

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

The Driftwood presents a souvenir historical edition in honour of Canada Day, July 1, 2004.

# Looking Back



## Celebrating 137 years with 137 Salt Spring facts

Looking Back is a project commemorating Canada's 137<sup>th</sup> birthday and the colourful history of Salt Spring Island.

Hearty thanks go to the members of the Salt Spring Historical Society, ably tasked by Bob McWhirter, for compiling most of the facts in this edition, and to Frank Neumann of the Salt Spring Archives, for providing the photographs from the Archives' various collections. Anyone with an interest in island history should visit the [www.saltspringarchives.com](http://www.saltspringarchives.com) website.

Historical sources included Charles Kahn's *Salt Spring: The Story of an Island*; Eric A. Roberts, *Salt-spring Saga*; Bea Hamilton, *Salt Spring Island* and Chris Arnett, *The Terror of the Coast [1849-1863]*.

Thanks also to Roger Gilbert for research assistance and a keen proofreading eye.

Facts were randomly compiled, not meant to cover all topics and there is no significance to the order of presentation.

Since Salt Spring doesn't have an official "birthday" year, we decided to tag along with Confederation.

Happy Canada Day!

1. 1790: Manuel Quimper explores Georgia Strait, and may have been the first European to see Salt Spring Island.

2. In 1856, Captain W.C. Grant, the colony's first independent settler, used the name "Saltspring," but a marine survey begun in 1857 changed the island's name to Admiral Island. Settlers preferred "Salt Spring," however, and the Geographic Board of Canada confirmed this in 1905.

3. The oldest known scientifically established date of human occupation on Salt Spring Island is 2,220 years ago from a habitation site at the head of Long Harbour. Artifacts found on the island suggest a much longer occupation of up to 4,000 years.

4. Salt Spring Island is the only Gulf Island whose name retains a connection to its aboriginal past. The name came from the Saltspring Settlement, established in July 1859 on the site of modern-day Fernwood, a translation of the Hul'qumi'num place-name, Hwtlelum (Salt Spring).

5. Salt Spring's first store was established at Fernwood by Jonathan Begg in 1859. Begg called it The Balmoral Store.

6. The first school was opened at Central in 1861 by John Craven Jones.

7. Salt Spring's first election was held in 1860, with John Copland elected to the House of Assembly. Jonathon Begg was returning officer.

8. In the 1863 election, seven islanders cast votes. Four voted for Victoria merchant J.T. Pidwell, and three supported the winner, Dennes.

9. T. C Perry was the first postmaster at the Central settlement post office, which was established in 1875. He delivered his mail by mule.

10. St. Paul's Catholic Church on Fulford Harbour, built largely by Catholic Hawaiians, was consecrated on May 10, 1885. It is Salt Spring's oldest church building.

On the Front:

Top left photo: Mouat Bros. Co. Ltd. store in the 1920s.

Top right photo: Heifer judging in 1920, with Mahon Hall in the background.

Bottom photo: Fulford Inn, circa late 1920s.



Oscar Wallace and his sister Ethel Claibourne, descendants of the pioneering Stark and Estes families. Ethel's daughter Naidine Sims still lives on Salt Spring.

11. 1890: the new provincial riding of The Islands was created, and John Patton Booth (who had failed in bids for re-election in 1875 and 1878) was returned to the legislature.

12. In 1860, John Maxwell and James Lunney took up land at Burgoyne Bay. J.D. Cusheon from Victoria laid claim to 1,000 acres, and cut a road through to Ganges Harbour. Cusheon left the island when he was allowed to pre-empt only 200 acres.

13. From 1869 to 1871, the Burgoyne Bay wharf was built.

14. In 1883, the last bear on Salt Spring was shot by J.P. Booth. It had killed six fat hogs. Bears have

15. Many cattled died during the very hard winter of 1861-62.

16. In 1864-65, half of the island's livestock were killed by bad weather, wolves, cougars, bears and Indians (as reported in the Colonist newspaper.)

17. 1861: Jonathan Begg's store in Vesuvius was raided by northern Indians on their way home from Victoria. The raiders were pursued to Willow Point by the HMS Forward.

18. 1860 was the year of the "Ganges Massacre." About 50 Cowichan Indians attacked a group of 14 Bella Bellas, killing eight and taking five prisoners. The battle took place near the site of the Harbour House Hotel.

19. Electric Light Co. of Vancouver prospected for coal in Ganges Harbour in 1896, and Dr. A. Bailey removed upwards of two tons of coal from property leased from J.P. Booth.

20. 1886 saw the formation of the Hope of Salt Spring, Lodge 7 at Central. After 30 months, the lodge was dissolved for "want of harmony."

