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# Driftwood Gulf Islands



### Christmas from the eyes of children

A group of mostly ex-school teachers poured over 128 story contest entries and chose their favourites. The winning Christmas stories and photos from seasonal school concerts run in the second section.

..... Page B1



### Socks to feed the poor

Madeleine "Mad" Neault transforms discarded wool and sweaters into sustenance for foster children in the developing world.

..... Page A13

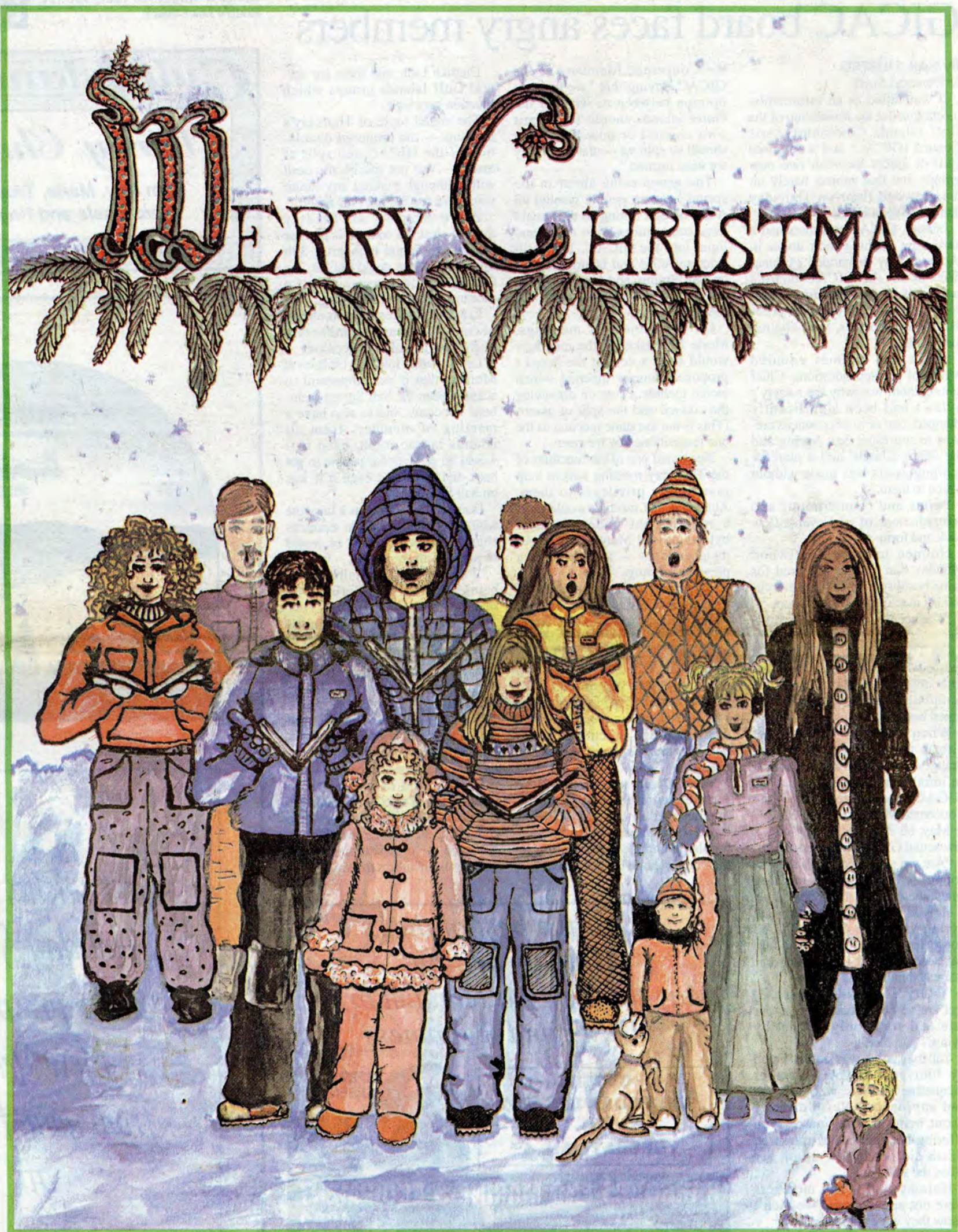
### Index

Arts ..... A20  
Classifieds ..... B11  
Crossword ..... B16  
Editorials ..... A8  
Frank Richards . . . A12  
Hubert Beyer . . . A10  
Letters ..... A9  
Sports ..... A14  
TV Listings ..... B7  
What's On ..... A20

### Weather

Christmas should be cloudy and dry. No rain is in the forecast (so far) this week. Highs up to 10 C and lows down 2 C.

The Internet Gateway to the Gulf Islands  
<http://www.gulfislands.net>



Cover art by Kate Kennedy

# CHRISTMAS



# Gift Guide

STARTS ON PAGE A15

# Big, bright moon tomorrow

A clear sky tomorrow, Wednesday, will reveal a sight last seen 133 years ago, when a full moon occurs on the winter solstice.

Information e-mailed to the Driftwood states: "Since a full moon on the winter solstice occurs in conjunction with a lunar perigee (point in the moon's orbit that is

closest to the earth), the moon will appear about 14 per cent larger than it does at apogee (the point in its elliptical orbit that it is farthest from the earth)."

Because the earth is also several million miles closer to the sun at this time of year than in the summer, light hitting the moon is about

seven per cent stronger.

The result? An extra large and bright full moon.

The last time this occurred, on December 21, 1866, the Lakota Sioux staged a retaliatory ambush on soldiers in the Wyoming Territory.

# GICAC board faces angry members

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

It was billed as an information meeting about the dissolution of the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council (GICAC) and a proposed split of assets between two new groups, but that subject barely hit the crowded floor on Thursday night at Mahon Hall.

Instead, GICAC members had a hard time keeping their anger in check as they demanded explanations about the GICAC board's actions of the last year from president Lawrie Neish and vice-president Keith Holmes, who chaired the meeting.

Neish and Holmes endured waves of pointed questions. Chief among them was why the society's bylaws had been significantly changed, two new arts councils created to represent Salt Spring and the Outer Islands, and a plan for splitting assets was made without notice to them.

Points and counterpoints and contradictions of past events flew back and forth.

Holmes told the Driftwood Monday that he was prepared for some hostility but not for the accusations made by angry members.

"The accusations were very difficult to fend off," he said.

On Thursday Neish said that people who did not buy a membership until November "shouldn't complain about things that happened last year."

When asked why he did not inform people about the bylaw changes or proposed council split at an information meeting about the GICAC organized by the Concerned Members of the GICAC in May, he said that he saw only a few actual GICAC members there.

"Are we supposed to discuss the council's business at a meeting where there are no members?"

He said there have been two Salt Spring vacancies on the GICAC board for a long time that could have been filled if people were interested in the organization.

"(Mary Koroscil-Comba and I) feel we've been abandoned to our fate and we'll only get out by dying," said Neish.

Yet that point was contradicted by four-year GICAC member Jacqueline Thomas, who said she had approached Neish directly about being on the board, even offering her services as treasurer. Neish did not follow-up on her offer, she said.

Holmes said, "The members were not apparent and we didn't know they were out there."

Ray Lindsay, a GICAC member from Saturna, sat with Holmes and Neish, providing an Outer Islands perspective.

In an opening statement Holmes said he thought the GICAC had functioned reasonably well, although a lack of member participation was not ideal. Still, mainly because of the difficulty of running a multi-island organization, a split was proposed. It now made even more sense to do that because some matching funds for arts councils are available from the Province if a government body such as a parks and rec commission provides initial funds. Outer Islands now have those bodies.

Illyd Perkins spoke on behalf of

the Concerned Members of the GICAC, saying that "we have no opinion between us whether the Outer Islands should form their own council or how the assets should be split up — that's not why we were formed."

The group came about in the spring because people wanted an AGM on Salt Spring so they could have some information about and input into the GICAC. They still want an AGM and board elections on Salt Spring, and a return to the status quo before the March 31, 1999 AGM.

On the subject of meetings, Merle Box asked if the members would have a vote at the board's proposed January meeting which would include a vote on dissolving the council and the split of assets. (This is not the same meeting as the one requisitioned by members.)

Neish said one of the functions of the Thursday meeting was to help give voting privileges to them. Attending that meeting would meet a requirement under the new bylaws passed March 31 without member input — attendance at a previous meeting.

However, in a November 26 mediation session, Neish, Holmes, Judith Borbas and Marlene Smith had agreed that an "information" meeting would be held in December.

When people responded with upset about his statement regarding voting eligibility, Neish said, "I don't think the executive can be held responsible if you weren't at meetings."

Terry Owen suggested a new form of representation could be implemented in the GICAC, with members from each island meeting regularly and giving direction to their representatives on the board.

Dietrich Luth said there are several Gulf Islands groups which function very well.

The stated topic of Thursday's meeting — the proposed dissolution of the GICAC and split of assets — was not specifically dealt with, although making any future vote about it a fair one was raised.

Board members and Lindsay made it clear the concern is that the presumed larger number of Salt Spring members could outvote the Outer Islanders, especially if a meeting is held on Salt Spring.

Lindsay suggested somebody besides the board membership might have to make the decision.

Lindsay also told the Driftwood Monday that it was important to acknowledge the Salt Spring members' concerns, and to also have a meeting of members from all islands in one room, even if it would be difficult for people to get back and forth, and even if it was on Salt Spring.

Holmes said as long as a fair vote with proper Outer Islands representation could be held then he would be happy with the results.

"I'm leary of a definitive vote being taken on Salt Spring," he said.

The GICAC board has until today (December 21) to respond to the members' requisition for a January 14 meeting. If it does not, the meeting will proceed as set by the members.

If the board does respond it can set the time and place for the meeting, although it must follow the members' requested agenda.

Holmes said he was not sure what the board's decision would be. Borbas said Monday that a group is contacting all GICAC members to reinforce the requisitioning of the January 14 members meeting.

## FOR THE RECORD

It was a lovely hand, but it wasn't Deb Toole's. The hand applying make-up to Salt Spring Singer Emily Roop did not belong to "fellow singer" Deb Toole. Toole is not a Salt Spring Singer; however, she is a singer. In fact, she is Roop's voice coach.

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	10.8		1710	6.6
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SA 0810	12.1	WE	1050	11.5
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	1720		2325	7.2



# Little chance of ferry strike

After 18 months of negotiations, the B.C. Ferry and Marineworkers Union said it will likely sign a collective bargaining agreement with the B.C. Ferry Corporation.

Once done, the deal will guarantee no work stoppages for the foreseeable future.

"It still needs to be ratified by the membership but the executive is recommending acceptance," said union president Ken Michael.

"We'll be taking it around next month to the various membership groups."

The tentative agreement includes 110 new full-time jobs for part-time workers and enhanced benefits.

Two points are of particular interest: a no-layoff clause during the life of the agreement and a \$200 signing bonus for each member.

## Christmas wish

Two-year-old Mark Camps shares a special moment with Santa Claus as the youngster musters up the courage to describe his Christmas wishes. The youngster was one of

many island children and parents who enjoyed the annual pancake breakfast with Santa at Fulford Hall on Sunday.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

# Conditions force refusal of grant

The board of the Salt Spring Public Library Association has decided to not accept the Community Access Program (CAP) grant as awarded by the federal government.

The board had applied for and been approved for a \$40,000 grant which would improve public access to the internet and "connectivity" on Salt Spring.

However, as board chairwoman Grace Byrne explained last week, the proposed contract proved "unacceptable to the board."

Specifically, the contract required the computers be housed in a secure space that could be supervised on a full-time basis. That did not seem possible for the volunteer library, said Byrne.

Salt Spring could still benefit from work already put into the application, though, if another receiving group is found.

Having heard the Core Inn was interested in establishing an internet cafe, the board invited

Phoenix High teacher Steven Berry and Trish Nobile of the Core Inn to its December 10 meeting where the grant was discussed.

The library board is open to working with any and all community groups to ensure the grant is used locally, said Byrne.

Positive preliminary discussions about changing the grant

recipient have already taken place with Industry Canada, the granting agency.

Industry Minister John Manley explained in a December 15 press release that "the CAP program is a key component of the federal government's Connecting Canadians strategy — aimed at making Canada the world's most connected nation."

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## Travel industry changes force addition of fees

The internet does not give service with a smile and it cannot check hotel quality either — that's the message local travel agents want to get across in light of recent changes in their industry.

Being able to book flights through the internet is one change.

Secondly, travel agencies have been forced to collect between \$15 and \$30 from their clients to make up for an estimated 38 per cent reduction in fees the airlines pay to them for booking tickets.

According to Salt Spring travel agents, some islanders who choose the internet or long distance telephone option for booking flights are finding that they did not get "the deal" they originally thought.

Both The Travel Shop's Debbie Wrate and Tim Walker at Uniglobe remind consumers of the internet user who booked a hotel room in Italy and found on arrival that it did not exist.

The travel managers have also heard of people spending from three hours to all day searching for the best price. In some cases, Walker said, the savings might be only \$20, which is not much for the time spent searching.

Walker said when someone making travel plans phones an airline, that person will be given the cheapest flight available through that company and not necessarily the least expensive flight available to the travel destination.

He said a travel agent provides a more comprehensive approach.

Wrate believes it is worth the

\$15 to \$30 service fee to go to a travel agency where the personal approach is taken and staff probably already know the best airline ticket prices.

Both Wrate and Walker also stated that travel agencies are insured in the event of airline or charter company problems. Walker used as an example a group of people stranded in Hawaii who subsequently had another flight arranged for them to return home.

The real culprit in all of this appears to be the airlines. In the fall they substantially reduced the commission paid to travel agents across the county to book flights for them.

Wrate said for a \$5,000 business class international airline flight a travel agent used to receive \$500, but now it is capped at \$140. For domestic flights, the commission has dropped from 10 to eight per cent.

"We've been the source of (the airlines') income for many years," said Wrate, whose agency has introduced service fees to retain some of the money lost from the commission reduction.

Walker takes the approach that agents have to learn to live with the change but believes the consumer is the one who loses out. Those who do not use the internet have little choice but to pay the service fee.

"It's sort of devious," Walker said in reference to how the airline industry has forced travel agencies to charge the fee instead of raising their ticket prices.

## Islanders appear cautious with Y2K travel bookings

Salt Spring islanders will probably be making the turn-of-the-century transition close to home, according to local travel agents.

Uniglobe manager Tim Walker is surprised at how many people went on holidays early in December and even in November.

Walker said the large number of people in hospital, computer, banking, Hydro and other industries who are on stand-by for New Year's Eve has led to a reduction in early January travel.

Debbie Wrate from The Travel Shop indicated that bookings are slower than is typical for this time of year but are picking up for the middle of January.

Salt Springers go almost any place where the sun is shining, said Wrate, with their favourite spots being Mexico and Hawaii.

Walker said Kauai, Hawaii is a popular spot but Mexico has a bit of an edge as a designation for islanders.

"If travellers want to get out of their hotels and onto the street, it's a lot less expensive to run around and buy things in Mexico," he said.

