

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

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GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1990

Islanders threatened by plans

By BILL WEBSTER

Development plans for Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island have residents concerned about the potential size of the project.

Conor Pacific Canada, a Vancouver-based merchant bank, is co-owner of the 5.6 hectares property, which currently houses the Bedwell Harbour Resort. Chairman of the bank, Robert Nowack will act as manager of the redevelopment project.

Initial plans call for renovations of 15 units currently on the site with a business opening planned for March of this year.

Coast Hotels, also of Vancouver, will run the facility. Michael Kaile is senior vice-president for the resort hotel chain.

"We should be warming things up by early March," he said of the renovations in progress.

The South Pender Islands Trust approved plans calling for 82 units on the property. Elaine Jacobson, one of South Pender's voices on the Trust, said the plans meet the requirements of the current zoning bylaws, although they do skirt the intention of the Community Plan.

The developer can build to a density covering 33 per cent of the land. There are 4 hectares of land zoned commercial with 1.6 hectares zoned a combination of rural and forest, Jacobson said.

Given an area of 40,000 square metres in the commercial zoning, the developer could, at 33 per cent coverage, build up to 13,200 square metres of floor space.

Nowack said current plans call for site coverage of about 12 per cent of the property. The proposed 82 units would work out to an average size of 58.5 square metres. The property, if taken to the limit of 33 per cent, could contain up to 225 such units.

And that worries Pender residents, Jacobson said. The developer's plans are within the limits of the zoning bylaws, she noted, but there is no limit to the number of units the developer can install — up to zoning limitations.

The Islands Trust shares the concerns of residents about the density of the proposal, she said.

"It just isn't what we envisaged as being on a rural scale," Jacobson said.

Kaile said Coast Hotels approved the developer's plans. He added they realize the issue is sensitive, but he feels the plans have been drawn up with care and concern for the environment and with local residents in mind.

"There is very little to throw stones at," he said.

Nowack explained that he, as developer, met with residents early in the planning process to determine

TURN TO PAGE A7



Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Islanders brace themselves against the wet, cold snow. Snow fell to a depth of close to 20 centimetres on Salt Spring last week. A second storm was in progress as the *Driftwood* went to press Tuesday.

Islands shiver under blanket of white stuff

Local highway and hydro crews were kept busy last week as close to 20 centimetres of snow fell on Salt Spring.

Galiano and the northerly part of Mayne islands were also covered in the white stuff, while Saturna and the Pender islands received a heavy rainfall.

Snow dusted upper levels of the islands last Monday night and began falling throughout Salt Spring Tuesday night.

With close to 20 centimetres of snow covering the island, local highway crews were kept busy trying to keep the roads passable. They managed to clear all of the 270 roads stretching across 265 kilometres of the island by late in the afternoon of February 1.

Elementary schools closed down for two days after children were released from classes during the morning of January 31.

Bob McWhirter, supervisor of instruction for the school district, said children were allowed to go home only if "their safety was assured."

By Friday, February 2, classes resumed as usual.

The heavy, wet snow caused problems for hydro workers on both Salt Spring and Galiano islands. Hydro lines, downed from heavy snow or fallen trees disrupted power on Galiano for about three-and-a-half hours, according to John Langston, hydro manager for the islands.

TURN TO PAGE A3

Cheers and catcalls for funding system

A revamping of the school funding system has brought cheers and catcalls from Gulf Island educators.

Minister of Education Tony Brummet announced last week that financing education in B.C. will be accomplished through a block funding system to cover school costs. In his announcement, Brummet noted that education in B.C. cost \$2.42 billion last year. That figure will be the base for calculating spending for 1990-1991.

Under block funding, the province would pay, according to 1989/90 education spending, an average of \$4,954 per student. To compensate for various factors such as inflation, \$305 per pupil will be added for 1990/91 for a total average cost per pupil of \$5,259.

Brummet said the cabinet decision to change the education funding system had been made to forestall "a taxpayer revolt."

School boards requiring more money than offered by the government must take the issue to the voters in a referendum.

The provincial proposal for funding would not cover capital expenditures for school construction but would include costs of minor repairs to existing structures.

Charles Hingston, school trustee for Salt Spring and chairman of the provincial School Trustees' Association, said block funding is a sound idea but having to go to referendum to raise additional money had not been considered in discussions with the province about school funding.

"It's important that local school boards have local autonomy," he said. If voters disagree with school spending, the school trustees would hear about it at election time, he noted.

He said the minister of education referred to a lack of fiscal responsibility by school boards. Hingston denied the allegation, stating that B.C. has lower school costs than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

Mike Marshall, Superintendent

TURN TO PAGE A2

Local MP considers Salt Spring concerns

By SUSAN DICKER

The environment and the federal government's proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) topped concerns expressed by various Salt Spring groups which met with their local MP last week.

And, in an interview with the *Driftwood* last Friday, New Democrat Lynn Hunter said her party is making an effort to address these two issues.

Hunter spent the day on Salt Spring last week, following an evening lecture on the "political realities of international debt." Hunter spoke to a group of some 75 people as part of a series on global debt sponsored by Ten Days for World Development and Continuing Education.

In Ottawa, Hunter is a member of the sub-committee examining the International Debt Crisis.

Hunter's first meeting Friday morning was with four members of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce. Hunter said the group expressed concern over the effect the Crofton Mill is having on the environment, plus its potentially detrimental effect on local tourism.

But the Chamber's major focus of concern was the GST — something Hunter said the NDP is "pulling out all stops" and using all the rules in House to oppose.

"And we're operating with a clean conscience," Hunter said, adding that she and her colleagues have never seen their constituents

so opposed to a government proposal.

Hunter believes small business will suffer a "double whammy" with the proposed tax, not only having to pay it, but administer it.

"That's why the Chamber is so upset," she said.

Aside from using House rules in

TURN TO PAGE A17

INSIDE

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Lynn Hunter travelled to Salt Spring last week. Turn to page A17 for the story.



Salt Spring Elementary School prepares to celebrate 50 years of education. See the story on Page A19.

THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: For the week beginning Monday, February 5

Forecast calls for clouds and rain, mixed with snow, through Friday. Rain should slow to showers by Saturday.

HIGHS: 11 degrees C.

LOWS: 1 degrees C.

Chance of precipitation 90 per cent through until Saturday.

INDEX

Arthur Black A15
Hubert Beyer A6
Classifieds B10-15
Business B6-7

Entertainment A13
Letters A5,19,20,B12
To Be Frank B2
Trypewriter A16

Referendums feared

From Page A1

of Schools for the Gulf Islands, said that referendums had not been successful in other jurisdictions. He pointed to the education system in California where voter approval for spending is necessary.

That system is in "very serious shape," he stated. Insufficient funding in the U.S. state has brought about a teacher shortage, among other problems, he said.

Marshall added that a teacher shortage is just beginning in B.C. and the proposed funding scheme could speed up the lack of classroom instructors.

The minister will be releasing details of the plan to distribute money to the school districts later this month.

Ken Starling, secretary-treasurer for School District 64, noted the operating budget for the school district last year had been set at \$8,322,467. The province covered 57 per cent of that total with island taxpayers picking up the remaining 43 per cent. He explained that when all operating costs were added together, the Gulf Islands school district spent \$6,920 on each student.

He stressed that until the fiscal

framework — the method by which the ministry of education determines how much each school district receives — is known, comparisons between current funding and proposed funding would not be valid.

Grace Byrne, chairman of the local school board, said she is pleased with the block funding proposal. She is not happy with the minister's directive on referendums.

"If we want more money, we have to go to referendum," she said. "And it usually fails."

The last referendum held in the Gulf Islands was in 1966. At that time the school board asked voters to approve spending of \$239,560 for such things as an industrial wing and more classrooms at the high school, purchase of the building being used as a dormitory for Outer Island students attending secondary school on Salt Spring as well as purchase of a teacherage on Pender Island.

The voters said no.

The school board tried again in the spring of 1967 without success. On the third try in December of that year, the total asked for had been reduced to \$222,350, and the voters approved it by a narrow margin.

Traffic stopped

Icy snow on Salt Spring's Lee's Hill caused problems for motorists yesterday (Tuesday).

A quick, heavy snow squall slicked the hill and Ganges RCMP reported at least two vehicles couldn't cope with the icy highway as it dips into the Burgoyne Valley. One car slide into the ditch and another slewed sideways across the road.

