Outer Islands news begins on Page 25



Protest P-14

- Lions barbecue cancelled by numbers.
- · Mac-Blo land deal on the table. P-3
- Red tide conditions continue. P-11.



Lineup P-22

- Galiano welcomes Bishop's visit. P-25.
- Story-telling revived on Pender. P-27.
- · Comply with fire regulations. P-29.



Party P-27

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TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR, NO. 31

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1986

Lake woes explained to minister

Hugh Borsman, Salt Spring's director to the Capital Regional District (CRD), said last week he gained a sympathetic ear from provincial Environment Minister Austin Pelton at a meeting held to discuss St. Mary Lake.

The meeting, held in Victoria, saw Salt Spring represented by Borsman, Island Trustees Nick Gilbert and Pat Byrne, and by Don Storr of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

Pelton was asked to consider reimposition on the electric-motor-only (EMO) restriction on St. Mary Lake and to support the task force struck by Borsman to study long-term problems and possible solutions to its water quality problems.

On the first point, Borsman said, the minister indicated he is prepared to reconsider a ban. However, that path is clouded by questions of legal authority arising from the B.C. Supreme Court's recent overturning of the restriction.

Before it can consider any action, Borsman continued, Pelton's office will have to examine gasoline outboard engine bans on other lakes in the province, find the reasons why they were put in place and see if they might be applicable to Salt Spring.

The legalities of an EMO order

for St. Mary Lake will also have to be studied in the context of the Supreme Court decision.

As for the task force, Borsman said Pelton endorsed the move and agreed to provide a member of his office staff to act as a liaison. The minister was also told that the task force might ask his office for funding and, while Pelton said he would consider providing financial assistance, Borsman said he cautioned that no commitment could be made.

A request to return EMO status to St. Mary Lake will also be forwarded to Pelton's office from the CRD. The board voted last week to ask the province to take that step after hearing submissions from the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society, Borsman and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.



Dry run

Flotilla of kayakers finds excursion up Fulford Harbour blocked by shallow water flowing into sea from mouth of nearby

creek. Depth is such, however, that reliance on old-fashioned foot power allows trip to continue.

Telegram campaign

Salt Spring residents opposing the possible establishment of an asphalt plant near Ganges will take their case to MLA Hugh

Following a meeting held last Friday with MP Jim Manly, the residents have decided that pressure must be applied to Curtis if they have any hope of preventing the plant from locating here.

To date, the MLA has steered clear of the issue, saying the Islands Trust and the provincial environment ministry hold responsibility - the Trust because it controls land zoning; the ministry because it is processing the pollution permit required before the plant could begin operations.

"The thing we kept coming back to in the meeting (with Manly) was that we have to focus our attention on Curtis,' Gary Greico, who is spearheading the residents' fight against the

"Curtis is the key," Greico

added. "He's our elected representative, he has a responsibility to constituents, and he can help. To prompt the MLA, Greico

and other residents are planning a telegram campaign (explained in an ad on page five of today's issue of Driftwood). The message sent to Curtis will be: Pending asphalt plant, Salt Spring. Where are you? We need you.

Greico said he and other residents are dismayed and upset about the MLA's stand on the

Curtis, attending the Social Credit leadership convention in Whistler, could not be reached for comment. However, a member of his office said late last week that the MLA has passed the concerns of residents along to Environment Minister Austin Pelton and is currently investigating the jurisdiction of the Island Trust "and our own jurisdiction."

While the telegram campaign

Plant site 'downzoning' unacceptable to residents

A delegation numbering 30 people pressed into an Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting held last week to amend the industrial zoning of a Salt Spring property proposed as the site for an asphalt plant.

The group expressed dissatisfaction with the Island Trust move to amend zoning to prohibit industrial uses deemed unsuitable near residential areas, asking instead that the property be reclassified as residential.

The proposed asphalt plant would sit on land located about one mile from Ganges. The move cannot be made, however, until the provincial environment ministry approves a pollution control

The permit approval process is currently underway but environment ministry officials told a July 16 meeting in Ganges they could withhold a permit if notified that a land rezoning was being initiated.

Island Trustee Pat Byrne told the APC meeting that amending the property's current industrial zoning would prevent similar uses on other industrially-zoned properties on Salt Spring.

However, Gary Grieco, speaking for the homeowners who would live near the asphalt plant, said amending the industrial zone is not good enough: "Many doubt that asphalt is the name of the game," he said, arguing that an amendment would still leave the property open for other commercial or industrial uses he and his neighbours find incompatible with a residential area.

Asked to explain the steps that would be required to rezone the land to residential, APC chairman David Williams said such a request usually comes from the land owner and not from an outside party like the Trust.

There was some question about the Trust's right to initiate a zoning change. The delegation said the Trust has that power, while Williams said the Trust may be reluctant to exercise that power since it interferes with

Turn to Page 2

Telegram campaign to call on MLA to intervene in issue

From Page 1

kicks off, plant opponents will continue to investigate other avenues. Grieco said a meeting has been called to pool the technical expertise of residents one man is a former medical health officer, another served the Ontario environment ministry for 15 years — and the possibility of blocking the plant through building permits is also being ex-

Residents are also trying to determine the asphalt company's status in Metchosin. The plant proposed for Salt Spring is currently in Metchosin and, when moved, would allow the company

to relocate a larger plant in its place. When company officials told a July 16 public meeting on Salt Spring that they do not have a permit — "yet" — for another plant in Metchosin, Greico said residents fear the company is being "kicked out" and will eventually move the bulk of its operation to Salt Spring.

Meanwhile, environment min-istry official Vlad Pomaizl said Monday his Nanaimo office is still waiting for notification from the Islands Trust that it is proceeding with an amendment to the zoning of the property proposed as a site for the plant. The ministry said at the July 16 meeting that it would consider delaying the permit ap-

Dave Morris both noting that the

environment ministry may with-

hold issuing a permit while a

zoning amendment is underway.

A public hearing on the amend-

ment will take place at the

Harbour House Hotel on Satur-

day, August 23, beginning at 3

proval process if it knew the land in question was being rezoned.

Pomaizl said he expects to which the receive the letter -Trust said was mailed last week at any time. When that happens, "we will consider holding the permit in abeyance until zoning is resolved, since there is no sense in working on a permit that may not be any good.

Pomaizl added that an article in Monday's edition of the Victoria Times-Colonist was incorrect in reporting that his office expects to make a decision on the permit application within a few weeks, regardless of zoning considerations. Notice of an amendment will delaythe permit process, he reiterated.

Island Trust representatives said earlier that an amendment could take two months, and last week saw their Advisory Planning Commission (APC) initiate the necessary amendment. It will go to public hearing on August 23.

Pomaizl said Monday that zoning is beyond his ministry's jurisdiction - its mandate is environmental issues only - and that "the onus is on elected officials" to handle those conc-

Amendment proposed with Williams and Trust planner

From Page 1

property rights.

A member of the delegation disagreed: "It is the Trust's responsibility to fight for the rights of the constituency and not the individual," he said.

Timing of the bylaw amendment process was also discussed,

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TOURIST ALERT:

The following visitors are asked to contact the nearest RCMP detachment for an urgent, personal message:

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- Manitoba. · Dwight Kanno, Belview,
- Washington. • Jay Phillips, Vancouver.
- · Jack Pollard, Edmonton. Joel Schiebout, Pincher
- Creek, Alberta. · Lucille Palty, Streator, Illinois.

Hospital upgrading plan approved by directors

By FRANK RICHARDS

A program to upgrade Lady Minto Hospital was approved last week by the Capital Regional District (CRD) board.

The renovations - cost of which may not exceed \$257,281 - will include kitchen improvements and the remodelling of both a recovery room and an emergency room nursing station. Upgrading will also include the ventilation system in the extended care unit and provision of air conditioning in the operating

The project will also involve improvements to the fire alarm

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system and replacement of the existing generator, plus a number of minor changes that a list supplied to directors summarized as "over 30 improvements."

The hospital and health planning commission and the executive commission engaged an independent quantity surveyor to confirm the cost of the project and to assess how much of the work might be considered as maintenance.

The quantity surveyor classified work worth \$10,480 as maintenance. It included work on the boilers, new flooring and renewal of a shower cubicle.

999999999999999 Hey Jim! Maybe these Ross & Ganges tide tables will help MARINE & EQUIPMENT keep everyone off the rocks! presents the TIDE TABLES Standard Time— Add 1 hour for at FULFORD HARBOUR daylight time JULY 30 3.5 0040 1610 9.5 1.6 WE 1830 1810 10.7 2240 10.0 9.3 2315 31 0715 2.9 0140 9.5 1630 10.2 0950 TH 2045 9.7 MO 1825 10.6 2245 9.8 9.0 2330 AUG. 0230 9.4 0800 2.3 1025 1.3 1715 10.6 TU 10.5 1845 FR 2145 9.6 0000 8.6 6 9.3 2 0115 0315 9.3 0835 1.9 WE 1100 1.5 1740 10.8 1905 10.5 2305 9.5 **ROSS AND** Let's hope so, Ross! We're so busy we

need all the help

we can get!

Barbecue cancelled

Salt Spring Island will be without its annual August long weekend salmon barbecue.

The Lions Club has cancelled the event owing to a shortage of members to carry out the required supervision of a beer



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to be frank . . .