## Texada opponents choose direct action approach

Environmental activists on Salt Spring will be taking a non-violent direct action approach against Texada clearcut logging, according to facilitator Robert Osborne who attended a direct action meeting last Friday at the Core Inn.

Osborne said the direct action group took its lead from the overwhelming vote for non-violent civil disobedience given last Thursday at a Fulford Hall public meeting.

A camp for non-violent civil disobedience training will be held on the third week of January, said Osborne, who said the group had decided to not disclose the nature of the civil disobedience action to be taken, as

well as the date of the civil disobedience training camp.

Another project has been undertaken by Devon Guest, on the suggestion of Jonathan Grant at the Thursday night meeting, to erect a cross for every truck load of logs that leaves Mount Tuam.

Osborne said this is one of a number of creative visual projects being considered by island environmental activists.

Imagen Communications Inc. has made a one-year donation of a computer website to the activists.

On it they intend to educate people nationally and internationally concerning the Texada issue, and will seek financial

contributions to purchase the land in question.

Referring to the land purchase option, which would cost more than \$30 million and garnered the second-most support at the meeting last Thursday, Osborne said, "We need a miracle."

Despite these actions, Osborne said the environmental activists continue to thank Texada owners Rob MacDonald and Derek Trethewey for their open communication and their decision to stop logging over the Christmas-New Year season.

The next direct action meeting against Texada logging will be held on Monday, December 27 at 2 p.m. at the Core Inn. It is open to the public.

## FIRE CALLS

It has been a long time since Salt Spring's fire department had to deal with an actual fire. But that could all change this weekend when tons of Christmas wrapping paper gets chucked into the family fireplace.

"Remind people that pushing all that paper in at once creates lots of flames and could start a chimney fire," said deputy chief Dan Akerman. "If they burn it slowly then things should be alright."

Akerman added that chimneys should be cleaned regularly to prevent internal fires.

The department had one call Friday when it attended a motor vehicle accident in the early evening. Four occupants of the car were taken to hospital.



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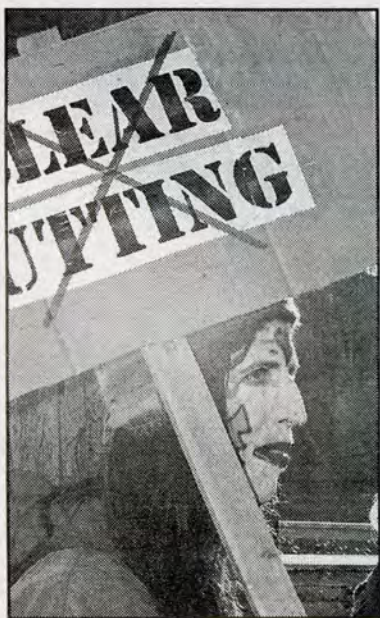
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# New Year!

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We'll be closing Dec. 23,  
re-opening Jan. 6th  
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**MULLIGAN'S**



**Protest at high noon**  
 Those opposed to clear-cut logging by Texada on Salt Spring Island lands were out in force Thursday afternoon, parading with placards around Ganges, pausing at the band stand in Centennial Park and then marching to the Islands Trust office. The afternoon rally included singing and speeches.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

# Logging halted over Christmas; locals consider options for action

By TANYA LESTER  
 Driftwood Staff

Non-violent civil disobedience in opposition to Texada's logging on Mount Tuam received a show-of-hands vote from 197 people, with only three opposing the action at a public meeting held last Thursday.

Texada has been logging at a rate of 12 trucks per day, according to Colin Rankin, who also helped facilitate the meeting in Fulford Hall.

Rankin was met with cheers when he announced that Texada would cease logging on Mount Tuam beginning this Wednesday through to January 4.

Salt Spring Islanders opposed to Texada logging shifted out of a crisis response mode and began exploring pro-environmental activist options during the course of the evening, as suggested by facilitators Rankin and Robert Osborne.

Osborne asked those in attendance to choose one of the options posted on newsprint in black pen on walls around the room.

These included: lobby for private law regulations, stop logging, work with developers, community logging land swap, fundraising and other ideas.

Each option was discussed before Osborne proposed that people "go shopping for a choice."

"Stop logging" was chosen by the largest number of people at the meeting.

"We need to get out on that road," said Sally Sunshine, who

supports direct action by blocking the road the Texada trucks are using to bring logs down from Mount Tuam.

Sunshine suggested "stop clear cutting" would be a more specific term to use instead of "stop logging."

The second largest group chose "fundraising." Brad Andrews, who lives on Beaver Point Road decided to go with this group in the belief that there are several ways to help fund the \$30 million-plus to purchase the Texada-owned Burgoyne Bay and Mount Tuam lands.

Andrews suggested enlisting the help of a conservancy group and lobbying governments to provide tax breaks to those willing to donate money for the land purchase.

During the meeting, environmental activist Briony Penn announced that the Salt Spring Conservancy has donated \$1,000 towards the land purchase. She said this has been matched with another \$1,000 from supportive individuals.

Penn will be spearheading a "rats leaving the sinking ship" campaign this Thursday.

Activists are being asked to dress as rats and take the ferry to Swartz Bay in a media campaign which will draw attention to the fact that the provincial government has not been forthcoming with the \$30 million allotted for the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Fund promised by the year 2000.

Penn said the group, after arriv-

ing in Swartz Bay where they expect media attention, will proceed to the B.C. Legislature to confront Environment Minister Joan Sawicki.

Out of the "other ideas" group came the idea from Jonathan Grant to erect a cross for every truckload of logs being cut by Texada.

Another person suggested a 500-year plan for logging the land.

A general feeling among those in attendance was that the halt in logging will provide activists time to make choices concerning their protest strategy.

It was announced that people participating in the annual winter solstice walk this Wednesday will focus on the cut trees as they walk up Mount Tuam as well as on the deaths in the plane crash this year and the monastery fire.

Those going on the walk were asked to assemble on Fulford dock at 9 a.m.

Penn said those interested in being part of the "rats leaving the sinking ship" action should meet at Fulford Harbour at 1:30 p.m. to take the 2 p.m. ferry to Swartz Bay.

Earlier in the evening, Penn, dressed in a long, green, velvet dress accentuated with black gloves, used "her body" in a theatrical presentation of Salt Spring Island pointing out "bumps" that represented the situation of forest preservation on the island.

The next public meeting concerning Texada logging will be held on Thursday, January 6 in Fulford Hall at 7 p.m.

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## Shopping style switch keeps retails hopping

Salt Springers are becoming more and more picky in their shopping style, and local merchants are seeing the difference as Christmas purchasing plows into its final days.

"Sales are down a bit over last year because I think people have a better idea of what they want and they aren't just out there buying," said Doug Mitchell of Ganges Garment Company.

The feeling is echoed throughout the retail community. While Christmas purchasing is as brisk as ever, marginal buying seems to have died out.

It may be one of the reasons spontaneous purchases, such as those at seasonal craft fairs, have been slow. Usually-packed local halls have not seen the same crowds nor the same open wallets.

"I think there's been a trend over the last few years away from a bunch of smaller gifts to one big family gift," said Ben Martens, Mouat's manager, who rescheduled Boxing Day sales to the week before Christmas. "Our numbers have been right on target. But one interesting thing is that we haven't seen the one hot item that everyone has to have this year."

Nationwide retail statistics show that B.C. spends less at Christmas than any other province in Canada. Many blame high taxes, others say the province is in a recession and there is always the prevalent theory that a lack of snow tends to hamper the Christmas buying spirit.

On Salt Spring one translation is a move toward high-value-added items, such as jewellery.

"This year seem a little slower than last but we have plenty of work. I think we have a long-term clientele," said Wolfgang Kranz, of Wolf Kranz Jewels. "I was a little concerned by a recession but there is no sign of it."

A slow November and early December has given way to brisk revenues during the past 10 days.

"Last year the eight or nine days before the 24th provided a big boost. I guess everyone waits, hoping that the big push will come in the days leading up to Christmas," Mitchell said.

## Vessel control moved to Sidney

Growing marine traffic up and down B.C.'s south coast has caused the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to move its Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) centre from Vancouver to Patricia Bay, outside Sidney.

"The system is used for monitoring larger vessels (over 60 feet or 27.3 metres) which helps us especially in bad visibility when we want to know where the traffic is," said Ian Kyle of the Ganges Coast Guard.

Local coast guard operations focus mainly on smaller vessels in distress, although the MCTS centre is vital for an overall view of the area from the Juan de Fuca Strait through the Gulf Islands and Strait of Georgia up to the south end of Texada Island.

MCTS officers handled about 300,000 vessel movements and 900 incidents during the past year, making it the busiest marine area in Canada.

The Waterfront Gallery's Melanie Dick said November was too warm.

"People weren't in the right mood for Christmas shopping. In the past week things have changed," she said. "Snow would be nice but Christmas is coming whether it's white or not."

One issue that always surfaces at this time of year is the debate over whether islanders are increasingly going off-island to do their shopping, drawn by the perception of lower prices and better selection.

"There will always be off-island shopping, those who don't mind the hassle of big box stores and crowds, but I really can't see that it's on the increase," said Martens. "Price isn't everything anymore."

Kranz says the grass-is-always-greener attitude is a hard habit to break.

"I think people live a little too much in the past, (meaning) limited selection on the island. It just isn't true," he said. "But maybe we as merchants have to change that attitude by being more blunt about what we offer."

# "Oll i wunt foh Kwithmuth ith ma too fwunt teefph"



*Translation:* "All I want for Christmas is harmony, humanity, and global peace."

## Cheers to a great new century

*John & Chris, Melanie and Ralph... the folks at Barnyard Grafix*

### Holiday wishes for...

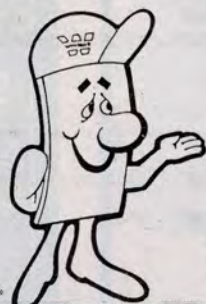
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**Youth crashes**  
Police attended two vehicles in a short time frame Friday night. At left, a vehicle driven by a 16-year-old female went off the road and into a fence in the 2400 Fulford-Ganges Road block at 6:58 p.m. A single male passenger, aged 18, obtained a bruised arm. No charges were laid. A second accident (above) occurred less than an hour later at the corner of Upper Ganges Road and Leisure Lane. Four youths were taken to hospital.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

## New Trust budget taking shape

Islands Trust Council took its first swipe at dealing with a budget for fiscal 2000/2001 that will grow by at least 1.2 per cent.

This first stage at council meetings in Victoria December 10 outlined a base budget which includes capital-cost and salary increases but no costs for additional programs.

The current forecast is for a starting point of \$3,588,760, up from last year's approved budget of \$3,546,515, although the base budget for 1999/2000 was \$3,491,515.

Additional cash will be needed to offset the approximately \$50,000 required for Trust staff salary increases in the final year of a collective bargaining agreement that guarantees a two per cent pay rise. Increases will also come from

meeting expenses, equipment, rent and other capital costs.

Budget expenses fall into three main categories: council costs, such as Trust-area services and bylaw enforcement — about 21 per cent; planning services — about 72 per cent; and Trust Fund services — about seven per cent.

Items on the program list which would need additional funding include land use bylaws for associated (non-represented) islands, \$25,000; Natural Area Protection Tax Incentive project, \$20,000; Trust-area governance study, \$30,000; additional community planning projects, \$30,000; and mapping projects, \$17,000.

Some but not all of the proposals are eligible for government grants.

Council voted to ask the B.C. government for its annual

\$352,000 grant. The final scope of the budget will not be decided until March when the Trust's finance committee decides which expenses should be included or not.

Last year most new expenditures were not included in an effort to provide a zero tax increase for residents.

## Business hours to change until after the New Year

For those who still prefer humans to machines in our everyday trials, business hours for banks and government offices will change significantly during the next two weeks.

All local financial institutions will close early Friday — Islands Savings at 5 p.m. and the Bank of Montreal and CIBC at 3 p.m. All three will also close Monday and Tuesday, December 27 and 28, as well as Monday, January 3.

Government offices will also close Monday, Tuesday and January 3.

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*Get All Decked Out for the Holidays!*

It's time to get all spruced up for some holiday merrymaking. We hope our service suited you well this year, and we wish you a wonderful holiday.  
From Andrea, Carol, Erin, Ivy, Jeremy, Karla, Mary Anne, Pat

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**PRETZEL MOTORS**



May your season be filled with family, friends and many good times. You have our sincere gratitude for your patronage.

Happy holidays, everyone!  
**AXEL & STEFAN**

## Gulf Islands Veterinary Clinic

Wishes all our "friends" and their owners

*Happy Holidays*

Please note these changes to our regular hours:

- Friday Dec. 24, 8:30am - 12:00pm
- Saturday Dec. 25, *CLOSED*
- Sunday Dec. 26, *CLOSED*
- Monday Dec. 27, 8:30am - 5:00pm
- Friday Dec. 31, 8:30am - 4:00pm
- Saturday Jan. 1, *CLOSED*
- Sunday Jan. 2, *CLOSED*
- Monday Jan. 3, 8:30am - 4:00pm



Cathy, Bev, Lynda, Wendy, Melaina, Noreen & Derrick (Barb missing)

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# Christmas spirit, island spirit

Christmas should be a time for reflection — an exercise that may seem impossible in the final week before Christmas Day, when the frantic pace of Christmas shopping reaches its zenith.

Many people don't have enough time to think let alone reflect when they are caught up in the bombardment of commercial messages urging them to buy this or that gift, and in the rapid flurry of activity that December brings.

The Christmas season has become an excuse for doing everything to excess: shopping, eating and drinking, which are now more a part of Christmas than its religious roots. Yet there remains a strong spiritual element for most of us.

We have become an excessive society: we enjoy a standard of living higher than any ever known with access to an enormous array of amazing goods and services. And we work to excess to endeavour to enjoy them all.

Perhaps that's why Christmas is still so important to most of us. Beyond the excesses there is a spiritual side to the holiday. It is that which enables us to find pleasure in buying or making Christmas gifts, enjoying good food and toasting friends over a drink.

It is the Christmas spirit that helps us reach out to people in need or make an extra effort to bring joy into a loved one's — even a stranger's — life.

As we pause from our business this holiday season, enjoying the company of family and friends, it is a good time to reflect on what makes the Gulf Islands communities so special.

Geographically defined by boundaries that are more than imaginary lines on a map, our communities historically have been to some degree self-reliant. Salt Spring's early history is about islanders helping each other survive.

Over the years the odds of survival have improved alongside the standard of living. Today it's more a case of helping each other get by, or making a volunteer contribution to the betterment of island life.

In culture and in business, altruism lives in the hearts of islanders. Set aside the debate over taxation and you find a dedicated team of volunteer librarians.

Forget for a moment our differences over how we control land use and there are many who will step forward to give their time to the volunteer committees that move issues forward.

Ignore the divisions over logging and you'll find most of the island ready to stand up and work on behalf of protecting the environment.

There are many good things about island life, but surely one of the best is the differences of opinion and divisions of interest that set us apart from each other, that create the diversity that makes island life so special.

A community of like-minded individuals would be a boring community indeed.

