

Society counts on generosity for hamper program

Thanks to the Salt Spring Community Services Christmas hamper program, the chronic poverty felt by some island families might be pushed aside for one day.

Fresh fruit and vegetables, canned vegetables, fresh-baked cookies or even Christmas pudding — these are some of the items included in a Christmas food hamper.

"It's everything needed for Christmas dinner except the turkey," says program coordinator Anne Williams.

"Staples," which are more often found at the food bank throughout the year, are not provided in the hamper.

Williams, who is a Community Services staff member, is assisted by about 30 volunteers to enable the project's success. Distribution day this year is Friday, December 20.

Anyone who genuinely needs extra food support at Christmas should call Williams at 537-9971. Friends calling to suggest a family in need "does not work," she says. People need to be able to plan what to buy at Christmas

time, and the ages and needs of children must also be accurate so they receive gifts from Santa's Workshop.

More than 110 families received hampers last Christmas.

Local ambulance station staff are again planning to set up a collection spot for food and funds.

"We really rely on people like that who are willing to fundraise," says Williams.

No government funding is received for the program, she

notes.

"People on Salt Spring, particularly at Christmas time, are extremely generous," observes Williams. "We don't seem to have the problems other food banks have. There's a sort of magical spirit of generosity here."

That spirit was amply demonstrated last year, when 34 volunteers turned out between December 19 and 21 to pack and deliver hampers.

On the first day, food and boxes were taken from the com-

munity centre to the Anglican Centre. The next day, a dozen volunteers showed up to pack the boxes.

Families receiving hampers were identified by number, which allowed volunteers to match toys prepared by Santa's Workshop with the appropriate hamper.

On the third day, volunteer drivers delivered the hampers while others helped recipients pick their hampers up from the church.

Extra hampers were prepared and set aside for those who had not registered in time or who had no phone number or address so delivery could be arranged.

Many of the volunteers who help with the project return year after year, having made the hamper project part of their Christmas tradition.

Society executive director Jane Parlee notes last year's hamper program was extremely successful. "We hope it is equally successful this year."

Santa flies in for Light-Up Saturday

Santa Claus will kick off the Christmas season Saturday when he flies into Ganges Harbour for Light-Up 96.

Santa will be the lone passenger aboard Harbour Air's once-yearly direct service from the North Pole, landing at the Coast Guard dock at 1 p.m. Members of the community choir Tuned Air will perform as part of the welcoming party.

When Santa Claus has finished greeting children on the dock, he will walk to the Bank of Montreal, where he will hold court for the next two hours. He will give free candy canes and oranges to children, while Guides and Brownies serve hot chocolate.

More entertainment will be provided by singer Debby Toole and other vocalists.

Driftwood staff will take photos of children with Santa; the prints will be on display and available free at Apple Photo beginning Monday morning.

Also a part of Light-Up is the store decorating contest. Judging will take place Friday evening and awards presented on Saturday. Both events are sponsored by the Driftwood with the help of islanders and local businesses.

Not connected with Light-Up but a feature of the same weekend for a number of years was the Festival of Lights parade. However, the parade will not be held this year. The Chamber of Commerce attempted to organize it after learning that last year's organizers were no longer involved, but had to cancel due to insufficient lead time.



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After visiting Santa, see the Christmas decorations in local stores — look for the prize winners in our annual decorating contest.

NEED MORE INFO?
CALL US AT 537-9933.

Islander lectures on Elderhostel excursion

Nineteen Elderhostellers followed Canada's "railway dream" from Montreal to Vancouver this fall, on a trip spearheaded in part by Salt Spring resident Ken Mackenzie.

Ranging in age from their late 50s to age 82, and hailing from North Vancouver to Vermont, they learned about the diversity of activities involved in bringing railway systems into operation across the country, and enjoyed the adventure of rail travel along with city tours. Mackenzie, who has a Ph.D. in history and was Canadian National Railway's chief archivist for many years, was the academic lecturer on the trip.

Mackenzie reports that two lectures were given in Montreal on the origins of the major Canadian railway systems, followed by four lectures on the train between Toronto and Vancouver. A concluding lecture, on the meaning of the railway to Canadians past, present and future, wrapped up the academic part of the program in Vancouver.

