

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Your Community Newspaper

THIRTIETH YEAR, NO. 42

50¢

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989

District to consider new school parcel

Gulf Island school trustees are investigating the possibility of purchasing property in Ganges for relocation of Salt Spring Elementary School.

At its regular monthly meeting, held last Wednesday on Saturna Island, the board discussed purchasing a parcel of land located at the corner of Churchill Road and Robinson Road as a suitable alternative to the current elementary school site on Rainbow Road.

"Chances are the present buildings housing the high school and the elementary school won't be used as schools because they're too old," school chairman David Eyles told the *Driftwood* last week.

Eyles said bulldozers will not be moving in on the school buildings in the near future, but the board is

interested in eventually replacing the outdated structures.

The future use of the Rainbow Road property has not been determined, but the area would continue to function as the high school site.

Eyles said the high school location must provide easy access for Outer Island students, using the water taxi service to commute to the salt Spring high school.

"We're looking for public input from the community on the future of this property," Eyles added.

Eyles said the historic community use of Mahon Hall would not be affected by any changes to other structures on the school property.

The earliest date for completion of a new elementary school would be September 1991.

Islanders participate in march to Crofton Mill

Close to 300 people met at the ferry dock in Crofton Sunday afternoon and walked approximately two kilometres to the Crofton pulp mill to protest what it considers unacceptably high noise and pollution levels at the mill.

Randy Thomas, a member of the Green Islands Society, one of two groups responsible for organizing the event, told demonstrators the mill has become "completely inappropriate" and now has the distinction of being the fourth worst polluting mill in British Columbia.

Sunday's walk was the second of its kind, led to protest conditions at the Crofton mill. A walk organized by Green Peace last year attracted close to 200 marchers.

Thomas said that since the mill was built 30 years ago, the number of stacks has increased from one to the current and that water around Crofton, which was clear only 10 years ago, has now become murky.

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Salt Spring Island youngster Sonny Roland snatches one of dozens of apples ripe and ready for picking at a Jackson Avenue residence. Layers of apples and leaves, covering the ground all over the island, are colourful reminders of the autumn season.

Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy.

INSIDE

About 300 people demonstrated opposition to the Crofton Mill. See photo Page A3.



Salt Spring has lots happening on the entertainment scene. For details on the final Fringe Festival weekend, see Page A14.

Candidates answer to the main issues

At Friday night all-candidates meeting

Solid waste management and land development were cited as the main issues in the upcoming CRD election, at an all-candidates meeting held Friday night at the Activity Centre in Ganges.

Candidate Julia Sutton-Atkins told the approximately 60 people attending the meeting that development around Ganges is the main issue facing islanders and that the on-island population could climb to 25,000 "with no problem."

"Think of the busiest day on Salt Spring Island in the summer now. If we continue (growing) at this rate...in 10 years it will be like that all the time."

Sutton-Atkins added that it is up to the people who already live here to decide what the population

should be. She said determining growth patterns on the island will require a careful look at what the developers want and what the environment can handle.

She noted that the 10 years she spent working with a construction company in Vancouver helped her understand the complex relationship between development and the environment and suggested that "we cannot as a society go on exploiting the world's resources as we have been doing."

Candidate Ron McQuiggan noted that protecting water quality on the island will have to be one of the main responsibilities of the new CRD representative and added that

it is essential the dump site on Blackburn Road is closed quickly.

He said that where the islands' waste goes does not concern him as much as protecting the watershed, which could be further contaminated if Blackburn remains open.

Sutton-Atkins, however, suggested the island should solve more of its own problems. An estimated 70 to 80 per cent of the waste being generated on the island could be recycled, she said, adding that work could be done by local companies and not large outside firms.

McQuiggan said that since coming here in 1975, he has sat on a variety of boards including the

school board, hospital board and is currently chairman of the sewage commission. He noted that one of the main challenges facing the new director will be maintaining the levels of services already here, while, at the same time, preventing taxes from rising in a "willy-nilly" fashion.

Candidate Gary Lundy, said that while managing population growth and protecting the environment are two of the critical issues facing the new representative, another important issue is improving communication links between the CRD and the Islands Trust. The way to do that, he said, is to ensure the appropriate guidelines are in place and that communication occurs through co-operation rather than

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THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: for the week beginning Mon., October 16

Cloudy with showers Monday and Tuesday. Rain and wind beginning Wednesday. Outlook for the weekend is continuing clouds and showers.

HIGHS: 13 degrees C.
LOWS: 5 degrees C.
Chance of precipitation: 100 per cent

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Candidates state views in CRD director race

From Page A1

aggravation.

Lundy also noted that "careless development on the island can kill it" and islanders must consider whether or not the ecosystem can cope with the population demands.

All three candidates agreed during Friday's discussion that community input into planning on the island will require public input.

However, while McQuiggan said he wanted to maintain the system former director Hugh Borsman had in place — that of soliciting input from volunteers — Sutton-Atkins said she would like to establish a system similar to the federal-provincial round table discussions.

Under that system, representatives from a variety of agencies would meet to jointly discuss local issues and the results of those meetings would be forwarded to the CRD through the local representative. When asked how the CRD could minimize the impact of

the growing number of people coming from Vancouver "to recreate" on Salt Spring Island, Lundy suggested that change must take place at the provincial level. Atkins said, however, a partial solution would be to say "no" to a new terminal at Isabella Point and anything else that would bring more cars here.

McQuiggan said one problem arising from increased tourist traffic from Vancouver, access for local people trying to get on ferries. The overall answer, he added, should be addressed in the community plan.

Voting for a new CRD representative takes place at the Salt Spring Elementary School, Central Community Hall and the Fulford Harbour Community Hall this Saturday (October 21) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

People wanting to cast their ballots earlier, can vote at an advanced poll at the School Board Office today (October 18) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free-toll to Victoria offered

A new one-way "Extended Area Service" being offered by B.C. Tel would eliminate long-distance charges on telephone calls going from Ganges and Fulford to Victoria. However, it would also increase residential rates for an individual line by 70 per cent and business rates for the same type of line by more than 100 per cent.

According to B.C. Tel's Bernice Benekritis, the proposal comes as a result of a growing number of requests for reduced rates from area residents and business operators.

Under the proposed scheme, monthly rates on a single residential line would increase to \$12.65 from the current \$7.40 and on a single business line, from \$18.45 to \$45.05.

Benekritis says the Ganges exchange along with 16 others on or near Vancouver Island (including Fulford Harbour and Pender Island) are eligible for the EAS plan because they meet criteria established by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

To be eligible for EAS, 60 per cent of the people living in a specified exchange area have to call Victoria at least once a month during a four-month study period. Another condition states the community must be within 40 "air miles" of the main centre (Victoria) and a third, demands that a majority of customers plus one approve the new service.

Ballot forms will be sent to Salt Spring homes in this week. If approved, the EAS will go into effect next April.

Benekritis says the best way to determine whether EAS would be beneficial is to add up current long-distance costs to Victoria and determine whether they are higher than the new monthly rates proposed under the EAS plan.

While the new rates may seem like a boon to people calling Victoria on a frequent basis, others living on a fixed income see them as an added expense.

A letter sent to the *Driftwood* by a local resident notes that people on limited incomes tend to avoid making long-distance calls because of the added cost.

If the EAS is approved, they will end up paying more for a service they did not use in the first place.

Marchers' vehicles removed

Tempers flared Sunday, when several drivers returned from a demonstration at the Crofton Mill to discover their vehicles had been towed from Vesuvius Bay Road.

Some 15 vehicles were marked for towing by Ganges RCMP Sunday afternoon. Police said the vehicles were obstructing traffic and therefore in contravention of section 188 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Between 40 and 50 vehicles lined Vesuvius Bay Road from the Seaside Kitchen to the Vesuvius Store, where drivers left them to attend a protest march in Crofton.

A total 300 people from Salt Spring and Crofton participated in the march, which began at the Crofton ferry terminal. Many Islanders chose to leave their cars on Salt Spring and walk onto the ferry.

Ganges RCMP Sergeant Larry Wendel said he drove off the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry Sunday afternoon and was forced to cross the double solid line into the oncoming lane, to safely pass the parked vehicles.

Wendel said some vehicles were parked at right angles, with the back ends protruding onto the street, and "creating a hazardous situation."

The Ganges detachment also received several complaints from residents, who said the situation was not safe.

"It's a narrow, two-lane road that doesn't allow for parking," Wendel said. "We were concerned about the safety of the motoring public as well as any pedestrian traffic."

Under Section 188 (2) of the Motor Vehicle Act, drivers are prohibited from parking so as to "obstruct the free passage of traffic." Section 189 authorizes police to remove a vehicle parked "in a position that causes it to interfere with the normal flow of traffic."

The worst offenders — some 15 vehicles — were marked for towing. Police said McColls Shell Service had the only tow trucks available for the job. Some 10 vehicles were removed, before the drivers returned.

Drivers who arrived off the ferry to find their vehicles missing, expressed anger at the situation. Police were called out later the same day to pacify irate vehicle owners.

However, both police and McColls Shell Service say the situation has, in most cases, been resolved.