Beyond the differences, however, there is a common bond. We take pleasure and pride in living in one of the world's most favoured places. And we want to ensure that change, being inevitable, doesn't destroy its best features.

There are other bonds, strengthened by our collective participation in arts and cultural projects such as community theatre at ArtSpring, or in the musical groups that flourish here.

All these things make up community spirit, the desire to make this home the best it can be and the pride we can take in our efforts to that end.

From its beginnings, humanity has found strength in communities; together we are stronger.

Islands such as ours enjoy a distinct advantage: our territories are defined by a natural boundary that creates a barrier to communication with others.

Our communities have great potential to be strong because circumstances propel us to look inward.

This is all about community spirit, but is there really much difference between that and Christmas spirit?

Probably not. But at Christmas the desire to give is heightened, and the religious history of the holiday adds the spiritual element. At Christmas in the islands we can celebrate the spirit that lives with us all year, and reflect on it too — just as soon as there's time.

In the spirit of the holiday season, and in the spirit of island life, we wish you a very warm and merry Christmas.



## Islanders invited to help save special Salt Spring lands

By SHEILA HARRINGTON

After numerous meetings about the lands now in the hands of the newly formed Texada Land Corporation, a coalition of citizens and non-profit conservancies has decided to start taking donations in order to initiate appraisals so that we can purchase lands, covenants or rights to these ecological gems.

We invite all those who can do it to join with us in donating toward the cost of these appraisals so that we can begin to negotiate on these special Salt Spring lands.

Much of the 4,500 acres (1,800 hectares) are now at risk of habitat and other forest cover loss as the new owners state their intent is to cut between 50 and 60 per cent of the marketable timber on the land.

With the exception of some buffers around creeks and old growth areas, this clearcutting of second growth timber is mostly on Texada's lands which are currently without any forestry restrictions.

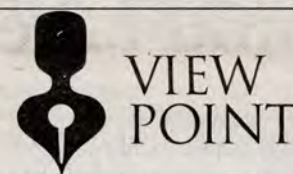
The lands include Mount Tuam, much of the southwest side of the Fulford Valley, virtually all of the Burgoyne Bay area, and some of the Mount Maxwell watershed.

Several groups have been meeting in recent weeks.

Some have been trying to prioritize areas needing protection; some have met with the developers or their representatives to try to negotiate principles on cutting; and some have met to discuss direct actions.

At this stage, we do have one way of moving ahead — we can have appraisals done and determine which lands we need to acquire or purchase the rights in order to halt this fast-paced logging.

TLC — The Land Conservancy has agreed to spearhead a coalition of non-profit land trust



groups who will all be a part of this important effort to preserve or move these already classified, ecologically sensitive areas into sustainable community land uses, including parks and community forest areas.

Other groups involved or interested in this effort include Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, Islands Trust Fund and The Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Government agencies which may help over time include the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative, Salt Spring Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission, Capital Regional Parks, BC Parks and Parks Canada.

With this kind of interest, we are sure to start the millennium here on Salt Spring with a positive community spirit and some wonderful lands and parks for us all to use and enjoy.

The time to act is now, so send your tax deductible donations to The Land Conservancy of B.C. earmarked "Salt Spring Lands."

The Land Conservancy's address is 5793 Old West Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C.

V8X 3X3. Or you can drop off your cheques at the Salt Spring Conservancy Office, 204-338 Lower Ganges Road, or the Land Trust Alliance, at 205-338 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island. (The offices are above Dagwood's in Upper Ganges Centre.)

Let's end our year with a titling for our own special home place.

A fundraiser with phone number and more information will be announced shortly.

Thanks for your help!

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident, executive director of The Land Trust Alliance of B.C., and involved with other groups and individuals trying to purchase some of the Texada lands.*

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# SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked: What is the spirit of Christmas?**



**Kristi Spencer**

*My family and friends being all together.*



**Dieter Muster**

*The spirit has changed a lot these days. Everything goes around business. The spirit of giving should be more sponsored, also sharing.*



**Geoff Roop**

*The spirit of Christmas is to make life easier for other people.*



**Santa Claus**

*The spirit of Christmas is family, goodwill to all, peace and good cheer.*



**Josie Whittlesey**

*The spirit of Christmas is definitely laughter!*

## Letters to the Editor

### Celebrate Tania

Tania Elizabeth, the exceptionally talented young fiddler and former Salt Spring Islander, is about to celebrate the release of her second CD.

This Side Up was recorded at Salt Spring's Nomad Studios and co-produced by Nomad's Gemini-winning Paul Brosseau along with

Tania, now 15.

This time out, Tania has stretched her boundaries, and that of her instrument, the fiddle, to include jazz, pop and world beat flavours.

A CD launch party was held last Thursday at St. Anne's Academy Auditorium in Victoria, B.C.

A film crew will be there to tape the concert for YTV's YAA! To

The M@x. Tania's been nominated in two categories for a youth achievement award with YTV.

A dollar from the sale of each CD will go to Save the Children Canada's Out from the Shadows Program (to help combat child prostitution).

If you're going to be in the Victoria area, you can get concert info by calling (250) 479-2366.

You can visit Tania's web-site at <http://www.swansisters.bc.ca> to learn more about her music, her record label and to order her CDs.

TSUNAMI is delighted to have had the opportunity for Tania Elizabeth to perform last year at the society's second annual Indian Summerstock.

She was invited back for this

year's music fest, but had other commitments — she was in the recording studio finishing This Side Up!

Now's the time for everyone to hear the results. Cheers!

**ADRIAN DU PLESSIS,**  
TSUNAMI coordinator,  
Salt Spring

**MORE LETTERS A10**

## Board should take some responsibility for GICAC

By GAIL SJUBERG

It being Christmas and all, I was hoping I might be moved to write something stirring and meaningful about the season.

Unfortunately, I am propelled instead to write about the current Gulf Islands Community Arts Council (GICAC) situation.

In nine years of writing for this newspaper I have never seen a more bizarre situation than the one that has recently unfolded and came to a frothy yet insubstantial head last Thursday night at Mahon Hall.

While pegged as an information meeting about the proposed split of the GICAC into two councils — one for Salt Spring and another for the Outer Islands — and chaired by GICAC vice-president Keith Holmes from Galiano, members understandably needed to talk first and foremost about the board's actions of the past year which members were not informed about.

One of those actions was to change the non-profit society's bylaws. The change meant all members except the board were temporarily disenfranchised — only members who attended a previous meeting are entitled to vote.

Since the last AGM was held after people's memberships had lapsed, and no reminders for renewal were sent, no public notice of the AGM was given, and no one knew that important matters would be discussed there, nobody — except five board members — attended the meeting at which the members' voting privileges were temporarily extinguished.

Then the board registered two new societies and came up with a plan to divide the GICAC assets, including a property on McPhillips Avenue, between the two new groups.

The best explanation GICAC

president Lawrie Neish and Holmes can offer is that they thought no one on Salt Spring was interested in being involved in the group.

At the Thursday meeting, Holmes and Neish often responded to peoples' questions with red herrings, amazing use of logic or no answer at all. Neish dismissed people's right to criticize the board because they weren't members last year.

Yet one of the biggest problems, in my view, is that they offered no apology to members for what they have done, and gave no hint that they understood why these people might be angry or frustrated, thereby raising those two emotions considerably.

It appears that Neish, at least, thinks these trouble-makers have no valid part to play in the decisions of the society and that they are only going to muck up the board's divine plan to split the GICAC and give the new Trincomali Arts Council its fair share of the assets.

(Holmes did express regret in his opening remarks about the lack of member participation over the years and Neish indicated all the work was dumped onto him and Mary Koroscil-Comba.)

Some GICAC members, on the other hand, have publicly admitted they are in part responsible for the situation by not trying harder to get involved earlier. If they can admit they made a mistake, why can't the GICAC board?

Neish seems to have convinced himself that these people disenfranchised themselves by not making more of an effort to find out when and where the annual general meetings of their society might be, or by trying to work with him as leader of the GICAC.

Neish even appeared reluctant to agree to hold the meeting req-



uisioned by the members for January 14, but members have the right to hold it themselves anyway.

But that's a whole other matter: who is eligible to vote is at present a murky quagmire.

An accurate membership list hasn't been maintained by the board, (although contributors to ArtCraft are supposed to be GICAC members), so with no definitive list, people now feverishly joining the society on all the islands, and voting eligibility extinguished by new bylaws, figuring out who can vote is going to be a task in itself.

Neish agreed in a mediation session to restore voting rights to GICAC members, but when asked about that Thursday he said that people who were paid-up 1999 members and attending that particular meeting would be able to vote.

Adding attendance at Thursday's meeting as a condition for a voting privilege would again disenfranchise a whole bunch of other members who weren't there — it is arbitrarily throwing in one condition of the new bylaws!

I don't think the important matter of who votes on the society's dissolution or anything else should be determined by a condition Neish twirls off the top of his head at a meeting; it needs to be nailed down by higher powers such as the Registrar of Societies (who is apprised of recent events).

I have no doubt that GICAC members and their rights as members of a non-profit society

have been seriously violated.

To be generous to the board, you can see how these things happen. No one else appears interested, and with only a few people involved, communication is straightforward and the business gets done efficiently.

Even if the board did not intend to block anyone else from participating in these major decisions, it was wrong and clearly against the spirit of the Societies Act.

To be telling people they have no right to criticize the organization because they didn't figure out on their own that they should put their \$15 cheque through a slot in the door of the arts council office at Mahon Hall before March 1, 1999 is simply absurd.

But wait . . . all the GICAC members aren't from Salt Spring. The 35 Outer Islands people who have been members because they contribute to ArtCraft have likely been in the dark too, and no one knows what all the other Outer Islanders being signed up now — in anticipation of the asset split being determined by a lopsided Salt Spring versus Outer Islands vote — are being told.

Members from all the islands need to get together and talk without defensive board members there to muddy the waters.

Salt Spring members should make a concerted effort to contact those people on a one-on-one basis soon, and arrange for the Outer Islanders to attend their January 14 meeting, even if it means paying for a water taxi. Several people said they were willing to billet Outer Islands members.

A non-profit society is the members at whatever point they belong or have an interest in belonging. It is certainly much more than a game of dodging in and out of technicalities and a few people running the business

because they've been doing it for several years.

The clock needs to be turned back to before the March 31 AGM and it probably will be.

In the future, not next month, a properly-informed group of Outer Islanders and Salt Springers will decide whether or not to split the council and who will get what. (Perhaps, as Saturna council member Ray Lindsay suggested Thursday, the asset split will and should be decided by an external third party rather than a membership vote.)

This mess just proves you can't take shortcuts, you can't keep people in the dark and mess with their rights, and if you do, that shortcut turns into an obstacle course littered with nasty feelings.

A complete board resignation may not be practical or desirable, but at the very least, Neish — a virtual lightning rod for resentment and upset — must go, even though he has been synonymous with the GICAC and ArtCraft for several years.

According to old and new GICAC bylaws, a vote to dismiss any and all board members can be made by special resolution. It requires that 14 days public notice be given.

Neish may be the most hard-working volunteer this community has ever seen, and he and all the board members should be heartily thanked for the work they did up until the past year, but they violated the spirit of the Societies Act by forgetting who they were supposed to serve.

Perhaps worst of all, they won't admit it and continue to blame everyone else for the mess they have created.

*The writer is a Driftwood reporter who has been following the GICAC story for the past six weeks.*

# The century's best Christmas present

VICTORIA — As the 20th century draws to a close, I think of the Christmas presents I received during the 64 years I shared with it.

I have, of course, no recollection of any presents that must have been under the tree on Christmas Eve of 1935, but I'm sure my parents thought of something for their nine-month-old baby who had joined his six-year-old brother the previous March.

But I do remember a nifty present one Christmas when I was about four.

My uncle Hubert, after whom I was named, had made these wonderful little table-sized bowling games for all the kids in the extended Beyer family.

The gizmo was about two-by-three feet, resembling a large picture frame with green felt instead of a picture, covered with a glass sheet.

Laid flat on the table, it was supported at the four corners by short legs, each of which had a different height, which had the effect of funnelling anything that rolled down the surface into one corner.

Uncle Hubert had also carved nine little bowling pins for each game, and a spinning top.

Given a good spin with thumb and forefinger at the upper end of the bowling game, the little top would spin its way towards the other end and play havoc with the bowling pins.

I suppose what makes this gift so memorable after all these years is the fact that it didn't come from a store.

It was hand-made with loving hands by my uncle.

Another memorable Christmas present, one of which I have written about before, was a small paper bag containing about five pounds of potatoes that a kind soul had left at our door on Christmas Eve in 1946, when hunger and privation was at its most brutal in post-war Germany.

When I was about 16, I had just one wish — a guitar.

According to our family tradition, to which I still adhere, my father picked each of the presents from under the tree and called out the recipient's name.

I got quite a number of presents but no guitar.

And then my father asked me to get him a cigar from the box he said was in the bedroom closet. I found no cigar, but a beautiful guitar.

As the years rushed by, there were many more beautiful presents, pictures drawn by our children, parcels from my parents half a world away.

As I write this, Christmas is still a week away, but already I have received my greatest present ever.

If not peace on earth, I rejoice in the fact that the nations of Europe, the continent of my birth, are forging a peaceful confederation.

Growing up in Hitler's Germany, I was indoctrinated from an early age into believing that France was my arch enemy.

How could I doubt it?

And even though as a five-year-old I had no hand in turning Europe into an inferno, once more, I paid for Hitler's blood lust.

As Canada continues to struggle with its unity, Europe, whose nations have confronted each other in armed conflict for centuries, is coming together in peace at last.

My five nephews and their children now live in a Germany that is at peace with its neighbours.

What's more, the European community is so intertwined and interdependent that no one nation can ever again wage war on its neighbours.

And the list of countries wanting to join this noble and exciting experiment is growing: Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Malta have applied for membership.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus are already in the queue, and Turkey is the latest candidate.

No longer will German and French and English and Italian and Belgian and Dutch mothers have to bury their sons because hatred rears its ugly head.

And as one who experienced the horrors of a divided Europe, this is my most wonderful Christmas present ever.

Beyer can be reached at: e-mail, [hubert@coolcom.com](mailto:hubert@coolcom.com); tel, (250) 381-6900.

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## More letters

### Future hope

If anyone needs confirmation that there is hope for the future in our young people, they need only attend a high school band and choir recital.

Bruce Smith, who leads this excellent group of students, presented a brilliant evening of music that should be an example to the powers that be why music in our schools is as integral as any other program.

Thanks again for an uplifting evening.

D. PENHALE,  
Salt Spring

### Egotistic fop

I must disagree with your acceptance of the Canadian Press pronunciation of Pierre Trudeau as Canadian newsmaker of the century (Driftwood editorial, December 8).

You confuse his elitist, patronizing, affectation of superiority with statesmanship when a true example of such was his predecessor at the Liberal helm. A man who was recognized around the world as a statesman while he was in office; a man who left the world the legacy of UN peacekeeping; a man who led the country in a fiscally responsible manner; a man who never gave the electorate the finger.

Lester B. Pearson is forgotten and we're left with an egotistic fop. Surely we're better than that.

ROLAND N. SHANKS,  
Zeballos, B.C.