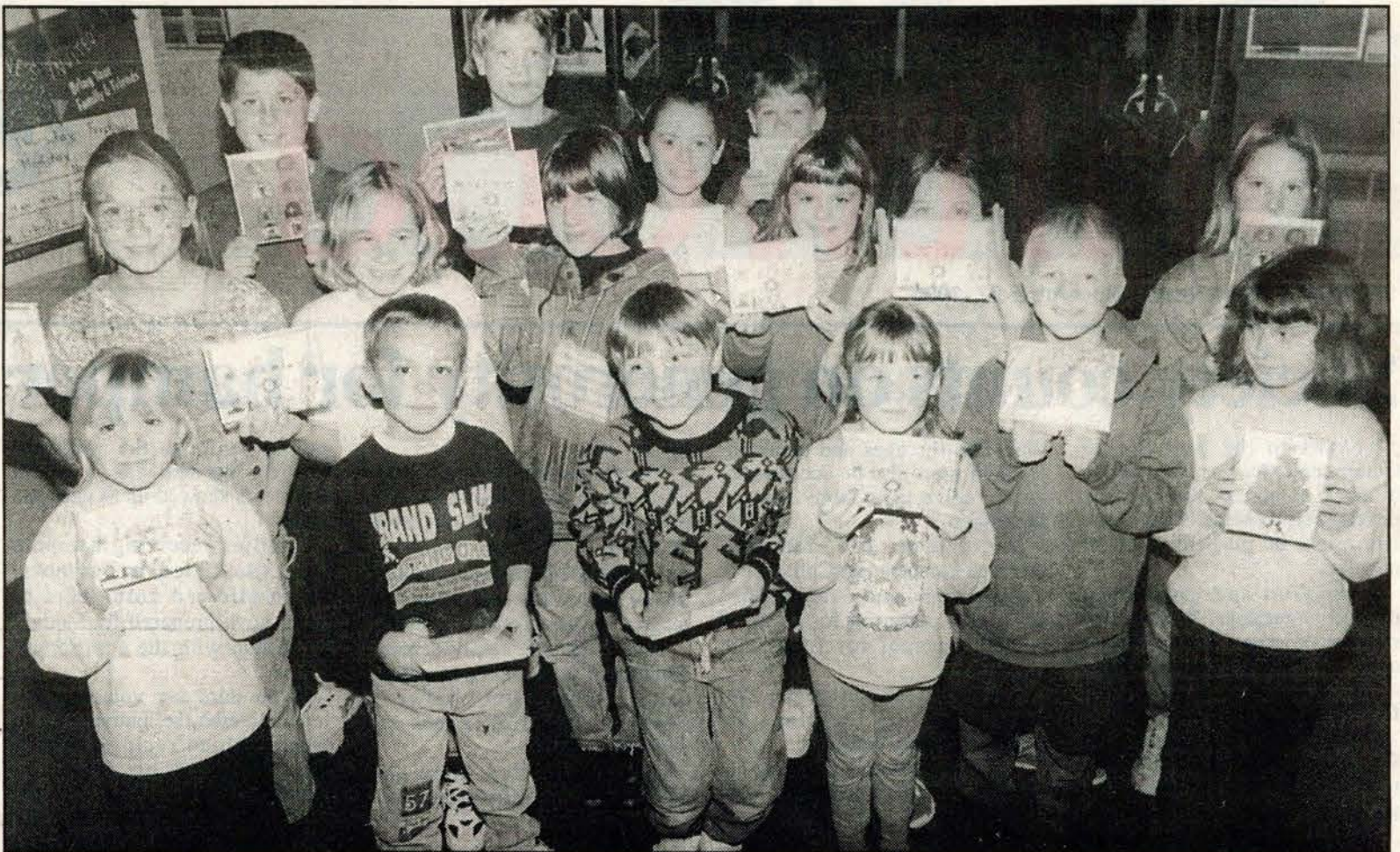
Train travel was augmented by tours of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Mackenzie said it was interesting to see the different forms of the lectures and tours they experienced in the three cities. "In Montreal we had yet another rehash of the political situation; in Toronto it was naval gazing at a well-established city, while in Vancouver we were obviously at the 'sharp end' of a vigorous process, with tours of the United Grain Growers' terminal and the container facilities in the port, followed by a fascinating tour of the coal terminal at Roberts Bank."

Mackenzie said a particular highlight of the October 20 to November 2 tour was the transcontinental train trip from Toronto to Vancouver aboard VIA. The group of 22 people fit comfortably into its own dome/dining car, he said, where the lectures were held and "superb" meals served.

"It was really a return to the good old days of train travel in Canada, and it is impossible to say too much about the courtesy and hospitality of the VIA train crews, both eastern and western."

Other passengers were apparently "wondering about the 'millionaires' in their own private car."

Elderhostel Canada expects to repeat the tour next year, said Mackenzie, before offering it on the international market.