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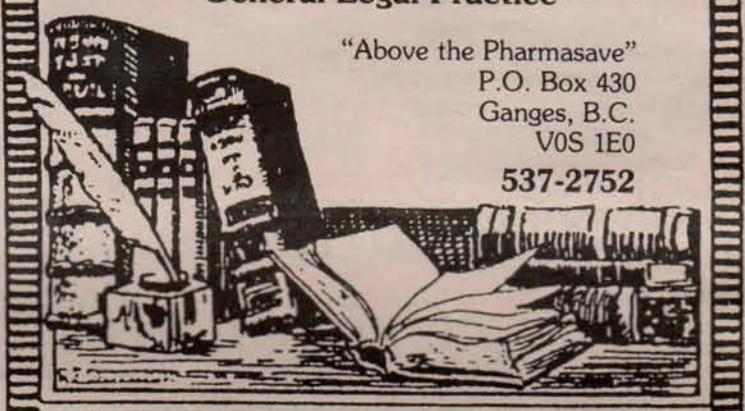
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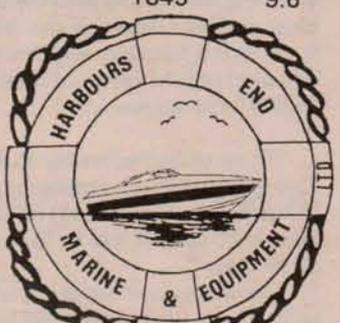
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537-4202

Harbours End, Ganges



Driftwood photo by Nancy Vail

Concerned citizens from Salt Spring Island and the Crofton area marched in protest against the environmental hazards created by the Crofton Pulp Mill. The group walked from the Crofton ferry terminal to the mill and heard from several speakers, including Randy Thomas from Green Islands and local Sierra Club president Susan Hiscocks.

Speakers denounce Crofton Mill as environmental hazard for all

From Page A1

He added that pollution in the area is so dense on some occasions, the Crofton harbour resembles that of New York.

He added he has been seeking assurances from the mill that its recent application to B.C. Hydro to increase the number of power lines at the factory does not mean the mill is planning to expand.

More than six speakers attended Sunday's meeting, including Susan Hiscocks, president of the local Sierra Club, who said her group believes the mill should either "clean up or shut down."

She added that pollution from the mill contaminates seven lakes

and affects the lives of 60,000 people.

"The profits (from the Crofton mill) are going to New Zealand but there they cannot pollute like this. We are asking that the workers, management ... and people here sit down and negotiate a settlement."

Thomas noted during the demonstration that his group has been working to encourage the mill to turn down one of its noisiest

pumps until a "silencer" is installed. He said mill operators have indicated they are considering that move.

More than anything, Thomas added, Sunday's "walk for clean air" was part of a "global awakening" about environmental issues and an indication of a growing awareness by the public that "political power comes from ordinary people."



LUNDY WILL

be joining the NO vote on the Waste Referendum.

LUNDY WILL support S.S. Garbage Service in closing Blackburn and the opening of the Mt. Tuam site.

LUNDY WILL NOT litter the island with campaign signs.

I urge the party faithful of Socreds & NDP'ers to wait for the provincial election for a face-off. Local government NEEDS to be non-partisan.

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VOTE

LUNDY Thomas Gary X

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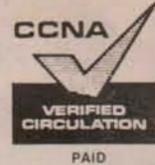
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Large and small hazards are of equal importance

Sometimes the importance of the larger picture momentarily clouds the reality of a smaller one.

Islanders who participated in a demonstration march to the Crofton Mill should be commended for taking time out Sunday to illustrate their opposition to an environmental hazard we all share.

But participation in a worthy cause does not put anyone above the law.

Ganges RCMP and residents on Vesuvius Bay Road determined that vehicles parked on the roadside and protruding into the street last Sunday created a hazardous situation for motorists and pedestrians.

Offending vehicles — which belonged to local march participants — were towed from the area at the drivers' expense.

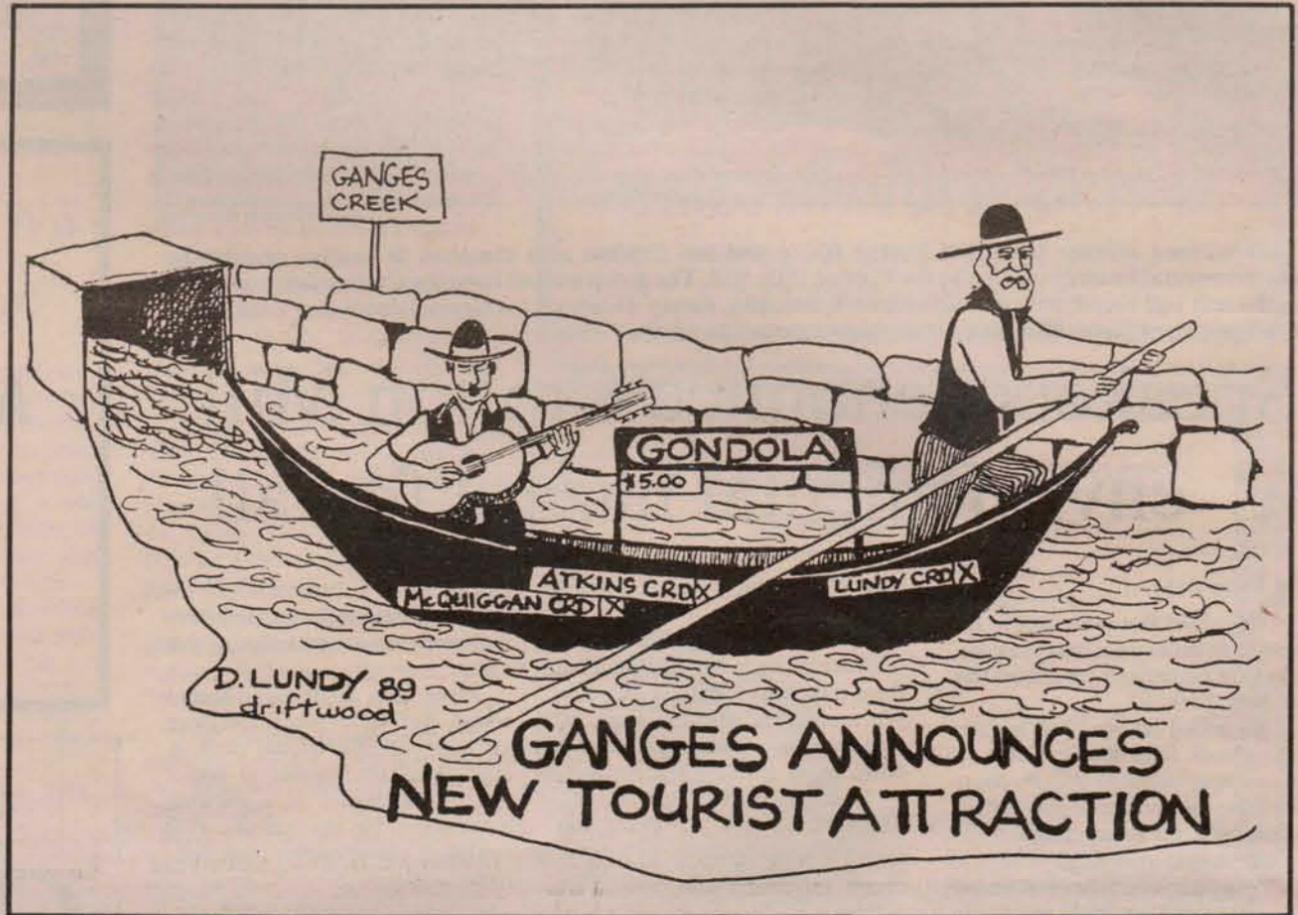
Initial indignation at discovering one's vehicle has been removed is a typical response. But anger carried to the extreme that was displayed on Salt Spring last week is uncalled for.

The situation was unfortunate for everyone: vehicle owners, tow-truck operators, motorists on Vesuvius Bay Road and Ganges RCMP. But obstruction of traffic is an offence, and any potentially hazardous situation must be resolved.

Those protesting operations at Crofton Mill were asking management to eliminate environmental hazards that pose potential health problems to residents and the land and sea around us. This is a "big picture problem" in our immediate world.

Parking illegally may be a small picture problem, but the situation Sunday was deemed a potentially dangerous one.

Those who believe they have a right to a clean environment, also have a right to safe roads.



Does this mean voters are prepared?

Once again, Salt Spring Islanders have shown a lack of enthusiasm to acquire additional information on a subject that has embroiled the community in controversy over the past few months.

Hopefully, the poor showing at the Island Watch Society's forum on Solid Waste and Recycling, means voters have a good grasp on the issue at hand and will make an informed decision at Saturday's referendum.

The number of speakers (five) who addressed the forum held at Mahon Hall last Saturday, made up ap-

proximately one-sixth of those in attendance.

An Open House, held last month on the same issue — this time sponsored by the local Solid Waste and Recycling Committee — drew a similarly enthusiastic response from the community. About 50 people attended that information meeting.

The *Driftwood* hopes a greater number of people will make it to the polls this Saturday to make known their decision in the CRD election and solid waste referendum.

Idiot animals that suffer paranoid schizophrenia

We have a cat that thinks he's a dog, and a dog, who's determined he's human.