### Joy!

It was such joy to listen to the GISS bands and choir during their Christmas performance at ArtSpring last week.

The pure voices of the choir and the precision of the bands was more than I bargained for. It should have been a sellout performance.

Obviously the bands and choir practised for a long time to obtain such perfection. Please everyone, give them your support, they are outstanding!

As for the teacher/conductor Bruce Smith, he has done an amazing job with the students.

Three cheers.

INA CURRAN,  
North View Road

### Giving thanks

At this time of year, when you and your family are giving thanks for those little things that have made your life more enjoyable this year, pause to give thanks for that dedicated group of fire fighters who give up their precious sleep, family and work time to provide you with a top notch service at very little expense to you as a taxpayer.

Whether it was the family burnt out of their home on Stewart Road on May 12, the devastating fire at the Buddhist retreat in August, or the numerous individuals we have had to cut from car wrecks, or the 155 times we have responded so far this year following your request for medical assistance, these people have responded with no second thoughts as to the effects on their own personal lives.

The average fire fighter puts in between 300 to 400 hours per year doing training, responding to emergency calls or putting on their corn roast at the fall fair so they can purchase fireworks for your enjoyment at Hallowe'en.

They are one of the top dollar contributors in the province towards Muscular Dystrophy.

These are countless hours given up without a single doubt because they have chosen to serve you in a truly thankless but rewarding professional manner.

On behalf of the Salt Spring Fire Department, we all wish you a happy holiday season, and hope that you have a fire-safe Christmas and New Year's and that all of our encounters with you are of a joyous nature.

DAVE ENFIELD,  
Salt Spring fire chief

### Support

The Peer Tutoring class at GISS would like to thank the Salt Spring community for generously supporting our Christmas project.

We now have three boxes of school supplies to send to a village school in rural Honduras.

Thanks again for the wonderful support.

PEER TUTORING CLASS  
at GISS, Salt Spring

MORE LETTERS A11

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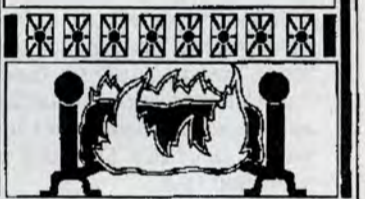
We will be closed for  
Christmas and  
inventory:

Friday, Dec. 24th  
Saturday, Dec. 25th  
Monday, Dec. 27th  
Tuesday, Jan. 3rd

## Warmest Wishes

Have a cozy and  
comfortable holiday  
at home with those  
you love, and may  
health and happiness  
surround you always.

RICHARD, JEAN, WENDY

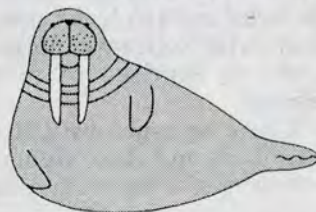


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**Rotary tiles**

Members of Salt Spring's Rotary Club gather for a working party, installing over 200 tiles in Rotary Park near Thrifty Foods. Each tile has the purchaser's name engraved in the stone. Funds raised through the tile program are benefitting a drug awareness program in the schools.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

**More letters**

**Heartwarming**

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your excellent coverage of our activities and special events.

Your generosity and community spirit — not only in 1999 but for many, many years — is heartwarming and greatly appreciated. Our very best wishes to the Richards family and staff for a wonderful holiday season.

**EILEEN HUNTER,**  
Royal Canadian Legion,  
Branch 92

**ISCU staff donation**

Over the years of living on Salt Spring Island we have decorated our house and yard at Christmas.

The joy and the biggest return that we have had is the thanks and appreciation from neighbours, friends and those who come to see our display every year.

Every year we have tried to add something to our display and every year it has become a little larger and a little more work to put together.

This year's display was possible because of a few elves who we would like to thank: Tom Woods, Derrick Sowden, Ken and Carol Perry, J.P. and Debbie Krauss and Steve Stevenson.

As the display has become larger we had thought that maybe we could help those less fortunate than us, which is why for the last few years we have dedicated our display to the local food bank.

As with everything, costs go up every year — the additional lights, replacement bulbs, more display pieces and Hydro.

We have up until this year done it on our own. But this year, through the kind and generous staff

(through their own staff fund) at Island Savings, we have received a donation towards our Hydro bill for which we are most appreciative.

To every staff member at the Salt Spring branch of Island Savings, our Christmas elves, our customers over the year, and each and every one of you — a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**HAL and DONNA KEOWN,**  
S.T.S. Ltd. and  
Rope'n & Reel'n Charters

**Beauty to die for**

Because of the enthusiastic response to my letter about the believed link between anti-perspirants and breast cancer (and Alzheimer's), I highly recommend people read the book Beauty To Die For by Judi Vance.

Order it from your favourite bookstore or borrow it from the library.

Published last year, this very important book documents the unsafe products contained in cosmetics, hair dye, toothpaste, nail, skin care and baby care products, fragrances, shampoo, soap, sunscreens etc.

Beauty To Die For is shocking, thought-provoking and rock solid in its research.

It details the devastating toll that modern industry and governments knowingly exact on the health of men, women and children. It also contains recipes for making your own shampoo, moisturizer etc. Every home should have a copy.

**MONA FERTIG,**  
Fulford-Ganges Road

**No yawns**

I have just found something really exciting and want to share it with you — your own Gulf Islands

Online.

While the web has much to offer, so often the experience is yawn, yawn . . . come on . . . why did you bother, lots of fancy crap and, after the wait, little to no information.

Not so with GI Online — it is clean, well designed and useful — I am a researcher who has a strong interest in graphic design and frankly had reached the point where I was beginning to wonder if I was just getting old and boring . . . thank you!

A couple of small comments:

Under Visitor Services you have a title "How to get her" . . . I am looking for a good woman and all I got is a picture of the Skeena Queen, which I already spend too much time on!

Shouldn't that read "How to get here"?

In your search page for previously published articles, might it be useful to give a date from which the information is available?

Also you use the search parameters "News, Features, Our Views, Your Views." While this covers most situations, why not add a search button for the whole thing and with it put a qualifying statement that this will take a lot longer to search — I know from experience the chance of finding what you are looking for is really based on second-guessing the person who did the cataloguing, not what you are looking for.

Another on your search page — if a search has been unsuccessful the search box should reappear so the user can modify their search. At the moment you have to step back a page and start again.

Keep up the good work.  
**TERRY RIDINGS,**  
Garner Road

**MORE LETTERS A12**

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM PAGE B16**

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**DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS**  
537-9933

**PHOENIX ELEMENTARY**

Would like to thank the community for supporting us in our various projects and in our fundraising efforts this year.

Thank you to those who bought raffle and play tickets, crafts and corn. And thank you to those who donated materials and time to help us. We very much appreciate your support and would like to wish all a joyful Holiday Season.

*P.S. The winner of the firewood raffle was Angela Voaden.*

be your gift of Christmas

*It's our privilege to have you as our friends & customers.*

THANK YOU

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191 Rainbow Road • 537-2239  
over 30 years of service  
from Richard, Vi, Rose & staff

**BRIGHT WISHES**

MARTIN MAFALDA

*We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!*

*The office will close December 24 at noon and re-open January 3 at 9 a.m.*

**Martin J. Hoogerdyk**  
Certified Financial Planner  
537-1730  
225 Cormorant Cresc.  
hoogerdyk@saltspring.com

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\* Offer available to new customers only on a 36 month contract. 36 month contract comes with a \$100 bill credit; 24 month contract comes with a \$50 bill credit. OAC. † 60 days free local calling available on a minimum 12 month contract. Long distance charges and taxes extra. Some restrictions apply. See dealer for details.

# Oh! Lord! Another Millennium

And now there ain't so many. You know, as a native-born Englishman I still never met a Lord. As far as I know I never even passed one on the way.

In my day I have known a Sir or two but I wouldn't know whether they were Knights or Baronets and they never told me.

There was only one Lord in my early days and He remains one of the few permitted to hold office after the re-rigging of the House of Lords.

For years the possibility of reducing the strength or the powers of the House of Lords had been debated in Britain. The debate would wax furious when the Lords made gestures to interfere with the wishes of the House of Commons. The incident would pass and be resurrected only when another incident of lordly insubordination occurred.

Why, would ask the representatives of the common people, should we be ruled by the unelected House of Lords? And I could never clearly understand in what manner the fact of election could legitimize an action. If Lord "A" were to take his place in the national legislative chamber, would he think more clearly, respond more readily, represent my concerns more faithfully when duly elected than when invited to serve the people in token of the swordsmanship of an ancestor or his skill in a medical emergency or in token of the administrative zeal of a long-dead ancestor?

Lord Billy Smith may not be the ultimate spokesman for the people. But Bill Smith will be neither more skilled in debate nor more eloquent for the lack of a title.

It is closely parallel to our own situation in Ottawa.

There stands the great monument to Canadian authority, the Senate, the House of Canadian Lords. Those senators will examine the deliberations of the House of Commons.

They will debate and decide and their thinking and their acts will be translated into Canadian law. The manner in which they take their seat is unlikely to bring a great new brilliance to their deliberations.

Our national life depends on the interpretations of its needs by the members of the House, however named to office.

Call them what you will, appoint them however you may, the nation's leaders will bring their average skills to the service of the nation.

The Senate, like the House of Lords, will serve its national needs as it sees and interprets those needs.

After spending a holiday in Britain, a holiday during which I saw the funeral rites of the senior legislative house of the "Mother of Parliaments," I found I was saddened by the event.

What fools we mortals be!

We scratch at the door of the Third Millennium, while laden with the prejudices and false hopes of two thousand years of frustration.

TO BE  
FRANK  
FRANK RICHARDS



## More letters

### A word about letters

In light of letters to the editor recently received by e-mail, groups or from "name withheld" sources without even a phone number, we ask that letter writers observe the following:

- All letters must include the name of a letter writer and phone number, including those sent by e-mail.

- E-mail letters should be sent to news@gulfislands.net, and are best sent from the sender's e-mail template or as a simple text file.

- Letters submitted by groups should identify the person or persons who wrote the letter on behalf of the group. Again, a phone number is needed.

- "Name withheld" letters are only published if revealing a name would cause extreme embarrassment or possible harm to the writer, and if we have had discussed the situation with the writer.

### Good intentions

I'd like to comment on the letter criticizing David Borrowman signed by the Direct Action Committee, which appeared in last week's Driftwood.

In my opinion the letter was ill-conceived, inaccurate and contrary to the objectives of those of us who would like to preserve what we can of the Texada forests on Salt Spring.

It is definitely not in our interests to beat our friends or to conduct arguments of this nature in a local newspaper.

Trustee David Borrowman's sympathy toward the general objectives of preserving Texada forests is well known. To accuse him of "backroom politics" is both simplistic and ridiculous. I believe implicitly in David and his good intentions, and I know that the accusations included in the letter are totally unfounded.

If we are to be successful in our campaign to preserve the island's beautiful forests, we must work together. Questions like those raised in the letter can easily be resolved in private without resorting to a fruitless, inquisition-like diatribe. Acrimonious letters only alienate people we want on board and make it more difficult for people like our trustees to get on with the job they're already trying to do — of protecting our interests.

CHARLES KAHN,  
Above Duck Creek

## SALT SPRING

Sheet Metal Ltd.

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Phone: 250-537-2150

**Welcomes you to Christmas  
& New Year Masses**

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24 7:00 pm	BOXING DAY, DEC. 26 10 am & 12 pm
CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25 10:00 am	NEW YEAR'S DAY, JAN. 1 10 am only
SUNDAY, JAN. 2 10 am & 12 pm	

## BC FERRIES Schedule

### Salt Spring Island

#### VESUVIUS BAY - CROFTON

**CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEARS' DAY**  
*1st 3 and last 3 sailings from each terminal cancelled*

LEAVE VESUVIUS BAY		LEAVE CROFTON	
• 7:00 am	◆ 4:00 pm	*7:30 am	4:30 pm
× 8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	# 9:30 am	6:30 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	11:00 am	8:00 pm
11:30 am	8:30 pm	12:00 noon	9:00 pm
■ 12:30 pm	9:30 pm	1:00 pm	10:00 pm
1:30 pm	+10:30 pm	2:15 pm	+11:00 pm
3:00 pm		3:30 pm	

◆ Wed. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailing. No passengers.  
■ The Mon. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.  
# Mon., Wed. & Thurs. sailings will be replaced by dangerous cargo sailings. No passengers.  
• Daily except Saturdays. \*Daily except Saturdays & Sundays. + Saturdays only. × Daily except Sundays.

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**TREATS ME LIKE GOLD**

## Thrifty Foods rises to top in a national competition

Thrifty Foods has again been named as one of Canada's 50 best managed private companies.

The grocery store chain, which is 100 per cent locally owned and operated, has a warehouse and commissary in Saanichton and 14 stores throughout Vancouver Island, plus one on Salt Spring.

This is the second consecutive year Thrifty Foods has been named to the top 50 list.

The 50 Best Award is a national competition that recognizes privately owned companies with "excellent products and services, motivated teamwork, outstanding customer service and strategic business initiatives," states a press release.

Thrifty Foods president Alex Campbell credits "the employees and their commitment to superior customer service as the key reasons for the recognition."

The company, which recently celebrated its 22nd anniversary, currently employees over 2,000 people on Vancouver Island and Salt Spring.

Gulf Islands Optical

Tues. - Fri.  
10am-5pm

OFFICE: 537-2648  
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Ganges

11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
FALL SALE

2 for 1  
ON NOW!



**RECLAIMING AND RECYCLING:** Madeleine Neault has already started knitting socks for next year's Fulford Hall Christmas craft fair. Neault makes the socks from donated wool and some she gets from unravelling Thrift Shop sweaters. All proceeds from her annual sale support foster children in developing countries.

Photo by Gail Sjuberg

## Creating 3,298 pairs of socks no small feat

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

For the past 12 years on Salt Spring, Madeleine "Mad" Neault has been transforming discarded wool and sweaters into sustenance and schooling for foster children in the developing world.

Neault, 78, knits beautiful, one-of-a-kind socks for everyone from racing toddlers to cool-footed gentlemen, selling them once a year only at a Christmas craft fair. For the past four years she has set up a table at Fulford Hall, and before that she was a Beaver Point fair regular.

"This year, everything got sold except for three pairs," she said last week.

"Everything" was 194 pairs of socks. After covering the hall's percentage, she was able to pay the whole year's fees — \$1,044 — for three World Vision foster children: one girl each in India, Ethiopia and Uganda.

(She pays for a fourth child through the Foster Parents Plan out of her pension money.)

After adding her 1999 tally to the previous 11 years of work, Neault found she had made 3,298 pairs of socks, with all proceeds supporting various foster children over the years.

Neault unravels sweaters acquired from the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, and people give her surplus wool to use.

Occasionally she comes home and finds a bag of wool propped on the table outside her door.

"People come with a little bit of this and a little bit of that. But it's all given."

Her socks' feet are made from pure wool, while acrylic is used for the ankle part.

When she has enough leftover bits she creates what are called "the crazies" — thoroughly multi-coloured socks — which people seem to snap up first.