. . . by Richards

We fired the cannon. It should never happen, but it did. Someone at Driftwood forgot that there are two homonyms and we got the wrong one, in a classified advertisement. You can fire a cannon with little incident. Or you can listen to the canon without getting your ears in a sling. But they are like east and west and ne'er the twain shall meet.

Of course, when the two are confused, it's the proofreader should be fired. But I wasn't.

How not to safeguard your bank card: Harold Helm was telling me the sad tale of his daughter who was armed with an electronic bank card and carried it around carefully in case she needed money in a hurry.

A careful lass, she also carries a spare car key just in case she loses the key chain. The spare key is hidden in a metal case which can be attached to any steel part of

The key case is provided with a magnet. So is the bank card and as the two run together in her purse, the magnetism of the key case triumphs. It triumphs to the point where the bank card no longer possesses that hidden, secret something that other cards have got. It possessed nothing and it wouldn't even have opened a can of tuna.

The secret is to keep your bank card safe and your car key handy, but if the key is attached to a magnet, keep them apart, Harold tells me.

Have you ever thought about getting old? If you ain't old, the odds are you've never looked that far ahead. Women's Lib and I have a problem. As time passes Women's Lib is not so promptly aware of sounds as once she was. And I need light to see in the dark. But haunting us in the summer is the fact that she is allergic to mosquitoes. She gets bitten and next day she has a face as big as a frypan, though better you don't tell her I said so.

All these things being equal, we have a system. I lie back on the pillow and listen carefully. If I hear the buzz of the mini-beast, I jump out of bed, switch on the lights and search. By this time Women's Lib sets aside her book and directs my attack.

Only one thing remains. How do you get dead mosquitoes off white-painted walls?

It didn't seem funny when it happened; or did it? I can't clearly remember how I reacted, but maybe I did laugh. Anyway, we had some maritime visitors over the weekend and I was recalling my adventures with ICBC.

The dog had eaten the seatbelts on my son's car. My visitor wouldn't let me go any further. He thought it uproariously funny and he was laughing so much I scarcely reached the point where he found they were insured.

And I can tell you this much: those belts did the dog a lot of good. Do you know, he's never lost his teeth since he swallowed the belts!

And from Alberta. We had a family here from the heritage oil province and they were really looking down their noses

When Expo is all over, said my friend, Harry; when Expo is all over there'll be nothing left in B.C. That's when they'll put B.C. on the block and he wants Alberta to buy it. That way he can move to the west coast of Alberta.

I guess he just hasn't figured out the number of barrels that deal is about to cost him and his. Besides, he keeps that kind of snide remark coming it'll be more than his life is worth to even look at the west coast of Alberta! He's more likely to be banished to the Saskatchewan border of B.C.

For years we had a few roses growing behind the house. They limped home to the blossom post every summer, but they never won a prize. Then came the move. I transplanted them to the site formerly occupied by a few trees. Now they are away to the races. Where a year or so ago they might have had six blooms, we've had 30 to 40 roses.

The rose was native to a number of European countries and King Edward I gave the rose official recognition as the national flower of England. That was in the 13th century and Edward I was the English king who pioneered the long-sought principle of "no taxation without representation," when he agreed, under pressure, to collect no taxes without the prior consent of parliament.

With a history like that it's no wonder the rose looks

and smells so good!

Deadlines advanced

Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, August 4, for the B.C. Day holiday but the paper will appear on Wednesday as usual.

Deadlines will remain unchanged except for classified advertising, which will be accepted until 5 pm Friday. The Too-Late-to-Classify deadline will remain noon Tuesday.



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MacMillan-Bloedel

Land offer made

MacMillan-Bloedel's Salt Spring Island holdings could be in other hands by today (Wednes-

On Monday, the forest company said it has held an agreement for sale of the 4,800 acres since last month and expected the deal to go through yesterday or today.

Company representative Charles Smith would release no details of the sale agreement. He declined to identify the purchaser or the purchase price.

The acreage, contained in seven separate blocks and concentrated in the southern portion of Salt Spring, have been up for sale since last June. At that time, MacMillan-Bloedel was reportedly asking \$5 million for the land.

Smith confirmed Monday that the sale involves all 4,800 acres of the company's island holdings.

MacMillan-Bloedel had an earlier agreement for sale with local developer. Murray Cyprus. However, the deal fell through in early spring, according to Cyprus, when he attempted to renegotiate his original purchase offer.

While Cyprus' offer was still on the table, concerns over possible logging of the land and extensive subdivision development prompted the Islands Trust to suggest concentrating density allowances on one of the seven parcels and leaving the remaining acreage for other uses - i.e., community woodlots or recreation corridors.

After the Cyprus offer fell through, MacMillan-Bloedel indicated it would consider presenting that suggestion to prospective purchasers with a recommendation that it be adopted. It is not known if the current agreement for sale contains that provision.

Smith said the deal has been "up in the air" for the past month because "a few things had to come together." He declined to elaborate.



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Bennett retirement marks end of political era

The retirement of Premier Bill Bennett, after 10 years of running B.C.'s affairs, means more than the close of one person's tenure in the seat of power. His return to private life can only be called the end of an era.

The Bennett name has earned a place in history as a synonym for almost four decades of political control in B.C., a line from father to son that was broken only briefly in the 1970s, when the NDP enjoyed a brief term at the helm.

However, the Bennett years are noteworthy for more than their length. While in power, father and son left their marks as builders of this province, beginning with the construction of new roads across the hinterland and advancing through to larger-scale projects like hydroelectric facilities and B.C. Place. (Appropriately enough, Bennett Junior said earlier this week that his greatest personal thrill as premier was driving the new Coquihalla Highway. His father would have understood.)

The greatest Bennett accomplishment may not have been the construction of roads and buildings, however, but the birth and nurturing of a political dynasty known as Social Credit. W.A.C. Bennett changed this province forever when he walked across the floor of the House in the early 1950s, and Bill Bennett presided over the revival of a coalition many thought shattered beyond hope by Dave Barrett and the NDP.

But times change. At the very least, life after Bennett is expected to be marked by a shift in this province's power base, from the predominantly rural foundation built by the father and strengthened by the son, to a more urban focus brought by the party's new leadership.

At the most, the growing definition of liberal and conservative elements within the party could spell the end of the coalition as we have known it. There is even talk of —wait for it — changing the name Social Credit.

No matter. The names of Bennett and Social Credit will always be linked in the history of this province, and justifiably credited with taking us to this point in our development. With the curtain falling on one of those names, it is appropriate for British Columbians of all political stripes to applaud the years of effort provided by a family that served this province well.



Flight of discontent

The fight a large group of Salt Spring residents is waging against the establishment of an asphalt plant on this island is based more on straight-forward, gut-feeling opposition than it is on arguments about technical or environmental ramifications. That makes it a political issue.

Political attention, to date, has been focused on the Islands Trust, partly because the Trust is the most appropriate agency to deal with the zoning considerations that made the plant's relocation possible, and partly because attempts to attract attention from the provincial stage have proven fruitless.

That, however, may change. Beginning this week, a telegram campaign aimed at MLA Hugh Curtis will attempt to bring our provincial representative into the fray and, plant opponents hope, onto the side of preserving Salt Spring's non-industrial focus.

Petitioning an elected representative for a response seems a strange route for constituents to have to take. While we can understand our MLA's stand — that the issue lies with the Trust to resolve — we must argue that a more visible part in this affair would have been appreciated by islanders seeking assurance that a watch is being kept from afar.

A personal visit or a more sympathetic ear would have quelled the rumblings of discontent now taking flight in the form of telegrams.

Entertainment is fuel driving modern-day economy

"The day a school teacher can sell out the Astrodome, I'll get him a contract for \$200,000."

A nameless player agent is credited with making the above statement in response to the criticism we frequently hear about the value our society places on athletes and, conversely, refuses to attach to the services supplied by doctors, farmers and the like.

To be sure, it does seem strange that our economic system gives comparatively little reward to those people who make what we consider to be the most valuable contributions to the betterment of society as a whole, and millions of dollars more to the fine physical specimen whose only

claim to fame is being able to run faster than the average human.

That, however, is the simplistic view. It's fine to say that a brain surgeon provides a more worthwhile benefit to society than a hockey player and, therefore, should be paid substantially more money. It's also fine to argue that a hockey player contributes nothing tangible to humanity and should receive little or no money at all.

But — and this is a big but — the inescapable point about money paid for value received is that society, as a whole, has said it considers a hockey player more worthy of monetary reward than a brain surgeon. Why? Because more people would rather watch

my word

Duncan MacDonnell

the goings-on in a hockey arena than in a hospital operating room.

Which is what the nameless player agent quoted above was driving at. Money fuels our economic and social machine, and those who can generate the highest return per investment will receive the greater reward.

While that reality is acceptable

to the Ayn Rand school of economics, it is still a sad commentary on our sense of values. And, as James Michener points out in his book Sport In America, there is little chance of a new social yardstick being implemented in this generation.

Michener argues that every great age of humanity can be divided by architectural eras. The definitive architectural achievement of this age is not the skyscraper modelled on refrigerator packing cases, he continues, but our preoccupation with athletic facilities. This is, he says, the age of the stadium.

It's hard to argue that point. This generation does not applaud the construction of social housing, but it gives a standing ovation to the likes of the Houston Astrodome, Montreal's Olympic Stadium and Vancouver's B.C. Place Stadium.