Both are three-quarters idiot. Alf-the-idiot-feline, who was orphaned at six-weeks, adopted Dexter-the-idiot-canine as father. To assert his fatherly role, Dexter immediately carried the cat — head neatly inserted between jaws — to the lawn, where he pretended he was a raw-hide treat. Alf loved it.

Dexter tried to run him up a tree. Alf slept on his head. Dexter showed all his canine friends where Alf sleeps. Alf nibbled affectionately on Dexter's ear.

I'm not sure when the first signs of confused identities emerged.

First, we woke up to Alf stretching and yawning in a very Dexter-like fashion. Then we caught him panting, drooling and sleeping on his back in front of the fire.

This cat will not touch cat food. Not only must the brand name have

off the record

susan dicker



dog in it, dinner must be served in Dexter's dish. They stand side-by-side, eating doggie food and exchanging doggie small talk.

Last night Alf accompanied Dexter and me on our customary evening walk.

"Go pee," I told the dog, watching the cat suspiciously.

I dragged the dog to the roadside as a car approached, but the idiot feline just sat there. Now, because I'm not a big fan of cats, I've frequently suggested Alf go play in the

traffic. But that doesn't mean I want to watch.

About the dog. He, of course, only turns to dog food out of desperation. And for fear the cat will devour it all if he doesn't get his chops in there quick.

He prefers un-dog delicacies like lasagna and champagne.

Give him a bone, his eyes glaze over, he hits the first exit and runs out back, where he digs a hole and buries it, as if it died on the way home from the grocery store.

(Just wait till some dinner guest tries that routine.)

Unfortunately, we may have contributed to Dexter's paranoid schizophrenia. There was the occasion a couple of summers ago, when he stepped on a broken bottle down on the sand at Long Beach, slicing a pad open to the core.

Forgetting that I faint at the sight of blood, I wrapped a shirt around it to stop the bleeding. The Band Aids in the first aid box didn't do much good, so we packed him into the camper and drove into Tofino, where we were told the nearest vet was 40 miles away in Uculet.

Dexter arrived at the emergency ward of Tofino General Hospital at approximately 1 p.m. The nurses bandaged his foot up, accepted his wet kisses on their cheeks and debated over how to write up the report.

They didn't give him a prescription for Tylenol 3, but I'm sure the

whole experience sent him spiralling into a search for his own identity.

He sits upright in vehicles — preferably the front seat where he can provide safe driving tips — and sleeps in his own bedroom.

Once, we were shopping in Ganges Village Market, when a large brown flash whizzed by at the top of the aisle. Snickers filled the air. Dexter, it turns out, was impressed by the fact he could stand at the door, causing it to automatically open, and walk right in.

Sometimes all you can do is shake your head, and hope you'll wake up any minute.

I'm sure Carl Jung could offer sound advice on mis-directed anima and animus complexities. Freud might refer to displaced moral anxiety. But all in all, one thing is solved. I know how to dress them up for Halloween.

letters

Editor's note

Due to an enormous influx of letters over the past month, the *Driftwood* Letters section is running between two and four weeks behind schedule.

Because this is the final issue of the *Driftwood* prior to this Saturday's election and referendum, we have attempted to publish the remaining letters dealing with the solid waste issue. Any letters that do not appear, are represented by points made in the letters here and on Page A19.

The *Driftwood* also wishes to apologize for the letter that appeared last week, without a signature. The letter writer was Ganges resident Eva Temmel.

A Response

To the Editor,

The provocation posed by the writer of the "Guest Column," *Driftwood*, August 2, can not go unanswered.

1. On August 10, 1988, the *Driftwood* quoted a letter from B.C. Environment Minister's Waste Management Branch to the Capital Regional District (CRD), stating that the Salt Spring Island garbage dump on Blackburn Road has been condemned as a potential health risk.

The "Guest Column" denies this, claiming that at present, there is no known risk to health.

It is common knowledge that all dumps in our "civilized" world pose health risks. The column admits this in describing the dangers of raw leachate from the Hartland dump being pumped into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which would be even more heavily contaminated if Salt Springers added their refuse. To avoid this, the writer advocates to keep dumping local garbage into our watershed!

After a rainfall, has the writer ever followed the leachate seeping from under huge amounts of garbage there, continuing all modern household-, building- and farm/garden chemicals, paints, solvents, an endless row of contaminants, and thousands of soiled diapers? Has he ever seen it running into the holding pond and from there, flowing through a cul-

vert under Blackburn Road into Blackburn Lake and Cusheon Lake?

The lack of coliform bacteria below the dump would cause suspicions rather than satisfaction with thinking people!

Hydrogeological studies have not been carried out and the effluent plume's chemical zoo may surface or contaminate at any time anywhere.

Unfortunately, highly sophisticated methods of analysis — differing for each substance — necessary to trace all the elusive man-made poisons are either not available yet or worse, kept secret. Tests performed years ago are incomplete, outdated and certainly not proof of present non-contamination of our drinking water supply. In our opinion your proposal to enlarge the dump from 0.81 ha to more than 7.5 ha shows a callous disregard of the most important and basic human right to life: clean water, air and soil.

2. Has the writer considered the frequent fires on the dump site? Thanks to the quick action of a neighbour we were spared a major fire when prevailing winds chased the flames uphill during the driest time of the year.

In 1985 we suffered the nightmare of burning garbage when toxic fumes (dioxin!) blanketed wide areas for three weeks!

3. Watersheds are usually highly protected areas, especially from traffic, another source of serious pollution. Already the roads along and crossing our watershed carry an overload of passenger vehicles, trucks and heavy machinery, including logging trucks and equipment. Increasing development and a proposed enlargement of the Blackburn dump draws even more traffic and pollution into this watershed.

4. As the laudable effort of recycling diminishes the bulk of relatively harmless garbage, the remaining volume will contain noxious materials in higher proportion as a consequence.

5. As long as garbage gets out of sight and smell, thousands of uninformed people will not be willing to pay the price for a sensible solution and will defeat a referendum similar to those held on the Outer Islands. Dollars and cents are worth more than human health? A referendum was denied to Salt Spring Island residents in the case of the Ganges sewer in-

stallation on the grounds the issue was a health matter.

The Blackburn Road dump is also a health matter and should therefore not be subject to a referendum.

6. After five years of hard work, negotiations, open house information, repeated information about this issue in the *Driftwood* and dedicated efforts of many responsible and concerned islanders the guest column writer cannot be serious to call the proposed changes a "rushed solution." Dr. Borsman asked the public for suitable on-Island sites. Nobody came forward.

7. The column also claims newcomers knew what they were buying. Not so. Have newcomers in Fulford or on Salt Spring Island refrained from opposing plans of Falconbridge or dangerous practices of the Crofton Mill because they only found out later on? Cheaper property prices will never compensate for the time bomb on Blackburn Road. It will keep ticking.

8. We wholeheartedly agree with the tenet: "sending one community's garbage to be dealt with in another community is not a responsible solution." Our dear friends in Fulford, please practise what you preach. Find your own disposal site.

We have not heard you oppose the dumping of garbage on a regular basis from the Outer Islands into our watershed either.

What about transferring our garbage to the Hartland dump while you come up with the socially responsible solution and get the dump site so generously offered by Mr. N. Twa prepared and accepted for use.

ALFRED TEMMEL, Ganges.

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by **hubert beyer**



VICTORIA — Webster's Dictionary defines a pundit as "one who pronounces judgements, opinions, conclusions in an authoritative manner."

Considering the abysmally low batting average of B.C.'s newspaper pundits with regard to Premier Vander Zalm's political future which, according to them, has been coming to an end for more than a year now, the Webster people should consider redefining the word pundit.

Prior to last year's Social Credit Party convention, a lot of political columnists predicted the premier's demise. When the mighty and the lowly of the party met, the rumoured attempt to oust the Zalm ended in little more than some half-hearted criticism.

Temporarily thrown off track, the pundits retrenched, only to emerge again with a new set of scenarios. The premier, they said, would resign voluntarily. For the good of the party, they said. No go. He hung on in there.

Zalm definitely going to buy the farm

Then, a couple of weeks ago, the pundits were out again in full force. This time, they said, the Zalm was definitely going to buy the farm. Four MLAs resigned from the Socred caucus, and it was only a matter of time before they would be joined by their colleagues, leaving Vander Zalm with no caucus support at all.

It didn't happen. Once again, Vander Zalm proved to be more of a political force than anyone seemed willing to give him credit for. A caucus meeting, which was to seal his political fate, ended with caucus lining up behind the premier.

There was a plan, some Socred MLAs said, and there would be no more sniping at the premier. There would even be an attempt to get the four dissenters back on the team.

Not to be disheartened by this unexpected turn of events, the pundits looked around for an explanation that had escaped lesser mortals, and surprise, surprise, they found one. The caucus made a deal with Vander Zalm, the pundits said. Caucus would stop sniping at the premier, and he, in turn, would resign gracefully some time soon.

Pundits name long-term heirs

Vander Zalm, the pundits said, was ready to throw in the towel for a number of reasons, the least of which was not that playing premier wasn't fun any more.