Mostly, though, her different colour combinations are compatible and charmingly original.

Neault praises the Fulford Hall committee, which arranges for someone to pick up Neault and bring her home on the three craft fair days.

"That's their share for the three little girls," she says.

Neault speaks warmly of the far-away children and values their photographs just as she does with the newest great grandchildren in her biological family.

One foster child became a priest, she recalls, while another went into accounting. Sadly, some have died.

Why does she put so much time into creating the socks that end up helping poor children?

She answers simply: "If I had nothing to do, what would I do?"

But there's obviously more to it. Neault was raised in a community-minded family of eight girls and three boys. "We always helped one another and we always helped others."

Neault was a teacher in her native Saskatchewan, and also looked after other people's children over the years.

She came to Salt Spring about 20 years ago when her doctor advised that living on the coast would reduce her suffering with allergies. Her last paying job was as Seabreeze Inn night manager.

Now she fills her days by hosting or visiting elderly friends, serving at the weekly Seniors Services Society luncheon, and helping with weekly bingo.

Then, between 4 p.m. until bedtime, she unravels, categorizes and knits the wool that makes those beautiful socks — "that's when I do my reclaiming and recycling."

Only 10 days after the 1999 Fulford craft fair closed, Neault was already on her sixth pair of socks for next year's Christmas sale.

It seems the epitome of benevolence: a Canadian woman uses her talent and charitable heart to give three girls in Ethiopia, India and Uganda the chance to improve their lives — all from the sale of in-demand, handmade socks.

# FRASER'S THIMBLE FARMS

175 Arbutus Rd.  
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*Merry Christmas*  
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26, 27, 28, 29,  
30 & 31 ONLY

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**CLOSED JAN. 1 THROUGH JAN. 21**



## The Good List

All our soaps and lotions are good for goodness sake. Every ingredient is checked twice for purity and quality. Our soaps are still handmade in small batches, hand cut and wrapped. The body care products are full of fresh botanicals and fragrant essential oils. So come to town and see what's on the good list this year.

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**Tom Navratil**  
Realtor  
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# CHRISTMAS

## Gift Guide

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We have hundreds of frames in stock!  
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 CCG mandatory **\$19<sup>95</sup>**

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# What's On This Week

What's On is a reader service designed to highlight arts and cultural events. To have your event listed here please call (537-9933), fax (537-2613) or email <news@gulfislands.net> the Driftwood by noon Monday preceding publication.

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 1999 • A20

Art  
Art

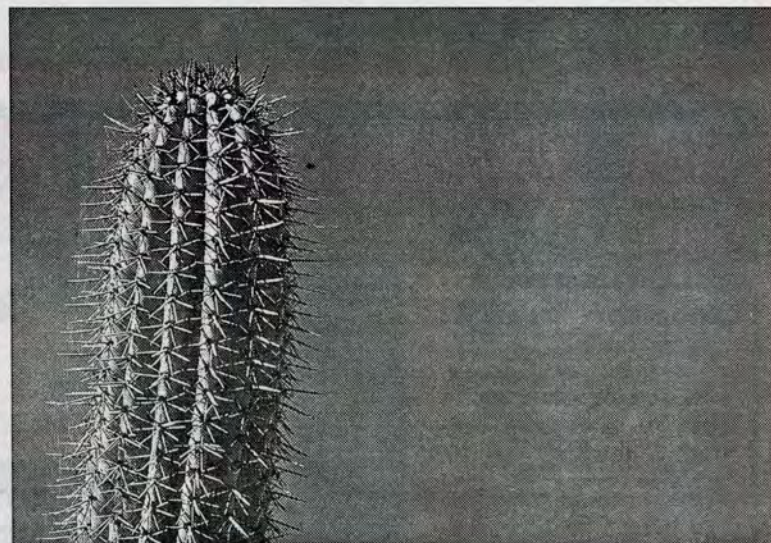
Etc.  
Etc.

Cinema  
Cinema

- **Michael McPherson exhibition of photographs** from the Cabo desert printed on brilliant watercolour paper at his gallery at 131 McPhillips Avenue, runs daily except Sunday until Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- New paintings by **Susan Pratt** are on display at Barb's Buns.
- **Bill Rhodes** sculpture — local crows, flying fish and roosters — at Moby's through December.
- Landscapes of Desire — paintings by **Stefanie Denz** — are on display at Bristol Cutter on Lower Ganges Road.
- **Margaret Briggs'** paintings are at Sweet Arts Cafe.
- Work by painter **Margaret McKenzie** is at Roasting Co. in Ganges.
- Quilts by **Donna Johnstone** are hanging at Island Savings Credit Union.

- **Yuletide Circle** — Traditional Yuletide circle and Viking New Year. Winter solistic celebration, potluck snack, toast and boats and a reading of the old epic Icelandic Poem Sviþdagsmal, (an elder Sleeping Beauty.) Hosted by Dan Ralph Miller. At Rose's Cafe, **Tues., Dec. 21, 8 p.m.** Free.
- **Multi-denominational Prayer Vigil**, recitation of the Lord's Prayer, and a blessing of protection on the birds and animals. Bring candle and bag of birdseed (if can be afforded). Centennial Park, **Tues., Dec. 21, 4:30 p.m.**
- **Community Meditation** — Centering prayer with Rohana Laing, Salt Spring United Church, **Thurs., Dec. 23, 11:15 a.m.** to 12:30 p.m.
- **Christmas Day potluck dinner** at Rose's Cafe, **Sat., Dec. 25, 5 p.m.**

- **Being John Malkovich** — The most excitingly original movie of the year. Craig Schwartz (John Cusack), a scraggly puppeteer, discovers a portal that sucks him into the mind of John Malkovich. Before long, Craig, his wife (Cameron Diaz) and an office vixen (Catherine Keener) are using the actor as a host body, layering identities on top of his. Director Spike Jonze works in a bustling yet deadpan pretzel-logic style, so you never question what you're seeing.
- **American Beauty** — A beauty indeed. By turns hilarious, disturbing, achingly perceptive and devastatingly candid. British stage director Sam Mendes' glossy tragicomedy about suburban malaise in America is the year's first genuinely Oscar-worthy movie. Kevin Spacey heads this satiric, lusciously photographed spellbinder's first-rate cast with his superbly sardonic performance as a disdainful middle-aged magazine writer who decides he's had enough of his cookie-cutter lifestyle and hilariously reinvents himself.



Michael McPherson show of photography at his gallery

Music  
Music

- **Dance with One Heart Solstice Ball** — high energy world beat dance with Dancing Wolf, CFUV FM Planet Folk DJ. Beaver Point Hall, **Wed., Dec. 22, 8 p.m.** Kids and drums welcome. \$10 at door.
- **Christmas Sing-along at ArtSpring**, with Salt Spring choral groups, readings and more, with audience sing-along between acts — hosted by Deb Toole. **Wed., Dec. 22, 7 p.m.** Admission is free with a food bank donation.
- **Christmas Eve carol sing-along**, at Rose's Cafe, **Fri., Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.** Bring your instruments.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**, Salt Spring United Church, **Fri., Dec. 24, 7 p.m.**
- **Three Chord Sloth** with special guest Neil Taylor at the Vesuvius Pub — the annual **Boxing Day** bash, **Sunday, 7 p.m.**

### Ongoing

- **Rose's Seaside Cafe** — **Friday Night Live!** Open stage with hosts Jack and Lefty. Music starts around 7:30 p.m.
- **Alfresco Restaurant** — Barrington Perry plays piano every **Saturday** evening starting at 6 p.m.
- **Harbour House Bistro** — Murray

Anderson on the piano every **Saturday and Sunday** for your dining pleasure at lunch or dinner.

- **Fulford Inn** — Galley Jam (Randy Miller and Brian "Buck" McDonald), every **Sunday** from 4 to 7 p.m.
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Fernwood choir among groups at ArtSpring sing-a-long




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# GISS students slay 'monster' and more

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

To get in the Christmas mood last week, all you had to do was camp out at ArtSpring.

My spirits were sent sky-high there three times.

First there was the wonderful Salt Spring Singers concert where we feasted on Handel with a chamber orchestra, no less.

Then there was that annual event which warms the community heart like no other — Scrooge — and, a new addition to the Christmas season — the high school band and choir concert.

The young Gulf Islands Secondary musicians and singers, led by teacher Bruce Smith, were deservedly the talk of the town Wednesday and Thursday — what a show they put on!

In the first half, combined junior and senior concert bands performed an A-1 version of Jesus Christ Superstar, the senior band pulled off some complicated and mood-manipulating work in the Longford Legend, and there wasn't much "junior" in the Masterpiece Theatre opener by the junior concert band.

Different techniques and musical styles were unfurled throughout the evening, such as the breathy pianissimo of the band on Stille Nacht, as the choir joined them with a melody of "doos."

The choir tongue-tied me with their glorious sound, tightness, discipline — although they weren't the least bit tongue-tied by their own literal "Quick We Have But a Second."

Emily Roop (who also did a great solo at the Salt Spring Singers' concert) and Elyse Cleland (who, as Simone Grasky's daughter, was probably born singing) teamed up with the jazz band for stellar vocal solos.

And three cheers for the guys in the choir — they carried their weight and then some. (Male choir vocalists need double the praise given to women to entice them to keep on singing. Maybe the education ministry could be convinced to make an inspirational investment by paying Chor Leoni Men's Choir to visit all B.C. high schools. Ha.)

While I'm being gender specific, I'll ease into the realm of that killer jazz band by saying I loved seeing those three female slide trombone players strut their powerful stuff.

The absolute evening highlight for me was The Monster. Smith prefaced the piece by indicating "the monster" had gotten the best of his group the night before, but they slayed it with panache on Wednesday.

Layers of sound, tricky rhythmic passages and the odd sudden switch in time — we want this one on the Bandemonium repertoire next year.

If you missed the concert or want to cherish it forever, Ramesh Meyers of Allowed Sound (537-2294) recorded it and is producing CDs.

One thing I found disconcerting about the concert was that I couldn't tell if the vast majority of students were enjoying themselves or not. They made it look like such a serious business! Surely they were having a blast, too, and just not showing it, or maybe they were legitimately nervous.

In my mind, though, Driftwood letter writer D. Penhale said it best



**POWERHOUSE:** The all-girl trombone section of the high school jazz band sets the energetic tone at last week's Christmas concerts (top), while choir members have all eyes on their director Bruce Smith.

Photos by Derrick Lundy

— this was definitely "a brilliant evening of music that should be an example to the powers that be why music in our schools is as integral as any other program."

GISS has finally got music back; we can't let anyone take it away again.

Music program members are fundraising so they can attend various festivals in the spring, including the jazz band's well-deserved trip to the nationals in Toronto. I trust the community will give these young musicians the support they need and deserve.

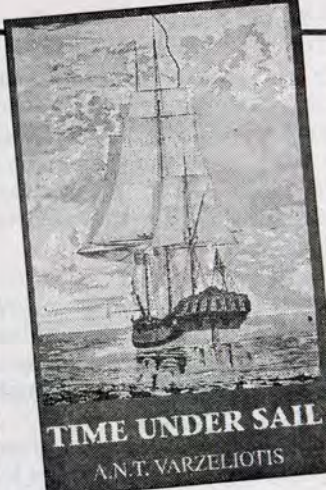
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# Spirit of the West duo blend perfectly at folk club show

By TANYA LESTER  
Driftwood Staff

From the moment Geoffrey Kelly put lips to his flute and John Mann accompanied his guitar picking with a sort of Celtic reel last Monday at the Salt Spring Folk Club show, I believed humans can transform themselves into instruments.

What we usually know as instruments were merely extensions of this talented duo out on their premiere performance as a separate entity from their band, The Spirit of the West.

These are special instruments with intelligence, backed up by heart and rooted in passion for the art of music.

"Art of music" in the sense of play because you love to do it and you want everyone to be part of it.

Valdy used the word "contagious" to describe how these men's music metaphorically picked up the audience packed into Fulford Hall.

The two blended in perfectly with the new stage backdrop of Mount Maxwell and the forest around Burgoyne Bay designed by Salt Springer John Malcolm.

Their Celtic rhythm would fit nicely into any forest setting.

The reason why Mann and Kelly are able to reach this musical high seems connected to the depth of their music.

Not everyone could call a song championing euthanasia "Unplugged" — and get away with it.

Yet when Mann referred to it as "a catchy little two step," it really

was. He explained that when he saw a man on television who had decided to end his life, Mann realized it was about a human's empowerment and the song it inspired could not be done like a funeral dirge.

Mann seemed to step into the shoes of the ailing man when he sang, "Your hands that once caressed me, I don't want them to detest me."

Kelly brought stories of Christmas past into the act with his tune called Old Sod in which he spoofed his family for hanging up shortbread and bagpipes ornaments on the tree during their first year in Canada as Scottish immigrants when he was nine years old.

It was about bringing more symbols into their life related to their country of origin than they had ever had around them in Scotland.

Later Kelly explained the band's "plugged-in" era as being about realizing a boy's dream as he stands in front of the mirror belting out "music" on a tennis racket, imagining himself really letting loose on an electric guitar.

Somehow it seems that Mann and Kelly are still paying homage to being able to constantly perpetuate that childhood dream to passionately make music.

They do not take their music for granted because they are so in love with it.

The two are working on what they call their solo album apart from their work in the band.

When they talked us into singing along with one of their pieces, they joked that we were

"far more in tune than the rest of the band."

Mann and Kelly walk a straight line on the path connecting imagination and reality. Their music makes us believe in this kind of magic.

Salt Spring Islanders are in tune with magic and the opening act for Mann and Kelly seemed to be part of this island perspective.

Suzanne Little, accompanied by her partner Tom Hooper of The Grapes of Wrath, talked about their move six years ago from a small apartment in West Vancouver to a house with a garden on Salt Spring Island.

The musical documentation for this "shift in perspective" is Little's song Swept Away, a response to her urban friends not understanding why Hooper could be enthusiastic about growing vegetables.

"You think I have lost my mind," she sang, "... It's about feeling good inside."

Theirs was a much more subdued approach to guitar picking than Mann's and Kelly's but they, too, had their messages to get across.

In This Time, she responded to an industry in which promotional videotapes and photo shoots have prostituted musical talent.

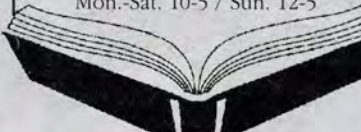
Grapes fans will be glad to hear that Hooper announced the band's next CD should be out by March 2000 before he performed Sell the Goat for the attentive crowd.

Next up at the Salt Spring Folk Club is Chilean guitarist Oscar Lopez on February 7.

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# Singers and high school concerts in the livingroom with new CDs

If once wasn't enough — and it wasn't — for people who attended the Salt Spring Singers and the high school music concerts last week, they will soon be available in CD form.

Ramesh Meyers, of Allowed Sound, recorded the concerts at ArtSpring last week.

He decided to do the Singers' concert after choir accompanist Paul Verville described the show to him while doing some recording at Allowed Sound.

With about 90 people in the choir, it seemed financially viable. Meyers taped all three shows, with the first night being a test. He then edited the best performances from the last two concerts, and mastered the CD at Nomad Studios.