And there's more to come — Toronto is in a tizzy about its new domed facility, to be finished by the end of this decade, and numerous sports franchises in the U.S. are threatening to move unless municipal and state governments bankroll the bigger and better stadiums they want. And never mind that the huge capital outlay could be better spent on society's more pressing needs.

That, more than anything else, tells me where we're at and where we're going. People have simply decided that entertainment, not enlightenment, is the name of the game.

Strategies

Sir,
If Dr. Borsman's task force on St. Mary Lake is made up of experts and bureaucrats as suggested by the Water Preservation Society in their letter to Driftwood last week, we will not get the gasoline powered boats off the lake for 20 years. How do 1 know? I am an expert (in what, it doesn't matter) and for years I have had to deal with other experts and bureaucrats. While experts seldom agree with each other, bureaucrats seldom have much real incentive to get a job done quickly, and so the talking can go on for years unless someone insists on action.

At the public meeting on July 3, we had the good fortune to listen to what is sometimes called "the wisdom of the tribe"—that is, the voices of common sense and experience. For example, if you put pollutants (gas, oil, milfoil, sewage) into water, eventually you pollute it. Therefore, you should stop putting pollutants in. What we need is a task force to devise and implement strategies which will result within two years in improved safety on the lake and improved water quality, as called for at the meeting.

Yes, there are strategies which result in governments acting. It is these strategies which should be the focus of the task force.

MARY ASHWORTH,

Ganges.

Scorn

The new park bylaw is rightly the subject of a good deal of public scorn. It provides, among other things, that no one may "play at any game whatsoever in or in any portion of any park" unless he does so in an especially allotted space. It forbids the distribution of any handbill without written authority. It outlaws the use of camper stoves for "the preparation of food or drink" but apparently not for other purposes.

More important, although the Saturday market is permitted, its hours are confined, and may be highly regulated. Written approval may be required of vendors, and the recreation commission may charge for space, restrict the scope of what may be sold and determine from time to time whether (and where) midweek vending may occur.

The bylaws can be used to sterilize the marvellous opportunity farmers, fishermen, children and community groups have had, until now, to use the parking lot to distribute both their goods and their views. Worse, the bylaws now, for the first time, regulate what and when you and I may buy from local producers. It is ill-considered, arbitrary, unpopular, silly law capable of being used abusively with relative

The regional director has sought to rationalize the bylaws both in your paper and on radio in essentially two ways. First, he says that legislation with the same sort of provisions exists all over North America; second, he declares that inapplicable sections won't be enforced.

We have to critically look at these assurances. First, as everyone who resides on or visits Salt Spring knows, the Gulf Islands are unique in terms of their character and their ambiance. What may or may not apply in the rest of North America is surely beside the point. The only sensible reason for restrictive legislation in a democratic nation is that it is needed, not somewhere else, but at home. No one, to my knowledge, has advanced a list of past public

letters

offences in Centennial Park which would give rise to a need for restrictions of the sort we now face.

Secondly, to argue that the public has nothing to fear from bad legislation simply because it can be selectively enforced is no comfort to anybody. Bad law is bad law. If the bylaws are so unsatisfactory or so unnecessary that they are an embarrassment to enforce, they should not exist in the first place.

GORDON SLOAN,

Majority

Sir, Our elected CRD director, Dr. Hugh Borsman, seemingly wishes to do everything his way - not according to the views of the majority.

At the July 3, 1986 public meeting regarding gas motors on St. Mary Lake, he suggested a task force. But, as reported in the July 9 Driftwood, "A request for a show of hands in support met with few backers," out of the nearly 100 people in attendance.

It was also reported in the same Driftwood, under Director's Report, "that a second recommendation was made to form a task force to make an indepth study of all problems on St. Mary Lake.

It was only the doctor's recommendation, and he is merrily proceeding with his task force idea.

At the same July 3 meeting, Rick Rockliffe suggested a water ski corridor and a limit of five miles an hour and 10 horsepower gas motors. The vast majority (90 to 95 per cent) of people there opposed the idea and wanted the EMO restriction put back in force.

Again, it was reported in the July 9 Driftwood that Dr. Borsman was going to take the suggestion to the CRD board for consideration, entirely opposite to majority views.

If we must go along with the task force then we agree with the concepts outlined by Tom Gossett and Mike Larmour in the July 23 Driftwood. But in the meantime, Dr. Borsman should be doing all possible to reinstate the EMO restriction as quickly as possible,

as per the wishes of the great majority.

Regarding the court case, there is one point we do not understand: Driftwood, on March 5, 1986, reported that the Supreme Court challenge was adjourned to March 27 because of an affadavit presented by the provincial government, saying that "it recommended the restriction for reasons of public interest, safety and navigation as well as a number of minor factors, including pollution, noise, etc.'

Then, in Driftwood on June 11, 1986, it is reported that "the gasoline outboard ban on St. Mary Lake cannot stand because it was imposed for water quality reasons, not over concern for safety and navigation."

Is there an explanation? I think we've been had.

WALTER and LILLIAN BUSSWOOD, Ganges.

Editor's Note: Although the provincial government's affadavit cited public interest, safety and navigation - plus other factors - as reasons it supported the ban, the B.C. Supreme Court decision handed down by Mr. Justice Gibbs disputed that claim. His finding — that the province's affadavit "did not stand up under ... cross-examination" based on admissions to the court by lands, parks and housing ministry official Ken Stewart that water quality concerns expressed by island residents were the principal reason restrictions were imposed, but that if those concerns were looked at "in isolation without taking into account whether the public wanted ... the restriction or not," the province did not have enough reason to justify a ban. This was duly reported in the June 11 edition of

Reputation

Driftwood.

This is being written from the standpoint of a resident of Salt Spring Island, not from the standpoint of the regional director.

For some reason, a regular few residents of this island carry on a running correspondence with the CRD board and its chairman. More letters arrive from Salt Spring than from all the other 14 municipalities and regional districts combined. This pattern has been established for many

Some of the letters are coherent, courteous and constructive; most of them are not. This past week, five letters were circulated to all directors, concerning the park use bylaw. I will provide a few quotes, and they could be considered typical of many received in the

• "Is this (the bylaw) a bluff to detour attention from something else that is equally vile at hand?"

• From LeRoy Jensen, referring to the bylaw: "It is simply out of line — disgusting and an interesting example of the senile lack of mental function represented by our CRD representatives."

 "The author just strolled through the market one morning and listed all the activities that go

on and has banned them."
Please note that the "author" was a committee of three, plus the director, who was present only for the first meeting. Furthermore, the farmers' market is not changed or affected adversely, in any way, by the new bylaw.)

• "The rules are biggoted (sic) and selfish. The author must have a foul sense of humanity."

 From Margaret Korrison: 'Who will reinforce the giving of a fine of \$300 for playing in the park?"

(The writer should read the sections more carefully.)

What is the consequence of this calibre of letters to the CRD? Firstly, it reflects adversely on the writers, but they obviously don't mind this sort of notoriety. Secondly, the letters are assumed by the recipients to be typical of the people who live here. As a resident of this area, I particularly resent this effect. The impression is often

given of our being a disagreeable, quarrelsome rabble. This is so unfair to the overwhelming majority of people who live here. When anyone feels it necessary to write to the CRD or to the press elsewhere, it would be considerate to remember that over 5,000 others are going to be judged by what is

But from the standpoint of democratic procedure, the third effect is most devastating. The pattern has been established that Salt Spring spells trouble, and the CRD directors tend to shudder and turn off when these sorts of letters are received.

One of the good aspects of our CRD system - and there are bad ones — is that there are 18 impartial directors who conscientiously try to make fair and democratic decisions. The Salt Spring director, trying to represent the majority, is going to inevitably be in conflict with minority groups from time to time. These groups have the opportunity to address the board and, of course, to write clear constructive accounts of their problems to the board members. If the board feels they have a valid point, it would not hesitate to oppose the local director and require him or her to correct any improper or unfair situation.

But such an unfavourable climate has been created by these abusive persons that the board, understandably, tends to avoid further conflict (they had many years of it over the sewer) by leaving the solution of internal Salt Spring problems entirely to the director. There is absolutely no doubt that the democratic process is being badly served by the way local complainants deal with the situation. It should be obvious to them that they are prejudicing their cause from the outset.

I enjoy and appreciate criticism and debate, and I similarly welcome those disagreeing with me enlisting the aid of other CRD members to their cause. But for all our sakes, please try to correct the very unenviable reputation that has been unfairly established for our island.

C.H. BORSMAN, M.D.,

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Noisy

do not oppose the multicultural activities of Off Centre Stage. We applaud them. We do not distaste jazz. We love jazz and we think Wednesday night jazz at Off Centre Stage is a wonderful idea, even if most of us do not frequent it. But shouldn't they reduce the noise levels? Shouldn't they shut the rear windows? Above all, shouldn't they move their jazz nights to a more convenient and secluded

To be left awake up to 2 am is shameful. And why it has to be done so loud? Why does that drummer have to beat the poor instrument like a child would beat an empty coffee can? Why do they have to increase the decibels when the often out-of-tune flutist plays? The piano cries sometimes, but it's not that bad; the old lady's singing sometimes makes us cry

We are not saying that the whole jazz event is bad. Perhaps, at distance and with such loud and clear reception it is easier to detect the "out of harmonies." Somebody sitting at the centre would not be able to detect that.