The highways department sand truck was on the scene within 10 minutes. Police stopped vehicles from negotiating the hill until the sand was spread.

Cargo run

Dangerous cargo will eliminate two sailings to the Outer Gulf Islands this week.

On February 19, the 5:30 a.m. sailing of the *Mayne Queen* leaves Swartz Bay carrying propane to Pender. Passengers and vehicles bound for Pender, Mayne or Galiano must wait until later to leave Swartz Bay. Travellers bound for Pender can catch a boat at 8:45 a.m. while those going to Mayne or Galiano will leave at 10:25 a.m.

Meanwhile, the *Nicola* will be withdrawn from the Saturna run to return the dangerous cargo to Swartz Bay in the afternoon. Passengers catching the 11 a.m. sailing from Saturna will have to transfer vessels at Village Bay on Mayne and wait for a 12:20 p.m. sailing which arrives at the Vancouver Island terminal at 1:30 pm.

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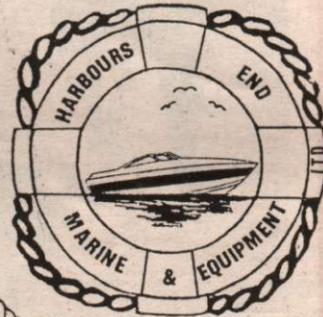
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TIDE TABLES AT FULFORD HARBOUR STANDARD TIME

FEB.	0515	11.3		0625	11.0
7	0945	10.0	10	1150	8.0
WE	1255	10.4	SA	1620	9.6
	2110	1.3		2315	2.8
8	0540	11.3		0645	10.9
TH	1030	9.4	11	1225	7.3
	1405	10.1		1730	9.3
	2155	1.6	SU	2350	3.7
9	0605	11.2		0705	10.8
FR	1110	8.7	12	1305	6.5
	1515	9.9	MO	1830	9.0
	2235	2.1		0030	4.7
			13	0725	10.8
			TU	1345	5.8
				1940	8.8
			14	0105	5.9
			WE	0740	10.6
				1425	5.2
				2050	8.7



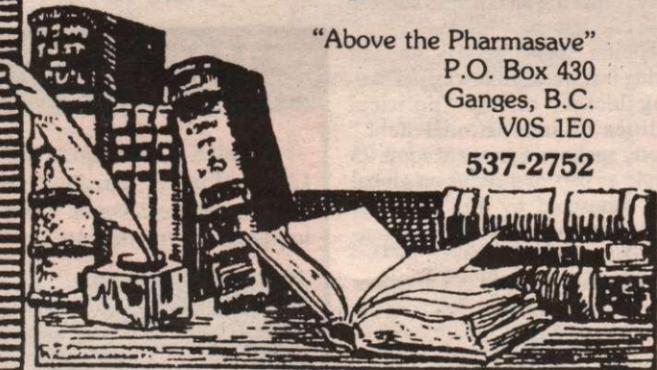
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Storm causes outages

From Page A1

Langston said extra crews were brought in from Vancouver Island to join island workers, who toiled all night to get things back to shape.

Langston noted that although the snow stopped falling at approximately 11:30 p.m. on January 31, the hydro office had "more and more problems coming in all over the place."

He stated that all power was restored by 3 p.m., February 1.

Ganges RCMP reported a series of "fender-benders" during the storm. Police were frequently called on to assist vehicles out of various ditches. However, no serious accidents occurred.

Fire Chief Les Wagg said Salt Spring firefighters answered three calls. They were called on to douse a chimney fire, to assist on an ambulance call and to remove a tree blocking a road.

"We get called for everything," Wagg said.

Lady Minto Hospital also reported a quiet time. The hospital staff continued work as usual and, other than a couple of occasions when the generator kicked in to compensate for loss of hydro, not much went on, according to spokesman Diana Hayes.

The Ganges Coast Guard made one run during the storm, when they received word of a drifting boat.

The crew travelled to Piers Island to rescue it. A fish boat kept the drifter off the beach until the Coast Guard was able to tow it into Swartz Bay.

As usual with Gulf Islands winter storms, the snow melted quickly after playing havoc with islanders. By Saturday, February 3, it had mostly melted.



Tow trucks were kept busy Wednesday as cars slid off roads on all parts of the island.

**SATURDAY
WINTER MARKET**
9:30 AM-2 PM
Farmers' Institute
Rainbow Road

Wet January recorded

The Ganges weather observer says January produced more than its share of rain.

Rain fell on Salt Spring to a depth of 20.1 centimetres (7.92 inches) while snow formed a blanket 18.8 centimetres (7.4 inches) deep.

This compares to the 10-year average of 12.5 centimetres (4.91 inches) of rain and 12.2 centimetres (4.8 inches) of snow.

Weather watcher Bob Aston noted that the temperature dipped low enough on at least nine days to form frost. The coldest temperature recorded was -2 degrees Celsius.

The greatest rainfall occurred overnight between January 6 and 7, with a fall of 3.3 centimetres (1.31 inches).



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RRSP's and Mutual Funds

The latest edition of *Mutual Fund News* issued by the Investment Company Institute reports on the great publicity which mutual funds are presently getting in the press during this RRSP season. Here is an extract of some of the quotes they published from influential newspapers and magazines.

"Mutual Funds investing in common stocks are no doubt the best investment vehicles for retirement accounts, especially for those with a decade or two or three before putting them to use."
(NEWSDAY)

"When you look at the funds' performance, the numbers are incredible."
(USA TODAY)

"...The analysts agree mutual funds offer the best combination of safety, flexibility, profit potential and low cost. By opening a retirement account at a mutual fund group, you avoid locking yourself into one type of investment..."
(WASHINGTON TIMES)

"When you're putting money in a retirement account for use decades hence, you should be prepared to change investments at the dictate of economic conditions. You can do that easily in a mutual fund."
(MONEY)

"You don't need a lot of money or a lot of sophisticated knowledge to be an investor nowadays...not when there are easy to use mutual funds to fit nearly any investment goal."
(WOMAN'S DAY)

"Not investing in an RRSP can cost you a bundle in taxes...For the person who does not have the time or inclination to invest in the stock market directly, the best bet is probably a mutual fund family..."
(NEW YORK TIMES)

"An investor without a personal money manager should probably be buying good mutual funds."
(NEWSWEEK)

"Want to plunge into the stock market without taking a kamikaze dive into failure? If you're like thousands of people with limited cash to invest and limited knowledge of Wall Street's ins and outs one of your best bets is to go with a mutual fund."
(MIAMI HERALD)

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REQUEST FOR INPUT

REVISION OF CLEAN AIR BY-LAWS

The Capital Regional District currently has two Smoking Control By-laws. By-law No. 1464 is a by-law to control the public places where people may smoke; and By-law No. 1440 is a by-law to control smoking in the workplace.

In order to assist in achieving one of the goals of the Capital Regional District's Healthy 2000 Initiative, the Task Force for the Reduction of Tobacco Use in the Capital Regional District has recommended the updating of these two by-laws to reflect the public demand for more smoke free environments and to assist in the goals of a "Tobacco Free Capital Regional District by the Year 2000".

Community groups or individuals are invited to write to Doctor Shaun H.S. Peck, Regional Medical Health Officer, Capital Regional District Community Health Service, P.O. Box 1000, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6 (FAX line: 381-7454) with suggestions for revisions they would like considered by the updated by-law. Suggestions should be received by February 14, 1990.

Doctor Shaun H.S. Peck

Regional Medical Health Officer

Gulf Islands Driftwood

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Co-operation benefits all

An article carried in this week's issue of the *Driftwood* presents an example of positive, co-operative action taken between developers and the community. The end result is beneficial to a variety of local interests.

The Salmon Enhancement Society is encouraging the Park and Recreation Commission to endorse a grant application by two local developers who hope to recoup some of the funds spent in improving the Ganges Creek site.

Society spokesman Kathy Reimer praises Leon Aptekmann and Bruce Russell for the energy and money they directed to culvert and creek enhancement work.

The effort is notable in that it aids both the developers and the community. The completed project, located in the Ganges core, will improve the aesthetic "back-drop" of the commercial buildings. But, more important, the community benefits from the trade-off, receiving a centrally located park site.

Another example of co-operation between community and developer interest is occurring on Isabella Point Drive. Here, a subdivision agreement between the Islands Trust and developer Cec Bader has resulted in a pristine acreage, which borders an ecological reserve, being left in its natural state.