At this juncture, the pundits offer differing views of the Social Credit Party's future. Some have Grace McCarthy step in for an interim rule, others predict an immediate scrap for the succession. Long-term heirs of the Zalm, according to the pundits, include Bud Smith, Mel Couvelier, Claude Richmond, Jim Nielsen and Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell.

These scenarios make for interesting reading, but they all have the same basic flaw: they don't take Vander Zalm into consideration. It seems that no matter how often the Zalm says he'll be around for a long time, nobody believes him. Last year, I didn't believe him either. Now I do.

If Vander Zalm has exhibited one overriding trait, it's his tendency to be persistent and tenacious. Some call him stubborn. Whatever you call him, he's no quitter. His handling of the latest challenge to his leadership shows that.

Some pundits argue that Vander Zalm has quit once before. When he was a cabinet minister in the Bill Bennett government, he packed his marbles and went home after a spat with his colleagues. The difference between now and then is that he's the premier now, not just a cabinet minister.

Could take leadership away

That isn't to say he couldn't be forced out. A determined and united caucus could take the leadership away from him. So could the delegates to the Socred convention in Vancouver later this month. But they won't.

I believe Vander Zalm has succeeded in convincing his caucus that they have been the architects of the party's woes, that if they stop sniping at him, the party can regain its popularity.

I'm sure he pointed out to caucus that he hasn't put his foot in his mouth for quite some time. I'm also sure he made it clear to them that the province is in good financial shape, and that it's time to pay some tribute to his economic performance.

Having quelled the recent caucus revolt in a politically very astute manner, Vander Zalm will go on to beat back any challenge to his leadership at the upcoming convention. Like last year, there will be some muted bitching, some behind-the-scenes manipulating, but in the end, the critics will shut up.

The major reason why attempts to unseat the premier will continue to be doomed to failure is that the challengers lack unity.

How do I know all that? Because I'm a pundit. I "pronounce judgements, opinions, conclusions in an authoritative manner." And if I'm wrong, I'll write to Webster and tell them to change the damned definition of pundit.

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Current Community Involvement

- Chairman, Islands Trust Task Force on Transportation
- Member, Islands Trust Task Force on Mining
- Member, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission, C.R.D.
- Member, School Board Steering Committee Fulford School Addition

Qualifications/Experience

- M.A. Community & Regional Planning, U.B.C., 1975
- 7 years experience as an environmental consultant
- 10 years experience as executive of large Vancouver-based construction company
- 6 year resident of Salt Spring Island
- mother of two young children

I am committed to working with the community to maintain and enhance the quality of our Island life. Here are some of the ideas I have heard in my discussions with islanders and that I will strive to implement or support as your C.R.D. representative:

ISLAND COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- work with the Islands Trust to plan and direct growth and "to preserve and protect" our relaxed rural lifestyle and natural environment
- explore ways to conserve and protect our limited water supply and consider more carefully the costs of development to the community before expanding water and sewer services into new areas
- encourage programs for more affordable housing for seniors and young people alike
- support increased recreational opportunities for families, teens and seniors through the Parks and Recreation Commission and in cooperation with the School Board and the Community Arts Council
- encourage small Island-based enterprise to provide needed goods and services

HEALTH CARE

- assure protection of our potable water supplies by closing the Blackburn Road dump, encouraging upgrading of septic fields around lakes and undertaking more extensive water quality monitoring
- continue to support the excellent health care services provided on the Island
- improve health care services for seniors, home care services, preventative medicine programs, psychiatric services and counselling programs
- increase support for alcohol and drug abuse programs, and encourage the provision of more diverse activities for teens and young adults

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

- improve the level of treatment at the Ganges plant and explore the possibility of a facility to process sewage from pump-out tanks and the holding tanks of boats and recreation vehicles
- explore more options for disposing of our solid waste including a safe on-island landfill and a more comprehensive recycling program
- support a user-pay system for waste disposal to encourage recycling
- support a recycling centre for re-usable construction waste
- explore ways of reducing garbage at the source, such as encouraging an on-island diaper service and greater use of bulk sales (disposable diapers and plastic and cardboard packaging constitute a major portion of our waste)

School to install IBM lab

Students at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) will work on new computers this year, when a complete IBM lab is installed at the school.

The IBM lab — which will include 13 stations — will be available to students in business education, marketing and advanced accounting.

The high school is currently equipped with a Macintosh Lab, which has provided students exposure to computer programs.

The IBM lab will provide additional exposure to new programs and will also permit graduating students easier avenues to jobs on island, which frequently employ use of IBM equipment.

Funding for the new equipment — some \$73,479 — has been provided through the Ministry of Education's technical grant funding program as well as district coffers.

While primary users of the new IBM labs are high school students, there is no policy that rules out public access to the equipment. The IBM computers may be used in the event Continuing Education or similar education courses require it.

Investigation continuing

Ganges RCMP are continuing their investigation into a break, enter and theft at Dagwoods last weekend.

Police say culprits entered the restaurant sometime during the night of October 15 and 16. Some \$200 was taken from the premises.

Ganges RCMP also attended a number of motor vehicle accidents last week.

A single motor vehicle accident on Fulford-Ganges Road totalled a vehicle belonging to a Victoria resident.

The 26-year-old male driver escaped injury, when his vehicle left the road October 14 and overturned in a ditch. The vehicle sustained some \$5,000 in damages.

Police have charged the driver with driving too fast for road conditions.

Drivers involved in a three-vehicle collision also escaped injury on October 14, following an accident on Upper Ganges Road, at approximately 3:20 p.m.

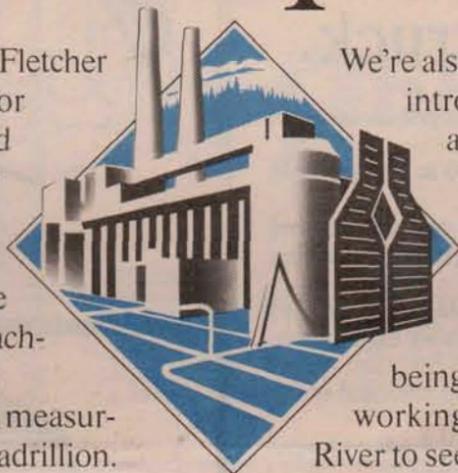
Drivers of the first and second cars were stopped at an intersection, while the first vehicle waited to make a left-hand turn. The 18-year-old driver of the third vehicle collided with the second, pushing it into the first.

The vehicles sustained a total \$1,500 in damages. Driver of the third vehicle has been charged with following too close.

A \$200 million environmental program to eliminate dioxins and improve our pulp mills.

Responding to public concerns, Fletcher Challenge Canada is making major reductions in dioxin emissions and improving significantly the quality of effluent at our three B.C. pulp mills.

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We're also spending a further \$130 million to introduce secondary treatment facilities at our two coastal pulp mills to reduce biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids and chlorinated organic compounds and to eliminate toxicity. (Mackenzie already has secondary treatment, but also is being upgraded.) At the same time we're working with the District of Campbell River to see if municipal sewage can be treated in our system to produce a further benefit to the community.

These projects are part of an environmental protection program that totals more than \$200 million. This investment is a demonstration of our determination to protect and enhance the B.C. environment.

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CRD VOTERS

Who is
Ian Fraser?

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Court gives local woman break on roadside suspension charge

A 19-year-old Ganges woman was given a break in Ganges provincial court last week, when Judge A.E. Filmer ordered she pay a fine rather than serve the jail term that generally accompanies the offence.

Janine Thompson, of Blackburn Road, pleaded guilty to impaired driving, refusing to provide a breath sample and driving while prohibited.

The Crown dropped the refusal charge after the accused entered guilty pleas.

Crown Counsel Derek Lister told the court, police spotted Thompson speeding west on Upper Ganges Road, at 1:20 a.m. on August 11. When the vehicle

crossed over the centre line and indicated erratic driving patterns, police activated emergency equipment.

The Crown's evidence indicated the accused showed signs of severe impairment: she leaned on the vehicle for support and had difficulty with balance and co-ordination during sobriety tests.

At the station, she refused to provide a breath sample and was given a 24-hour driving suspension.

Police spotted her driving before 24 hours had passed.

Thompson told the court she was highly intoxicated at the time the offence occurred and thought the prohibition was for 12 hours.

She has no prior record.

Driving while prohibited generally carries a seven day jail term. Judge A.E. Filmer said, however, he would exercise his right to impose a fine, rather than a jail term.

Judge Filmer fined Thompson \$300 for driving while prohibited, and an additional \$300 for driving while impaired. He also demanded she turn in her drivers' licence for a period of one year.

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"Bored" island youth hot-wired stolen truck

An 18-year-old Mayne Island youth told Ganges provincial court he and a friend stole a truck because they were bored.

Cory Witherly pleaded guilty to theft over \$1,000 in Ganges court October 10.

Crown counsel Derek Lister told the court the offence occurred early in the morning of August 7, when police spotted a smoking vehicle eastbound on Village Bay Road.

The Crown's evidence indicates the accused told police he borrowed the truck from a friend. There were no keys in the ignition, however, and wires were hanging down from it.

Witherly then told police he had found the vehicle unlocked in the Village Bay ferry terminal and hot-wired it.