The Salt Spring Singers' Hallelujah! concert CD sells for \$16, with \$8 going to the island's food bank.

Copies should be available from Meyers by Thursday.

He said that since his equipment was already set up at ArtSpring, he decided to do the Gulf Islands Secondary School band and choir concert as well.

The GISS CD is available for \$19, with \$4 of that benefitting the school's music program. The young musicians are fundraising to attend spring music festivals on the west coast and, for the jazz band, in Toronto.

Some GISS CDs could also be ready later this week.

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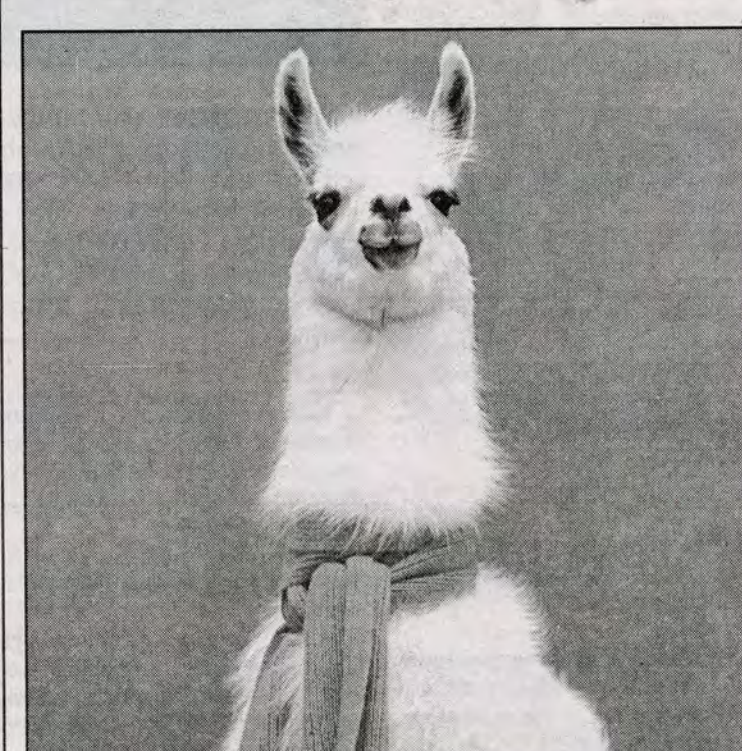
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# Scrooge continues to please in bigger ArtSpring venue

By GAIL SJUBERG  
Driftwood Staff

Defining the Christmas With Scrooge magic could almost form the basis of an essay contest.

It's impossible to see the show without feeling a whole lot hopeful about the world.

Christmas With Scrooge is not produced every year and I haven't seen it every time in the last decade, but whenever I do it brings into focus the best of Christmas and the message of joy that comes with it.

Appropriately, this musical adaptation of the Dickens tale comes from the collective generosity of love, spirit and talent of the Newman family, and is one of their many wonderful gifts to our community.

This Scrooge was bigger and more lush, with some new music, sets and extra bits of humour. Musicians Virginia Newman, Jean Knight and Ian Van Wyck formed a fine trio. Murray Shoolbraid (a.k.a. Mr. Fezziwig) also jumped in to play piano as Virginia boldly belted out her Viking diva aria — one of the more funny moments.

Versatile actor Patrick Cassidy was an ideal Scrooge. (He seemed like an ideal Cratchit in past years, too.)

Cassidy's frumpily-folded face as he sat down at his desk near the beginning of the play was a sight to behold. He then transformed miraculously as he travelled with the three ghosts — of Christmas past, present and future — emerging on Christmas Day as the beacon of generosity.

In keeping with this enlarged production, there were even more spotty dogs than usual — with the hoop-jumping scene even funnier than ever in the hands of Dustin Van Wyck, Helena Bryn-McLeod, Lulu Gilson and Ezra Gilson.

Something that strikes me not only in Scrooge but in so many other productions in recent years is the ability of island young people to sing solo or in a small group so well and with confidence. I would speculate that is partly because they



**CHRISTMAS TEAM:** Patrick Cassidy as the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, and Kevin Wilkie (above) as his nice guy clerk Bob Cratchit made a terrific team during the Newman family's Christmas With Scrooge which ran at ArtSpring from Friday through Monday.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



do it in such a supportive environment, many starting from a really young age.

Then there's the adult soloists who are always a treat to hear — Amy and Sue Newman, Rosemary Delisle, Kevin Wilkie and Barb Slater.

Sometimes on opening night there seemed to be some awkwardness in simply moving people around — and there were occasionally lots of them requiring movement. Even the relatively big

ArtSpring stage seemed barely able to accommodate everyone and their hoop skirts. The skirts did add to the authenticity of the costumes, which were stunning, of course.

While Ray Newman was not there to see his play performed in the "real live 'thee-ater'" (remember when he said that as he wandered out onto the ArtSpring stage during the opening weekend last December?), you just knew he was there and that he would have been pleased.

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**MUSIC TO THE EARS:** Salt Spring musicians Ramesh Meyers, left, and Alan Moberg dish up a delicious serving of sound at Moby's musical craft faire — a smorgasbord of delightful, homegrown music. The event took place Saturday afternoon and evening. Photo by Derrick Lundy

## Moby's Musical Craft Faire features the old and the new

By TANYA LESTER and TONY RICHARDS  
Driftwood Staff

It is easy to predict and somehow comforting that the tribe of Salt Spring musicians who write their own lyrics and compose their own music will be strumming and harmonizing their way into the new millennium.

At the third annual Moby's Musical Craft Faire Saturday, a steady audience flow got a glimpse of the past and a hint of the island's musical future with the likes of KC Kelly, Ted Cook and many others.

Kelly entertained in his solid approach to the blues and even took us 20 years into the past with his Fulford-Ganges Strip tune. "You can tell how long ago it was written because there's a line in it that goes: driving 50 miles per hour," he said.

Kelly — who used to be known as Huckle — got into the spirit of Christmas past when he gave away an old 45 to an excited patron. The record was made by the

Sodbusters, a popular Salt Spring band in the early '70s of which Kelly was a member.

While Kelly dipped into his eclectic musical past, Ted Cook provided an interesting take into the immediate future with a song dedicated to New Year's Day that lamented:

"Woke this morning, the phone ringing off the hook I asked myself, why get up?"

There was also another tune about another common irritant, the telephone, for which Cook penned the lines, "I think you're driving me crazy."

Cook's music draws on universal societal frustrations which, we are somehow assured, will remain in the next century despite all the predictions of change.

Celtic music and instrumental variation returned to Moby's entertainment corner with Terry Warbey, who switched his guitar for a dulcimer as his set progressed

and partook in an Irish ballad by fellow musician Harry Warner.

A departure from the norm came when Shilo Zylbergold dipped into his repertoire of island favourites including Take Back Your Heart, I Ordered Liver and the 653-537 song. Zylbergold remained unperturbed by heckling from audience member Dave Phillips, who wondered when the performer was going to include the new 538 exchange in his song.

A highlight of Zylbergold's performance was his poem about the baseball player Rodriguez.

The audience loved it (though perhaps they were simply happy for the relief that came when Zylbergold put down his ukelele and kazoo).

A number of other Salt Spring musicians graced Moby's stage during the afternoon and evening extravaganza, while their CDs and tapes were for sale.

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# Lots of Choice on Salt Spring for celebrating New Year's Eve

So where do you want to remember (or not) ringing in the 21st century?

If you were thinking of boogying to the music of Triple Shot at the Legion's newly renovated Meaden Hall, you might be out of luck if you don't already have a ticket.

According to manager Clive Williams, all 130 tickets for the dance and dinner extravaganza have been sold.

"It's a damn good band, a good feed and champagne with souvenirs," stated Williams as the reason for the event's popularity.

Not to worry. You can dance in the new millennium at the Y2K Bug Boogie at Fulford Hall. The music begins on New Year's Eve at 8 p.m.

A parade of century-old fashions will accentuate the evening. Munchies are potluck finger food with a complimentary glass of bubbly at midnight.

Participants are invited to construct bugs to be added to the hall decorations and prizes will be given to those who make the most creative ones. Tickets are \$8 and available at the usual southend outlets.

Bookings are still being taken at Harbour House Hotel (HHH) where it seems that every square inch of the place is being turned over to New Millennium revellers.

For those who like the tried and true, there is the Murray Anderson Trio with special guest Bonnie Sprinkle in the Wheelhouse Room, where a seafood and prime rib buffet will be served from 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. for \$50.

Anyone wanting to partake in the buffet before going on to a party elsewhere can do so in the dining room for \$40 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

At the same time, in the HHH lounge, Julie Bedford will help everyone sing in the New Year with karaoke.

The sandwich buffet is \$15.

Another New Year's Eve dinner option will be the New Tides Inn where the entree choices are whole live Atlantic lobster baked in cream cheese and lime white wine sauce, king crab legs simmered in champagne with fresh lemon grass, or crusted lamb rack with fresh rosemary and peppercorn mint sauce. Each is \$31 per person with a choice of homemade desserts and beginning with prawn skewer or Cajun chicken with salad.

Call 537-1097 to make a reservation.

At Alfresco Restaurant, there will be a choice of fruits of the sea, brie salad, veal sweetbreads or baby lobsters for appetizers. Entree choices are live Atlantic lobster in champagne sauce, hickory smoked veal, pesto crusted lamb strip loin or Cornish game hen.

Top this off with Belgian truffle torte, blackberry creme brulee or tiramisu. Reservations are recommended by calling 537-5979 and dinner is served between 5 and 9 p.m. on December 31.

At Talons, the island's newest fine dining place with a Mediterranean flavour, the New Year's Eve feast features a 100 per cent Salt Spring products, four-course dinner.

Call 537-8585 to book a reservation. The restaurant is located on the waterfront next to Centennial Park.

Moby's will toot in the year

2000 with the Grames Brothers. There's no cover charge, free party favours; and great food and drink. Dinner runs from 5 to 11 p.m. with dancing from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Rainshadow, an Afro-Latin rock band, will beat in the New Year once again at Fulford Inn.

This band has been brought back by popular demand and will show everyone the rhythm until 3 a.m. There's party favours and dinner specials, including prime rib, crab dinner, and steak and crab.

For those of any faith who want to take an inspirational approach to the New Millennium, the Salt Spring United Church is hosting a potluck dinner at 9 p.m. along with music from decades throughout the century including Nat King Cole and Louis Armstrong.

There will be games and activities for children.

At 11 p.m., those interested will compose a prayer for the new century and read them aloud.

Fireworks are at midnight.

There are about 25 reservations still open for the evening. Phone 537-5812 to book a spot.

For a preview of what is coming up for you in one or all of the next thousand years (depending on how many more lives you might want to lead), make your way down to the Millennium Eve Seers' Gala for the psychic bargain of the century on December 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Taking place at Treasured Spirit Metaphysical Books and Gifts, the event features a "smorgasbord" of seers' "quickie" predictions, including tarot card readers, a teacup reader and an astrologer for \$10.

There will be hot cranberry juice and "seer-suckers."


Assuming you make it through any or some of the above events, Rose's By-the-Sea will feature a Y2K Survival Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on New Year's Day — and don't forget the annual January 1 Polar Bear Swim at Vesuvius Beach.

*Merry Christmas All!*  
 CLOSED DEC. 24 AT 4:30 PM / CLOSED DEC. 25, 26, 27  
**Kanaka Restaurant**  
 Entrance beside Travel Shop / Reservations 537-5041  
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 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T9

**THE VESUVIUS PUB**  
*presents*  
**A BOXING DAY BASH**  
*with*  
**Three C'ord Sloth**  
*and special guest*  
**Neil Taylor**  
**7PM / DEC. 26TH**

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*The Vesuvius Pub*  
**537-2312**

**GREAT FOOD & GREAT VIEW ALL THE TIME!**

**People and Community**  
 Islanders at work and play are featured each week in the pages of Driftwood - your community newspaper.

**Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Millennium!**



**PHARMASAVE**

**DOWNTOWN 537-5534**      **UPTOWN LOCATION 538-0323**  
 104 Lower Ganges Rd.      372 Lower Ganges Rd.  
 Dec. 21 - 23 9am - 8pm / Dec. 24 9am - 5pm

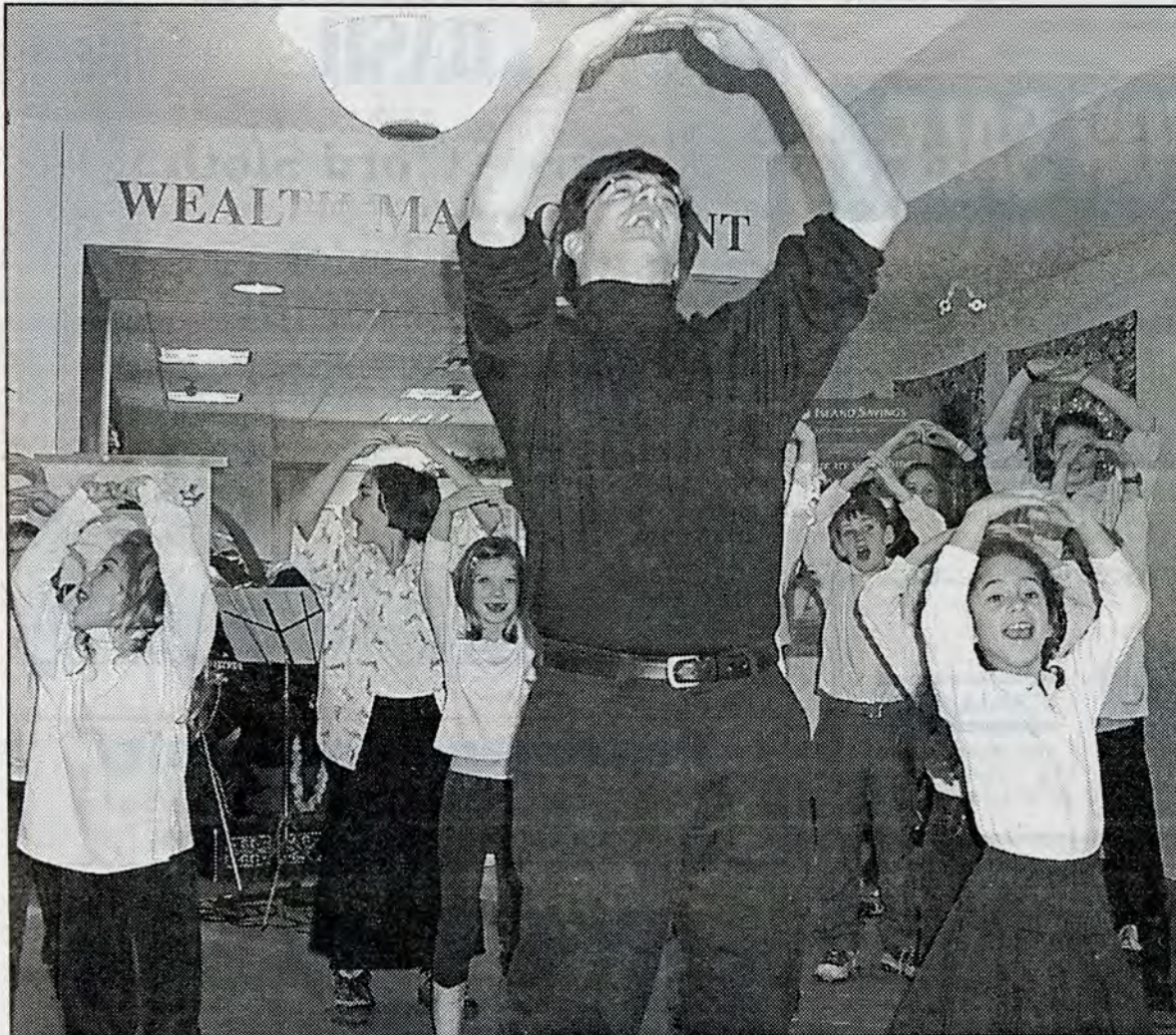


**Carolling at the credit union**

Children in three school choirs entertained Credit Union employees and clients last Tuesday with both moving and energetic singing. At top, Fulford Elementary School children combine their sweet voices (left), and Salt Spring Elementary School choir members

use hand motions to accompany their music. Below, Salt Spring Centre children give the aerobic version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," led by music teacher and school administrator Mitch Howard.