All this encourages more noise. Then comes the "demolition derby" type cars with their wonderful wheel-spinnings that shatter our ear drums. Suddenly, we are being removed from Ganges to the Indianapolis "night-style."

It is a nightmare. And thanks to

our inept, incompetent, demagogic politicians who still debate the definition of "noise" (shall we say gun-noise?) and who rob us of a proper noise bylaw.

Off Centre Stage: we repeat it. We do not condemn all of your activities altogether! But please make concerted efforts to transfer your jazz nights to a better locale! JOHN OFFENYAM,

and neighbours. Ganges.

Desires

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JOHN E. LEECH.

Executive Director, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C.

Generous

The generosity of islanders continues to aid the gathering of funds for the renovations to Centennial Park in Ganges.

The Salt Spring Tennis Association kindly donated the proceeds from a recent tournament and the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club chipped in with a donation as

The Stepaniuk family held a raffle with a lamb as a prize and turned the proceeds over to the committee to help cover costs at

To these groups and to the individuals who have given money, the committee wishes to extend a hearty thank you.

With the help of Salt Springers, the park will become a place of which we can all be proud.

CENTENNIAL PARK RESTORATION COMMITTEE, Ganges.

Saddened

Sir, We were saddened by the passing of Roma Sturdy who will be remembered with love by her many friends on Salt Spring and the Outer Islands.

Her kindness and untiring community efforts will long be remembered, as will her efficient work as a secretary to the school board for some years, her delivery of meals on wheels to the shut-ins, and her hours spent with the elderly, giving help and advice with

She rendered comfort to all in need in so many ways. She is sadly missed by all who knew her. PHYL and TUPPY AGAR, BETTE STONE,

THE CROFTON FAMILY,

Backbencher's suggestions would make better House

moment of rationality and common sense, a member of the B.C. Legislature rose one day during the last session to offer a few reasonable and intelligent sug-

The legislature, said Jack Davis, wasn't working as it should. The old and tried parliamentary institution that is to be the guiding force behind our political process, he said, was not serving the public very well.

"Look about you, Mr. Speaker. Look at our legislature at work. What you see is what you get. A handful of members present, an occasional minister, a near-toempty press gallery.

Our attendance is thin because little really happens here. Debate to little effect. Acrimony out of frustration. Partisan wrangling without anyone changing their mind. Bills becoming law without a line, a word, a comma being changed here or there.

One of the problems, Davis said, was the fact that the executive council or cabinet not only administers the laws but writes them. And it does so behind closed doors on the strength of advice the public never hears about.

And when the legislation arrives at the floor of the chamber, it is rammed through. The debate becomes meaningless because the government doesn't listen to the official opposition, and has no back bench of its own to listen to.

All of which is regrettably true. In other jurisdictions, the government backbenchers have often a deciding influence on the debate. This government has only two people on the backbench - Davis and Angus Ree, MLA for North Vancouver-Capilano.

The rest of the Socred members are either cabinet ministers or parliamentary assistants to cabinet ministers, who don't want to jeopardize their positions and higher salaries by offending their

In Westminster, often referred to as the mother of all parliaments, there are 10 backbenchers

capital comment

by **Hubert Beyer**

for every executive member of government.

The result of British Columbia's executive-dominated parliament, according to Davis, is a lot of bad legislation that isn't changed before it becomes law.

What set Davis' speech apart from the usual carping and bit-ching that marks political debate in the legislature were his suggestions for solving some of the

The first step, he said, was to trim back the executive and give the government back bench and the opposition MLAs something meaningful to do.

'We have to open up the

legislative process, reduce the confrontation, let the sunshine in," he said.

And to achieve that, the number of MLAs must be increased. Adding 12 seats in the next general election, he said, was a modest beginning.

To sum it up, Davis would have cabinet trimmed, parliamentary secretary jobs eliminated, numerous small but effective standing and select committees appointed, and proceedings in the House

"With these improvements, with better information, with meaningful jobs for more MLAs to perform, with more public involvement, we are bound to improve our performance as a legislature.

'Less confrontation, more cooperation, better bills, better laws, a better administration. It happens in other places; other parliaments, Mr. Speaker, I cannot see why we can't do the same, and better, here in B. C.

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Rebuttal

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Lees Murray, filed with this newspaper for publication.

As one of the older members of the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club, I was involved with the purchase and development of the club grounds at the present location, and I resent your statement that the property was a gift from Vic and Grace Jackson.

I do agree the price was reasonable; however, the club paid the Jacksons' asking price. As a group, we do remember the purpose of the Jacksons' wishes and I am sure if Vic Jackson realized what our "new' neighbours are trying to do to "his" rod and gun club, he would surely turn over in his grave.

Vic Jackson and your father (John Lees) knew of the shot falling on your father's property but at no time was anyone ever in danger from this shot, as by the time it had reached that distance, even if it hit you, it would feel like raindrops. That is why members of the rod and gun club were not concerned. Not one member of the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun who is an avid shooter would carry on their sport in a dangerous manner. Our club has been in its present location for 25 years and has never had an accident on the grounds nor on any adjoining properties, and Long Harbour Road was a residential area even then.

It is obvious to myself, other members and our public supporters that you do not understand the recreational side of our shooting sports, nor are you interested. You dislike guns and have no intention of learning what our sport is all about. Some people play tennis, others golf; we happen to choose shooting sports and if you had known Vic Jackson at all you would not suggest that we are trying to do anything but carry on Vic's dreams of providing a place where today's and future generations of young people interested in the sport of shooting can learn and be properly trained in this sport.

The Rod and Gun Club's integrity as a member of the community at large has never been in question and has had, and still has, the support of other organizations and a majority of the public at large on Salt Spring Island.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that to remove any question of safety and any possible charges of trespass, the rod and gun club is spending many thousands of dollars to completely re-arrange the trap shooting facility. However, the support of members and non-members alike with donations of time, equipment and money is making this all possible. ELLEN L. BENNETT.

Overheard

I am writing this letter in the of a dialogue. It is form substantially a conversation I

I was having lunch at Kanaka Place when I overheard the man at the next table say to his wife: "Do you think we are living in a cultural desert?" She replied: "No, I wasn't aware that Salt Spring Island is a cultural desert until you just mentioned it.

"Let me explain." he said. "Many people who came here to retire had lived in big cities like Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles and New York. They enjoyed world-famous opera, ballets, symphony orchestras, Broadway and London plays, renowned virtuosos. We will never see such things again unless we visit the big city; all we have here are amateur productions.'

She replied: "We can always manage to scrounge from our pensions to have a cultural feast once in a while in Vancouver. We'd have to stay there overnight, so it would be expensive.'

"Yes." he said. "that's the point. People with lots of money - and there are many on this island — don't mind the lack of cultural activity here because they can go to the large cities, even London, for their theatre, opera, symphony concerts, ballets, etc. We can't. We pine for the opportunities we lost when we moved here - all the beautiful scenery on the island doesn't compensate for that.'

"But you forget," she said, "that we have a lot of amateur and musical talent on the island, and we do enjoy it.'

"Yes," he replied, "and I'm thankful, but those productions are few in number. We don't have much cinema, so we miss out on the latest ones worth seeing, with an occasional exception. Shows like My Fair Lady, Fiddler On The Roof and The Wizard of Oz. put on by the Salt Spring theatre society, are great but think of the places where they are given makeshift theatres, a hall 90 years old with poor acoustics, or a high school gym. This year, we had a performing arts fair that was the most ambitious of its kind since we moved here ... but is a high school gym a good place for it? Wouldn't you rather see the performances in a real theatre with good acoustics, comfortable chairs instead of wooden benches, and with decent and adequate parking?"

"Of course," she said, "but Ganges is only a village. You can't expect the facilities and amenities of a large city. The point is, how can we get the facilities we need here for the performing arts, and the money to attract professional produc-

"It won't be easy," he replied, "but it can be done. We must wake up the politicians who control the governmental purse strings to the fact that, as the old saying goes, man cannot live on bread alone. He needs spiritual and intellectual nourishment. Our governments are lavish in handing out huge sums for sewers and the like but overlook the cultural needs of small communities.

"It is just as important to have a building for the performing arts to have an adequate sewer. However, unless there are very rich people in our midst (and I'm sure there are) who might built a theatre to perpetuate their names as they are perpetuated in parks - we must look to government. I believe it can be done, Governments, provincial and federal, have the money. Look at Expo 86, built with hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars. We must make our cultural needs evident to the politicians."

I was fascinated by this discussion but had to leave. My lunch hour was up.

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EMO status discussed

Meeting with minister outlines lake concerns

At the July 3 meeting about St. Mary Lake the obvious priority was to seek government assistance in having the EMO status returned. I arranged a meeting with Environment Minister Austin Pelton, which was held on July 23 with the two Island trustees present, as well as Don Storr, chairman of the North Salt Spring Water Board.

Mr. Pelton and his deputy minister were courteous but, of course, it remains to be seen how helpful. We first explained about the EMO requirement, expressing our uninformed opinion that the province surely should have appropriate jurisdiction. He assured us that he would look into

He was also asked to find out exactly how lakes elsewhere in B.C. achieved the EMO status. Was it only through the federal legislation? Finally I indicated that a task force would be formed to review all presently available information, along with the Trust report due in September. We asked if he would allocate a member of his staff to assist us, and he indicated he would be pleased to do so. We also indicated that we would, no doubt, be looking at quite major remedial measures which might well, in view of the very critical deterioration of water quality in the lake, require our calling on the government for financial assistance. About all he could do at this point was assure us that he would listen and help if at all possible.