The youth, who has no previous record, said he and a friend were drinking and got bored and "just decided to do something."

Witherly gave Judge A.E. Filmer a letter of reference from his employer, which described the youth as a hardworking individual. The Crown noted he has not been in trouble with the law on any previous occasions.

The Judge said it was not necessary to put the accused on probation. He fined him \$250.

Court grants discharge

A Galiano Island youth, who said he now understands the seriousness of breaking the law, was given an absolute discharge by Judge A.E. Filmer.

The 17-year-old youth, who can not be identified under the terms of the Young Offenders Act, appeared in Ganges provincial court on October 10. He pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana.

Crown Counsel Derek Lister told the court the youth was one of a group of teenagers police found smoking a joint on the beach at Montague Harbour, last May.

A search of the area turned up a bag of pot — weighing approximately 4.5 grams — under a log. Three youths said it belonged to them: they had purchased it together.

Judge Filmer told the youth the offence was a serious one, that would make entering some countries difficult, if he were convicted. The Judge granted him a discharge.

Salt Spring Island man fined for driving too fast on corner

A Ganges man will pay a fine for driving too fast to negotiate a corner.

Bruce Mills, 52, pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention in Ganges provincial court last week.

Ganges RCMP charged Mills with the offence, following his in-

volvement in a single motor vehicle accident at the corner of Seaview and Jackson roads, last June.

The accused told police he was driving too fast to make the corner and went off the road.

Judge A.E. Filmer fined Mills \$100.



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- **Please Vote McQuiggan**

The late Dr. Hugh Borsman served us well as our representative to the Capital Regional District. This newspaper has recognized his contributions and saluted his achievements and many fine qualities of leadership.

In an interview appearing in the Aug. 16/89 issue of *Driftwood*, Dr. Borsman said he has every confidence in McQuiggan's ability to take on the role of Regional Director. "We've worked together now for four years—I believe he is particularly capable. He has a great deal to offer." . . . And in his letter to the editor in that same August 16th issue . . . "Mr. Ron McQuiggan has been the Salt Spring Island Alternate Director for four years and since he fortunately will be the new director to at least mid-October his experience with the CRD, his experience and involvement with almost all facets of the community, and his sound common sense and good judgement will assure that we will be in good hands."

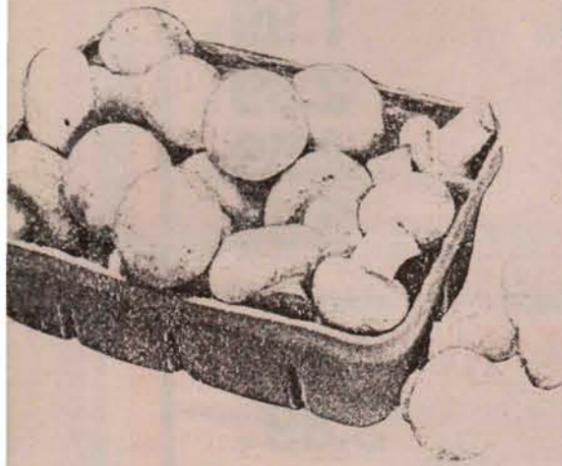
Committee to Elect Ron McQuiggan

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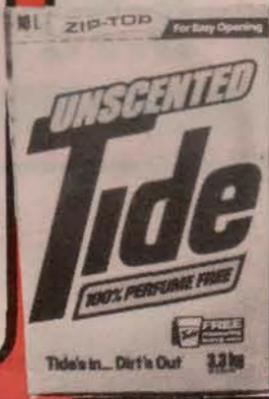
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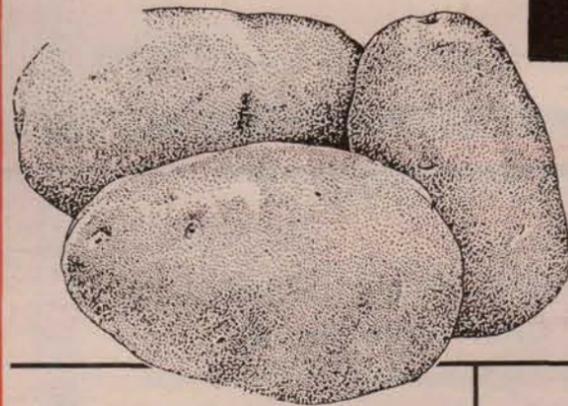
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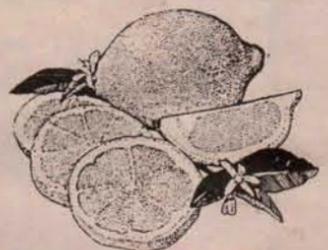
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Solid waste forum indicates confusion still remains over pending referendum

A forum on recycling and waste disposal, held at Mahon Hall Saturday, indicated islanders are still confused over what they will be voting for in the October 21 referendum.

However, one person attending the Island Watch-sponsored forum pointed out that a yes vote could end up costing taxpayers more than a no vote, as well as eliminate other options.

Tom Cross, a member of the Salt Spring Island Waste Management Committee, told the approximately 30 people at Saturday's meeting that a yes vote would result in the transferring of waste from Salt Spring Island to the Hartland landfill for a minimum of five years.

A no vote, on the other hand, will result in local handling of garbage or direct haul to Hartland Road by a contractor. Another person noted that a no vote leaves the door open to other options, something a yes vote does not do. Furthermore, voting yes would mean that the terms of the existing contract would have to be completed.

A no vote, on the other hand, leaves the door open as to how garbage would be handled and how much a new waste management program would cost.

In his presentation to the group, Cross noted that it would take between two and three years to find and prepare a new landfill site on the island. He said one of the principle difficulties is that under the terms of a Class A site - something the island would have to have - a new landfill area would need enough top soil to allow daily coverage of waste. Finding a site with enough top soil meet this requirement is next to impossible, he said.

Cross said group believes the transfer station option (which will go into effect if the majority vote yes in this Saturday's referendum) is the best alternative. He said it would take his committee, which has a limited amount of time with volunteer hours, five years to locate a new landfill site.

One of the five speakers at Saturday's forum, Andy Nowak from Pender Island, said his community faced a similar situation a

year ago. People there voted against a transfer station for a number of reasons, he said, noting a transfer station would not encourage people think about what they were throwing away. Since that time, volunteers on Pender Island have built a 9,000 square-foot recycling shed where they recycle paper, glass, batteries and egg cartons. A second speaker at Saturday's meeting, Ron Willick who sits on the Mayne Island recycling committee, said people on that island were also faced with the same option and also decided to settle their problems locally.

"Having a landfill could be an advantage because you could control what is going into the site, which you can't do on Hartland."

He added that Mayne currently sends 12 per cent of its waste to Hartland, the remainder is dealt with on the island.

At the conclusion of Saturday's forum, local architect Hank Schubart said one of the key issues in the debate is the overall quality of life on the island.

He noted said, "We are becoming urbanized...and the implica-

tions of an outside force is to push us into the mold of an urban community because that is what they can deal with.

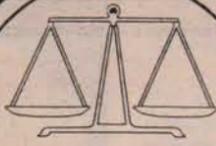
"My concern is that we are not putting our money and resources to increase the quality of our life...The critical things said were that people learn how to deal with their garbage in a personal level as well as a community level."

CRD VOTERS

Who is the Chairman of the Islands Trust Advisory Planning Committee?

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Depot acquires new equipment

A heavy duty hydraulic baler is now operating at the Recycle Depot on Rainbow Road, the Salt Spring Island Community Society, which organized the project, is inviting the public to bring in its corrugated cardboard for recycling.

Foxglove Farm and Garden Supplies has offered to haul the baled cardboard to Canadian Fibre in New Westminster. From there

the cardboard is taken to companies that make it into new products.

The use of recycled pulp saves trees, while energy and air pollution is reduced. Escalating dump costs are also avoided and less landfill space required.

Cardboard brought to the depot must be clean, flattened and not waxed. While smaller loads can be dropped off anytime, people want-

ing to deliver more than a pick-up truck full should call the depot first.

The society hopes that low salaries and volunteer help will allow it to break even on the project. However, businesses which save money on trucking and dump fees because of this service are invited to donate to the society.

For more information call Rick Laing at 537-9542 or Donna Martin, 537-5340.

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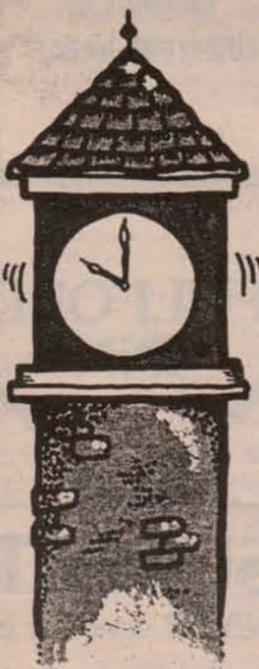
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Fringe wraps up with drama

The final weekend of Salt Spring's second annual Fringe Theatre Festival kicks off with a roaring start this Thursday, October 19, with "Club Mongo On The Fringe."

Sue Bowler, Cathy Roland, Arno Bangert, Tom Bowler, Dave Roland and Doug Saunders — all Island residents — are well known and loved for their musical talents.