21. A community hall for Ganges was built in 1901 by A.R. Bittancourt in Ganges. Named the Mahon Memorial Hall in 1904.

22. Ganges chapter of Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire (IODE) was formed in 1914. Renamed H.M.S. Ganges Chapter in 1975.

23. In 1852, Hudson's Bay Co. officers inspected the salt springs on what was then called Chuan Island. Gov. James Douglas hoped to use the salt for the Fraser River fish trade and the domestic market, but better salt springs were found at Nanaimo.

24. In 1863, Major John Peter Biggs of Chemainus was appointed Justice of the Peace for Chemainus and Salt Spring.

25. In 1872, Henry Sampson was appointed the island's first constable. The first jail was located at Central Settlement by the schoolhouse.

26. In 1907, Malcolm and Purvis sold their general merchandise store in Ganges to the Mouat family. Mouat Brothers moved to the current location in 1912.

27. Attempts to settle Salt Spring using the pre-emption system resulted in 117 people pre-empting land by 1859. Land could be purchased in blocks of 200 acres for \$1.25 per acre.

28. The first vessel to call at Vesuvius for marketable produce was the Fideliter. Sometimes the docks would be stacked with over 1,000 cases of apples and pears ready for shipment to market. Salt Spring butter and lamb had also gained a reputation for excellence.

29. Joseph Akerman was a market gardener who grew produce where the Parliament buildings in Victoria now stand. In 1863 he met the "bride ship" Robert Lowe and chose his wife Martha Clay. He took her to live on his farm in Burgoyne Valley where they brought up five sons and two daughters.

30. The McLennan family pre-empted land in the Beaver Point area and moved onto the land in 1880. Alex and Elizabeth brought up seven children, three sons and four daughters, and all of the children attended the Beaver Point School.

31. Alex McLennan was postmaster at the Beaver Point Post Office and also served as Justice of the Peace. He was secretary to the Beaver Point School District. Each island school had its own board.

32. The 14 salt springs that gave the island its name are located on private north-end property. The springs "ooze" to the surface and leave salt crystals on the soil.

33. Former Premier W.A.C. Bennett and his family often spent time on Salt Spring at their summer home on Sunset Drive during the 1960s and 1970s.

34. Nita Brown and Doris Andrews set up art classes in Mahon Hall in 1967. With the Community Arts Council ArtCraft was established in 1968 for participants and local artisans to sell their works.

35. The first telephone wires were installed at Central in 1897.

36. Nine Negro slaves, who had purchased their liberty in the United States, arrived at Vesuvius in 1857. One of them, Sylvia Stark, lived to the age of 106.

37. In 1859, Captain Richards named Salt Spring's highest peak Mount Baynes, in honour of Rear Admiral Baynes who was in

*It all started in 1963 . . .*



*Taking pride in continuing to meet the needs of our community for over 40 years.*



*Live well with*

**PHARMASAVE®**



**WOW!**

**HOW TIME FLIES**



Photo circa 1975 - Original Manager Gordon McEwan and support staff Don Cunningham and Julian Valcourt.

**Thank you**

Salt Spring for your years of support. We are proud to be a part of this great community and serving you is our #1 priority.

Ken Marr, Gordon McEwan, Mike Stefanicsik and staff.

**Windsor Plywood**

**537-5564**

Looking Back is a publication of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., and a supplement to the June 30, 2004 Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper.

**Associate Publisher:** Penny Sakamoto  
**Editor:** Gail Sjuberg  
**Design:** Susan Lundy  
**Production:** Sandi Poystila, Kelly Waters, Nathan Ritchie  
**Advertising:** Tracy Stibbards, Peter McCully and Rick MacKinnon  
**Facts compilation:** Salt Spring Historical Society members, Driftwood staff and Roger Gilbert  
**Photographs provided by Salt Spring Archives** — Frank Neumann



Native couple visit Fernwood circa 1910.

Salt Spring's highest peak Mount Baynes, in honour of Rear Admiral Baynes who was in command of the Pacific Station at the time. He also named the island Admiral Island, but islanders continued to use the name Salt Spring Island, which became the official name of the island in 1905.

38. The island's first cattle ranch was set up in 1860 by John Maxwell and John Lunney in Burgoyne Bay.

39. Anglican Bishop George Hills offered the first church services in 1860.

40. Dr. James Hogg was the island's first resident physician (1863).

41. In 1915 the Beaver Point General Store was taken over by William and Emily Patterson, who ran the Beaver Point Post Office from 1918 until it closed in 1951. A steamer docked at the wharf in front of the store until 1957. All that remains today are the foundations of the store. The Patterson family relocated to Fulford Harbour near the ferry dock.