Christmas card fundraiser

Fernwood School students display designs they submitted for a competition in which four were chosen for school Christmas cards. Students are selling the colourful cards in packs of 12 for

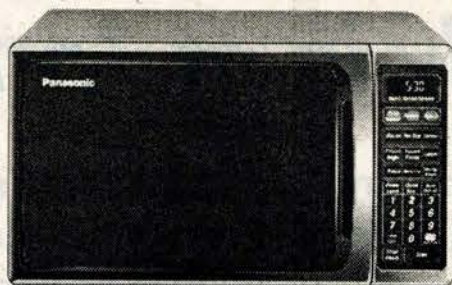
\$6. Successful designers were Katie Reynolds, Jessie Schroeter, Jenny Moray and Kai Vogt. Proceeds will purchase a large screen on which computer images can be viewed.

Photo by Tony Richards

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Annual call for toys, gifts given by Santa's Workshop volunteers

Last Christmas, almost 100 Salt Spring children received the spiritual gift of community generosity in a delightfully tangible form.

Santa's Workshop, the annual project which gathers toys and gifts for children in families lacking funds to meet Christmas demands, from babies through age 14, is appealing for assistance.

What Bob Appleton, Judy Willett and their helpers really need this year is new toys for children aged three to nine years, and gift certificates, Salt Spring Cinema passes or other appropriate gifts for those aged 10 to 14, plus books for all ages.

They note that for three to nine year olds, who are Santa Claus "believers," it is especially important to receive a new toy at Christmas time.

The gender and ages of children in need are collected through the Community Services Christmas food hamper program (see separate story) and gifts are distributed on December 20 with the hampers.

One way for donors to ensure they are giving to a specific child in need is to pick an "angel" from Christmas trees set up at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal or Ganges United Church. The gender and age is written on the back of each angel card, which is then attached to the gift.

Baby and toddler toys are easy to gather, says Willett, because children often outgrow used toys before they break, and no more are needed this year.

New batteries are one item that would be appreciated, since the project often receives toys which need batteries.

Other suitable gifts for children of all ages are gloves and socks. Some people enjoy knitting special socks for the program, says Appleton.

Drop boxes for donations are at Pharmasave, Mouat's and North Salt Spring Waterworks District. The angel gifts may be returned to the participating banks and United Church.

Ganges liquor store also has a gift program, where people can buy stuffed bears for needy children.

People are requested to not wrap the presents, unless the angel which identifies the gift as being for a boy or girl of a certain age is firmly attached and no mistake has been



TOYS, TOYS, TOYS: Santa's Workshop project volunteers Judy Willett and Bob Appleton are busy sorting through donations of toys and other Christmas gifts for babies and children up to age 14. New toys are especially appreciated, and Christmas angels at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal and United Church can make the job easier.

Photo by Gail Sjuberg

made.

Last Christmas, Santa's Workshop was able to provide four gifts to 96 children. "We're hoping to be in that range again," says Appleton.

But besides a load of toys to distribute to island children, Santa and his elves could use some space heaters to make their workshop more cozy. The garage they use is unheated which, combined with the colder-than-normal November weather, has detracted from their usually-pleasant job. Appleton and

crew would be pleased to borrow the heaters for the next month.

Several people and groups have already made their jobs easier. The Farmers Institute provides tables for the volunteers to work on and organize the toys; a number of people help out from home making doll clothes, and washing articles such as stuffed toys, doll clothes and dolls.

Anyone able to lend a portable heater or wanting more information about Santa's Workshop, should call Appleton at 537-4505.