I see that Mssrs' Gossett and Larmour are now expressing great concern about the risk of boating accidents on St. Mary Lake but don't want anything done about it, pending possible resolution by an EMO ban. First of all, they should know that governments are not going to move that quickly, and also they can be assured that the people we are dealing with are

The regional board received a precis of the July 3 meeting, along with the request for support for an director's report

by Hugh Borsman

EMO status. They were also given Mr. Rockliffe's suggestion regarding temporary safety measures for outboard motors. Some persons object to that recommendation being forwarded. Unless I chose to edit the report of the meeting I had no choice; it was the only suggestion made to address safety, although I tried several times to get suggestions, even though several speakers expressed a great concern about safety. Although I had left the board meeting to visit Mr. Pelton, the board approved our recommendations and their supporting letter will be sent to the Minister of lands, parks, and housing, with copies to Mr. Pelton and Mr. Curtis.

New bylaws

On Wednesday, July 23, the noise bylaw had its final reading. The gun club was exempted, against the wishes of some neighbours, but I will be meeting with both parties in early September to attempt to achieve some compromise solution.

The park use bylaw also had

final reading, much to the dismay of a group who feel possessive about the park. A large part of the problem is that very few persons have had the opportunity to study the bylaw, and have been reacting to hearsay. There will be lots of opportunity to discuss the bylaw in detail so perhaps, in the interim, the following points could be noted:

· First of all, the parks and recreation commission is responsible to the public for the care, mainténance and safe use of well over half a million dollars of property and equipment. Does any reasonable person feel that any

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such body should not have the right, by law, to protect that property and those people who use "such facilities?

• This bylaw has to cover the possible situation in four community parks that are quite different from one another. Some sections deal with one park and may not apply to another. For example, item 2 (9) deals with Portlock and not with Centennial Park, where there are no special areas provided.

• Everyone is, or should be, aware of the crisis situation regarding liability insurance. Recreation facilities are the origin of most of the claims in municipal and regional governments. Officially letting anyone and everyone do as they like on public property would be indefensible in the case of a suit. • If there are going to be any rules at all, they must cover every conceivable situation; otherwise amendments would be required

every time a new problem arose. The commission started out hoping to have a few short sentences that would cover the situation; this was not possible, so a bylaw for a small community is not very much different than one for a larger community.

 The recreation commission has been intending for some time to regulate mid-week vending. The commission feels that mid-week vendors should be contributing to at least the maintenance of the park. The vendors themselves have not disagreed with this concept. Obviously, it requires some legal authority before taking this step.

· Finally, you can be certain that the parks and recreation commission will use the rules with discretion and tolerance. If any section is found to be unduly restrictive, it can quickly be changed.

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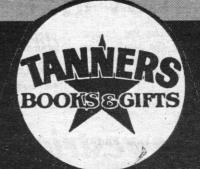
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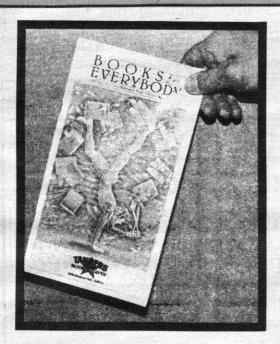
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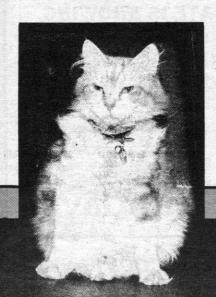
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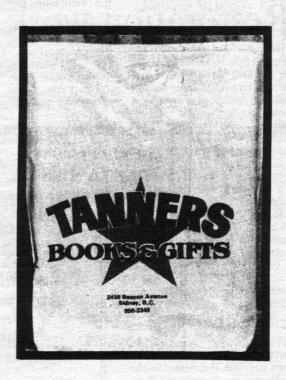


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Asphalt issue prompts chamber zoning study

A recent uproar involving the proposed installation of an asphalt plant on industrially zoned land near Ganges has encouraged the Chamber of Commerce to accelerate a study on residential zoning for the island.

Chamber member Pat James, who is heading the study, says the Island Trust has not created any task force to study residential

As a realtor, James says she is frequently confronted with the problem of people asking for a small, manageable lot, close to Ganges, and being unable to meet the request.

The present community plan packages residential property into approximate five-acre lots. James says many people - especially the elderly - find such an area too large to maintain.

"The days of the five-acre lots are gone," she says. "We need an imaginative approach to land

Many elderly people looking for homes, she notes, do not qualify for subsidized housing such as Pioneer Village.

The chamber intends to research the subject and provide the Advisory Planning Committee (APC) with suggestions.

James says the chamber wants to be more than a "small voice" to the APC, and wants others to express their needs and ideas. Messages for James can be left at the chamber office.

While the chamber had intended to take two or three months for a long-range study, James says the issue concerning the asphalt plant has encouraged a speeding

Box 718, Ganges

up of the process.

James said the chamber is also looking for areas that could be zoned for industrial use.

When James presented the chamber's study proposal to a recent APC meeting, committee chairman David Williams expressed interest, saying the APC would appreciate any input of-

537-9617

Lake restrictions, limitations endorsed by regional district

The Capital Regional District (CRD) last week combined a call for reintroduction of electricmotor-only (EMO) restrictions on St. Mary Lake with support for a water-ski corridor and a five mile-an-hour speed limit elsewhere on the lake.

Reinstatement of EMO status was urged by the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, in the interests of public safety, while the call for a corridor and speed limit was brought to the board by Salt Spring director Hugh Borsman.

The CRD meeting heard Borsman introduce the minutes of a July 3 public meeting held on Salt Spring to discuss St. Mary Lake. He noted that about 130 people attended the gathering, and that the main concern expressed was to do everything possible to reinstate the ban on gasoline-powered

The ban was overturned earlier this year by the B.C. Supreme Court, which ruled that it had been applied for reasons of water quality and, as such, went beyond the authority of its enabling legislation, the Canada Shipping Act.

Borsman told the CRD that the July 3 meeting here listed "supposed deterioration of water quality by outboards" as the main concern voiced, "followed by the risk of the introduction of Eurasian milfoil from visitors' boats.'

The minutes also listed references to aesthetic considerations, noise, danger from ski boats and skiers, and erosion of the shore. The effect of speeding boats on the tranquil way of life sought by many residents was also noted as a considera-

CRD directors held a brief debate on the suggested measures. Borsman was absent when the vote was held, having been called to a meeting with Environment Minister Austin Pelton to discuss St. Mary Lake.

That meeting had been requested at the July 3 meeting here. The audience asked that Borsman and local Islands Trust representatives discuss with Pelton the possible reintroduction of the EMO

Prior to debate, CRD directors received copies of a brief from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, an explanation of the task force struck by Borsman to investigate lake problems, and an overview of opposition to the EMO order.

The task force has been charged with gathering all available information and making recommendations regarding the long-term problems associated with the gradual deterioration of St. Mary Lake.

It was noted that resort operators and some lakeshore residents opposed the EMO policy because studies of pollution by two-stroke, gasoline outboards indicate negligible effects on water quality.

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Historic wheelhouse

Restoration work on hold until fall

Placement and display of the Cy Peck wheelhouse is "on hold" until the fall, when more volunteers will be available for restoration duties, chamber of commerce member Andy Dietrich said last week.

Dietrich, who brought the wheelhouse to Salt Spring Island in early June, says a public meeting will be held in September to discuss possible display locations and options.

The last owner of the Cy Peck which once served the Gulf Islands as a ferry - offered its wheelhouse to Salt Spring when the vessel was scuttled earlier this year.

Dietrich says all islanders are invited to attend the public meeting, so everyone can have their The historical society, the parks groups - everyone should be involved," he said.

Two possible locations for the wheelhouse are Drummond Park

and Grace Point. While Dietrich says the decision on placement must come from islanders, he prefers the Grace Point option, believing the wheelhouse would be subject to less vandalism there.

Dietrich envisions a museumtype display for the Cy Peck artifact, where a simulated backdrop would enable spectators to look through glass at a reconstructed wheelhouse. He would like to see the wheelhouse fitted with a steering wheel and instrument panel, similar to its origin-

In the immediate future, however, Dietrich says volunteers will, be needed to paint, reconstruct and build on to the present structure.

Dr. Michael P. Buna, B.Sc., D.C.

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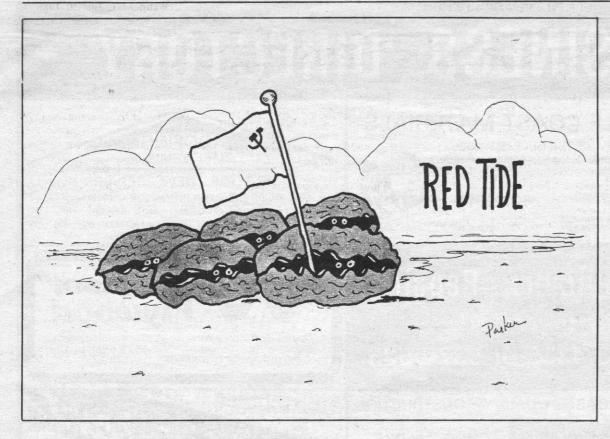
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Ban still in effect

Red tide conditions 'stable'

Red tide conditions affecting B.C.'s coastal waters continued to worsen last week.