It is a privileged few, however, who have experienced the mania of Club Mongo's challenging blend of Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll and Comedic Acting. Those few will recall such past productions as "Call Me Madonna," "The Case of Noel Coward," and "Christmas Dinner is Revolting" which featured the Food Puppet Repertory Theatre Ensemble.

Although Club Mongo is not often publicized as a "comedy group," the group is very serious about its comedy.

"It is a chance for us to leave the jaded confines of the music business and enter into the larger arena of public humiliation. We feel that if realtors and lawyers can do it, obviously, we can too," says a Mongo spokesman.

Laughter and music will continue as Bob Bossin opens the show on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21. First in the "Double Feature" entertainment, Bossin's "Sandinistas For Star Wars" is a comedy spiced with cutting political sarcasm and inspirational music; a lyrical jab at Ronald Reagan's America, Brian Mulroney's Canada, Yuppie pretensions and silly sexism.

A natural storyteller, Bossin imbues his songs with passionate politics but his wry sense of humour makes even the most committed conservatives - his usual targets - howl with laughter. His songs run the gamut from politics to love to baseball to logging Lyell Island. Find out the truth behind Star Wars (it's a Nicaraguan plot) and other revelations of The World According to Bossin in "Sandinistas For Star Wars."

Although not without its humorous moments, "The Occupation Of Heather Rose," second on the double bill of drama this weekend, is a more serious performance.

A sensitive and powerful play by Canadian playwright Wendy Lill, "The Occupation Of Heather Rose," examines the contrasting

cultures of middle class white Canadians and Native Indians. Trish Pattenden is a one-woman *tour de force* in this production directed by David Eden, insightfully portraying the perky, young, white nurse whose mainstream sen-

sibilities are traumatized when she packs her naivete off to a remote native community.

All performances for this final weekend of Fringe entertainment begin at 8 pm. Tickets are available at et cetera.



Bob Bossin in Sandinistas for Star Wars

CRD VOTERS

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Celloist Martin Bonham and Marylou Dawes will perform on Salt Spring tomorrow evening (Thursday, October 19) at the Ganges United Church. The performance, which will commence at 8 p.m., is sponsored by the Community Arts Council (CAC). Proceeds from the concert will be contributed to the new Arts Centre here.

Psychic awareness

Salt Spring Islanders will have the opportunity develop their awareness and discover their own "inner light," when clairvoyant Cynthia holds a psychic awareness workshop here this Saturday.

The workshop will be held at 443 Upper Ganges Road, beginning at 1 p.m. and running through to 5 p.m. Cost of the event is \$40.

Cynthia, who offers spiritual counselling and healing, is internationally known as a psychic, healer and teacher. She has been involved in mysticism, esoteric pursuits, tarot, IChing, and communing with nature since an early age.

Cynthia says she can help people access information and experiences they may have blocked or hidden from themselves.

Cynthia, who holds a B.C. Teacher's Certificate, offers a variety of classes including psychic meditation, healing and a clair-

voyance training program. She also perform readings, aura readings, pastlife readings, individualized counselling sessions, couples readings and family readings.

Cynthia can be reached in Vancouver for private readings at 874-1469. Further information on the upcoming psychic awareness workshop on Salt Spring can be obtained by calling 537-2893.

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Who is
Ian Fraser?

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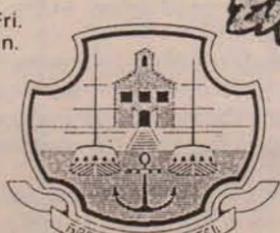
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Saedeh Nessar (left) and Jose Morales perform in Sanctuary, scheduled to appear on Salt Spring November 2. Sanctuary is Forum Theatre, encouraging active audience participation in the performance itself, plus plot creation.

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On Salt Spring Island

Island groups cooperate to bring refugee production to Ganges

A bold new play, that involves the audience in the production, will bring members of B.C.'s refugee community to Salt Spring early next month.

Headlines Theatre, Salt Spring Continuing Education and the Community Arts Council (CAC) present the stories of refugee immigrants from five countries in

"Sanctuary," scheduled to perform at the Activity Centre on November 2.

Described by the Vancouver Province as "exciting, vital and dangerous theatre," Sanctuary is based on the collective experiences of cast members Paul Kriz (who was a popular film actor in Czechoslovakia); Daniel McLeod (a Canadian lawyer who deals with refugee cases); Jose Morales (a former student in Guatemala); Nora Nadir (a former student in Argentina); Saedeh Nessar (a psychology professor in Iran); and Victor Porter (formerly a journalist in Argentina).

Each of the cast members has a real life refugee story. They are united in an effort to build greater understanding between Canadian and immigrant communities.

As Forum Theatre, Sanctuary offers an unusual opportunity for the audience to become involved. The results are "unpredictable, informative, and entertaining."

The play is performed once, and then the scenes are run again. This time, the audience is asked to intervene — to change the action in order to improve the characters' situation.

Sanctuary has been touring the province since October 5. It will wind up its tour in Vancouver on November 3 and 4.

Tickets for the Salt Spring performance are on sale at et cetera and the Continuing Education office. Cost is \$5 for senior and students; \$6 for others. Proceeds from the concession will be directed to the

CRD VOTERS

Is there a conflict of interest here?

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Final payment donated for cost of grand piano

The last of the money needed to buy a piano for the Salt Spring Festival of the Arts was contributed by a local foundation last week.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation donated \$3,000 toward the purchase of a 1917 Steinway grand, which was brought to the island last June. One thousand dollars will be donated now, the remaining \$2,000 in December.

The total cost of the instrument is \$14,400.

The \$3,000 donation is the largest of its kind made by a local organization. The only larger one comes from the B.C. Lotteries Foundation which has agreed to cover one-third of the cost of the piano.

John Crofton, a trustee with the S.S. Foundation, said that his board decided early last month to make the donation from its "open fund," which consists of contributions from local groups, plus interest accruing from the group's capital investments. The foundation, he said, considered the donation a "worthy cause" and that it was "in keeping with a main aim of the foundation to support local recreational, cultural and artistic programs and facilities." The Steinway was brought to the island last spring for a Tuned Air concert, and since that time close to \$9,000 has been raised by the Festival to cover its costs.

The \$3,000 donation and the money coming from B.C. Lotteries will be used to cover the remaining costs, as well as other expenses related to insurance and maintenance.

(The first year's insurance premium was donated by a local insurance firm.)

Before the Steinway came to the community, the festival would often have to pay \$400 or \$500 to rent and transport a piano to the island (usually from Victoria) for special events. Many performers could not be brought to the island because a high quality piano was not available.

This purchase is said to be "another step in our cultural growth." The Steinway will be used three times in the next month alone. In the meantime, the piano will be housed at the residence of former Festival board member Chris Kodaly until a new arts centre is built.

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Who is the
Chairman of the
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Advisory Planning
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Centre hopes to quell the misunderstandings

By VAL ALOIAN

A great deal of "mystery" seems to impose on the understanding of mentally handicapped people and the institutional settings they have inhabited in the past.

Many people think of mental retardation in stereotypical terms and have misconceptions based on personal experience, myth or ignorance. While this is understandable, it may also lead to undesirable public opinion or biases.

The Achievement Centre on Salt Spring Island is working to eliminate public misunderstandings and offer mentally handicapped people in this community the opportunity to live meaningful and productive lives.

Until recently, mentally retarded persons have not been highly active or visible in our communities.

People with mental handicaps have not usually been registered to vote, to fill roles as public servants, to sit in parliamentary sessions or on boards of directors.

Few have ever acted as aides or consultants to ministers responsible for the human services that administer to their needs. Such absence from community involvement and exclusion from social and political responsibilities has alienated this group from influence and power in the cultural sphere.

Some headway is, however, being made by the Achievement Centre to change this situation.

The all-white building on the hill across from the police station houses the SSI Achievement

Centre. Most people know this building as the old Lady Minto Hospital or the current Community Centre.

Far fewer people know that on the ground floor in this building, mentally challenged adults attend a day program in what is called an achievement centre.

Although the role of an achievement centre is multi-purposed, it attempts to encourage its clients to live meaningful and productive lives within the community with as much independence as possible.

By providing opportunities to meet and interact with "ordinary" people, the SSI Achievement Centre tries to facilitate the building of strong friendships, interdependent community living, creative transitions from school to the workplace, supported job placement, job training, parent support, volunteer service and life skills.

The progressive achievement centre is no longer content to provide entertainment, recreation, and other leisure activities. The foremost factor which differentiates people with mental disabilities from other people is adaptive behaviour. Therefore, any attempt to show people how to get along in society in segregated groups and artificial settings like those found in an achievement centre building, is like trying to train a chemist in a gymnasium when the lab's down the hall.

To ask people who are already disadvantaged intellectually, to generalize what they have learned from one setting to another entirely unlike it in the real world is unrealistic and bound to fail. The

milieu for learning, then, must be in one's own community.

With community openness and acceptance, people with challenging disabilities can find suitable niches within almost any profession, business or trade.

The Achievement Centre hopes to encourage dialogue with the

public, and begin to break down myths surrounding mentally handicapped people. It hopes the doors will be opened to a minority group in this community, which has been discriminated against for too long.