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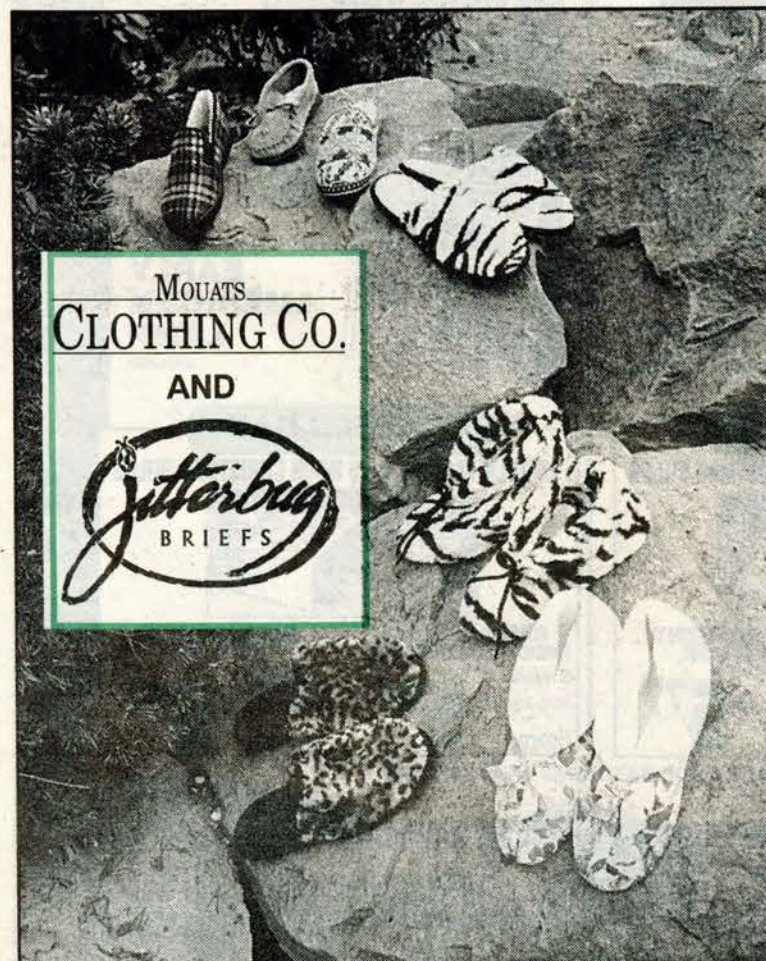
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Islanders Working & Living Together



DRY RUN: Ambulance attendants Sheri Neilson and Roland Webb wheel patient Dave Stewart through the new covered entranceway at Lady Minto Hospital to demonstrate the benefits of the new addition. Movement of patients in and out of the hospital can now be done without exposure to the elements.

Photo by Tony Richards

Special needs review set

A review of the Gulf Islands School District's special needs program will be carried out by education ministry staff in December or January, trustees learned at their November 13 board meeting.

Superintendent Andrew Duncan said the district has requested the review given the gap between funding of special needs by the province and the demand for special needs services in the district.

Duncan said he will meet with Shirley McBride, the ministry's

director of special programs, on December 2 and expected a meeting will be held between McBride and the district's administrative officers on December 3.

On a related topic, given the increased number of English as a second language (ESL) students in the district, Duncan said the time worked by the district's ESL teacher had been increased from half-time to 60 per cent of a full-time position. The change should meet a need at Fernwood Elementary School, he added.

\$5,000 kicks off equipment campaign

A campaign to purchase new equipment for Lady Minto Hospital got off to a good start last week with a \$5,000 donation.

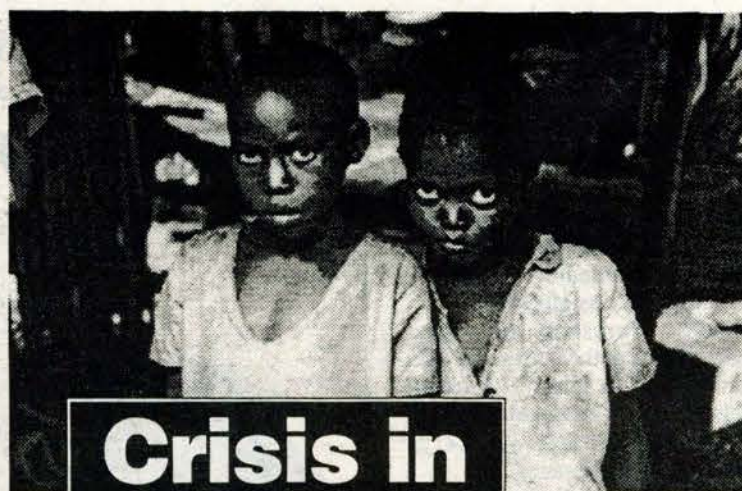
Lady Minto Hospital Foundation president Laurel Gordon told the Driftwood that Salt Spring resident Rosmaria Behncke made the donation after a recent hospital stay.

The equipment drive has a target of \$80,000. Details were announced in a mailing to households last week.

On the list of items the money will buy are:

- a biohazardous safety cabinet;
- expansion of the microbiology lab;
- a new centrifuge for the lab;
- a new blood bank fridge; and
- an electric operating room table.

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Picturesque

Many islanders have found themselves cursing the snow through the recent spate of Arctic weather, but most will agree that it can enhance the picturesque scenery of the islands.

Photo by Tony Richards

Cuts threaten community services

Advances made by the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society over the past year could be threatened by cuts in government funding to social services, notes society executive director Jane Parlee.

One of the programs at risk is the highly successful Family Place, which relies in part on federal government funding. Those funds have been cut once and Parlee is expecting additional cuts in the coming year.