42. Vesuvius Bay was the island's first regular landing spot — 1864.

43. The first black child — Ernest Harrison — was born on the island in 1867.

44. In 1868, Joe Akerman was the first white child born on the island.

45. The Traveller's Rest, the island's first rooming house/hotel, was opened in 1884.

46. St. Paul's Catholic Church in Fulford Harbour was opened as the island's first church in 1885.

47. The Hul'qumi'num/Sencoten name for Fulford Harbour is Hwne'nuts, which means "move your butt over."

48. The Hul'qumi'num word for the Vesuvius area was Tatmul, meaning "warm waters."

49. On July 17, 1859, a party of 18 men, the first non-native settlers on Salt Spring Island, landed at Walker's Hook beach. Most of them married native women and they settled the northeast shoreline from Walker's Hook to Southey Point, the original Salt Spring settlement.

50. Thomas Henry Lineker and family built the first



Burgoyne Bay School in the 1930s.



Waiting on Beaver Point Wharf, circa 1900.

non-native house in Ganges Harbour in November of 1859. They stayed less than a year.

51. Central Hall, built in 1896, was the island's first community hall and hosted the first agricultural show on October 14, 1896.

52. St. Mark's Anglican Church was built from 1889 to 1892 by Samuel Beddis and sons. Henry Stevens donated the land and it was dedicated in 1892 by Bishop Hill of Victoria.

53. Bittancourt Chapel, also known as The Ark, was built in 1898 or 1899. It was a small Catholic chapel at Vesuvius and is now a private residence.

54. The Salt Spring Island Creamery, located at the bottom of Ganges Hill, which was then called "Creamery Hill," closed in 1957. The building now houses Embe Bakery.

55. Japanese Canadians were among the earliest non-native settlers on Salt Spring Island. In 1901 there were 59 islanders of Japanese origin. By 1941, 77 Japanese Canadians in 11 families lived here.

56. At the onset of World War II, the Canadian government incarcerated all people of Japanese ancestry who lived along the coast and forced them to move inland. In 1954 the Murakami family returned to Salt Spring and bought property on Rainbow Road.

57. Central Hall was once flanked by the jail and Central (Vesuvius) School.

58. Beaver Point was named after the Hudson's Bay Company steamer S.S. Beaver. The Beaver, British Columbia's first steamship, sank off Stanley Park, near Prospect Point, in 1888.

59. The 4th of July 1860 marks the Battle of Shiyahwt, when some 50 local natives fired upon a canoe containing 14 Bella Bella people from the mainland. Over 200 shots were fired and some of the bullets struck settlers' cabins. Ten Bella Bella were killed.

60. In 1862 an exploratory tunnel was made into the south face of Mount Maxwell by the Sansum Copper Company. The site may have been visited by Governor James Douglas in August of 1862.

61. In May 1863 during a short war between the Colonial government and the Lamalchas of Kuper Island, the stone-masons at Stonecutters Bay were visited by a "special messenger" and "given one week to live and at the expiration of that time they would cut all their throats."

62. Alan Blackburn owned the first car on Salt Spring — 1911.

63. The Royal brothers' dog was run over in the island's first motor car accident in 1913.

64. A.R. Bittancourt received the first traffic ticket for speeding, also in 1913. The fine was \$15.

65. Salt Spring Island Golf Club was established in 1928 at the Barnsbury estate, the site of Norman Wilson's farm. First club president was W.E. Scott. Annual fees were \$20 for a man and \$25 for a man and wife. In July 1968, the outstanding shares of Salt Spring Recreational Holdings were purchased and the club became Salt Spring Golf and Country Club, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary.

66. Burgoyne United Church was built in 1897 by Charles Horel Sr. and described as a Union church. It once had a small steeple.



www.gangesgarmentco.com



Specializing in quality Canadian made clothing for comfortable living  
**INFANTS • CHILDREN • ADULTS**

Agents for : • Helly Hansen • Ex-Officio  
 • Australian Outback Collection • Osh Kosh

#1104, 115 Fulford Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T9 Tel: (250) 537-8999



**"Salt Spring Island's Greatest Staff  
 serving Fine Food & Ales to Islanders"**

~ since 1990 ~

67. St. Marys' Church (Anglican) was built in 1894 by volunteers and Fred Raines, costing \$700, including seating, chancel fittings and the organ.

68. Fulford Hall was built three times — originally in 1921 on land donated by John Shaw. The project was spearheaded by the fundraising South Salt Spring Women's Institute and built with help from many volunteers. It burned in 1925 and again in 1936.

69. Beaver Point Hall was built in 1934 on land given by Frank Pyatt. It was destroyed by fire in 1936.

70. The island's first subdivision was undertaken in 1891 in the Grantville Street area. It remains the most densely populated part of Salt Spring.

71. Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital opened in 1914 in what is now the Community Services building on Ganges Hill.

72. The Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fire Brigade began in 1946. Donald (Goodie) Goodman was named as fire chief. The first professional firefighter was hired in 1996.

