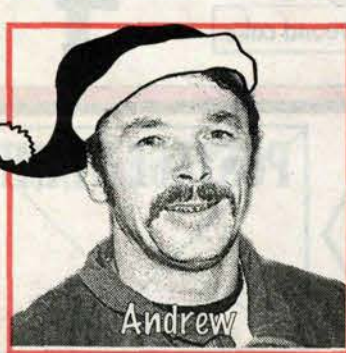
Brad



Derrick



Lyle



Andrew

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**HOLIDAY HOURS**

|                          |                        |                                       |                  |   |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Dec. 24<br>Regular hours | Dec. 25 & 26<br>Closed | Dec. 27, 29, 30 & 31<br>Regular hours | Jan. 1<br>Closed | Re-Opening:<br>Thurs. Jan. 2<br>Regular hours |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|

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Tristin

WE WISH YOU A  
**Merry Christmas**

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
From all of us to all of you, go our best wishes  
and heartfelt thanks this holiday season. It's  
always a pleasure to serve you!

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\*\*\*EXCEPT:  
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 Thursday Christmas Day . . .closed  
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All advertised items,  
 while stock lasts

**SORRY NO RAINCHECKS**



*Wishing you a very  
 Merry Christmas  
 from all of us  
 at G.V.M.*

**SALE PRICES IN EFFECT**

|                        |                              |        |                  |                |                |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wednesday<br>DEC. 24th | Thursday<br>.....CLOSED..... | Friday | Saturday<br>27th | Sunday<br>28th | Monday<br>29th |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------|----------------|

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 Bacon** 500 gram pkg **3<sup>58</sup>**

OLYMPIC  
**Party Sticks** 500 gram pkg **2<sup>38</sup>**  
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| AUSTRALIAN FRESH<br><b>Lamb Leg</b><br>*whole short cut<br><b>3<sup>98</sup></b><br>8.77kg lb | AUSTRALIAN FRESH<br><b>Lamb Racks</b><br><b>7<sup>98</sup></b><br>17.59kg lb | AUSTRALIAN FRESH<br>DOUBLE LOIN<br><b>Lamb Chops</b><br><b>7<sup>98</sup></b><br>14.51kg lb |
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| OCEAN JEWEL Frozen<br><b>Shrimp Rings</b> 312 gram pkg | <b>8<sup>98</sup></b>     |
| IQF Frozen<br><b>Black Tiger Prawns</b> 1lb bag        | <b>12<sup>98</sup></b> lb |

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 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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 BIG 10" POT  
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