

# Gulf Islands Driftwood

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TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR, NO. 49 GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986 40c



Driftwood photo by Jane Hamilton

## Full swing

Kathy Searle and her mother, Shirley, enjoy a relaxing swing after a busy time at the Pender Craft Fair last weekend. With her

new special Christmas bow and a brand new miniature teddy, Kathy was the centre of an admiring

group of friends. She will be celebrating her fourth birthday in just fourteen days.

## Cement used in landscaping

By MIKE TURKKI

A ministry of highways' decision to fill the traffic islands at the junction of Fulford-Ganges and Lower Ganges roads with cement has raised the ire of local residents who wanted to beautify the area.

A local ad hoc business committee — which included residents Sue and Les Ramsey of Pharmasave, as well as architects Jane Durante and Jonathan Yardley — had hoped to install trees and plants on a portion of the islands, in the parking divider between the fire hall area and Fulford-Ganges road, and along the front of Centennial Park.

The committee, which had the support of several Ganges organizations, also proposed parking system changes and additional crosswalks in the downtown area.

But the ministry said *no* to all but a few of the proposals, much to the displeasure of those who want to see something more than cement along Ganges streets.

The committee applied to  
Turn to Page 13



## Insurance cost hike could scuttle visit

By DUNCAN MacDONNELL

The Bellingham Jaycees' Christmas Ship could sail into history after its visit to the Gulf Islands this year.

A 10-fold increase in the cost of insuring the vessel could scuttle future Christmas Ship visits, Jaycees' member Tripo Costello said in a telephone interview from Bellingham last week.

"It's something to worry about — it could cancel the visits," said Costello, who is scheduled to make his 25th appearance as Santa Claus when the vessel visits the Gulf Islands later this month. The Christmas Ship has visited

the San Juan and Gulf Islands for the past 35 years, handing out presents to children and shut-ins at 12 stops along the way. Money to pay for gifts and other costs is raised by the Bellingham Jaycees and by local organizations at ports of call.

The financial problem faces the ship's owners, not the Jaycees. Costello explained that the Christmas Ship, christened the *Discovery*, is owned by the City of Bellingham and used year-round as a training vessel for Sea Scouts. Until this year, liability insurance cost \$648; the latest bill

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## Press upgrade reduces capacity

Driftwood readers should see improvements in the print quality of their newspaper following the addition of new equipment in Victoria this week.

Island Publishers Ltd., which operates the web press on which *Driftwood* is printed, is replacing two units of its eight-unit Goss Community press and installing a new folder. Creased pages, which have become more evident in recent months, should be eliminated by the upgrading project.

The new folder will also boost the press's speed from 15,000 to 30,000 impressions per hour.

Adding the new units has resulted in a temporary reduction of the press's capacity this week. Half the press has been shut down to enable the work to take place. That, in turn, has meant this week's paper had to be broken down into additional sections to handle the increase in colour advertising.

Island Publishers production

manager Verne Percival said he expects everything to be back to normal by next week.

The company, of which Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is a minority shareholder, owns eight community newspapers on Vancouver Island, as well as the web press in Victoria and another in Ladysmith. The Victoria press prints a number of community newspapers, flyers and other publications such as *Monday Magazine* and *Real Estate Victoria*.

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### Switching over

B. C. Hydro crews were in action last week along Lower Ganges Road as they began moving their electricity lines over to new poles.

When work is completed, B. C. Tel's lines will be moved over to the east side of 'killer corner'.

## Trust seeks longer ban

The Islands Trust has asked the Gillespie Enquiry into mariculture to recommend extension of the provincial government's freeze on new salmon farms.

When it announced the enquiry to investigate environmental and other concerns related to salmon farming, Victoria put a hold on all new licenses. That freeze is supposed to expire once the enquiry hands in its report, on or about December 10.

Retiring Trust chairman Mike Humphries, who appeared before the enquiry on behalf of the Trust, said last week he asked for a continuation of the moratorium on new fish farms until all local governments have appropriate water zoning regulations in place.