The success of Family Place, which served over 1,000 clients in its first year of operation, was one of the highlights of the past year for Parlee. At the society's annual general meeting, held November 19 at the Anglican Centre, she cited other successes:

- the climbing wall, opened May 20, 1995, which offered another activity for island youth and is especially beneficial for "at risk" youth as it consumes excess energy and increases self-esteem;
- the donation of a house to be used as a transition home for women escaping abusive relationships;
- the Katimavik program, which brought young volunteers from across Canada to work at the centre;
- a grant to offer peer support for islanders coping with mental illness;
- an anti-violence education program offered in local schools;
- further progress on the society's 24-unit affordable housing project.

Parlee noted an attempt had been made early in 1995 to unionize community centre workers but staff voted against the move. Some issues raised during the attempted certification have been addressed, she reported.

The society ended the March 31, 1996 fiscal year with a surplus of \$3,825. The society also has a reserve of \$12,508 for the food bank and \$8,938 in a building fund.

Parlee noted the society has outgrown its present building and additional space is required.

"We need to develop a capital project to get more office space for community services. We're just packed."

Other challenges facing the society in the coming year include the shift to regional administration of health services and the impact that will have on the society's mental health programs; the impact of the new

provincial government agency for families and children; and maintaining programs despite changes in government funding.

Elected to the board for the coming year were Peter Bardon, Bruce Patterson, Molly Phillips, Marcia Jeanne, Joanne Elizabeth and Errol Hussein. Re-elected were Andrew Peat and Mark Rithaler.

200 students to 'jump off'

For the eighth year in a row, Salt Spring Elementary School students will be jumping rope for healthy hearts.

On Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m., an estimated 200 students will participate in a "jump off" event, forming teams of four and taking turns jumping rope for two hours. Pledges collected for their efforts will be donated to the Jump Rope for Heart campaign of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and Yukon.

Jump Rope for Heart is an educational program which promotes cardiovascular fitness through skipping. Students are introduced to skipping in physical education classes and receive general instructions about heart health. The program aims to encourage

children to adopt a "heart smart" attitude early in life and hopefully stay with it in the future.

According to Marianne Banman, who has been a volunteer organizer of the Salt Spring Elementary program for the past four years, Jump Rope for Heart is "a fun event but it also teaches children the importance of healthy hearts, the benefits of physical fitness and ways to become involved in their community."

Last year, B.C. and Yukon students raised more than \$1 million for the Heart and Stroke Foundation through jump off events, which helped the group fund close to 75 per cent of all cardiovascular research conducted in B.C.

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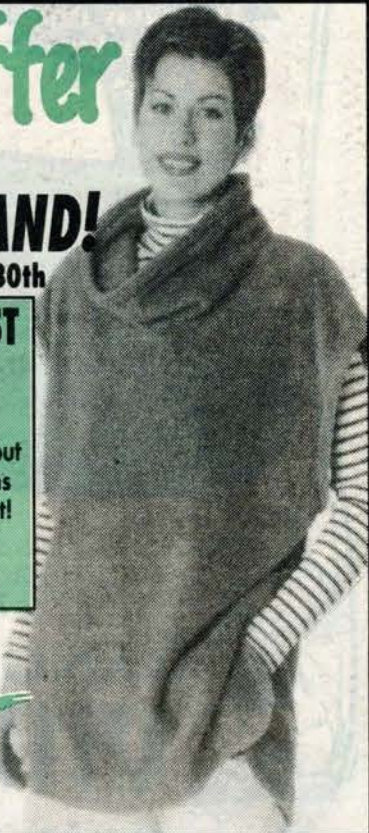
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Draw date Dec. 21, '96.

Islanders Working & Living Together

Slugs sizzle on the ice for a hot win and a tough tie

By ANDY NAUMANN
Driftwood Contributor

Friday promised to be a wild night for the Slugs: Kamikaze trucker Brad Patchett at the wheel, Pete "Crash" Schure as co-pilot of a half-empty van, gas gauge reading empty, a long search for an open station and a slippery detour over country roads to the Lake Cowichan highway to meet up with the rest of the team, their groupies and the Mill Bay Saints.

The arena was cold, the ice was rock-hard and the Slugs were sizzling. Patchett, supposedly playing defence, started us off early scoring high into the net after Todd McIntyre tipped the puck to him out of a scramble. Not long after, Bernie Reynolds chipped the puck out of our zone to Schure, creating a two-on-one breakaway with Pat Akerman. Schure held the puck until the Saints defenceman committed himself and left it for Akerman to blast over the goalie's shoulder.