Job Trac projects, Salmon Enhancement projects, seawalk construction — each has yielded something positive for the community, while providing individuals with wages and work experience.

As a co-operative, functioning unit, this community can get many positive things accomplished. It is important to work towards the collective well-being of our community, rather than placing the interests of the individual first.

J. Cocker
Driftwood

Doors have opened on a variety of new situations

I must apologize right at the start for subjecting readers to yet another dissertation on vehicles.

However, the unfamiliar experience of driving a new-to-me car, in particular one with a standard transmission, has opened up an entire new world to me, offering new solutions and new problems which merit recording.

CALIFORNIA ROLL STOP. This manoeuvre occurs with great simplicity in an automatic vehicle: as the stop sign approaches, the vehicle slows to a near stop and gracefully glides through the stop sign if the road is clear.

A standard transmission virtually eliminates this manoeuvre as one struggles to brake, stop, gear all the way down to first and then carefully start all over again.

I have, however, recently been informed of the MEXICAN OVER-DRIVE manoeuvre which has something to do with the clutch and may prove even more useful than the California roll stop. I guess these

off the record

susan dicker



techniques are taught in advanced stick shift courses.

LEAD FOOT. The driving instructor who took me on my first trip down Yates Street in Victoria accused me of having this particular type of foot affliction. He told me this as little beads of sweat dotted his forehead and his knuckles turned white on the passenger seat.

Since that time, I have seen passengers chew off all their fingernails or merely shut their eyes for the duration of the trip.

Not so any longer. It all comes

down to those RPMs and the need to save the clutch. Take, for example, Vesuvius Bay Road. Instead of taking the corners in third and then speeding up to fourth and gearing down to third, it seems prudent to remain in third for the entire stretch.

Constable Rod Holland will be encouraged to hear this.

FEAR OF RAIN. It used to be I'd look at those threatening rain clouds and park my vehicle in the position best suited for a car wash. Now (aside from manually washing

my new baby at every spare moment) I have a new fear of rain.

In fact, the other night I woke stricken with the realization it was raining and my car was out there beginning the rusting process. I fought the urge to rush out with a towel, dry it off, cover it with a tarp or build a garage.

VICTIM OF MANIPULATION. It begins with the mistake of expressing delight in the way a new vehicle drives: a mere admission that driving has taken on new meaning.

"Honey, wouldn't it be fun for you to hop in your new car and drive down to Stan's to get some cream for my morning coffee?"

"I've got a plan — why don't you show so-and-so how smooth your new car runs and while you're at it . . ."

Ten years down the road, "picking up the kids" is certain to still be regarded as a "great opportunity to practice your driving."

WAGGLING IN VAIN. Wag-

gling occurs as one motors through Salt Spring roads. The sight of a familiar vehicle triggers a muscular reaction in the wrist, causing the hand to flip backwards off the top of the steering wheel and, in a consecutive movement, forces the fingers to waggle.

Wagging will occur between two drivers who have never seen each other before in their entire lives, because the reaction can be triggered by a vehicle that only appears familiar or by force of habit which causes one to waggle at everyone found on certain roads.

Wagging becomes a one-sided experience for drivers of new-to-them vehicles.

The experience of anonymity is exciting for a short spell. However, it becomes tiresome rolling down the window and waving one's arms to catch a driver's attention.

Especially if that driver is actually driving a vehicle that only looks familiar.

capital comment

by **hubert beyer**



Victoria — One of the most important parts of any newspaper is the letters to the editor. They reflect the readers' assessment of the product, and that's important not only to the paper, itself, but to everybody else, including advertisers and readers.

Letters to the editor are also a reflection of the readers' interest in their community, their province, their country and the world.

A newspaper that doesn't get letters from its readers is doing something wrong. Perhaps its coverage of news and events is too bland, and it fails to stir the hearts and souls of its readers.

I consider letters from readers in response to what I write of paramount importance, and it doesn't much matter whether the response is positive or negative.

Most of the mail I get, either personally or via letter to the editor, is well-reasoned. Readers who disagree with me, make their points logically and convincingly. But there are exceptions.

Can't please everybody

Over the years, I have received letters calling me everything from a filthy communist to a dirty Nazi. On the same day, I have been accused of being a Sacred lackey and an NDP propagandist. I suppose you can't please everybody. Some say as long as a columnist gets raked over the coals by all sides, he's doing something right.

Some writers have suggested I go the hell back where I came from, others thought Siberia was perhaps a more fitting domicile for me. I have consistently rejected either invitation. I like Victoria just fine.

I have received threatening letters, and when my kids were younger, they were subjected to the odd insult because of their father's job. But, I've always felt that this sort of thing comes with the territory. That's why, unlike some columnists, I don't have an unlisted phone number. Anyone can call me anytime, night or day. And believe me, some readers do. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Beyond the bounds of tolerance

Apart from all the above-mentioned letter writers, there is the odd one who goes beyond even the bounds of my considerable tolerance. They are the ones who run off at the mouth, week after week, usually somewhat disjointed and more than a little mean.

Every columnist has been subjected to abuse by such people. One of my favourites lives in Terrace and sends letters to numerous editors on a regular basis. A lot of them need severe editing, because apart from being very funny, they're extremely libelous.

Normally it's best to ignore such capricious critics, because one reply invites an even steadier stream of venom, but I'll make an exception in this case, because this chap is unique; his style is noteworthy. His rantings deserve mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

Here are some excerpts from his latest offering, written in response to my Christmas column.

"Not so dear Hubert, you must have written your Christmas sermon on love and tolerance with tongue in cheek. Nobody is more full of hate against the premier than you.

What would I do without critics?

"You are Mr. Hypocrite a la Adolf Hitler himself. He said one thing and did the other. Everything sounds so familiar. Are you speaking up for the Jews now and against the Christians? Nice try. Sure, blame the Christians for killing the Jews.

"Blame the Christians for everything. Hitler blamed the Jews for everything. Same principle. It happened because your Deutschland turned its back on God. It still does. The Christians were about the only ones that risked death by hiding Jews from your murderers Vaterlanders, who's (sic) god was the fuehrer. Who is yours? Not Bill Vander Zalm's.

"Here is a decent honest premier who keeps smiling in the face of them that want to shred him to pieces, like you, and you prefer dirty perverts like Svend Robinson in your NDP future government. Dirty pigs, as popular as dirty "king" Elvis Presley.

"By what standard do you live and write? Not the Christian standard of true love. By the way, Jesus was not tolerant, certainly not of characters like you, who speak out of two corners of the same mouth.

"We never had such a fine premier and the fact that the people of B.C. doesn't (sic) want him, proves the immorality of the majority of the people of our province. May God have mercy. The old Jews too believed in choice. They chose Barabas above Jesus of Nazareth. The same thing happens to the followers of Jesus, named Bill Vander Zalms. Study some history, Hubert. You might see history repeating itself."

Ah, what would I do without my critics?

Green Islands sponsors meeting

Five speakers will address local issues at an environmental update meeting sponsored by Green Islands next Monday night.

The information meeting will take place February 12 at St. George's Church Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Editor of the *Green Islands* newspaper, Randy Thomas, will speak on the latest developments at the Crofton Mill. He will be followed by Max Soder, speaking on the community planning process; Bob Andrew on the issue of local transportation and solid waste issues; David Flook, updating Crown Land Use Coalition activities; and Randy Hooper discussing environmental or "green" consumerism.

A spokesman for Green Islands said a moderator will limit the time spent discussing each issue.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

AGM focuses on Trust

The Community Planning Association annual general meeting will offer the community information on the Islands Trust.

The February 20 meeting will offer three speakers.

Marc Holmes will discuss the history of the Islands Trust, Trust chairman and local trustee Nick Gilbert will discuss the new Trust legislation, and trustee John Stepaniuk will comment on implementation of the new legislation.

The public will be invited to comment and ask questions on the various issues.

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Plans under scrutiny

From Page A1

their concerns and to explain his proposal.

"It hasn't been an easy process," he added.

They had to keep green space, he explained, while ensuring a density sufficient to make the project economical. For instance, he said, they surveyed each tree and large group of shrubs on the property and mapped the results so that when the resort was designed, they knew where to put the proposed units.

Former South Pender Islands Trustee Steve Wright said the development plans meet "the letter of the law" but the "size, style and scale" of the proposal does not meet the rural character of South Pender.

The community plan, he said, intended development to fit the rural concept of the Gulf Islands.

"Obviously, it wasn't anticipated that a development such as this would come on stream," he said.