Red tide - technically referred to as paralytic shellfish poisoning - is a toxic state caused by the bloom of a single-celled phytoplankton organism. A toxin level above 80 micrograms per 100 grams of meat is considered

Three weeks ago, the rise of toxin levels caused the entire B.C. coast to be closed to bivalve shellfish gathering for the first time since 1980.

Prompting the closure were toxin counts ranging as high as 14,000 micrograms per gram of meat. Last week, a spokesman for the federal fisheries office in Victoria said levels have, if any-thing, shown a slight increase over those counts.

"The situation is unchanged counts are still above acceptable levels and all areas remain closed," the spokesman said, adding that the office is continuing its monitoring program and expected to see another set of test results late yesterday (Tuesday).

The spokesman added that the inspection office cannot say whether the slight increase in last week's toxin counts are indicative of a stabilizing effect, or if they mean still higher levels can be expected.

It was noted that toxin levels are affected by temperature, salinity, nutrients and the upswelling of bottom sediment. Two weeks ago, the inspection office said it could take anywhere from three weeks to three months for red tide conditions to subside.

The federal fisheries spokes-



man added that the public is co-operating with the shellfish ban, which applies to all recreational and commercial harvesting of mussels, clams, oysters and scallops. The closure does not affect crustaceans such as crabs, shrimps and prawns.

Meanwhile, a release from federal fisheries said commercial products on store shelves or shellfish served in restaurants is safe for human consumption. Those products were inspected and found safe before the red tide hazard surfaced on July 16.

The release adds that anyone suspected of contracting shellfish poisoning should seek immediate medical attention. Symptoms include numbness and tingling of the lips, tongue, face an extremities, followed by nausea and vomiting. The potential result is fatal respiratory paralysis.



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Media service or manipulation?

Information branch wields extensive power

By HUBERT BEYER Special to Driftwood

VICTORIA - Few government operations give rise to as much continued friction between B.C.'s polarized political forces as the government's powerful information apparatus.

While the Socreds maintain that the Government Information Services (GIS) section of the provincial secretary's ministry is nothing but a clearing house for bona fide information, the opposition claims it is a dangerous propaganda machine with one purpose: to perpetuate the power of the government.

Even disregarding the potential for abuse, GIS is a very powerful information tool with the capability of reaching every British Columbian.

With a budget of more than \$15 million this fiscal year, including salaries for a staff of 50 to 55, GIS will use every medium to drive home messages the government considers of importance to British Columbians.

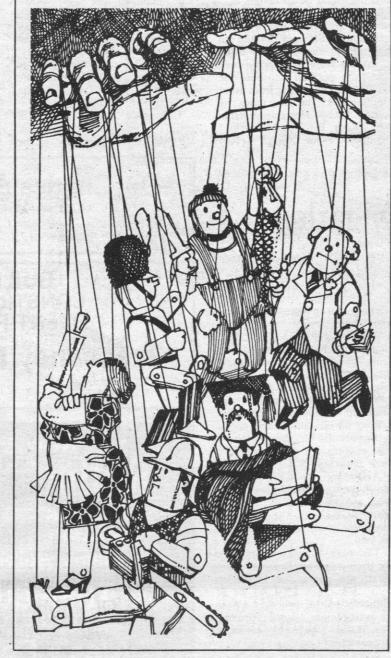
GIS is in charge of placing newspaper ads and television and radio commercials. It is responsible for Provincial Report, a slick publication informing the public of government programs.

Based on last year's figures, GIS will spend about 45 per cent of its \$11.8 million advertising budget on television, 30 per cent in the print media and 25 per cent on radio.

Until 1983, each ministry had its own information budget. Ministry staff decided how that money was spent. And even though most ministries still maintain a skeleton staff of information officers - a total of about 35 to 40 — GIS now controls their budgets. And with control over the budget comes control over the flow of information.

Not a scrap of information from any ministry goes on the air or into print without the final approval from GIS. That goes for TV and radio commercials featuring cabinet ministers extolling the virtues of government programs, as well as brochures explaining how the consumer and corporate affairs ministry's debt counselling service can help people

GIS chief Dave Laundy says the centralization was necessary to avoid duplication of information. Before the days of GIS, he says,



ministries quite often wasted money by publishing the same information.

"GIS now has control over their budgets. It gives some cohesion and stops duplication. We manage the government's information budget more efficiently," Laundy

Very little money, he says, is spent as a result of ad-hoc decisions. The budget process is specific, beginning with what Laundy calls a "wish list" at budget preparation time.

"We meet with the various ministries and agree on a division of the whole budget. At that time, every specific project must be approved by GIS.

Laundy says although each inistry's "communications ministry's plan," is adhered to fairly strictly, it can be revised to accommodate unexpected developments.

The AIDS commercials, for instance, weren't anticipated at budget preparation time. To pay for those, some other projects had to be cancelled, Laundy says.

He says GIS's central budget and high profile make it a relatively easy target for critics, but he rejects accusations that GIS is a political tool, a propaganda machine.

"We work for politicians but we're not political. We don't see ourselves as a mouthpiece of the Socred government.

Laundy points to the latest issue of Provincial News as proof of GIS's non-political approach. The issue, he notes, contained no reference to Premier Bennett's resignation.

'To cover the resignation would have been ridiculous. That's the job of the news media. We simply make the public aware of what government programs are available. The last issue was just full of information, including a list of schools which received money from the Excellence in Education fund, along with a list of innovative programs for which they got the money.'

Most TV and radio spots, Laundy says, end with a reminder to write or phone in for more information regarding a specific government program. It was surprising how many businesses are still unaware of certain tax breaks offered in the 1985-86 budget.

According to Laundy, GIS goes

to great length to avoid possible conflicts with regard to the awarding of confracts.

Large contracts go to tender, while small jobs are awarded to companies from a list and on a rotating basis. Any company, Laundy says, has access to GIS jobs, provided it has the qualifica-

Critics see GIS in a somewhat different light. They fear that it has become a powerful propaganda instrument used shamelessly by the government to hoodwink an unsuspecting public.

Gordon Hanson, the NDP's critic for the provincial secretary's ministry, says the centralization of information services was not bad in itself. The problem was the way in which the government has abused the power at its disposal in the form of GIS.

'The torrent of tax dollars that flows into advertising and political propaganda would much better serve the public if it was paid for by the Social Credit Party and not placed on the backs of the taxpayers of this province," Han-

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Regional directors approve park use bylaw

By FRANK RICHARDS

Despite a 600-name petition and six letters asking for a referendum on the Salt Spring Island parks bylaw, the Capital Regional District (CRD) last week gave its final approval to regulations governing Centennial Park in Ganges.

Salt Spring director Hugh Borsman told the board that many of the signers of the petition had signed under the impression that it called for safeguarding the farmers' market held in the park each Saturday morning. That belief was incorrect, Borsman said, noting that the bylaw protects the market and authorizes its continued operation.

The issue, he continued, is the maintenance of the park as a permanent market throughout the

Directors agreed that the bylaw was reasonable, and that a regional park without such regulation would not be desirable.

Director John Mike of Saanich said he would be in favour of a referendum if 600 islanders asked for one. However, board chairman Howard Sturrock pointed out that while there were many signatures from Salt Spring residents, the petition also bore the names of many people from other communities. The first page, he noted, listed signatures from White Rock, B.C., and Ontario.

Sidney Mayor Norma Sealey

told the board she has received calls from Salt Spring residents who believed the new bylaw threatened the Saturday morning farmers' market. It will be allowed to continue, she added, and is written into the bylaw that way.

"The bylaw gives control to the commission on the island," she concluded, "and this puts the onus on Salt Spring Island."

Esquimalt Mayor Ken Hill could find no fault with the bylaw. "It puts restrictions there in the

interests of safety," he suggested, "and it puts the responsibility on the island people."

Hill added that the letters received by the board indicated the writers had grasped "something that is completely

Opposing the bylaw via letters were Mrs. B.E. Ariss, Susan Bradford (secretary of the Market Vendors' Association), Elizabeth Hill, Leroy and Lynda Jensen, and Margaret Korrison.

By demonstration, presentations

Islanders protest new rules

Salt Spring Islander Susan Bradford seemed to be enjoying herself as she broke the law in Centennial Park Friday.

"Would you like a handbill?" she called to passersby. "I do not have written permission, so I'm breaking the law. I'm saying it's insane."

Bradford and several others set up tables at the park Friday, protesting a bylaw recently passed by the Capital Regional District (CRD) to give the parks and recreation commission administrative control of Salt Spring Island parks. Six concerned delegates also presented opposition to the bylaw at a commission meeting Monday night.

The bylaw appears to prohibit the use of parks for games and vending, unless written permission from the commission is obtained. It also disallows the distribution of leaflets or handbills.

"Look at these hardened criminals," Bradford invited passersby on Friday, indicating two children selling miscellaneous items at a stall beside her table. "Do you have written permission to be selling this?" she asked them.

"No, but my daddy says it's alright," was the response.

It is presently illegal to play any game whatsoever in or on any portion of any park in Salt Spring Island [section 9 of Bylaw 1435], Bradford's handbill reads. This includes soccer, tennis, tiddlywinks or patience, she added.

Bradford, who wants the bylaw rescinded, said she checked with the parks and recreation commission and was told that soccer in Portluck Park is not allowed without written permission.