Early in the second, Akerman trailed the play watching Rod Challborn and Schure play pass-pass through the Saints, positioned himself in open ice, received the last pass and fired it home. Soon after, the Saints came to life, determined to make a

game of it and pressed the play in our zone.

The defending Slugs, meanwhile, were following Schure doing figure S's around the face-off circles, which left two Saints alone in front of Derek Topping to bang at rebounds until the puck got behind him. With no shutout to uphold, the Slugs went on the offensive. The McIntyre, Pete Huser and Andy Naumann connection was finally rewarded for its hard work with a quick goal by Naumann on a perfect pass from McIntyre from behind their net.

Akerman scored his third, standing in line behind Schure who made the rush and the shot that brought the goalie down, and Reynolds who banged the puck off his stacked pads. Huser stood his ground at the side of the crease, watching McIntyre bounce a couple of shots off the goalie, until the puck slid to him and he made no mistake banging it in. The score at the end of the second: 6-1.

With Patchett in the sin-bin for a minor infraction, the Saints tried a comeback, briefly, unsuccessfully. Topping kicked out one of their feeble shots to Kerry Rompain who relayed it to Schure who rushed alone, deked and

SLUG TRAIL

scored.

Most of the furious but goal-less action thereafter was in the Saints' end and when they did manage to penetrate our zone, Topping made the saves to stay warm. Schure, the playmaker most of the night, rounded out the scoring on another solo rush set up by Challborn and Rompain, hypnotizing the goalie into lying down then roofing the puck from the icing line.

It was an uplifting evening of hockey for the Slugs, bringing their record back to a .500 average, capped by a moonlit ride back to the island on the shrimper Samra.

Sunday night's game was a little different.

The tension and intensity of our last game against the Twisters still hung in the air like burnt cordite. Hackles were bristling from the opening face-off. The ice was fast, the pace was faster, bodies were flying.

An "incident" in our zone involving Patchett and one of the Twisters resulted in a mouthy melee put to an end by Schure

who straightened out one of their worst offender's nose and attitude. With both Slugs in the box and the Twisters pressing, it looked like we would fall behind until Huser blocked a pass, fed the puck to a "streaking" McIntyre who raced in alone, deked the goalie and just pushed the puck between his legs.

Our relief was short-lived, however. The Twisters, still with a manpower advantage, scored twice on the defenceless Topping. The rest of the period was an even battle.

The second period was exactly the same. The Slugs had a few hapless shifts in a row but did not buckle, mentally or physically. And they had their own chances at the other end, but were unable to tie the score. With 50 seconds remaining, on a Twister attack, the puck bounced from one of their sticks to the other, eventually spinning behind Topping to make the score 3-1.

The Slugs charged into the third

period, determined to get back into the game. It cost them, getting caught up-ice, allowing a three-on-two break. A slapshot from just inside the blue line caught a partially-screened Topping unawares, putting the Slugs down one more goal.

The Slugs refused to die. Both forward lines continued breaking up plays in the Twisters' end and getting shots on net. Huser scored on a Naumann rebound.

Minutes later, Reynolds stepped over the blue line and fed a great pass to Akerman who found himself in the clear. He shot one high, forcing the goalie to leave his feet and drop the puck, and slapped in the rebound before the goalie crashed to the ice. With only a minute to go in the game, another scramble in front of the Twisters' net caused by the forechecking Slugs resulted in the tying goal by Schure, assisted by Reynolds, brought the small crowd to its feet. It was a well-earned hard-fought open-mouthed tie.

Bowlers braved snow

By RUTH HUME
Driftwood Contributor

Senior Bowlers didn't miss a day

"It's snowing out?" You heard them say?

"I'm sure today I'll bowl 10 strikes

I'll leave my car and take the bike."

Despite the snow, bowlers still came out to record high scores last week.

Sunday evening: Lance Leask 226.

Tuesday morning seniors: Audrey Illingworth 206, Madalene Jory 244, Conrad Flebbe 203.

Tuesday afternoon seniors: Dan Davies 213, Conrad Flebbe 249, June Webb 214, Vanda Winstone 261.

Looney tunes: Doug Sykes 210, Sharon Sykes 217, 218, Lance Leask 245, Ron Cunningham 227, Lois Kaye 220, Doug Wellington 206, Tom David 210.

Friday afternoon seniors: Ken Robinson 233, 236/617, Beth Robinson 200, 200, Bill Baker 200, Gordon Parsons 204, 202, Margaret Baker 210, Catherine

HIGH ROLLERS

McFadyen 218, Mike Elrington 223, 256/646.