His main fear is that the developer will introduce strata ownership and that the complex will become residential.

To that end, he has rallied Penderites to join a group known as the Community Action Coalition. The group will develop strategies in order to convince the developer to scale the project down.

The C.A.C. will hold a public meeting soon to discuss plans and Wright expects a large turn-out of residents.

"I don't know of anybody on this island who's against the development (of the Bedwell Harbour property)," he said. "But I don't know of anybody who supports redevelopment at this size."

Kaile told the *Driftwood* the company plans to utilize local supplies and labour "where ever possible." He praised the workers renovating the existing units.

"They're just super people," he said and added he is impressed with their skill.

The planned resort will be equipped with a secondary treatment plant for sewage, Nowack said. In order to avoid a drain on the island water supply, the resort will also have a desalination plant.

Nowack explained that the effluent disposal permit allows the dumping of up to 227,500 litres (50,000 gallons) per day. The current use and disposal of water comes close to 68,250 litres per day. He expects a peak load, "with everything going" of approximately 136,500 litres per day (30,000 gallons).

Other plans for the resort complex call for a 120-slip marina along with a marine pub and dining room. Recreational plans call for sailing lessons, golfing, fishing, biking and scuba diving.



Driftwood photo by Derrick Lunody

Salt Spring youth Chris West manages to keep his skateboard under foot as he hops down the concert steps in Centennial Park.

District gives approval to SSI recycling effort

Efforts to recycle garbage on Salt Spring have met with approval from the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Roz Mellander, recycle co-ordinator for the region, said the returns for Salt Spring are "really good."

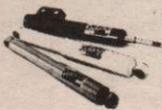
As of 27 January, she noted, islanders brought in 910 kilograms of newspapers, 11,680 kilograms of glass and 370 kilograms of tin.

The recycle boxes for the island have also been adjusted to accommodate the large amount of glass which is being put up for re-use.



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Board considers need for new high school

The Gulf Island School Board is looking for another Salt Spring location to build a new school after an offer to purchase a site on Norton Road expired at the end of last month.

And while the board was looking to build a new elementary school here, it is now considering construction of a new high school.

Board chairman Grace Byrne said work at the Norton property — which involved a site evaluation by the ministry plus a zoning change — was not finished by the time the option expired January 31.

She said the owners were not prepared to expand on the terms of that option and added that the board is essentially back at square one.

Charles Bazzard, school board trustee and chairman of the board's buildings and grounds committee, said the purchase of land on Salt Spring for an elementary school is not considered a priority by the Ministry of Education.

If the board had wanted to build a senior high school on the Norton site instead of an elementary school, Bazzard said, the chances of obtaining funding would have improved.

While the board thought Norton Road may have been appropriate for an elementary school, trustees did not consider it suitable for a high school. Bazzard said the board had received a petition from residents on Brinkworthy road protesting the building of a school there.

Initially, he added, the school board considered building an elementary school on Salt Spring a priority, but the ministry considers a senior high more important. He said enrolment at both the senior and elementary school levels is climbing quickly, and new schools at both levels will be needed soon.

Enrolment at the secondary school here currently stands at 427 students; however, based on ministry guidelines, the square footage of the building suggests it should be able to accommodate 540 students.

But Bazzard said the ministry's formula includes rooms currently used to provide specialized programs, some of which have a low enrolment. The specialized nature of those rooms limits their use in other areas.

Therefore, he said the physical space may be there, but the school is short of space which can actually be used. At this point, two portables have been brought onto the site and if enrolment continues to climb, more may be added.

However, Bazzard noted that because the school has been built on a hill, finding a suitable place for another portable without entrenching on the playing fields will be hard.

The board is hoping to find an eight to 10 acre site in or near Ganges for a new high school. Bazzard

said the board wants a site near Ganges because of its philosophy of a "community based" school, but also because almost a quarter of the students attending senior high school here come from the Outer Gulf Islands.

Placing a school outside the central core will add to the considerable amount of time that Outer Islands students already spend getting to and from school.

Bazzard said the board is also having difficulty finding a new site because recent and ongoing changes to the curriculum and the school system means the board is not sure what grades the new school should accommodate (Grades Eight through 12 or Nine through 12), or what programs will be offered. That has a bearing both on the size of the school and the site.

In the meantime, principals, teachers, parents and representatives from the school board met last night (Tuesday) to discuss the situation and find some "new ideas."

Bazzard said that with the changes already going on in the school system, it would be nice if the board had more time to consider its options. He added that climbing enrolment means something will have to be done soon.

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Limit 1 per family order
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TOOTHPASTE



99¢
100 ml tube

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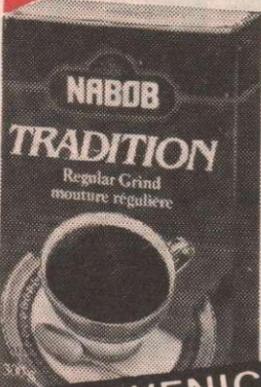
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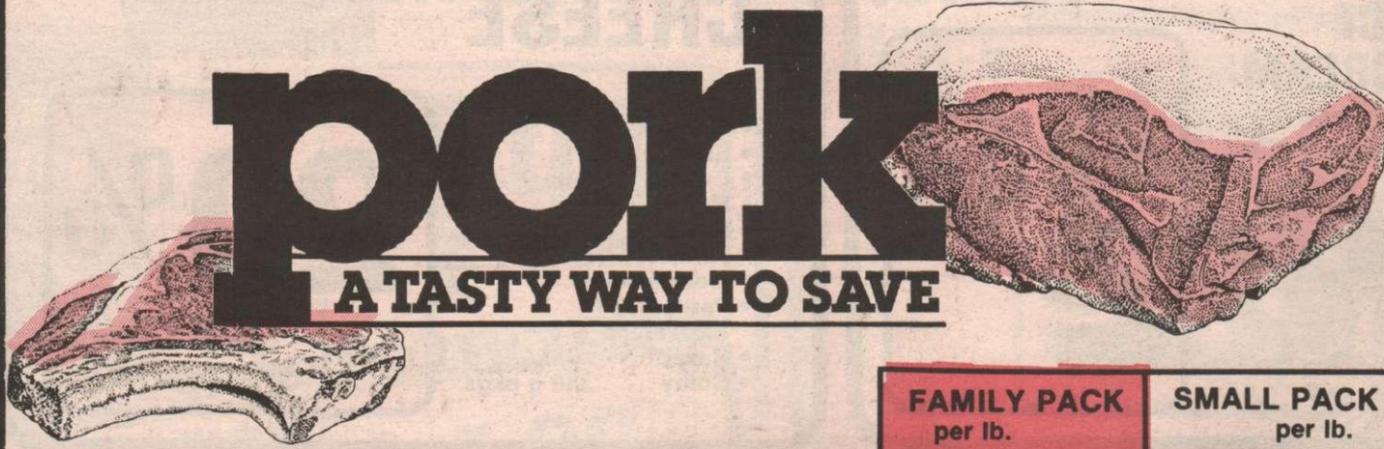
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Congratulations to Jennifer & Eileen on those bouncing baby boys!



Timothy Britton and Carol Ann Hunner will perform Sunday

Salt Spring Centre will play host to Britton, Hunner performance

As part of a concert tour through the West Coast and into the interior of British Columbia, Timothy Britton and Carol Ann Hunner will be making a return visit to Salt Spring Island this Sunday.

The pair come here from Fairfield, Iowa.

Sunday's performance will appeal to anyone who enjoys celtic music which Vikash Knox, the man who is bringing them here, describes as both "lively" and "versatile."

He says it is unusual music for a number of reasons: it is different from the conventional folk music most of us know and much of it is played on Irish bagpipes.

Knox says that the bagpipe Britton plays is one he made himself and is an Irish instrument which produces a sound different from its Scottish counterpart. The Scottish bagpipe, he says, was designed to be used in the war so it produces a sound that tends to be shrill and loud.

However, the music produced by the Irish instrument is made by

pumping a bag placed under the musician's arm. This frees him to play gentler and more refined wind music.

Although they are only 33-years-old, both musicians have extensive experience in the music field — Britton learned his skill from his father, also a folksinger, and picked up other skills on the east coast and in Ireland.

His portfolio includes 13 records, including one for the Smithsonian Institution and performances on National Public Radio (in the U.S.).

Hunner has spent a considerable amount of time in the last 20 years

studying music at various schools in the U.S., including the Castilleja School for Girls in California, and the Guitar Institute of Technology in Hollywood.