Commission member Phil Hume denied the statement on Monday night. The intent of that section of the bylaw, he told delegates at the commission meeting, is to prevent activities such as soccer being played on the tennis courts, or golf in Centennial Park.

Dealer



Shilo Zylbergold offers secondhand wares.

Enforcement would be for safety reasons only.

The commission could do nothing last year at Drummond Park when a fire was started, the flag pole cut down and \$300 benches burned, he noted. Because the commission did not have administrative power over parks, their hands were tied in putting a stop to the vandalism. "The police won't come," Hume said, without the law backing them.

A petition opposing the bylaw and requesting a referendum was presented to the CRD last week. Bradford said the CRD ignored the petition. Response to Bradford's stance varied.

"I've got the market one," one person remarked when Bradford offered him a handbill. "Now what?"

"You've got to be kidding," another said. "You mean you can't toss a football around? If they keep working at it, they'll take all the fun out of parks."

No mid-week vendor approached Friday had obtained written permission to sell goods at the park. By Monday, however, the commission had received three requests.

According to CRD director Hugh Borsman, the bylaw covers what are considered all possibilities of park abuse. "It's not very likely it's going to be enforced,"

The park bylaw was initiated for three reasons, Borsman said. First, the parks and recreation commission has \$500,000 to \$1 million worth of property within its jurisdiction. "Until Wednesday, it didn't have any authority to protect it."

Of the second point, Borsman said, "we have decided that if we're going to have mid-week vendors, they're going to contribute to the upkeep of the park."

One of the most important reasons he cited regards the farmers' market. "The farmers' market has never been legally entitled to exist. It was running against the law, while it was under lands, parks and housing," Borsman says. "It has only been a legal entity since Wednesday."

Dr. Charles Alsberg, N.D.

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Pup perch

Three's company for this Ganges motorcyclist, who finds room for pooch and passenger by adding container to the rear of machine. St. Bernard or Newfie dog is ruled out for this family, however.

Raffle prize unique

The prize in a raffle being held by the Salt Spring Gallery represents a direct link between this island and the Antarctic.

The prize is a print by Sir Peter Scott (KCB, MBE, DSC) and bears his signature.

The artist is the sone of the late Robert Falcon Scott, whose expedition to the Antarctic ended in tragedy in 1912. Island artist Pat Wright, daughter of the late Sir Charles Wright, one of the survivors of the Scott expedition, invited the artist to sign the print.

The prize is the framed print, Grev Geese Over The Sea. Aside from the fact that it is signed, the print is considered rare because it

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Draw for the print takes place on August 30.

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Double trouble?

Reputation precedes islanders

When last week's meeting of the Capital Regional District (CRD) heard a plea for consideration from a resident of Salt Spring Island, a comment was made that the request came from North Salt

Are there two Salt Spring Islands? Chairman Howard Sturrock assured board members there is only one. Added Oak Bay Mayor Susan Brice: "It's all we could handle.'

Payment of \$180 in compensation for the loss of four sheep was approved for a Salt Spring Island farmer at last week's CRD meet-

Ronald M. Lee of Fulford Harbour claimed compensation for four one-month-old lambs destroyed by dogs.

Assessed market value of each animal was set at \$60. The \$180 paid out is based on 75 per cent of that assessment.

Jim Money of Saturna Island has been named to that island's Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove water

The appointment, approved last week by the CRD, means Money will fill the vacancy left by the death of Walter Ratzlaff.

The CRD last week authorized two grants-in-aid to Pender Island

Receiving board support were approvals made earlier by island director Kelly Scott - one a \$300 grant to the South Pender Island Property Owners' Association, the other a \$750 grant to the Pender Island Recreation Hall Association.

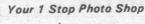
CRD director C.F. Bell came up with a quick definition of a neighbourhood pub at last Wednesday's board meeting.

"A neighbourhood pub," he said, "is to permit you to walk to a pub. And if they had more of them, you could.

Parks are a puzzle in the islands. Last week, the CRD

agreed to ask the ministry of transportation and highways to circulate copies of subdivision applications which involve parkland dedications to the region.

In the islands, subdivisions are the responsibility of the Islands Trust while supervision of parklands is deferred to the regional district. There is, however, no indication of whether cash in lieu of land reserves can be accepted in the islands, and a legal opinion is being sought. Under the Mu-





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nicipal Act, this is not permissible where local governments do not hold the community parks func-

Both the CRD and the Trust are seeking clarification of dual responsibilities for parklands.

Happy 40th



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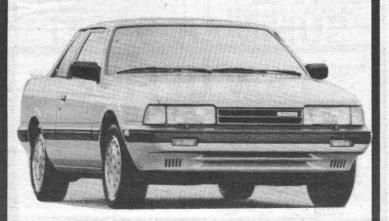
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New garden pest manual takes integrated approach

Every time I complete an article there are exclusions, omissions or additional pieces of information that come to light, usually after the paper has been printed. Once the reader has gone over the column, they too come up with facts, comments and additional pertinent info and personal experiences.

Now, all of those gems of wisdom can't go unrecognized, so before we get into this week's topic I'll tack on a few more comments, firstly about slugs. Being an advocate of natural pests and controls, Kay Meredith brought me a real useful one and a saving grace for snakes - for you see, snakes of the garden variety like to consume slugs. Being natural predators of slugs and, for that matter, a host of other garden pests, snakes should be tolerated and even encouraged in your garden. Many of you may not 'like" snakes — to put it mildly – but the choice is yours: slugs alone, or a few snakes and far fewer slugs (I favour the latter).

Now here's another feather in the hats of ducks and duck lovers, for they too eat slugs with relish (mustard or ketchup, too for what it's worth). Ducks will eat far more slugs than the lowly snake, but they will also eat three quarters of your vegetable garden and flowers, too. Then again, there is the fertilizer to consider on the plus side, and the future duck a l'orange being fattened up out there, so

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your garden

by Chris Schmah

through it all a duck on a leash may be the best answer (the great muscovy hunting duck, or the pekin pointer ... oh what a great future).

Now for the topic of the week—a review of a new, soon-to-be-released garden pest manual, A Gardener's Guide to Pest Prevention and Control in the Home Garden, a rather long-winded title by that well-known writer and publisher, the province of British Columbia.

This soft-cover book is a complete rewrite of the pest guide for the home gardener that began publication in the mid-1970s. This new handbook is for use in B.C. and covers most of the pests to be found in the home garden.

'Book covers most pests found in the home garden.'

While some of the exotic diseases and insects may have been omitted, virtually all of the pest problems you or I are likely to encounter have been included and are covered in a thorough manner. This guide takes each plant group such as house plants or vegetables and identifies common problems — be they insect, disease, soil or cultivation-related — and covers them, before going in-depth to specifically identify each insect pest for specific plants.

pest for specific plants.

Each disease or insect is identified by a common name, then described as to time of appearance, type of damage, how it looks (often, a drawing is included), what kind of losses to expect, and how serious the damage can be. Controls and protective or preventative practices are then outlined.

This guide takes an integrated approach to pest management, first outlining gardening practices and cultivation techniques, timings of seedings, the use of recommended resistant or stronger varieties, and other useful information that helps to prevent the occurrence of the problem so that nasty controls can be avoided or greatly reduced.

The guide goes a long way in dispelling commonly held myths, but reinforces home remedies and natural control techniques that will work. It covers companion planting in a few brief paragraphs, making note of the use of marigolds to help control nematodes, but then goes on to say that often, unproven co-planting

will only reduce the yields of the crop plant that you are trying to grow, by competing for light, water and nutrients. In a sensible manner, it concludes that from all conducted trials, "companion planting is not recommended as a reliable means of controlling pests."

Another section covers proper soil management, giving sound approaches to organic methods of improving your garden soil, including liming, compost, organic matter, the use of manures, fertilizers and micro-nutrients.

One section covers the use of pesticides — now don't cringe and run away, you "organic" gardeners, for this guide advocates caution, awareness and wise use only if absolutely necessary. A comprehensive safety section outlines precautions and techniques for safe, effective application and toxicity. It is far better to be an informed non-user of pesticides than it is to be totally ignorant. The concerned advocate of the organic approach can then give sound, sensible advice to the novice or less-informed gardener. Firstly, organic approaches such as mechanical barriers or insect traps or natural predator controls are recommended, then the guide gives useable pesticides, including the timing of applications, rates at which to apply them, and precautions to be taken, such as: Diazinon is toxic to bees for up to three weeks, so don't apply it to plants that are likely to be in bloom or be attracting bees to them within the ensuing three week period. Good, sound, sensible, well-thought out advice.

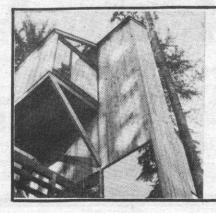
This guide has another section on identifying and controlling weeds in your lawn, covering herbicides and precautions for their use.

'Manual is helpful, thorough and factual guide.'

Another area covered is pests in the home, such as fleas, carpet beetles, mice and rats. Well done.