Middle school league: Jim Severn 145, Lindsay Urquhart 138, Bliss Wiebe 138, Marlo Hume 126, Dylan Hume 166, Kristle Turner 132.

Children ages 3-10: Jesse Hume 151, 102, Steven Severn 118, 115.

Internet option for fans

If Slugs fans can't get enough of their team in the Driftwood each week, they can now turn to the Internet.

Slug player Paul Sinclair, who is recovering at home from a calf injury received on the ice, has set up a website for the team.

The address is www.salt-spring.com/ssslugs.

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Country Casuals

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NOV. 28-30

Thursday thru Saturday

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GANGES

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Island tennis champ seeking sponsorships for Agassi game

Salt Spring tennis pro Craig Uren has been invited to play tennis star Andre Agassi, but he needs sponsors before the match can go ahead.

Uren told the Driftwood that organizers of a match between Agassi and John McEnroe in Victoria next month wanted a local player to take on Agassi. As the winner of a series of tournaments on Vancouver Island in the past year, Uren was chosen.

The tennis matches are part of an annual fundraising event for the David Foster Foundation, and

includes a concert.

Uren said he needs \$5,000 in sponsorships, of which he has already raised \$2,000. Sponsors will be given box seats for the tennis events, which are being held at the Memorial Arena, and have a chance to meet Agassi, McEnroe and other players.

They will also receive tickets for the concert, Uren said, and be invited backstage later to meet the performers. Prospective sponsors can contact Uren at 537-5966.

Social evening among nature club's activities

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club social evening is tomorrow night (Thursday), not November 18 as announced last month.

It will be held at the United Church at 7:30 p.m., and includes a talk on trekking in India.

Also at the social, tickets will be on sale for the Christmas lunch at \$13 and winners of the photo contest will be announced.

The December activity schedule is as follows:

December 3:
Hike Reginald Hill area with Alan Clews. Carpool at Centennial Park before meeting at Drummond Park at 10:15 a.m.

Walkers and ramblers to carpool at Portlock Park, then meet at Vesuvius Inn at 10:30 a.m. Walk Duck Creek Trail and Vesuvius area with lunch at Vesuvius Inn.

December 10:
Hikers and ramblers meet at Burgoyne Bay triangle at 10:30

a.m.

Walkers meet at Drummond Park at 10:30 a.m. It is most important to carpool. These will be short walks and a hike in order to be at Fulford Hall at noon for the Christmas lunch, which is for members only. If tickets are not purchased at the November 28 social evening or on December 3, phone 537-1933.

Memberships for 1997 are now due and cost \$14 per person plus a \$1 levy for insurance. They may be paid at the Christmas luncheon.

TONY BROGAN



has no slogan
He just sells and sells and...
When you want to sell, call
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Windermere Salt Spring Realty

Don't forget **Light-up**
this Saturday!

How about something handmade this Christmas?



...In that case, try our true handmade soaps with the most carefully chosen ingredients. Here's a few on our list this season:
Seaweed Scrub, Malabar Coast, Mocha Java, Mud Bars and Sandalwood, our latest aromatherapy soap. All this and so much more!

SALTSPRING SOAPWORKS

Mouat's Dockside Tel: 537-2701

GISS team to host Nanaimo

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys basketball team will play their first game of the season Thursday.

The team plays a home game against John Barsby Community School from Nanaimo. Game time is 4:15 p.m. Spectators are welcome.

FREE SAMPLE TASTING

Sea Change Seafoods Ltd.
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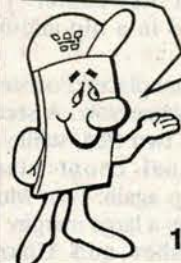
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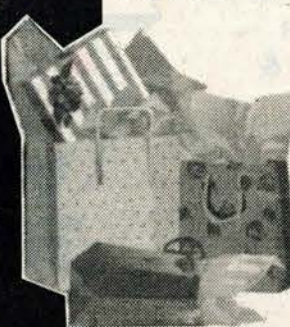
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WIN

Win Your Wish!



Island merchants have compiled an incredible wish list to show off the great selection you'll find here on Salt Spring.
Enter for a chance to win \$500 in gifts.
Watch for your "Win Your Wish" entry form in your mailbox.
Draw date Dec. 21, '96.

Islanders Working & Living Together

Pet deer got to Armistice Day before being downed by hunter

Thirty-five years ago

• The Beaver Point Campbell's pet mule deer made it until Armistice Day before being shot by a hunter. The hunter, who went to Patterson's Store to brag about his conquest, soon learned that the red paint splashed on the buck's rump, plus the strips of red ribbon, indicated the deer was a pet.