73. The Fulford Firehall was relocated in 1981 from Morningside Drive in Fulford Village to its current location on Fulford-Ganges Road.

74. The White Elephant Cafe was opened in 1945 and run by Alice Hougan. It was originally located at the Garner

# HONOUR ROLL

These businesses are proud to have served Salt Spring Island over the years and into the future.




**MURAKAMI**  
COLLISION and AUTO REPAIRS

**537-2239**  
**191 Rainbow Rd**




*We'll make it right the first time.*



115 Desmond Crescent Road  
537-2513



Serving Salt Spring for over 25 years



Island Excellence in Crafts

**waterfront gallery**

Next to the Post Office  
Mon - Sat 10 - 5  
Sun 11 - 4  
**537-4525**



*Salt Spring's second oldest Fine Art Gallery*



**Thunderbird Gallery**  
Grace Point Square  
250-537-8448  
thunderbird@saltspring.com

SINCE 1980



CARVED CEDAR & STONE  
www.warrenlangley.com  
250-537-9407



Providing Islanders with specialty foods & sushi



**ADMIRAL'S SPECIALTY FOODS & SUSHI BAR**

146 Fulford Ganges Rd  
**537-5088**




Your community newspaper since 1960

**Driftwood**  
Gulf Islands  
328 Lower Ganges Rd.  
Salt Spring Island  
537-9933

**19th Hole Restaurant**



Great Food!  
Great Prices!  
Great View!



*Open to the public*

at the Salt Spring Golf & Country Club  
537-1760 • 8am - 6pm



*In Business on the Gulf Islands since 1983*

**PAINTING**  
INTERIOR EXTERIOR

Specializing in Painting Textured Ceilings

*Jennifer Davidson*  
Professional Painting Contractor

140 Fulford Ganges Rd.  
**537-2979**



*WE'VE BEEN COOKING SINCE 1991*



**Love My Kitchen**  
FINE COOKWARE & ACCESSORIES

140 Fulford Ganges Rd.  
**537-5882**



Clothes That Work.

**Mark's Work Warehouse**

152 Fulford-Ganges Road  
537-2999

Additional copies of the Looking Back Historical Section are available in limited numbers at the Driftwood

**Driftwood**  
Gulf Islands  
328 Lower Ganges Rd.



nsbury — the Wilson home used by the Salt Spring and Golf Club.



The island's first school was opened at Central in 1861.



Cyril Beech horse logging in Ganges Harbour with his team of Percherons.

se on McPhillips Avenue. The Rex Theater, owned by or Henn, was located next door. In 1947 it moved to the front in Ganges. The Garner House is now the Core

5. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 was established in 1931. It moved to Blain Road in 1988.

6. Electricity came to the north end of Salt Spring in 1917.

7. The Salt Spring Island Board of Trade made plans in 1950 to install street lights in the centres of Ganges, Ford and Vesuvius. Thirty lights were installed in 1950.

8. Salt Spring's first newspaper was started by Rev. Wilson. He called his paper Salt Spring Parish and he and published it from 1895 until 1906.

9. Miles Acheson started the Spotlight in 1950. It was mimeographed paper and covered island events.

10. In 1953 the Spotlight stopped being published, in 1960 Woody Fisher started the mimeographed editions of the Salt Spring Island Driftwood. It merged with Gulf Islander on Galiano and became the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

11. The Wards took over the Gulf Islands Driftwood in 1964 and three years later sold it to Barbara and

Frank Richards. The newspaper is still owned by the Richards family. In 2003 it was named the best all-round paper in B.C. and second in Canada in its circulation category.

82. The Tsawout Indian Reserve was established in 1877 at the foot of Reginald Hill, covering 43 acres. It remains uninhabited but is a gathering place for herring roe, other seafood and ducks.

83. Beth and Ray Hill discovered the Drummond Park petroglyph in 1963 when the Fulford Harbour log dump was being constructed. It was speculated that this petroglyph may have been located on the seaward site of a now submerged Tsawout village.

84. In 1872 Henry Ruckle took possession of land at Beaver Point. In 1973 Ruckle Farm was donated to the British Columbia government by the Ruckle family and Ruckle Provincial Park was created. The original family homes are still part of this park.

85. Kiave, the first Hawaiian to preempt land, settled on about 150 acres on the waterfront between Isabella Point and Fulford Harbour in 1868. Roland family members who still live on the island are descendants of these early Hawaiian settlers known as Kanakas.

86. In 1886, William Haumea acquired Russell Island where he established a successful farm. In 1902, William Haumea died, leaving Russell Island to Maria Mahoi

and in 1997 the land was dedicated as a provincial marine park. New Star publishers has just published historian Jean Barman's book called Maria Mahoi of the Islands.