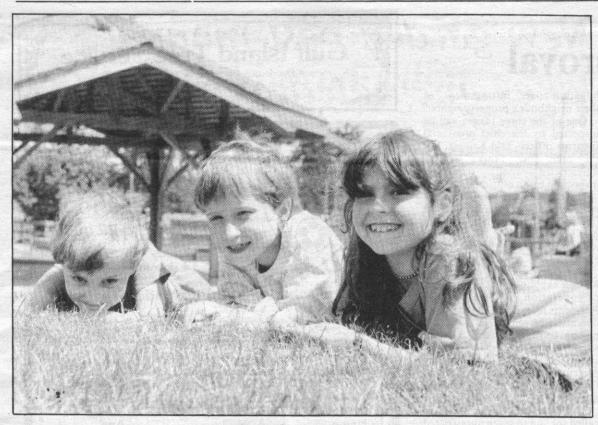
A section on poisonous plants is helpful but not necessarily complete, unfortunately.

All in all, this manual for the home gardener is a helpful, thorough, factual guide, packed with information, advice and proven solutions to home gardening problems. The only drawback for the whole issue is that it's going to cost you around \$7 to buy, but even at that it's one of the best values going, because it's so complete and comprehensive. In a few weeks this book should be available from book stores, garden centres and nurseries and should definitely find its way into your gardening library. I guess that constitutes an endorsement.



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Enjoying a sunny afternoon at Centennial Park in Ganges are youngsters Maya Suess, right, and Ariel and Caleb (left) Corkum.

Renovations to Centennial Park include completion of the bandshell and grassing the area around it. The grassy slope is a Driftwood photo by Alice Richards

perfect place to watch waterfront activities or exchange childhood

Expo boom a bust?

Tourism falling short of expectations

The 1986 tourist season isn't living up to its billing. Expobound visitors have not innundated the Gulf Islands in the numbers many tourism-related businesses had anticipated.

Some local hotel and marina owners attribute the poor season to weather, while others blame the drawing power of Expo. One sentiment is unanimous, however: the summer of 1986 is not meeting expectations.

At the tourist information booth, Moe Gerwing says he has not noticed a substantial difference in the number of enquiries received. June was bad, he says, because of the poor weather.

According to Dan Fraser, tourist information has approximately 80 enquiries a day, and many of those are from large groups of

Owners of tourist operations offer a different story.

At the Heritage Boutique in Ganges, Valery Martinelli says business was slow up to the second or third week in July. Even now, she says, "it's certainly nothing out of the ordinary ... (nothing) you could attribute to

Shirley Coulter at Montague Harbour Marina on Galiano said 'it was the pits until July 15. Let's face it - people can't afford to go to Expo and then somewhere else. They have to go home and watch the grass grow.

Coulter says the provincial park on Galiano is also suffering from lack of business. "It's the first time they know of that they've had any empty spaces.

Even Roche Harbour in the San Juan Islands, which is usually "chock-a-block" full, she notes, is half empty, "and they've dropped their prices.'

While Bedwell Harbour reports a slight increase over last year's business, Debbie Iversen says it has not seen any spin-off from

At Ganges Marina on Salt Spring, Lynda Brown says business was down 20 per cent in the first part of the season.

"Since the weather's improved, it's picked up," she says.

Brown blames a combination of unseasonably cold and wet weather and Expo for the poor tourist showing.

"Any attraction is going to draw the crowd away from the regular tourist businesses," says Arbutus Court Motel's Ursula Burger, who describes activity at the motel as down from last year. She says the summer is proving disappointing: "We expected it, business-wise, to be better.

According to Bryan Harding at the Seabreeze Motel, business has "dropped off dramatically." Having spoken to others, he says the problem is widespread. Both the Coca-Cola people from Victoria and a linen rental business also report a poor season.

The Harbour House's John Crofton says tourist activity is neither up nor down, but the hotel 'hasn't seen the overflow of tourists from Expo.

There is one piece of good news to be found in the bad, however. Artcraft spokesman Bruce Comba reports sales at the art and craft show are up 25 per cent.





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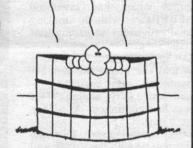
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By regional district

Noise bylaw wins approval

By FRANK RICHARDS

There is still some concern on Salt Spring Island over the exemption of the island Rod and Gun Club from the terms of the island's new noise bylaw.

When Richard Krieger addressed the Capital Regional Board (CRD) last Wednesday afternoon, he explained that he appeared on behalf of a number of residents opposed to the exemption of the shooting range from the bylaw.

Krieger reviewed the meeting with the board three months ago when his associates presented their objections. At that time, the directors had listened with sympathy and had recommended further study and negotiation.

"Unfortunately, no further attempts at compromise on the noise issue were initiated," the speaker told the board.

He reported that a number of changes had taken place at the range, "due mainly to a threat of

meeting, to be held in two months, would then re-examine

Director Eric Simmonds, mean-

while, was worried about the

position of the CRD. "If someone

gets hurt," he asked, "does the

Capital Region accept liability?"

provided a cynical answer: "In

this day, everyone around gets

pathy for the neighbours and the

noise. I believe that if the rod and

gun club is causing such pro-

blems, surely to God they should

find new premises.'

Simmonds added: "I have em-

Chairman Howard Sturrock

litigation over infringement of their neighbour's property rights."

One of the three ranges will be inspected by the chief provincial firearms officer, said Krieger, but the other two ranges unrestricted weapons - require no inspection by an outside authority.

He expressed concern that a ricochet, hot load or misfire might find its way into the path of traffic on Long Harbour Road. The ranges now face that road, he explained.

The sharp point of contention, Krieger explained, lies in the hours of operation of the ranges. Residents have urged that hours of operation be limited to 9 am to 6 pm on six days a week, with no shooting on Sundays. This was not acceptable to the club and the present terms provide for shooting from 9 am until sunset, seven days a week.

The residents' proposal also called for "up to seven unrestricted tournament days.'

Krieger expressed regret that the earlier concern shown by the directors has not borne fruit and that he has heard nothing from the island regional director Hugh Borsman as to the progress of the bylaw.

The presentation to the board concluded with the plea that a change to the hours recommended by local residents be made before approving the bylaw.

No change was made.

Shooting range opponents cite safety considerations By FRANK RICHARDS with the neighbours and try to reach a compromise. A further

the situation.

sued."

Salt Spring Island's noise bylaw was adopted last week by the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Final approval was given fol-lowing a presentation made to last week's CRD meeting by island resident Richard Krieger, who protested the partial exclusion of the Rod and Gun Club from the noise restrictions. The bylaw permits the rifle range on Scott Road to be operated within specified times.

In a prepared statement, Krieger cited the dangers and hazards of the range and reminded directors that it lies between private property and the highway.

In addition to expressing concern about possible richocets and misdirected bullets, Krieger listed other administrations in the province which had instituted noise bylaws without making special provisions or exemptions for rifle ranges.

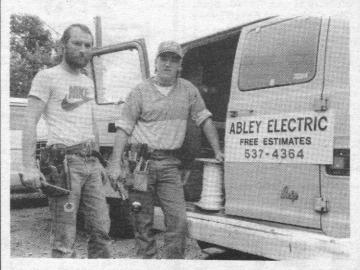
Salt Spring director Hugh Borsman told the board the Krieger presentation was mainly con-cerned with safety, adding, "This aspect has nothing to do with a noise bylaw.'

Safety considerations, Borsman continued, lie with the RCMP and the provincial Attorney-General's department, and both authorities are satisfied with present condi-

Borsman recalled that an earlier meeting had decided to invite the spokesmen for the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club to meet







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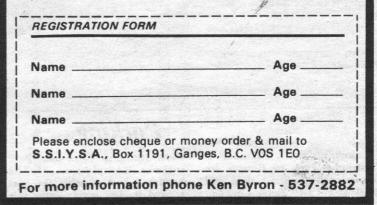


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golf notes

By PAT DOHERTY

Fifty golfers in the 18-hole division turned out for Evans Cup play (age 60 and over) and pin day. Lil Rayner took the cup with a 66 net while Doris Beach was runner up with 68.

For the non-Evans Cup players, it was Connie Hardy with a low net of 68, followed by Mona Coulter at 69. Medalist for the day was Connie Hardy at 85. Mona Coulter won the putt pot with 25.

Twenty-three ladies were out in the nine-hole section. The Kennedy Cup winner was Norah Ray and low medalist was Barb Nemeth. Audrey Smith, Pauline Elliot and Norah Ray shared the putt pot, and Edith Owens took the hidden hole.

Match play for the Bank of Commerce has been completed with Phyllis Henderson the winner and Marj Russell the runnerup. Bert Beitel, manager of the local branch, was on hand to present the trophy.

Prizes were presented for chipins and birdies scored during the first half of the season to Lou Wolfe-Milner, for the most chipins, and to Mona Coulter, for the highest number of birdies.

In men's play, Jack Fraser was the winner in the playoff with Randall Walker for the over-70s Jensen Cup.

Connie and Fred Broadbent won the Shipley Coronation Cup, with a net of 63. The Marj Cade - Gordon Parsons team shot 67 and one half, as did Libby and Jack Noble. Ann and Nels Vodden and the Marj Russell - Steve Marleau team had 68 and one

Thursday's honey pot winners were Gordon Alexander and Bill Mills. Ring leaders to date are (net) Tom Butt with 23, and (gross) Brian King with 33.

Twilight golf low nets were Pat Lavender, Joan Cunningham, Glen Hewitson and George Lampier. Second low net were Tash Hewitson, Babs Ross, Jack Godwin and Ken Lavender; third low net were Connie Broadbent, Eileen Botham, Jack Mitchell and Hal Stone. Glen Hewitson took closest to the pin.

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