"Mrs. Campbell (had) expressed her gratitude to all the hunters on the island who could have shot him, but didn't."

• The Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute turned down an offer to purchase the institute's property in Ganges.

The offer of \$2,400 for the one-tenth acre was made by a group headed by two local businessmen. It was indicated the group had hoped to build a commercial building with docking facilities on the property.

Thirty years ago

• The Motor Vessel Cy Peck left Fulford Harbour enroute to Vancouver where she was to be converted for work with a fish packing company.

To onlookers it appeared the little boat from 1930 did not want to leave — until she reached the open seas, she travelled stern foremost.

• Gulf Islands School Board trustees "dealt at length with the thorny question of school smoking regulations."

The regulations stated that students were prohibited from being in possession of smoking material while under the school's jurisdiction, defined as including the time the student leaves home until he returns.

School principal D.L. Hartwig said it was unrealistic to enforce the rule when the students were off school property.

Twenty-five years ago

• Two candidates had entered the race for Capital Regional District (CRD) director on the Outer Islands. Joan Purchase would be seeking a further term in office and newcomer Jim Campbell also threw his hat into the political arena.

• A funeral was held for four-year-old Stephen Frank Bedocs

DOWN THE YEARS

who died from injuries sustained in an accident.

The youngster was playing in an outbuilding, apparently trying to light a candle, when his clothes caught fire. He was rushed to hospital and transferred to the burn unit at St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria.

• A "most successful" bazaar held in the hall at Port Washington by the Pender Island Women's Institute raised \$600.

Twenty years ago

• Salt Spring's school board election proved a "cliff-hanger" as two candidates — incumbent Ann Foerster and newcomer Tom Marcus battled in a nip-and-tuck race.

The first count placed Foerster in second spot by one vote. A second count had the two tied, while the third and final count placed Foerster on top again. Ivan Mouat took top spot by a large margin.

• John Fisher and Charles Longueay were elected to represent Salt Spring on the Islands Trust.

• Fire destroyed the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Friesen on Mayne Island. Paddy Lambert, Mayne Island fire chief, said the home was a total write-off. Firefighters did manage to prevent the fire from spreading to an adjoining home.

Fifteen years ago

• Voters on Salt Spring braved the rain to re-elect Yvonne Valcourt as their director to the CRD. The school district had three new trustees: board chairman Strick Aust topped the polls on Salt Spring, followed by Charles Hingston and Jack Albhouse.

• The traffic pattern in Ganges was about to change, it was reported.

The Salt Spring Transportation Committee had a display of its proposed traffic flow system in Ganges at the school district office. Proposals included both short and long-term plans, one of which called for the installation of traffic

lights in the downtown core.

Ten years ago

• A pilot program that would allow the elderly and the infirm to remain in their homes longer, before entering a care institution, was well on its way to becoming established on Salt Spring.

The HEALI Alert Line Society was busy installing the system and hoped to soon have most of its 12 components in local homes.

• Ganges businesses were lighting up the town in preparation for the Christmas season, and competing for cash prizes at the same time.

• At least one group of local doctors had endorsed a B.C. Medical Association campaign to ban the promotion and advertising of tobacco products.

Five years ago

• Those residents opposed to the issuing of a temporary use permit for a septic pit in the Beddis Road area were happy to learn that the Islands Trust could not issue a temporary use permit anywhere on Salt Spring except in Ganges.

• A \$1,000 award was being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for slashing the tennis bubble in Portlock Park.

Several islanders had volunteered to put up funds for the reward after learning the bubble had been slashed with a knife eight times. The resulting gashes were up to one and one-half metres long.

• Avoiding two lost sheep caused \$5,000 damage to a vehicle driven by a 64-year-old Ganges man.

The driver swerved to miss the sheep at the crest of a hill on Mansell Road, and sideswiped an oncoming truck driven by a 29-year-old man. The truck sustained a further \$1,000 damage.



More than frost

There wasn't just frost on the pumpkin last week, but more fresh snow. An islander travelling in eastern Ontario reports that the islands got snow before Ottawa this year.

Photo by Derrick Lundy

Island UVic grads named

Students from two Gulf Islands are among 662 graduates receiving degrees, diplomas and certificates at this week's convocation at the University of Victoria.

Graduates from Salt Spring are Marnie Dammel-Sherrin, Master of Arts, and Constantine Asproloupous, Elaine Gardam and Christopher Mullin, Bachelor of Arts.

Ingrid Gaines of Saturna Island will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts.

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- Kids baking tools
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