87. In 1873, Salt Spring was incorporated and became the Township of Salt Spring Island. The first council members were: Thomas Perry (warden), Henry Robinson (clerk), Charles McDonald (collector), Frederick Foord (treasurer), Joseph Akerman (assessor), Jacob Crane and John Jones.

88. In 1881, a municipal election was declared null and void after a charge of malpractice by south-enders. Counter-charges and dissension led to bad feelings.

89. In 1883, the municipality of Salt Spring was dissolved by the Provincial Legislative Assembly in Victoria.

90. In 1887, the Stevens Boarding House was established on North End Road near Central. Cost of lodging was \$1 per night or \$5 per week.

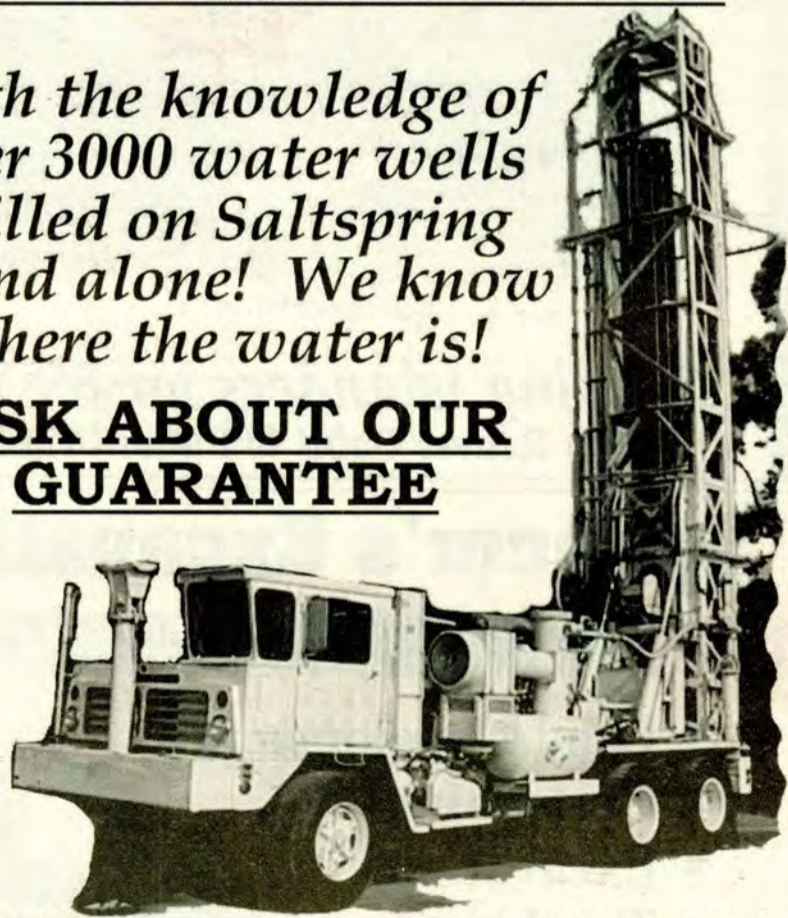
91. The Ganges station of the Coast Guard was established about 1980 with the 40-foot Moorhen as its first vessel. The original station location was at the dock at Centennial Park.

92. Salt Spring's RCMP station was in the red brick building on Ganges Hill it moved to brand new premises near the Legion in 1998.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA FROM, **ALBERT KAYE AND SON'S DRILLING**

*With the knowledge of over 3000 water wells drilled on Saltspring Island alone! We know where the water is!*

**ASK ABOUT OUR  
GUARANTEE**



ISLAND OWNED AND OPERATED BY,  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Generation  
*Islanders.*

Phone: (250) 653 4757  
Fax: (250) 653 4778  
Email: [albertkaye@hotmail.com](mailto:albertkaye@hotmail.com)



Salt Spring has been home to the McFadden & Hedger families since 1861. We have taken part in horse logging, farming, fishing, market gardening and land development. Having lived off the land and sea and prepared sites for island residents to live, we are pleased to provide a service that supports the environment.

**Please Recycle**

*Lawrie's* **RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICE**  
div. of LADAH Holdings Inc.

8am - 5pm Monday thru Saturday  
Drop-off next to Ganges Village Market

**653-9279**

## **North Salt Spring Waterworks District est. 1913**

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District was established in 1913 as the Ganges Water and Power Company. It grew steadily over the years to become the largest Water Improvement District on the island with 1648 active connections and a tax roll of 1942 as at the end of 2003.

We have eight full time staff with a combined total of 113 years experience in bulk water treatment, distribution and admin. support. Qualifications range from office administration and accounting, five certified operators and an Applied Science Technologist.

We contract our services to some of the other small districts to operate and maintain their systems.