Val Aloian is the volunteer coordinator of the Salt Spring Achievement Centre.

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- ★ Investing for Income and Growth

SATURDAY, OCT. 21:

- ★ Furniture Repair Clinic

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25:

- ★ Natural History of Salt Spring Island
- ★ Tai Chi

SATURDAY, OCT. 28:

- ★ Lively Folk Dance and ★ Jitterbug & Jive Workshops

MONDAY, OCT. 30:

- ★ Face Painting for Halloween

AND COMING IN NOVEMBER:

THURSDAY, NOV. 2:

- ★ *Sanctuary?* Tickets on sale at *et cetera* & Cont. Ed. office

SATURDAY, NOV. 4:

- ★ Helping Learning Disabled Children to Learn

TUESDAY, NOV. 7:

- ★ Marketing Management for Business People

SUNDAY, NOV. 12:

- ★ African Drum and Dance Workshops with Dido

MONDAY, NOV. 13:

- ★ 'Selfhood' with Bev Unger

MONDAY, NOV. 20:

- ★ Conducting Effective Workshops

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CHILDREN'S DENTAL EMERGENCIES

The beginning of a new school year brings to mind schoolyard activities and unfortunate injuries to the mouth that may be sustained from energetic play. When a dental trauma occurs as the result of an accident, a little knowledge may prevent permanent damage to your child's teeth and mouth.

Johnny falls on the school steps and bangs a front tooth, which later turns dark. The discoloration is an indication that the pulp, or soft inner tissue, of the tooth has been injured. The damaged pulp represents a possible source of infection that should be assessed and monitored by a dentist. Similarly, if the tooth is loosened in an accident, immediate attention is also required. The dentist may recommend attaching a splint to the tooth to prevent its loss.

What if your child has a tooth knocked out by accident? If it is a permanent tooth, there is a good chance it can be successfully replanted if you act quickly. A clean tooth should be placed back in the tooth socket - if it is not too painful and the child is old enough to hold it in place - otherwise, deposit it in a container of milk. In either case, do not clean or handle the tooth roots, and take the child and tooth to the dentist immediately. The child should receive professional attention within 30 minutes for best results; the prognosis, if treatment is delayed beyond 2 hours, is not good.

If your child knocks a "baby" tooth out, take him or her to the dentist as soon as possible for examination, but don't expect the tooth to be put back. Bring the tooth with you so the dentist can see if the whole tooth came out or whether it broke inside the gums. A space maintainer may be recommended to replace the tooth until the permanent tooth comes in, thus keeping the remaining teeth from drifting out of place.

Injuries that result in a broken tooth should be attended to right away. Gently clean any dirt or debris from the injured area with warm water. Apply cold compresses or ice to the face over the injured tooth to keep swelling down, and take the child immediately to the dentist for examination. A crown or cap may be required if the damage is severe, but minor restorations may be made by "bonding" plastic material to the tooth.

Nothing short of locking children in their room will keep them completely safe from oral injury. However, by teaching them to play safely on the schoolyard, while skateboarding, bicycling or diving into the swimming pool, you can help protect them. Discourage children from eating hard items such as popcorn kernels, ice or nutshells. Make sure seat belts, sports mouthguards, and approved infant carseats are used. And if, despite your good advice, your child sustains oral injury, know what to do to give him or her the best chance for permanent recovery.

Information within this column is not intended to diagnose or plan treatment; readers should consult their dentist for individual dental care. Readers' questions are welcome. Please write: Word of Mouth, College of Dental Surgeons of B.C., 1125 W. 8th. Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3N4.

arthur black



Ah, autumn! Always a sweet 'n sour time of year with the end of holidays, the last gasp of summer, the denuding of crop fields and orchards and all that — but the fall of '89 will go down in the tally books as a season of particular bittersweet poignancy, for this autumn marked the collapse of an entire industry. An industry by the name of George Simenon.

Who was he? Possibly the mightiest writing machine the world has ever spawned. He was born in Liege, Belgium in 1903, tried to become a baker for a few years, then chucked it and fled to Paris at the age of 20. There, he picked up a pen and discovered a facility that he never felt around the baking oven in Liege. In the next three years he turned out an astonishing 300 stories — more than many aged authors manage in an entire lifetime.

Seen high volume hacks before

He hadn't even hit his stride.

The words came faster and faster. So fast that soon he was churning out books under 17 different pseudonyms. Authors who can turn out one book over twelve months are considered prolific. During his best years, Simenon was plopping six completed manuscripts on his publisher's desk, year in, year out.

Sure, the world has seen high volume hacks before — quasi-literate prose packagers like Jacqueline Susanne and Harold Robbins mumbling their vapid, soft-porn plots into dictaphones at poolside — but Simenon's works weren't like that. He wrote well. Extremely well. The French writer Colette became his champion way back in the twenties. And Andre Gide, one of France's most respected modern authors, called him "Perhaps the greatest and most genuine novelist of today's French literature."

Write a complete novel in three days

Not everyone agreed. Some critics refused to believe that anyone who wrote so fast could be turning out anything but trash. And Simenon did write fast. He told Gide that he could, if pressed, write a complete novel in three days. Once, when Hollywood movie director Alfred Hitchcock telephoned for George he reached Madame Simenon instead. "I'm sorry" she said, "George is writing and I would rather not disturb him."

"Let him finish the book" replied the unflappable Hitch. "I'll hang on."

And as if writing well at the speed of light wasn't accomplishment enough, Simenon held down another full time job to which he devoted at least as much attention as literature.

Seduction. George Simenon was a lady's man the same way that George Simenon was a novelist. He made Casanova look like a saltpetre addict. He made Frank Sinatra look like Pope John the 23rd.

You think I'm exaggerating? Not a chance. Simenon once confessed that he had slept with ten thousand women during his life.

Ten thousand! Why that's half the population of Sarnia or Port Alberni! Seventeen times the number of cavalymen who galloped in the Charge of the Light Brigade! More fans than the Toronto Maple Leafs could draw if they put Racquel Welch in goal. Why that's ...

Hold on a second.

181.1 women a year

Let's just work out the logistics on this. Simenon was born in 1903, which means he probably didn't start his ummm, hobby until at least the age of 15, say? That would be 1918. And one presumes he relinquished his more strenuous avocation when he formally stopped writing in 1973. Which means Simenon had a period of 55 years in which to woo and bed ten thousand women. That works out to 181.8 women per year. Think of it! That's pretty well one brand new partner every two days! Think of the boxes of chocolates, the bottles of wine, the telephone calls ... never mind the spats, the tiffs, the tearful restaurant scenes, the stammered explanations and the slaps across the face. Fifty five years of that! Phew! Rest in peace, George.

I don't know how you lived so long, or wrote so much, but I'm pretty sure I've figured out what you died of.

Firehall welcomes public

An Open House at the fire hall in Ganges commemorated fire prevention week on Salt Spring.

The fire hall, which is run by 29 volunteer fire fighters, plus fire chief Les Wagg and deputy fire chief Dan Akerman, opened its doors to the public last Saturday.

Fire-fighters served coffee and doughnuts, and displayed equipment — old and new. The volunteers continued to offer their services to island residents who want to have their home checked for fire safety.

"We inspect commercial buildings," Wagg explained, "And we get invited to inspect the occasional home on the island."

The firemen agreed carelessness is the major cause of fire on the island. Hot ashes from freshly cleaned wood stoves frequently ignite fires, while dirty chimneys add to the annual workload of a volunteer fireman.

Wagg says the department has an ideal number of volunteers working in the island: about one third of the 29 volunteers man the Fulford firehall, while the remaining two-thirds work at the Ganges end.

CRD VOTERS

Who is Ian Fraser?

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REMINDER NOTICE

Feed Grain Market Development Program 88 Crop Year

REGISTERED PRODUCERS, FEEDERS AND PRODUCER-FEEDERS

October 31, 1989 is the final date to submit a claim under the Program.

All claims must be received, or postmarked, no later than October 31, 1989, at the nearest Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries District Office.

Late filed claims will not be accepted.



Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Hon. John Savage, Minister



Hillside Shopping Centre
Victoria, B.C.

invites "YOU"

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Wednesday, October 25th
2:00 pm

- Fall & Holiday Fashions
- Door Prizes • Refreshments

THIS WEEK IN RECREATION

VOLLEYBALL — Tuesday nights, 8-10 pm at the GISS gym. Everyone welcome!

MEN'S RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL: Wednesdays, 8 pm, at the High School Gym.

more letters

More on Garbage...

To the Editor,
Why should the cost of garbage collection be another item of a cost payable by a tax levy based on the assessed value of property? The garbage resulting from an individual family has nothing to do with the value assessed against the property on which the individuals producing the garbage reside or do business. Therefore the cost should be borne by only those producing the garbage and only on a per bag or cubic yard basis.

Recently many residents received a flyer "Referendum Solid Waste Disposal" which indicated a comparison of "annual costs to the average homeowner." An analysis of the costs indicate the following:

(1) Present Blackburn Dump — cost \$79 annually; amount is static for bi-weekly collection for up to two cans.