While she plays in a variety of genres, she has concentrated on celtic music for the past two years. She has played alongside Britton in both the United States and Ireland.

Knox notes that Hunner writes most of her own music and lyrics.

The Britton/Hunner concert will be held at the Salt Spring Centre this Sunday (February 11) at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.

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BAKED LASAGNA
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LAMB CHOPS JUNIPER
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salad, potato or rice, & vegetable **12⁹⁵**

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Petite Ribeye Steak	7.25
Grilled Chicken Breast	6.50
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IN THE PUB — FRI. & SAT., FEB. 9 & 10

FLASHBACK

Harbour House Hotel

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Driftwood photo by Budd Stewart

Sun breaks through clouds above Mt. Maxwell viewpoint

Lecture and discussion series will present panel viewpoints

The third in a series of lectures and discussions on the problem of international debt in many developing countries will take the form of a panel discussion on Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. George's church hall.

At this session, the viewpoint will focus on the people and children in some of these countries who bear the burden and sometimes the frightful consequences of that debt.

As Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Lynn Hunter pointed out last week some of these consequences can be a 50 per cent cut in medical services and a 25 per cent cut in education of an already impoverished programme. Some consequences can be a lot worse.

The panellists will speak out of their own experiences in one or more of the developing countries. They include: Margorie Stewart of Global Village Nanaimo, talking about the Philippines; Sheila Turk, also of Nanaimo, speaking about the street children of Brazil; Lorenzo Magzul will talk about his native Guatemala; Sam Evans will review the problem of debt in Africa.

The discussion series is a joint project of "Ten Days for World Development" and Continuing Education. Donations at the door are gratefully received to defray expenses.

Expensive contest

If you're considering entering a "contest" sponsored by the American Poetry Association — don't unless you're prepared to spend some money.

A press release sent to the *Driftwood* from that organization last week said \$44,000 in prizes would be awarded to 608 poets who enter any of the four contests it plans to sponsor this year.

It said "Canadian poets are very welcome to enter this contest," and indicated Canadians "walk away with several of our prizes every year."

Entrants were invited to mail six entries by March 31 to the association all of which would be considered for entry in the "American Poetry Anthology." The release went on to say each contest awards a \$1,000 grand prize, a \$500 first prize and a total of \$11,000 in prizes to 152 other winners.

A Salt Spring resident, however, said she once submitted six poems to the organization which operates out of Santa Cruz, California for a previous contest. A short time later, a representative from the group called to say that although she had not won any of the prizes, all six entries were being considered for publication in the anthology.

Publication, however, would require her buying six copies of the book.

The anthologies sell for approximately \$55 each.

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arthur black



"Few people know how to be old."

The great French *belle lettrist* La Rochefoucault made the above observation 'way back in the 17th century. I don't think we've learned a lot about aging in the ensuing three hundred years.

You're aging, I'm aging. The entire population of this country is inexorably getting older. More than two and a half million Canadians are 65 or over. That's nearly three times more than it was just 55 years ago. Within ten years there will be more than four million Canadians eligible for the old age pension.

And still we bend our creaky knees to worship at the Altar of Youth. Middle-agers spend fortunes and risk their health to have their saggy flesh tightened up and their flab hoovered over.

Hate-that-grey-wash-it-away

The TV spews out a cornucopia of apple-cheeked, bright-eyed youngsters with nary a wrinkle or double chin in sight. Sales of "Hate-that-grey-wash-it-away" hair dye are booming. Corsets and girdles move briskly.

Our movie stars are kids and so are our sports heroes. NHL defencemen barely out of their twenties are referred to as grizzled veterans. Canadian Decathlon champ Dave Steen retired from active competition this year. Claims he's too old to take on the world's best any more.

Steen is all of 30.

I tell you, it could be a mighty depressing world for those of us who risk hyperventilation every time we try to blow out the forest of candles on our birthday cakes.

If it weren't for guys like Charlie and Phil.

Peering over the handlebars

Who're they, you ask? Well, Charlie is Charles Watson, a lean and rangy-looking guy with well-muscled arms, legs like pistons and as much fat on his body as Kojak has hair on his head. Charlie used to be a longshoreman, but he gave that up and now makes his home on Salt Spring Island in B.C.

For the past few years, Charlie's been spending a fair bit of time peering over the handlebars of his bicycle.

Quite a chunk of time, actually. Charlie pedals at least 600 miles a month — sometimes as much as a thousand. One day last year, Charlie bicycled 75 miles straight.

Which was kind of fitting. That day happened to be Charlie's 75th birthday.

Charlie's a familiar institution on the hilly roads of Salt Spring Island but he's a foreign two-wheeled phenomenon to the white-coated statisticians at the Aerobics International Research Society of Dallas, Texas. They monitor Charlie's bike exploits (he sends them a log of his workouts. Each month, Charlie tops the rankings of all the exercising North Americans in his age class.

Jogged 4,000 miles in 134 days

There's another guy who provides inspiration to all back-sliding mid-aged Canadians. His name is Phil Latulippe. Phil lives in Loretteville, Quebec and I'm not exactly sure what Phil's up to these days. Possibly soaking his feet in a big tub of hot water and Epsom salts. He's earned it.

I do know that six months ago, Phil was dipping his sneakers in the cold water of Halifax harbour.

It was kind of a celebration for Phil. He'd just got in from Vancouver.

By foot.

Phil jogged more than 4,000 miles in 134 days.

I don't know about you, but I've got as good a shot at breast-stroking up Niagara Falls as I have of running across Canada. I see spots in front of my eyes just bending over to peer into the vegetable crispier.

But there's more to the story of Phenomenal Phil.

For one thing, this is not his first time. He ran across Canada from east to west back in 1981.

And for another thing, Phil's birth certificate says that he was born in 1919. He's 71 years old.

That does it for me. I'm going to start running. My doctor's given me the go-ahead.

He says it's okay for me to start chasing women.

As long as they're going downhill.

Focus on children

Children — crippled, burned, in need of help — form the focus of the Shrine Club.

And the Gulf Island Shrine Club contributes to that cause.

Across North America, Shriners fund 19 orthopaedic hospitals and three burn institutes. The cost of running those facilities came to \$197.1 million last year. The Shriners of the 190 clubs in North America raised every penny themselves.

For instance, the Gulf Islands Shrine sends money to the provincial organization which spent \$1,130,271.23 last year.

Local Shrine Club member Jim Napper said, "I'm not sorry we're not spending this money (raised by the local group) on Salt Spring. We don't have the need, locally, thank goodness."

The Shrine Club began in New York City in 1872 and has grown to a membership of 800,000. While the Shriners tend to shun direct publicity, their efforts on behalf of children is monumental.

In 1988, there were 156,916 children admitted to the Shriners Hospitals and another 2,062 children went to the three burn institutes. Napper pointed out that hospital admissions cost the family of the children nothing.

The Shriners do not accept money from those families, he said, "no matter how rich they are."

The Gulf Islands Shrine Club is part of the B.C. and Yukon organization known as the Gizeh Temple. The \$1.1 million distributed by the Gizeh last year went to buy equipment for various hospitals in B.C. as well as wheelchairs for Shrine patients. The group also donated more than \$388,000 to the B.C. Children's Hospital (which used to be Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver) and sent almost \$269,000 to the Montreal Shriners Hospital.

In addition, the Gizeh Temple donated \$598,000 (US) to help pay

the costs for B.C. and Yukon children who required treatment at the Spokane or Portland Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

Last summer, the Gulf Island Shrine sponsored a raffle for an 3.3 metre sailing dinghy. Tickets sold well, including 15 purchased by 10-year-old Dustin Chamberlain. He was disappointed when someone else won the dinghy.

But the winner had two other boats and asked the island Shriners to give the prize to charity. Nels Vodden, of the Shrine Club, offered to buy the boat to give it to Dustin. His fellow Shriners chipped in, raised the cash to cover the cost of the boat. They gave the money to charity and the dinghy to a very happy Dustin.

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from the tryewriter

of bill webster



Living life gets a tad complicated in this modern world; that is, if you let it.

Formalities and protocol often interfere with knowing and understanding another individual. What was said, is noted. What was done, is recorded. And then the balance is totalled.

Far too often we relate to others by precepts tainted through skin colour, hair length or something as basic as gender. More's the pity, really, when life can be so much more enjoyable when met with innocence and credulity. The tryewriter does not advocate walking through the world blindfolded. He seeks tolerance and acceptance in people of other people.