With the help of other contributors the district purchased the Maxwell Lake watershed in 2001 to protect the communities water supply. Many staff members are involved in volunteer work in their private capacity.

761 Upper Ganges Rd. • 537-9902  
[thewaterworks@saltspring.com](mailto:thewaterworks@saltspring.com)



'The Squire of Salt Spring' — Harry Bullock.

**93.** The earliest volcanic rocks of Salt Spring were laid down in the South Pacific Ocean 400 million years ago.

**94.** 100 million years ago the "wrangellia" rocks of south Salt Spring Island scraped onto North America as the Pacific Ocean floor subducted beneath the continent.

**95.** Between 66 and 90 million years ago, Wrangellia was flooded by a shallow sea, and the shales, sandstones and conglomerates of north Salt Spring Island were laid down.

**96.** Between 40 and 50 million years ago, the rocks of Salt Spring folded into northwest-southeast ridges and troughs that are now evident in our scenery.

**97.** Between 2 million to 12,000 years ago, long periods of glaciation alternated with shorter warm periods every 100,000 years or so. Glaciers ground off mountain tops and scooped out valleys and bays.

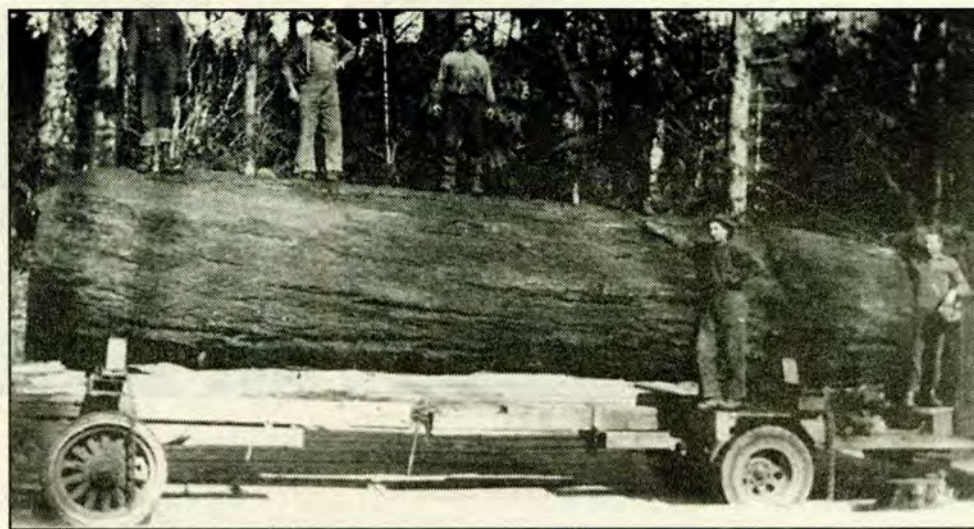
**98.** 12,000 years ago, the most recent glaciers began to melt, leaving deposits of sand and gravel. Early hunters were likely already on the tundra.

**99.** 5,000 years ago the sea level stabilized and cedar forests spread. Native people established salmon-cedar cultures and tribal boundaries.

**100.** The January 14, 1965 edition of the Driftwood described a wacky 1964 weather year, which included a low temperature of 6 degrees F., tied with a previous record in 1950. Islanders were buried in 35.5 inches of snow in December 1964 and endured 19 days of freezing weather.

**101.** Salt Spring Lions Club acquired 1.75 acres of land in January 1965 to build its Pioneer village project.

**102.** Gulf Islands School District took possession of two new Blue Buses in February of 1965. Provincial government funding



One of Salt Spring's giant logs.



St. Mark's Anglican Church, North End Road, circa 1887.

for two replacement buses was announced just last week.

**103.** Canada's new flag was raised on February 15, 1965, but the maple leaf was not seen on two poles in Ganges. As the Driftwood reported, "one because the new flag has not yet been delivered, and the other by virtue of definite preference."

**104.** Cost of sirloin steak was 75 cents a pound in 1965, while an electric hot water heater could be purchased at Mouat's for \$77.88.

**105.** A 2,600-square-foot 100 Hills seaview home was listed for sale at \$76,500 in January of 1977. A waterfront cottage

with 112-feet of frontage in Fulford Harbour could be snapped up for \$43,000, and \$49,500 could buy a 10-acre lakeview farm with renovated two-bedroom home and barn.