(2) Proposed "Yes" vote, with collection bi-weekly - \$79 annually plus 60 cents per \$1,000 of property assessed value. You figure your cost. Mine is approximately \$210 or an increase of \$131 for a collection of less than two cans of garbage bi-weekly.

(3) Proposed "No" vote, with collection and ferry - \$147 which apparently is a static cost. Much preferable from my standpoint to (2) but still \$68 higher than (1).

The flyer states that the Ministry of Environment will close the present dump. This is refuted by Norman Twa in his letter to the Editor in September 27 issue of the *Driftwood*.

Personally, I will NOT vote "Yes" to a garbage collection plan that bases the cost on the assessed value of my property. Further, I will continue with the present service if available.

WALTER L. TURNBULL,
Ganges.

Expensive

To the Editor,

If we vote yes to a transfer station, then every few days a container of garbage will be taken off-island. This container, with a towing vehicle, will take up a huge space on the Fulford Ferry once every few days, going, AND, also coming back. If you thought we had ferry congestion now, just wait! And in the summer, when the population soars, all the increase in garbage created by our 20, -40,000 visitors, plus summer residents, may mean a 40 foot smelly container plus towing truck

on a ferry every second day — when ferries are now leaving behind cars on a large percentage of runs, and many of our visitors will arrive on the island having been accompanied by our portable garbage dump.

In the future, if poisonous leachate appears in Cusheon Lake water, shutting the dump now will not stop it. The problem has been dumped there over a 20 year period — and if it happens, Cusheon Lake residents will have to deal with it, just like Maxwell Lake residents like me did this spring. The cost to provide drinking water purification systems to every Cusheon Lake Watershed home would be a total of \$25,000.

If someone will be working full-time at a transfer station, 5 days a week, why not, at the same cost, have a CRD official placed on the Twa's property immediately, instead — to monitor what is being put into the dump, so that no more poisonous substances that could create a problem are dumped there.

The CRD has little interest in recycling anything besides newsprint, glass and metal, while other recyclables including office paper, computer paper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastic will still be treated as garbage. These latter items account for far much more garbage than the three profitable Isabella Point Road transfer site, then there is little chance the existing recycling facility in Ganges would be feasible, and also little chance that people living on the North End are going to drive for up to 45 minutes to take just their cardboard and aluminum to a recycling depot — meaning a backwards step to less recycling — not more! The CRD is already subsidizing a company to pick up the newspaper, glass and tin, to the tune of \$275 a ton, even if it is profitable without a subsidy, so the chances of expanding recycling to most other materials seems dim!

There are a lot of unanswered questions. To vote yes is to tie us into an unbelievably expensive contract — if we find an alternative (either through increased recycling, monitored dumping at Blackburn, or an alternate dump site) we are still locked in for 5 years to what is no doubt a very lucrative contract with BFI, a huge American owned multo-national. To vote no is to leave the door open to all sorts of possibilities.

Cusheon Lake water is just fine for now. We have to find a solution but let's take our time. Crisis management isn't called for.

RANDY HOOPER,
Ganges.

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NOTICE OF CLASS 'A' BURNING PERMIT REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Section 112 of the Forest Act, all industrial type burning including land clearing/logging debris disposal requires a Forest Service Burning Permit.

This Order affects all areas not subject to local fire protection bylaws.

Please contact the Ministry of Forests at 746-5123 or your local fire department, city hall or municipal office for further information.

This Order comes into effect commencing **MIDNIGHT, OCTOBER 15, 1989**, and remains so until further notice.

TOM A. WALKER
District Manager
Duncan Forest District

Here's Why Home Support Workers Are Choosing the BCGEU

"My whole outlook has changed. We're given more respect. Now I feel like I can speak up about things and it won't be used against me."

— Sheryl Witt

"I feel very secure in my job whereas before I didn't. Without a union you don't know when your job is going to end, you don't have the protection that you do when you're with the union."

— Ramona King

"If problems arise there are people behind you who will support you — you're never alone. You know that your wages and benefits will be better and you'll be able to provide better service because you feel proud of your position and the work you do."

— Tina Paulsen

In the past year many of your colleagues joined the BCGEU. Now their wages and benefits are vastly improved. Now they're enjoying benefits like:

- time off for family illness
- 15 days vacation in the first year
- 100 per cent medical and dental coverage
- six month maternity benefits
- best sick leave benefits in the industry

The BCGEU has represented home support workers for many years at institutions like Riverview, Glendale, long term care facilities and group homes around the province. We have experience dealing with the issues that you face as a home support worker.

The BCGEU recognizes the vital importance of the work you do. If you would like information on how to earn the wages and enjoy the benefits you deserve please call 388-5354. All calls will remain confidential.



BC Government Employees' Union

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Salt Spring Island Referendum—1989

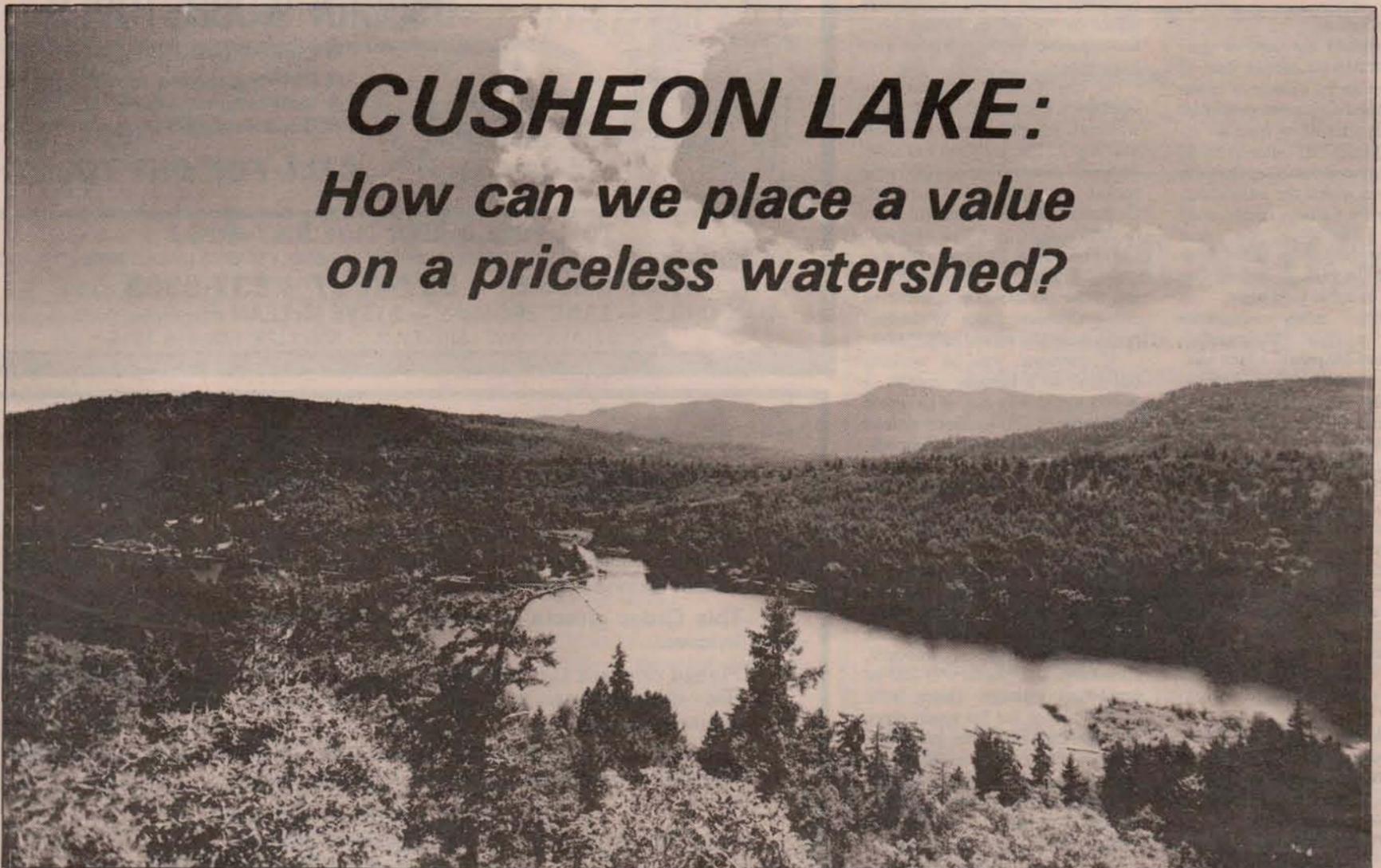


Photo by Rodney Polden

CUSHEON LAKE:
*How can we place a value
on a priceless watershed?*

Every load of waste that we bury at the present landfill threatens the surface and ground water in this watershed.

We support the Ministry of Environment's plan to close the Blackburn Road landfill. Continued use of this landfill is not an option.

The referendum on solid waste is about the next step.

A "YES" VOTE

I want a transfer station to remove my wastes to the CRD regional landfill at Hartland Road in Saanich.

A "NO" VOTE

I want further investigations into other options. Meanwhile, I am willing to pay to have my wastes shipped by direct haul to Hartland Road.

**Whatever you decide—
PLEASE VOTE ON OCT. 21st**



This reminder from the

Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society

R.R. 2, Mt. Maxwell Road, Ganges, B.C.