What we miss, most often, is that enjoyment of living granted to children. It is one of the childish faculties relinquished at maturity.

Robert Fulghum has written a book which covers the aspect of lost innocence rather well. He labels his effort "All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten."

We gather trivial facts and figures

The loss of innocence starts early. As we totter to the bottom rung of the academic ladder, we enter the process which peels us like an onion. Layer after layer of innocence and wonder shed as we gather trivial facts and figures guaranteed to bring us success in the world.

And we do, don't we. We gain a measure of financial success. We gain a measure of prestige. We gain other trappings of society. But we lose the ability to relate to people and the world around us on a very basic and personal level.

Fulghum notes some of the things learned in kindergarten: share everything; play fair; don't hit people; and (the lesson which the tryewriter tries to hold close) be aware of wonder.

Wonder focuses the world as do few other aspects of living. Wonder at dew clinging to an early morning spider web. Wonder at the brilliant colours of a Vesuvius sunset. Wonder at the marvel of people being just plain folks. Wonder.

Wonder fuels childhood adventures. The amazement engendered when a frisky dog's tail is pulled. The curiosity flowing when a bed of brightly coloured flowers demands close inspection. The joy erupting when crayons are brandished creatively to be followed by patience while explaining the finished work to a bewildered adult.

We lose wonder and gain cynicism

But we lose that, don't we. We lose wonder and gain cynicism. We lose sight of fair play in order to win at all costs. We strike out at people — physically, verbally and emotionally — to ensure that we come out on top.

Fulghum notes "it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."

But how many of us mature, sophisticated adults do that? How many of us can be that secure to admit to actually needing others to help us through the day? It is an irony of life that those of us who need others the most are the ones who cling, disastrously, to the concept of rugged individualism.

"Don't take things which aren't yours" rates as a kindergarten lesson which many people never learn. Think about that one for a moment. Taking things which aren't yours involves much more than borrowing and not returning an item, regardless of its value. We tend to take things which aren't ours when we assume that we know what is best for others. We take something not ours when we insist that things be done our way without thought of how our way may be wrong for the other person.

Have to be willing to offer a hand

On the other hand, we should be more than willing to be ready to reach out if someone needs to hold our hand. We have to be willing to offer a hand and the other person has to be willing to take it.

If minding your own business yet being ready to reach out seems like a contradiction, remember: life is full of contradictions.

And while the tryewriter waxes eloquent about getting along with people and understanding where they are at, he inadvertently tossed upset into some lives. He tried words to twit B.C. Ferries. The comments were aimed specifically at the corporate structure — not the folk manning the boats and trying to cope with disgruntled islanders.

The crews, from the engine room to the bridge, are just plain folk like us. They go to work and do their tasks and often have to deal with snide comments on policies coming down from above.

"Life," said John Lennon, "is what happens to you when you're making other plans."

Lions assist needy

The Salt Spring Lions Club is gearing up for another year of community service after successful efforts last year.

The 32-strong island Lions distributed close to \$7,000 to various endeavours last year, both in the Gulf Islands and elsewhere.

Several individuals who required special medical services were helped with donations from the club. Timmy's Telethon received monetary attention from the group as did Camp Shawnigan.

The Lions purchased a blood pressure machine for the Salt Spring ambulance brigade. The machine is portable and works under adverse conditions.

The Lions aided education of island students with two bursaries, and helped fund part of the Ganges seafront walkway.

As Christmas time neared, the Lions dipped into their funds to ensure a happy visit from the Bellingham JCs and Santa Claus.

In keeping with a 23 year tradition, the Salt Spring Lions arranged a Christmas feast for seniors. The Lions picked up 115 pensioners and took them to Meaden Hall at the Salt Spring Legion for turkey and trimmings.

A year-round activity of the Lions involves driving the handicapped about in their van.

They raise money in many ways and distribute the proceeds in as many more ways. The efforts this year are geared toward getting dollars to use for the improvements and expansion of Pioneer Village, another Lions Club project.

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- ★ VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - help is available for victims of crime—toll free number 1-800-842-8467.
- ★ KATHY TOWNE - please contact Susan or Barbara.
- ★ COUNSELLING SERVICES - Crisis and short-term counselling is available as a direct service operation out of the Community Centre building. Long-term counselling is available through the Community Centre on a referral service basis to private practitioners. Assistance is available in special cases.
- ★ OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - for reception and various projects in an interesting, lively setting.
- ★ KINDLING - Neatly bundled kindling from Roy. 537-4189, or the Achievement Centre, 537-9909.
- ★ MEDICAL PREMIUM ASSISTANCE - Call the Community Worker at the Centre for information on who is eligible, or call Medical Services Plan direct, 1-800-663-7100 (toll free).
- ★ RECYCLING - At the new depot on Rainbow Rd. we accept ● NEWSPAPER tied in bundles ● GLASS bottles, clean, with lids removed ● CANS clean & flattened and ● Clean, corrugated CARDBOARD.
- ★ ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE PHONE NO. - New number is 537-9909.
- ★ AFTER HOURS CRISIS LINE - Dial "O", ask for Zenith 2262.
- ★ WANTED: people interested in puppetry and children's shows. Phone Louise at 537-9971.

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Lynn Hunter

"Contentious times" in Ottawa but MP is enjoying every minute

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Lynn Hunter says her work is stimulating, demanding and invigorating.

She is enthusiastic about the direction Audrey McLaughlin is taking the NDP and, although her work demands some sacrifices, she definitely plans to run for the position again.

The Saanich-Gulf Islands constituency sent Hunter to Ottawa some 14 months ago. Prior to that she worked with Oxfam and the women's centre in Victoria, and gave lectures encouraging women to become more involved in politics.

Finally, she says, it became apparent it was her turn to get involved and, with some initial reluctance (she was happy working for Oxfam), she decided to run for MP.

"I didn't just want to be another token woman candidate," she recalls, "Then the polls started going up and I thought *hey, we could do this.*"

Hunter says her opposition to the Free Trade Deal, her work with Oxfam, her interest in women's issues and a life-long fascination with politics were the motivating factors in her decision to run.

Hunter says her family, which decided to remain living in Saanich, seems to be adjusting to her absences, but she agrees her job makes some demands on her family life.

"It's something that I think all women with children have to con-

tend with (Hunter has a 14-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son) and MPs certainly aren't immune to *mother guilt*. I guess it is especially hard on my husband, but everyone seems to be adjusting well."

Hunter phones her family daily and usually sees them every two weeks while the House is in session. Hunter says her children have flown to Ottawa and seen her participate in House debate.



Lynn Hunter

As a supporter of McLaughlin's bid for the NDP leadership, Hunter is enthusiastic about the direction her party is taking. Hunter describes McLaughlin as a "consensus builder." She says the new leader is

doing "really well" in the House, bolstering the NDP's morale.

While she is thrilled to have a woman at the helm of her party, she is less enthusiastic about Liberal candidate Sheila Copps' bid for the Liberal leadership. Hunter says both women wear panty-hose, but any similarities end there.

She says McLaughlin works to build a consensus among groups, while Copps is more "confrontational."

"It will be very interesting if she (Copps) is successful," Hunter says, suggesting the move might indicate a new "characterization of women as being the alternative." In the meantime, Hunter continues to find her work demanding and exciting. She says the NDP is currently funnelling its energy into opposing the government's proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST), describing itself as the "real opposition," if not the "official opposition."

The fight surrounding the GST, she says, has created "a very contentious time back there." But she also notes "it's great fun."

"It's a very stimulating job," she says. "It makes great demands on you — both physical and mental. It calls to mind all sorts of sports analogies because you've got that sense of team work and success, it's quite combative and when the adrenalin kicks in, it's very, very invigorating."

"Members of Parliament are expected to be all-knowing on all things," she said. "I admitted that was not the case with me. I'm good at many things, but reading minds is not one of them."

However, she said, a good communication system can help connect her with important information coming out of Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands.

Hunter is one of two B.C. members sitting on the environment committee: "If something is happening here (especially regarding the environment) that I should know about, it's important that I get the information so I can use it in committee."

Hunter said information or messages left at her Saanich office usually reach her the same day.

Hunter said the NDP is working towards gaining a better understanding of environmental

problems facing the environment. She said party MPs recently sponsored and attended a series of workshops, including one on the environment directed by David Suzuki.