Photos by Derrick Lundy



Merry Christmas

**Driftwood**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

**See you in 2000!**

**FIONA WALLS**  
Driftwood Account Representative

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Thanks to all our customers.  
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*Open again*  
Jan. 3/00 ~ 10:00am

**PEACE ON EARTH**

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

DECEMBER 24  
4:00pm, Holy Eucharist (BAS) at All Saints' includes children's pageant and procession to Bethlehem  
7:30pm Holy Eucharist (BAS) at St. Mary's  
11:00pm Holy Eucharist (BCP) at All Saint's

DECEMBER 25  
10:00am Holy Eucharist at All Saints'

DECEMBER 31- EVE OF THE MILLENNIUM  
4:00pm Vespers and Holy Eucharist at All Saints'

JANUARY 2 - CHRISTMAS II  
4:00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints'

**GOODWILL TO ALL MEN**

**AT CHRISTMAS**

**CALYPSO CARPET**

We the staff at Calypso Carpet would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful customers for their support this year & wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season with Happiness & Prosperity throughout the coming year.

# PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

By MIKE LEVIN  
Driftwood Staff

In a culture based on commerce, most retailers must grow or die. Today's dilemma revolves around the internet and the growing perception that selling on-line is no longer an option just for big corporations.

Don Dietlein answered that question with a slick new website that has moved his Stone Walrus Gallery into the on-line world. But it wasn't only market pressure that forced the move.

"The gallery is 16 years old. I felt we had to try something new to keep the interest up," Dietlein said. "So many of the things we have are one-of-a-kind, the tourists who come through the door are not enough to support it. So this is another tool for us."

"But we also have to be realistic about the size of this thing. I think it will be like having two stores."

Created by local web designer Dave Beneteau, stonewalrus.com was a chance to marry the gallery owner's unique background with that of the international art he sells.

"If you think you can just hang out a shingle on the web and start selling, you probably shouldn't be there. People come to sites with their own agenda, and that's as personal a relationship as being face-to-face," Beneteau said.

"This website is pretty good at getting the spirit of the store across. It's perfect for people who are looking for this kind of (art) yet would love to know that Don used to be associated with the Smithsonian, as head curator of animals."

The world-wide web's selling sites are, for small operators, not an easy ride. Slow to download and often frustrating to navigate, electronic merchants are only now getting a taste of the success that have made amazon.com and ebay.com billion-dollar businesses.

Beneteau took three months to hand-code the site's current 500 pages from scratch, using Imagen as the internet service provider. The result is a clear, quick trip through the gallery's Inuit carving and Asian ceramics with multiple links to associated information.

While it has yet to be indexed to search engines and directories like Alta Vista and Yahoo, or even to Imagen's saltspring.com domain, stonewalrus.com is destined to become one of a growing number of value-added niche sites that cater to small, distinct consumer

## Changing retail world pushes Stone Walrus on-line



How to ORDER

TOLL FREE 1-800-478-6448

SHIPPING Information

**WELCOME TO THE STONE WALRUS!** Here you'll discover a menagerie of gemstone treasures, breathtaking native art and rare antiques gathered from all over the world. Use the links at left to browse the collection by region, by category or even by animal!

*Animals, animals, animals...*

The Stone Walrus is crawling with them! In paintings, sculpture, pottery and carvings, animals are everywhere - and with good reason: the Stone Walrus is run by a former zoo director!



>>>find out more...

- BROWSE BY REGION**
- North West**  
MASKS AND SCULPTURE, NATIVE-DESIGNED RUGS
  - South West**  
HOPI AND ZUNI ART AND JEWELLERY
  - Far North**  
INUIT SCULPTURE, PRINTS AND WALLHANGINGS
  - Caribbean**  
FOLK ART PRINTINGS FROM HAITI
  - South America**  
PERUVIAN GEMSTONE CARVINGS
  - Africa**  
GEMSTONE CARVINGS, TRADITIONAL ART
  - Far East**  
PORCELAIN, TEMPLE CARVINGS AND CLOISONNE

- BROWSE BY CATEGORY**
- Sculpture**  
INUIT, SOUTHWEST, NORTHWEST AND AFRICAN
  - Jewellery**  
ETHNIC-INSPIRED GEMSTONE NECKLACES
  - Painting**  
HAITIAN PRINTINGS, INUIT PRINTS
  - Pottery**  
PUEBLO, CHINESE, KENYAN
  - Masks**  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND AFRICAN

OR BROWSE BY...  
**ANIMALS**

About the Gallery

### FROM THE MASKS COLLECTION:



**Nutlum Mask** - It isn't *only* animals at the Stone Walrus. This mirthful mask comes to us from famed master carver Beau Dick of the Southern Kwakwaka'wakw of British Columbia. Carrying on a tradition handed down to him from his father, Francis Dick, he combines the powerful carving of his people with his own distinctive style. His work hangs in many galleries and museums, including the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec and the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology. >>>find out more...

GO TO: PACIFIC NORTHWEST MASKS

**NEW WEBSITE:** www.stonewalrus.com homepage

groups. "Sure it is niche marketing; that's why the biggest challenge is to determine who is going to be using it and how," Beneteau said.

That means the pictures have to be stunning and the information compelling and easy to access.

As the site grows, Beneteau would like to add value by offering things like a travel journal, outlining trips Don and his wife Nora Dietlein took to acquire some of their pieces, or information on the artists who creat-

ed them. It will also have to include facilities to take payment, through credit cards, on-line. Currently all ordering must be done over the phone, although on-line transactions are only months away.

"Because there is no bricks and mortar, you have to present things in a certain way or risk losing (potential customers) quickly," Beneteau explained. "In many businesses, being on-line will become mandatory because people expect it. This

shifting power into the hands of consumers is something everyone is going to have to understand."

Dietlein said his new website is really just an experiment and that he'll have to evaluate its performance over time. But he also admits the possibility, in the long-term, of becoming purely an on-line seller.

Timing is important because a conservative estimate has 75,000 other retailers in North America now going through the exact same thought process.

## Thank You!

On Dec. 11th, Santa's Helpers, Lee, Mary Anne McColl and family, owners of Salt Spring Bulk, fed Santa's sleigh (actually a 118 ft. ship) for its journey through the southern Gulf Islands. A special r-O-o-a-a-r of appreciation is given by the Salt Spring Lions Club, the Lions Clubs of Bellingham and, we are sure, the community at large for the McColls' continued support of this yearly venture. You really bring in the Holiday Season with a lot of smiles and cheers. Merry Christmas from us all!

SALT SPRING LIONS & BELLINGHAM LIONS



**Yes, we have Pokémon items**

Season's Greetings from the "crew" of  
**OLD SALTY**

**Yes! we are**  
**OPEN BOXING DAY**

Sunday 10am -4pm  
**THE START OF OUR BOXING WEEK BLOWOUT!**

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Wednesday 29 Dec.  
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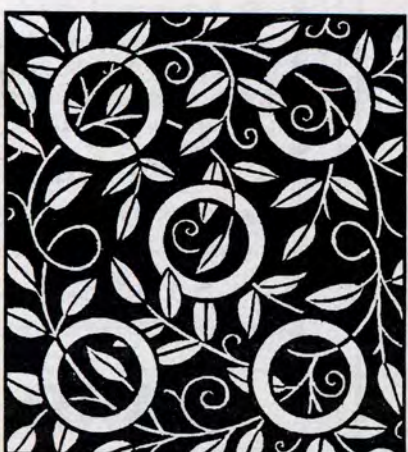
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# A Christmas Story

Once upon a time, in a sleepy little village named Ganges, there came a Wise Man, led there not by a star but by a B.C. ferry. The Wise Man's name was Woody Fisher, and soon after his arrival there was a birth. The child was called Driftwood.

Over the years the Driftwood grew, guided by a succession of dedicated staff members who believed in honouring the special trust placed by readers in their community newspaper.

Changes in appearance came about through steadily advancing technology, and as the community grew so did the Driftwood, giving it the resources to engage well-trained, professional staff. But through all the change the heart and soul of the Driftwood remained the same.

Forty years later, thousands of readers turn to the Driftwood every week as their primary vehicle of communication and information, a forum for debate and reflection through the voices of islanders.

We take great pride in bringing you your community newspaper every week, and wish to thank you for your readership in the past year.

Fiona Walls, Peter McCully, Lorraine Sullivan  
and Robin Richards  
*Advertising Sales*

Claudia French, Gillian Pilon and Tao Kimball  
*Administration and Production*

Susan Lundy, Gail Sjuberg, Tanya Lester, Mike Levin  
and Derrick Lundy  
*Editorial*

Frank, Alice and Tony Richards, Jill Byron and  
Valerie Rogers  
*Driftwood Publishing Ltd.*

Gulf Islands  
**Driftwood**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

A decade of exceptional charitable donations has pushed the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Community Endowment Fund to the \$500,000 mark as the year closes out.

"It's great news because it means a steady stream of income in perpetuity for worthy island organizations," said foundation chairman Bob Rush.

The \$500,000 milestone is important because proper invest-

## Fund reaches new heights

ment management will create an annual income of \$25,000 for registered charity groups, a major jump on the cumulative total of \$46,000 given to local groups since the foundation's inauguration in 1984.

The endowment fund is used to support charitable organizations on the island. Its revenue is generated

by private donations, with grants aimed at enhancing the quality of life on the island, especially among those who have few other funding options.

When Rush took over as chairman in 1991, the fund stood at about \$25,000. Its 20-fold growth has resulted from an increasing

stream of donations, ranging from \$10 and up.

"Most donations are of smaller amounts but this year we had a substantial one from the estate of the late Ruby Alton," he said. "Beneficiaries vary each year as community needs and opportunities change. So far I think we've sup-

ported about 30 (out of about 60) charitable groups on Salt Spring."

Some of the grants made in 1998 include ArtSpring, McFadden Creek Heronry, Salt Spring and Treefrog daycares, the Core Inn and Island Wildlife Natural Care Society.

Foundation trustees include three native islanders, including Patrick Lee, Tom Toynbee and Rush, as well as long-time residents Ron McQuiggan and Edith Sacker.

## Seers' Gala: Don't go into 2000 without it

By TANYA LESTER  
Driftwood Staff

Seeing as you weren't around for the last millennium (not in your present life form anyway), how can you expect to know about crossing over into the new millennium?

Seers' guidance is what you need and in a place like Salt Spring Island, no matter where your path is taking you on life's journey, chances are good there's a fantastic futurist waiting for you behind any rock on the road.

Yet for something as significant as heading into the next century, you need to "feast" at the table of more than one of these psychic sisters and brothers.

"We welcome everyone to come in and consult the oracles," said Treasured Spirit hostess Catherine Lily-Hooper, referring to the Millennium Eve Seer's Gala.

A "smorgasbord" of predictions awaits you next Thursday and Friday at the metaphysical books and gifts shop on Hereford Avenue.

For \$10 you will be issued a passport into the new millennium as envisioned by two tarot card readers, a tea cup reader (c'est moi) and an astrologer.

"It's just a taste," said Treasured Spirit owner Susan Cassidy. "It's going to be fun. It's not going to be heavy."

According to Cassidy, the readings will be "quickies" and anyone who wants more can book a longer reading for a later date.

Included in the \$10 "quickies" will be a look at your animal totem with tarot card reader Glenda Petersen; a focus on one card from tarot card reader Aylwin's deck; a short spearmint or tea leaf image interpretation from me; and a planetary glimpse from an astrologer.

Everyone will receive a cup of hot cranberry juice sprinkled with spearmint leaves and a "seer sucker."

Then, your completed \$10 seers' passport will be entered in a draw to win a longer reading with your favourite seer.

The seers, as well as Cassidy and Lily-Hooper, will be dressed in finery fit for the awesome oracles that they all are.

The once-in-a-thousand-years event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both December 30 and 31.



### Last minute shop

Stan and Hana Mulder enjoy a little Christmas shopping at the Last Minute Christmas craft fair held this year at ArtSpring. The two are seen here at the "original" table.

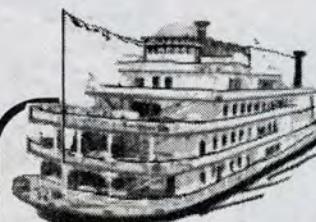
Photo by Derrick Lundy

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

### RICK'S GULF ISLAND PLUMBING

will be closed for the holidays  
Dec. 24, 1999 - Jan. 4, 2000

*Rick, Derek & Lorraine  
hope their customers have a safe and  
happy holiday, and they look forward to  
helping you in the New Year.*



*A Christmas Gift?*

**ROYAL CITY  
STAR**  
RIVERBOAT CASINO

**New Westminster Weekend Getaway**  
February 25, 26, 27

#### Included in Price:

- Return Bus & Ferry Transportation
- Two Nights - Inn At Westminster Quay Hotel

#### Special Features:

- Right Beside the Riverboat Casino
- Right Beside New Westminster Quay Market
- Right beside 4 Restaurants including the Keg
- 100 yards to the Skytrain with access to Downtown Vancouver, Metrotown & Surrey Place
- Bus Departs Friday 3:45 pm ( Arrives Hotel Approx. 7:00 pm)
- Bus Returns Sunday at Approx. 7:30 pm

**\$145.00**  
per person, plus grat  
Based on DBL Occupancy



**Salt Spring Tours 537-4737**

## Countdown to Y2K



BC's provincial government departments and essential service providers have done their job in preparing for the year 2000. No disruptions to essential services like utilities, buses, ferries, pharmacies, banks, and credit unions are anticipated. In case of glitches we do have back-up plans.

Enquiry BC operators will be available to answer questions about Y2K and essential services during the New Year's weekend.

### Enquiry BC:

**In Vancouver 660-2421 In Victoria 387-6121  
Toll-free from the rest of the province 1-800-663-7867**

For information on provincial readiness check our web site at <http://www.y2k.gov.bc.ca>

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Leave your business name,  
mailing address and phone  
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Package will be mailed in January 2000.