**106.** In 1990, Moby's Marine Park opened.

**107.** Twenty-five islanders were killed in World War I. Nine died as soldiers and World War II.

**108.** The first ferry service was operated between Fulford Harbour and Swar Bay by the Gulf Islands Ferry Company and Captain George Maude in 1930. Sam Matson bought the 17-year-old Daily from

# Serving Saltspring for over 20 years.

The Gulf Islands only complete marine service centre

MERCUISER • VOLVO • HONDA • YANMAR • ICOM MARINE ELECTRONICS



- Marine Parts & Service
- Boat Hauling
- Hull Repairs
- Towing
- Chase Boat
- Mobile Mechanic
- Chandlery • Storage



Your on-island, lawn, garden and forest dealers!  
• HONDA • STIHL • BRIGGS & STRATTON

- Lawn & Garden Tractors
- Lawnmowers
- Tillers
- Chainsaws
- Pumps
- Brushcutters
- Trimmers
- Generators
- Patio Heaters



"We service what we sell!"

## Harbours End Marine & Equipment



122 Upper Ganges Road • Ph: 537-4202 / Fax: 537-4029



Beaverpoint Wharf

Serving Islanders for 89 Years  
from Beaver Point to Fulford Harbour

# Spencer's Excavating

Serving the Islands for over 30 years

- Land Development
- Consulting
- Excavations
- Trucking
- Aggregate



Phone: 537-2287  
Fax: 537-2260

Washington State and renamed it the Cy Peck, honouring B.C. war hero Cyrus Peck.

**109.** In 1951, The Gulf Islands Ferry Company was taken over by a group of businessmen headed by islander Gavin Mouat.

**110.** In 1952, the Cy Peck ferry carried 6,864 passengers, 17,505 cars and 3,954 trucks.

**111.** Ferry service between Vesuvius Bay and Crofton began in 1955 after the Gulf Islands Ferry Company bought the ferry Fox Island and renamed it the George S. Pearson. The fare for car and driver was 75 cents.

**112.** B.C. Ferries purchased the Gulf Islands Ferry Company in 1961.

**113.** The Long Harbour ferry terminal opened in 1963, with the Queen of the Islands first assigned to the run.

**114.** Salt Spring's original library, with a collection of about 60 books, was located at the post office at Central. In 1958 Mary Hawkins and 12 others established a Centennial Library on the second floor of Mouat's Store, with about 1,300 books in the collection.

**115.** The library moved to its current location on McPhillips Avenue in 1964 and in 1974 was named the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library.

**116.** The Salt Spring Hysterical Society gave its first performance in 1986 at Off Centre Stage, located in the then Valcourt Centre, which is now Upper Ganges Centre. Original group members were Reid Collins, Sid Filkow, Anne Lyon, Mike Hayes, James Wilkinson, Mary Williamson and Shilo Zylbergold.

**117.** In 1989 the Island Arts Centre Society was founded to build an arts centre for the island. ArtSpring was officially opened on April 16, 1999.

**118.** Graffiti Theatre Company was established by Yvonne Adalian, Amanda Spottiswoode and Sherri Israels in 1997.

**119.** Musgrave Landing became a public dock in 1874. Irish aristocrat Edward Musgrave bought the sheep farm in 1885. George Laundry established a sheep ranch in 1910 and his family still live in this area.

**120.** After being held on the Salt Spring Elementary grounds, the 1982 Fall Fair was held for the first time on the Farmers' Institute's new grounds on Rainbow Road.

**121.** In 1882 John Maxwell used one of the first industrial logging machines in British Columbia to clear land in the Burgoyne Valley. The tractor ran steam-powered saws and winches.

**122.** Central Salt Spring Church was dismantled in 1926 and moved by the Bittancourts to Ganges and renamed Ganges United Church.



Victor and Miyoko Okano with Miss Nagata (left) at a fall fair in the 1930s. The Okanos were significant members of the island's Japanese community.

**123.** All Saints Anglican Church, formerly St. George's, was built on land donated by Guy Mouat in 1940. In 1993 a new Anglican centre was created for the parish and the community. Part of the "old" St. George's was lovingly moved across the street.

**124.** August 1994 saw the founding meeting of Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA). In May 1999, SWOVA and School District 64 received provincial funding to develop programs to prevent violence and abuse and promote healthy relationships. In 2004, SWOVA earned a national Women's Safety Award for the resulting program.

**125.** The Merchants Bank opened in Ganges in 1913 as the first financial institution.

**126.** In 1892, Harry Bullock — a.k.a. The Squire — settled on Salt Spring and in 1897 moved into the largest house on Salt Spring, which was built by Reid Bittancourt for \$2,000. The home burned down in 1964.

**127.** Jesse Bond began working as Bullock's houseboy in 1906 and learned photography skills from him. Many historical Salt Spring photos were taken by Bond.

**128.** Ernie and Brenda Lowe bought Bullock's property in 1961 and then established the Lakeridge Camp for Boys and Girls. A number of islanders lived for a time at Lakeridge.

**129.** Salt Spring became part of the Capital Regional District when it was created in 1966 along with other regional districts in B.C. Doug Cavaye was Salt Spring's first regional director.