The environment also became the focus of local discussion when Hunter met with Salt Spring's director to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Julia Atkins, her alternate Ian Fraser, and Bob Andrew. Hunter said the group discussed a number of local issues at this meeting.

Hunter's Friday schedule also included a meeting with the Artspring group. Hunter, who has written the communications ministry, supporting the group's application for funding, said she was very impressed with the proposal.

As always, Hunter said, she wound up her visit here impressed by the level of awareness and understanding on Salt Spring.

"The people here are very demanding, very articulate . . . If you can make it on Salt Spring as a politician you can probably make it anywhere."

Environment, GST top concerns

From Page A1

its attempt to delay passing of the Bill, Hunter said the NDP is also going outside the House, encouraging Canadians express their opposition by writing their MPs.

She said one Conservative Party member has already voted against the proposal and the NDP hopes others will do the same. The Bill is to receive second reading tonight (Wednesday), and will then proceed through the legislative committee stage, before returning to the House for third reading.

Hunter's second Salt Spring meeting focused on the environment as she met with Green Islands representative Randy Thomas.

She said one important item to come out of this meeting was the need for a strong communication system between an MP and her constituents.

England is on Booth agenda

Jarrood Booth and his family are just one short step away from a two week trip to England on February 23.

Brian Harding says close to \$4,000 has already been raised for the trip. Two toy sales this weekend should bring in another \$2,000. Those sales are at the Ganges firehall on Saturday (at 11 a.m.) and the Harbour House Hotel Sunday at 7 p.m.

In total, Harding is hoping to raise \$10,000 for that trip.

The Booth family has not received word from the Guinness Book of World Records indicating whether the card campaign will be entered into its next edition. However, Harding says the family plans to meet with representatives from Guinness when it arrives in England.

At this point, more than 200,000 Christmas cards have come in for eight-year-old Jarrod Booth — 7,000 of those since January.

Harding says the card campaign and the trip to England have definitely buoyed Jarrod's spirits.

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Islander heads back to Ometepe to assist with local water project

A Salt Spring man left for Ometepe Island this week to continue work on a water project there, and to witness the presidential elections held on February 25.

This will be the second time Tom Mitchell has travelled to the small island of Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua where \$12,000 in locally raised funds has helped build a new water system for its 28,000 residents.

That \$12,000 was supplemented by an additional \$74,000 provided by CIDA and the Save the Children Fund.

Mitchell, who is a member of the Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friendship Association, made his first trip to Central America in 1985 as a participant with the Witness for Justice of Peace program. Since then, he has been the contact person on Salt Spring for Tools for Peace.

Acting as a witness at an Ometepe polling station in the February 25 elections will be one priority of his visit, but Mitchell says his primary concern will be his review of the water program which was started last year.

Mitchell hopes to photograph

the new well sites and prepare a video presentation for Gulf Islanders.

He expects to return here early next month.

Mitchell's interest in Ometepe comes in part from his belief the small Central American island operates under a model system which could be followed by neighbouring countries and even by the rest of the world.

He says the Ometepe system works for both the rich and the poor. He notes that when the Sandinistas took over the country, much of the land was divided among all of the island residents, regardless of how much money the islanders had.

He also says President Daniel Ortega regularly appears on a monthly television show where residents are invited to call in and air their concerns.

"The common people have a voice. In Canada and a lot of other places, you don't have a voice if you don't have money."

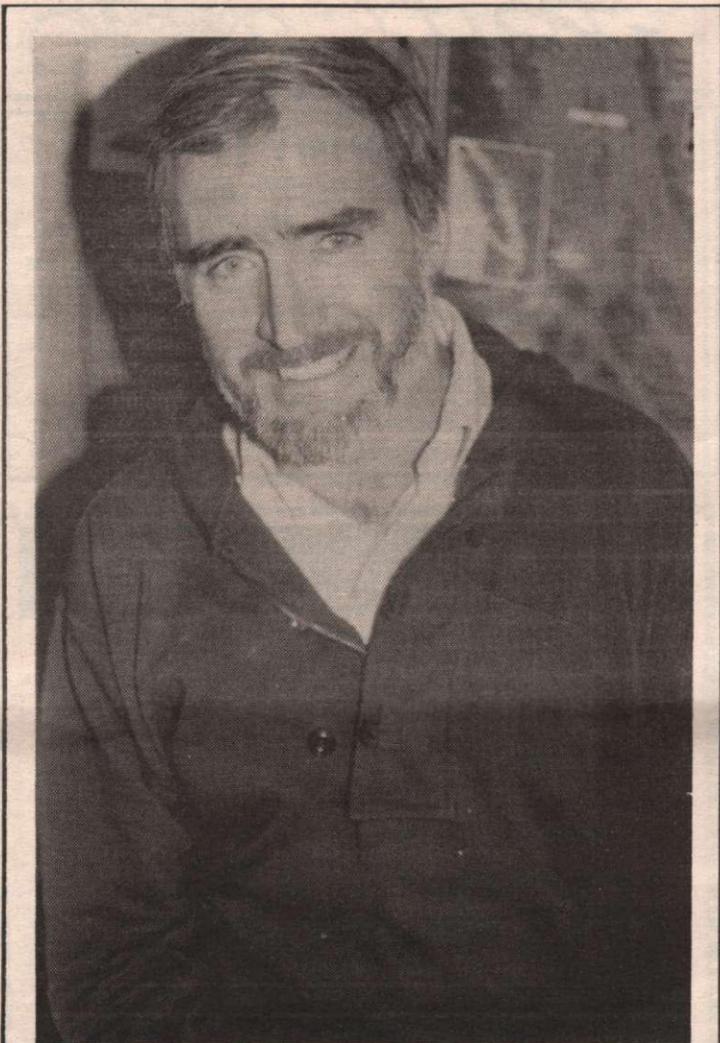
Mitchell is concerned the United States will somehow interfere in the upcoming elections, causing the system now enjoyed on Ometepe and in other parts of Nicaragua to be lost.

"I have a feeling that even if the elections are shown as being fair, the U.S. will find a problem."

He says President George Bush has said that if UNO (United Nicaraguan Opposition) wins the elections, the United States will remove its economic embargo — something Mitchell calls "economic blackmail."

"I feel that Nicaragua is the focus — the whole peace process needs as much support as it can get — El Salvador and Nicaragua especially."

Mitchell says another purpose of his visit will be to find a new focus for the Gulf Island friendship group now that the water system is almost complete.



Tom Mitchell left this week for Nicaragua

CRD grants funding

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has freed \$15,720 to help defray expenses of recycling garbage on the Outer Islands.

Salt Spring, being part of the main regional effort to recycle, is not eligible for the grants.

Pender, with a population base of 1,149 will get \$6,390 and Galiano, population base at 806, will have \$4,480 at its disposal. Mayne Island, with a population base of 620, can take \$3,450 and Saturna, rated for a population base of 252, will be granted \$1,400.

In addition, Salt Spring and the Outer Islands are qualified to receive \$1,500 each to cover the costs of a recycle co-ordinator. For this grant, the Outer Gulf Islands are considered a unit.

The money comes from the CRD Hartland Landfill budget.

Special day is named

It will be a special day and a special month but not a holiday.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has decreed that Sunday, April 22, 1990, will be known as Earth Day. The CRD board of directors issued the proclamation at the recent board meeting. The directors also offered encouragement to the member municipalities to designate that day as their Earth Day as well.

The board went a little bigger for the second proclamation: the entire month of October, 1990, will be Recycling Month.

The directors also agreed to set aside \$10,000 to cover the cost of promoting recycling during that month. The CRD will have brochures available explaining the regional efforts at recycling. It will also conduct classroom lectures for school children on the subject.

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CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT NOTICE OF LOCAL COURT OF REVISION

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Magic Lake Estates Sewerage System
Magic Lake Estates Water System
Maliview Estates Sewerage System
Saturna Island Water System
Ganges Sewerage System
Fernwood Water System

TAKE NOTICE that the first sitting of the Local Court of Revision, pursuant to Section 484 of the Municipal Act, will be held at 11:00 am, Thursday, February 22, 1990, in the Board Room of the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, British Columbia, to hear appeals against the aforementioned 1990 parcel tax assessment rolls.

The Local Court of Revision will hear only those appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its first sitting.

A copy of the complete rolls will be available for inspection at the offices of the Capital Regional District, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, British Columbia, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, commencing February 8, 1990.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 29th day of January, 1990.