**Action 2000**  
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**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Information, Science and  
Technology Agency.

## Archive fundraising is ongoing this season

Salt Spring's archives will be closed until Wednesday, January 12, but members are still able to do some pre-Christmas fundraising.

Archivist Mary Davidson said last week that some copies of Briony Penn's historic and cultural map of Fulford Harbour are still available for purchase from herself or Barb Lyngard.

People can call her at 653-4357 or Lyngard at 653-4469 to purchase the map. Proceeds benefit the local archives.

## BRIDGE TRICKS

The last game of the year at the Gulf Islands Bridge Club saw Irene Hawkworth and Yvonne Sollitt finish in first place.

Blanche Poborsa and Margaret Morris were second, and Tony Luton and Bill Buckler third.

The next game will be played on January 3.



### Shimmering opals

Jimmy Paula sheds a little light on some opals as Christoph Seabrook purchases one for his new baby. The opal display was one of many sale tables at Salt Spring Centre's annual Christmas craft fair held this weekend at the centre.

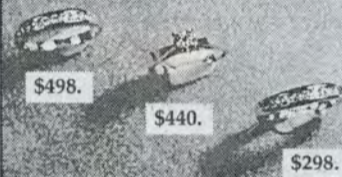
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**SALT SPRING REFUND CENTRE**  
would like to thank you for your support in our first year of business.

Many Happy Returns!



## Evolution of Christmas decorations

Did you know it wasn't until 1890 that our neighbour the U.S.A. recognized December 25th as a legal holiday?

By this time the German tradition of decorating a tree with candles was (thanks to Queen Victoria and her German-born husband) already widespread. Garlands of popcorn, dried apples and cranberries began to be draped upon the Christmas tree. These decorations were most often eaten during the clean-up and retiring of the tree.

The invention of chromolithography in England during this time was soon put to use printing lovely detailed Christmas scenes. It wasn't long before these bright, embossed images found their way to dangle from Christmas tree branches.

This was the beginning of the commercial production of Christmas tree decorations.

Little villages in the Thuringian mountains of Germany found a new economy in cottage industry, making decorations from tin, wax, glass, papier-mache, cotton and many other materials.

It was in Lauscha, Germany that the first mouth-blown glass Christmas ornaments were made.

## GARDENING WITH PAM TEMPELMAYR



It is said that a trip to Sonneberg, Germany made F. W. Woolworth most of the money and contributed to the overall success his stores achieved.

It was in this city he found fanciful glass baubles for the tree. He made a deal with the manufacturers so that he was able to sell them for five and 10 cents in stores of the same name.

Miniature U.S. flags were also a popular, patriotic ornament.

Surprisingly enough, Christmas tree lights showed up even before this time. They were first publicly displayed on a tree in New York city in 1882. The lights were red, white and blue.

The wealthy who had electricity quickly picked up this practice. As electricity became more widely available, so did demand.

Strings of coloured lights started to be found in all walks of life.

It was 1904 when lights in the shape of figures were made in Austria. The German glass blowers soon dominated the market. In 1920 the Japanese started copying

German designs and producing figural lights. Their lights had one design feature which soon took over the market: the bulbs screwed in from their base, making them easy to change.

The Japanese dominated the trade throughout the 1920s and '30s until once again a new U.S. design stole the market. This was the advent of the Christmas lights we are familiar with, which continue to glow even if one has burnt out.

Tip: If you have a cut tree, when you are ready to take it down, remove remaining water from the tree's holder with a turkey baster.

Trivia: Der Tannenbaum, or the Christmas tree tradition, was started by a woodsman in Germany. Coming home on Christmas Eve, he looked up through the boughs of the trees to the stars above and was struck by their combined beauty.

He was so moved by the sight he wanted to give it to his family as a Christmas present. He chopped down a small evergreen and quietly set it up in the parlour while his family slept, placing candles on its branches.

Lighting the candles, he awoke his family and surprised them with the first starry Christmas tree.



Over the past year we have had the privilege to serve many new and old friends.

Your thoughts and wishes, your passions and delights are the special sentiments we translate into our floral designs.

Thank you and Feliz Navidad Merry Christmas to you all!

*A Christmas Gift?*

**ROYAL CITY STAR**  
RIVERBOAT CASINO

**New Westminster Weekend Getaway**  
February 25, 26, 27

**Included in Price:**

- Return Bus & Ferry Transportation
- Two Nights - Inn At Westminster Quay Hotel

**Special Features:**

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**Lunches**  
Homemade soups, sandwiches, daily specials

**Fresh Bread Daily**  
(contains no sugar or dairy products)

*The staff extend a warm seasonal greeting.*

**Take a break from the Holiday rush...**

**10% off**  
**ALL HOLIDAY BAKING**

# Christmas spirit dished up with donated cash for turkeys

Cash donations made possible the purchase of several turkeys for the local food bank this year, and a group of volunteers are now ready to prepare free meals on Christmas Day for those in need.

A successful collection of food items was held earlier this month.

In other Galiano Christmas happenings, staff and students of the school presented their annual celebration of Christmas at the south hall on December 15.

Traditionally, all the students participate in some way or other in putting on the show.

Principal Judy Raddysh describes this year's concert as really good fun, and doubtless the proud parents agree.

A student clad as Santa made an appearance during the concert. His youthful figure required much cushion padding.

At 11 p.m. on December 24 a Christmas Eucharist will be held in Saint Margaret's Church.

On Sundays (December 26 and January 2) at the 11 a.m. services, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated as well. All are welcome.

Hopefully this last Christmas of the 20th century will be a happy one for all islanders.

## GCA meets

Galiano's Conservancy Association held its 10th annual general meeting in the South Hall on December 12.

Andy Turner chaired the meeting, Rose Longini read the minutes of the 1998 meeting and Jeannie Schumacher gave the treasurer's report.

The following is a report of the proceedings supplied by one of the members.

"Ken Millard presented a review of the past year's achievements. These included the growth of the library and resource centre; the production of aerial photos and maps which will be used by

## GALIANO NOTES WITH ALISTAIR ROSS



other organizations on Galiano (the Galiano Recycling, the transportation committee and the RCMP — to name three).

A workshop called Forests for a Healthy Community was presented last spring by Herb Hammond. Federally funded, it was co-sponsored and attended by a broad representation of community groups. Acquisition of District Lot 63 from B.C. Tel was completed, and work towards finalizing the entire Pebble Beach Reserve continued.

Projects for the coming year include ecosystem mapping and a conservation strategy. A forest-oriented educational program for youth in nature will be developed.

Special reports were given by staff members: Angela Jean-Louis reported that all trees had been mapped and measured on the plot dedicated to the Smithsonian Institute's monitoring and assessment of biodiversity forest monitoring project on DL 63.

Keith Erickson spoke about stream mapping and restoration as well as the extensive educational program with students at the Galiano School, introducing them to mapping, monitoring and salmon enhancement.

Paul Leblond reported on the progress of the proposed maritime protected area in Trincomali Channel. An acoustic survey of the ocean bottom in that area was made in September and, in another event in October, a diver with a television camera made the ocean bottom in Trincomali Channel visible to the public.

At the completion of the business meeting, well known journalist and author Ben Parfitt spoke about the future of second growth forests throughout the province.

During the refreshment break

the audience had an opportunity to view the new Galiano Island orthophoto (accurate to one metre) produced by the Conservancy. They were also able to browse the excellent selection of books and journals in the Conservancy library.

An election of new directors was held. Following the 5 p.m. adjournment, a festive potluck supper was held."

## Christmas bird count

Volunteer bird watchers will be on duty on Monday, December 27 from dawn to noon to report on our wild bird population.

An annual event, the count here has been carried on for a number of years. Phone Mike Hoebel at 539-2003 if you are willing to volunteer your help.

Plans are made well ahead of bird count day in order to make sure all parts of the island are covered.

## Doggie celebration

Family picnics are common enough at Montague Harbour Park, but not canine celebrations, we think.

Late last October, however, that is just what occurred there.

It was a second birthday for seven dogs — the fluffy-white Bichon variety — sons and daughters of Sophie and Archie resident pooches at the Bonser household.

Doggie games were played at the party and there was birthday cake, of course (Geoff Bonser's special recipe).

Hostess Nancy oversaw the games and races and gave out the prizes. Naturally, there was a prize for everybody, all given out at the same moment!

Manners were exemplary — what else from a well-groomed Bichon! Two non-Bichon dogs celebrated with the brothers and sisters.

A greater number of owners turned up than celebrants. There were treats for them as well.

## Season's Greetings to all our customers

Thank you for your support over the year.

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## CHRISTMAS FISHING

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## 'T WAS RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

And we always make it our policy to thank everyone for making our year such a good one. We hope all your dreams come true, this holiday season!

Thanks again to all the wonderful people of Salt Spring Island



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## Greetings of the Season

We are wishing you an abundance of joy and happiness this Christmas

From all of us at  
BARRY, McLEAN  
& SACKER

Linda, Catherine, Edith, Pat and Fred



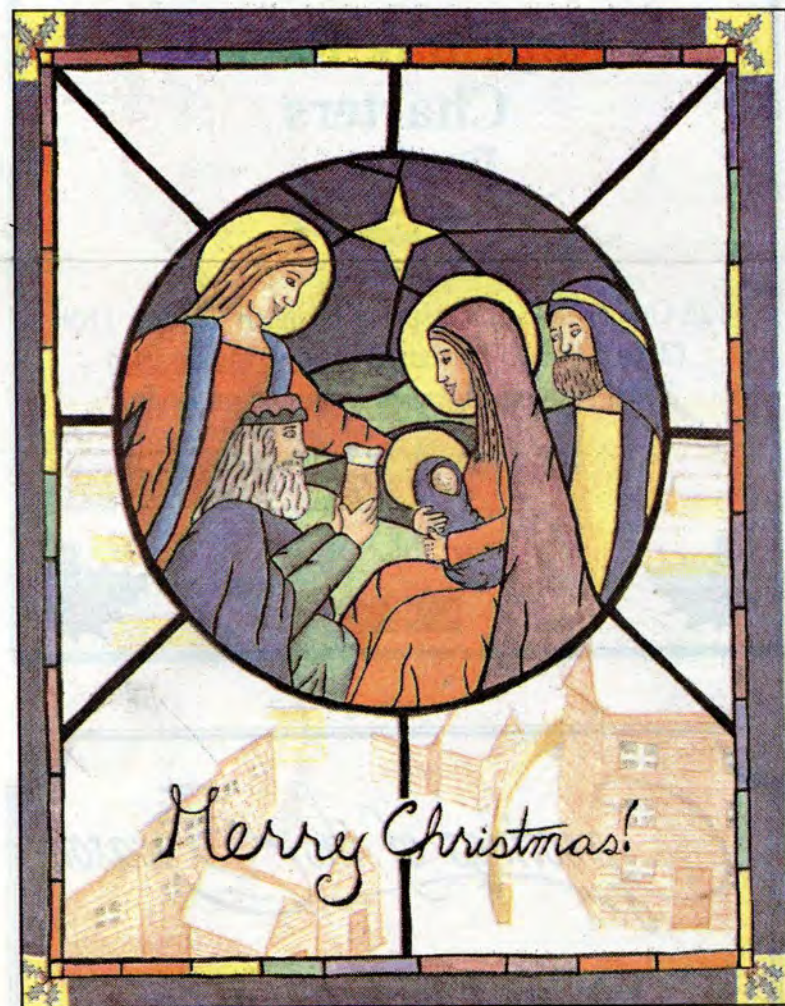
# More winning artwork by high school artists



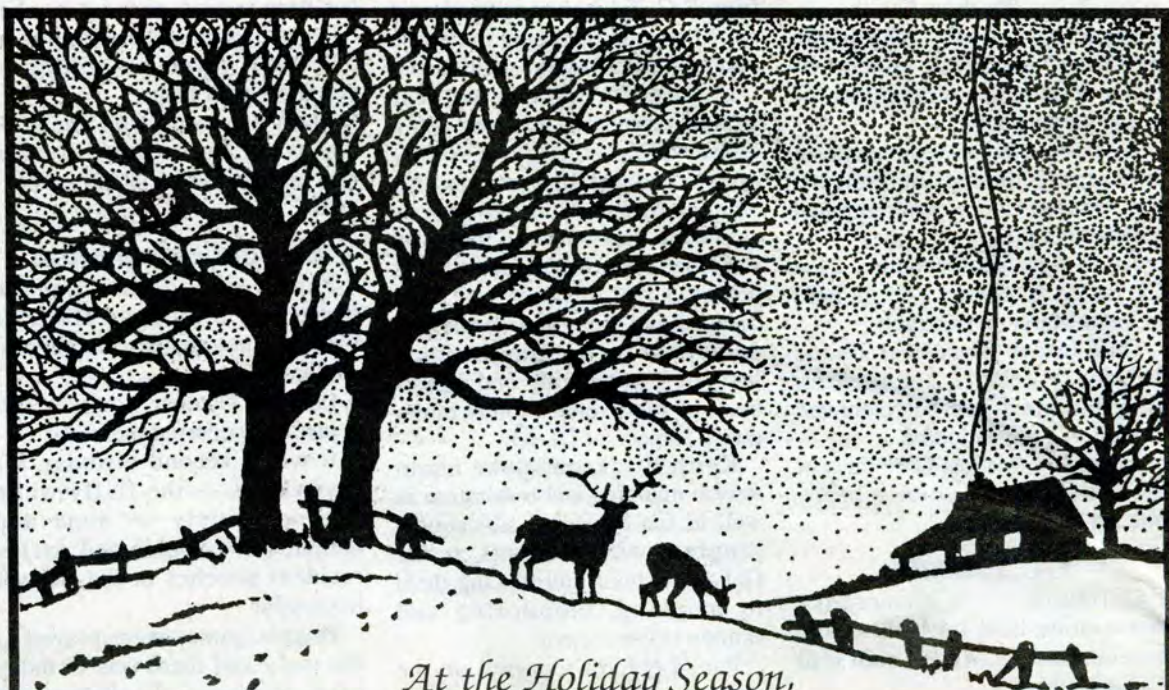
Second place cover art work by Michael Deas



Honorable mentions in the Driftwood cover art contest were also given for artwork by Mikaela Heydemann (left) and Marika Swan.



Honorable mention by Asya Stom



*At the Holiday Season,  
our thoughts turn gratefully  
to those who have made our progress possible.  
It is in this spirit we say...*  
**THANK YOU, MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR**



Patti Speed  
537-5515



John Steele  
537-4606



Anne Watson  
537-5515



Carole Watson  
537-5515



Myles Wilson  
537-7200



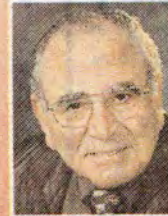
Russ Crouse  
537-5203



David Duke  
653-4538



Carol Fowles  
537-5515



Santy Fuoco  
537-5515



Eileen Larsen  
537-5515



Marion Marks  
537-2453



Gil Mout  
537-4900



Darlene O'Donnell  
653-4386



Henri Procter  
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