**130.** The Ganges sewer system, built by the CRD, began operation in 1986 after 20 years of heated community debate. Tensions peaked in 1981 when a barge of sewer pipes was set on fire in Ganges Harbour.



Salt Spring girls take modelling lessons in 1956. From left to right are Dorothy Dodds, Marguerite Gear, Roberta Akerman, Linda Baker, Pam Cousineau, Darlene Akerman, Marilyn Brown, Joyce Lowe, Lyn Akerman, Cathy Akerman.



Ernest Harrison (right) and Joe Akerman were the first black and white children born on Salt Spring, in 1867 and 1868, respectively. This photo is believed to have been taken at an oldtimers reunion.

**Helping you  
build your dreams  
...piece by piece for  
over 20 years**

**SLEGG  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

Colin & Soup Dog

**The Fraser family has served Salt Spring for 40 years**



1936 Maple Leaf (only made in Canada)

**4 GENERATIONS OF MECHANICS & BODYMEN**

- Bert** (Mike's grandad) retired to Salt Spring in 1965 but continued to do some bodywork as a hobby.
- Larry** (Mike's dad) came here in 1964 and was the first interprovincial journeyman on Salt Spring.
- Mike** Started an apprenticeship to become a mechanic right after graduation. He has been a journeyman since 1983 and holds an interprovincial ticket.
- Calvin** (Mike's brother) completed his apprenticeship in 1997 and has many years' experience in bodywork.
- Jake** (Mike's oldest son) has expressed an interest in becoming an automechanic and will be participating in a vocational apprenticeship during grades 11/12.

**MIKE'S REPAIRS (EST. 1992)**  
316 Rainbow Rd 537-5040



**SLEGG LUMBER LTD.**

**537-4978**

804 Fullford Ganges Rd.

# Serving the Gulf Islands for 76 years



- With over 230 years combined experience, our team of Realtors know the Salt Spring and Gulf Island markets.
- Our company and its antecedents have been serving Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands continuously since 1928.
- Our team of Realtors have access to all the current technology tools.
- Our marquee tent is provided free of charge to over 25 community events each year.
- Our Realtors participate in a wide range of community organizations from Lions and Rotary to volunteer coaches of athletic teams from community government to Coast Guard Auxiliary. Check it out, a member of our team just might be on your team too!

*"our people are the difference"*



Russ Crouse 537-5515, Debbie Cade 537-1866, John Cade 537-1866, David Duke 653-4538, Gord Ellis 537-5515, Carol Fowles 537-5515, Santy Fuoco 537-5515, Darlene Hobbs 537-4040, Chris Hobbs 537-4040, Gil Mouat 537-4900



Tom Navratil 537-5515, Henri Procter 537-5515, Felicity Robinson 537-2374, Norman Rothwell 537-5166, Patti Speed 537-5515, John Steele 537-4606, Anne Watson 537-5515, Myles Wilson 537-7200, Jessica Wilson 537-7200



AT GRACE POINT SQUARE  
 #1101 - 115 Fulford Ganges Rd.,  
 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T9  
 1-888-537-5515 (toll free North America)  
 e-mail: realestate@saltspring.com

537-5515  
 www.royallepage.ca  
 e-mail: realestate@saltspring.com



William Naukana, circa 1880. Naukana was living in the San Juan Islands when they were ceded to the U.S. in 1872 and pre-empted land on Portland Island along with John Palua.



Above: Ceremony for first sailing of Cy Peck from Fulford Harbour, 1930.



Above: the Cenotaph in the centre of Ganges in 1948.

131. The Islands Trust came into existence in 1974 with a mandate to "preserve and protect" the islands.

132. Salt Spring's first community plan was put forth by the CRD, based on results of a 1970 community survey. It came into effect in 1974.

133. In 1996 the first draft of a revised official community plan was produced by the Salt Spring Islands Trust and two years later it was given final approval.

134. A semi-organized market for farmers produce and other goods began running in Centennial Park in 1975.

135. In 1894, Salt Spring orchards contained 13,739 apple trees, 1,689 plum trees, 1,161 of pear, 474 cherry and 279 other fruit trees.

136. In 1895, Salt Spring's population was estimated at 450, consisting of 62 married couples, 35 single men or widowers, seven single women, 50 young men, 20 young women, 85 boys, 80 girls and 16 babies.

137. The 1964 graduating class of Salt Spring Consolidated School had 21 members. The class of 2004 at Gulf Islands Secondary School had 144 members, and included 14 international students and 12 adult graduates.

*Proudly serving Salt Spring for over 11 years.*



L-R: Dan Lee, Alex Campbell Tom Toynbee, Hans Hazenboom and Dave Hogarth

*then  
now*



# THRIFTY FOODS

"Fresh Isn't All We're Famous For!"

537-1522 • 7:30am - 9pm