Diana E. Trueman, CMA
Treasurer

W. E. SMITH
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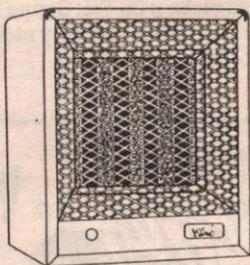
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School celebrates 50 years of local education

On April 1, 1940, the Salt Spring Consolidated School was officially opened by B.C.'s minister of education, Dr. G.M. Weir.

The *Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Review* reported the ceremony, noting the school "stands on a hill about 45 feet above sea level in a beautiful setting facing Ganges Harbour."

Now, 50 years later, the facility is known as Salt Spring Elementary School.

The staff and parents at SSE plan to celebrate 50 years of education at the school with various activities to mark the event. The celebrations will take place between May 14 and 18.

In 1940, the board of school trustees, under the chairmanship of E. Parsons, heeded the prod of Gavin

Mouat and spent \$36,000 to build the school.

According to the *Review*, "The new school... has a length of 137 feet, is 50 wide at the centre and has a height of 54 feet. There are 11 rooms, including eight classrooms, principal's office, chemistry and science room, a room for home economics and domestic science, teachers' committee room, manual training, first aid and health rooms. These rooms have a height of 12 feet and are well equipped with built-in bookcases, good seating accommodation, with modern lighting and hot water system. There is a 10-foot basement, with storeroom.

"The building is stucco finished on the exterior and gyprock on the interior."

To commemorate the event, two

trees were planted. The huge oak tree near the entrance to the school is the sole survivor.

The tentative schedule for upcoming celebrations calls for a re-enactment of the April 1, 1940, opening ceremonies. A May Day event complete with May Pole Dance participants dressed in the fashions of the '40s is also slated.

Former students and staff will gather for a reunion. Organizers are looking for anyone connected with the school prior to 1970. The reunion festivities will be staged on Friday, May 18.

A Strawberry Tea and potluck dinner for former students and staff will give people an opportunity to reminisce.

An Open House, complete with

historical displays will be held in conjunction with heritage activities in the classrooms.

Donna McWhirter and Kevin Vine are handling the early organization. They note in a memo: "We are interested in finding names and addresses of former students,

photographs, memories, anecdotes, artifacts, etc. for our historical display.

"Members of the community who would be interested in contributing or helping on the committee please contact Sheila Twa or Salt Spring Elementary."





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One of the first classes at the new Salt Spring Elementary School

more letters

Havoc

To the Editor,
I believe the police here and the RCMP detachment they hauled in from Duncan have the wrong priorities. Under the guise of vehicle inspection (with direction from the Provincial Solicitor-General) they are wreaking havoc on the current lifestyle and commerce of this island.

They are ticketing people i.e.: normally parked outside Fulford restaurants (\$35); one lady was fined \$35 for driving one block without her seat belt; another local fined \$35 (or appear in court) for not having his licence on him. One local recycler said he was spending days in the coffee shops and this is interrupting the normal flow of his business.

(He was fined \$100 last week for driving with an unchained dog and tire on the back of his truck.) The sergeant was advised they were issuing just warnings not fining, but apparently not so.

(Perhaps the used car dealers in the government plan to improve sales this way?)

I'm told that in the future vehicles sent to Motor Vehicle Inspection branches will be charged \$35. This might be their idea of a "crackdown" but it's misdirected. I was nearly killed twice last week by reckless drivers driving high-

powered new cars in head-ons (there were witnesses). Where were the police then? The people with the right priorities are those who don't plug every last nickel into a new vehicle on the consumer line, but drive old recycled hulks or whatever, look into alternatives — buses, bikes, etc. and harass the automobile and petroleum multinationals who got us into our current environmental mess in the first place.

Law and order should be redirected in this Province on the real criminals — phone your MLA and write the Solicitor-General and let's see the local police acting with the community — not against it.

SUE HISCOCKS,
Ganges

Enthusiastic support

To the Editor,
I keep seeing my name "brought up" in the Letters to the Editor, referring to my views on Artspring. I must clearly state that the impulse to write my original letter was to express my enthusiastic support for CRD Director Julia Atkins, who has a tough job. I believe she is doing her job with great fairness, openness,

creativity, even brilliance. She has both background and foresight and she really cares about Salt Spring.

I hope the planners of Artspring continue to evolve their proposal so that her valid concerns are answered and performing space is provided for the talent of our island. I now understand how it must feel to be a negative ion. "Wait, guys, I'm the one that causes good feelings!"

MELISSA SEARCY
Salt Spring

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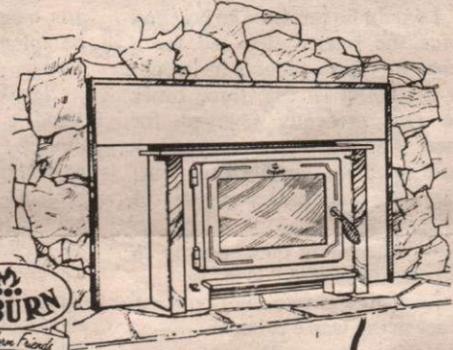
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more letters

Leadership needed

To the Editor,
It is time again to renew the subscription to your (our) paper... and to examine my actions in one more of those negligible matters, which in reality have far reaching consequences when added up.

The *Driftwood* has come a long way over the years, improving the quality of printing, rendering illustrations, layout, writing... it has become more professional, following fashions in techniques and tactics of marketing in advertising — and it has grown fatter.

Driftwood lends itself to piggy-backing more and more flyers, folders, glossy paper material — all of which I am left to dispose of in a somehow responsible manner.

I am pleased to find in *Driftwood* space given to issues of environmental sanity, but sadly impressed by *Driftwood's* lack of leadership through appropriate change of policies and actions in its own operation.

I for one am prepared to pay you half the subscription rate again in compensation for loss of income and "additional handling costs" if you send me *Driftwood* without enclosures.

I would be prepared to pay you twice the subscription fee for a paper in which advertisers would be asked, let us say, three times the rate presently charged for lineal size each way beyond a basic small ad, thus hopefully cutting out unnecessary waste of paper ninefold.

Are there any other people to join me in this offer?

Recycling is fine. Not creating or accepting waste is better.

Needless to say, the longer, the louder the advertiser's message, the more reluctant I am to buy from him/her.

ALFRED TEMMEL,
Ganges

Approval

To the Editor,
As members of Readers' Theatre, we write to express our whole-hearted approval for the proposed Arts Centre.

We are one of many groups which would use the Centre, and we are well aware of the objectives and controversies presently under discussion.

We are impressed by the thorough research which has been undertaken, with the aims of the formative Society, and with the possibilities opened up by the Centre.

Most of all, as taxpayers, we are favourably impressed with the fact that the Centre will be owned and operated by a non-profit society and will never become a burden to the taxpayers.

Some of us have considerable

experience with the present facilities on the island and realize that only three rentable spaces have been added in the last 20 years, while the population has tripled.

The Activity Centre was conceived as a location for performing arts and crafts, but efforts to economize compromised the objectives and, in the end, satisfied no one. Let us not make the same mistakes again, 15 to 20 years later!

The Salt Spring Festival of the Arts, the Salt Spring Players, Salt Spring Singers and Off Centre Stage are just a few of the groups which operate within their budgets. These are some of the people who will be able to function more efficiently and with larger public access in the proposed Centre.

We hope that we islanders can all support something which will serve us all and cost us only what we wish to pay for admission.

READERS' THEATRE
Salt Spring

If affordable

To the Editor,
I believe Jules Atkins is correct to take the time to consider seriously the disbursement of Windfall Funds to the proposed arts centre. An arts centre would be splendid, if the island can afford it.

The Windfall Fund, as I understand it, was intended not as seed money for large undertakings, but as a one-time grant to pay for projects that would be of lasting benefit to the community, and create no future financial burden. Can we know for certain that an arts centre would be self-supporting, and would not require funding from our taxes in the future?

Many people will be perfectly willing, of course, to pay higher taxes in support of an arts centre, but if that's necessary, does the project fall within the mandate of the Windfall Fund?

Using public parkland for the centre's building and parking lot is also cause for concern, especially as the site is on a creek being cleaned up by the Salmon Enhancement Society. Since the amount

of green and open space in Ganges is decreasing noticeably, would the community be better served by keeping the park as a park, and locating an arts centre elsewhere?

These are some of the many factors Ms. Atkins has to consider; sound decisions take time.

MARLYN HORSDAL
Ganges

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