Continuation of the freeze, he said, would allow local governments time to inventory offshore sites to determine which would be suitable or acceptable for fish farms, decide if they wanted such operations in their areas, and strengthen zoning bylaws to ensure local governments can exercise some control over fish farms.

Humphries added that his point was well-received, and that Gillespie admitted his one-month term of reference may not be long enough to adequately evaluate all

concerns, but said he has no idea if his suggestion will be accepted.

Trust officials are scheduled to meet with Gillespie today (December 3) "to add further information to our brief," Humphries said.

Meanwhile, Trust vice-chairman Carol Martin said last week the Trust is currently looking at all water zones in place within its mandate area and expects to file a report with the Trust Council shortly. The report will note areas that might be suited for fish farms and point out where appropriate water zones are in place or needed.

## Saturday vendors agree

# Park vending guidelines planned

The Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission is continuing efforts to set regulations for mid-week and Saturday vending in Centennial Park.

A solution to the problems associated with Saturday vending is close to being reached, according to Glenn Woodley, chairman of the commission.

Under park re-development proposals, Saturday vending will be permitted only in the parking lot adjacent to Gasoline Alley. Commission member Phil Hume said Bill McBay — owner of the Gasoline Alley complex — has agreed to allow vending in the parking lot for a limited number of hours each Saturday.

An agreement with the Saturday vendors themselves has also been reached, Hume told commission members at the group's meeting November 24.

Hume said discussions with the vendors had been completed. "We're now waiting for a written proposal from them as to how they propose to police it (Saturday vending), handle parking, and how they'll deal with off-island vendors," he reported. "If we like it, we'll make the vendors our agent and they'll be responsible for it (Saturday vending). If we don't, we'll negotiate something."

The amount Saturday vendors will pay each week toward maintenance of Centennial Park had not been decided as of the November 24 meeting. Hume said it was suggested that the Saturday vendors' group pay \$200 each week for the privilege of using park property, but the vendors' group preferred a \$100 fee. "It (the fee) may end up being something like \$150 each Saturday," Hume said.

At its November 24 meeting, commission members also agreed to include a limited number of mid-week vending spots in the park's re-development plans.

Under the proposal, mid-week vendors will be permitted to sell their goods in only three locations around the park. Two vending spots will be permitted in the northeast corner of the park (each totalling 250 square feet), and another combined farmer's-

fishermen's outlet 350 square feet in size will be established in the park's northwest corner. A third area, comprising approximately 500 square feet of space, will be set aside for mid-week vendors in the parking lot facing Gasoline Alley.

How these vending spots will be allocated has not been decided. Hume suggested in his report to the commission that these spaces be allocated by open public bid, but the proposal has not yet been accepted by the commission and will be discussed further at a later date.

The mid-week vending issue remains a thorny one for the commission. Eric Donnelly, owner and operator of the Mobile Market — a mid-week vendor — criticized the commission's proposal to allocate the limited number of mid-week vending spots by open public bid system.

In a brief to the commission, Donnelly — who claimed his views were representative of those of most mid-week vendors — recommended that the commission allow existing mid-week vendors to continue their business in the park.

"The mid-week vendors recommend the acceptance of the existing park users: two fast food outlets, two larger fruit and vegetable vendors (and) occasional farmers, fishermen and secondary producers," he said. "Precedence for this acceptance would be seen in the introduction of zoning on Salt Spring some years back. At that time, existing land use was accepted, even though it was non-conforming and should not be prohibited by new regulations being introduced."

Donnelly, representing the Mo-

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to be frank . . .

. . . by Richards

**Tuition**

I haven't stopped any good crimes lately, but I've learned a lot about committing them. The *Crime Stoppers* television series, in which a crime of violence is spelled out in an effort to apprehend the criminal, has been very instructive.

I now know how to break in a house and how to subdue the occupants before robbing them. I find the series too specific to be acceptable. Mind you, I'm all for stopping crime but I don't like the idea of simply augmenting television's normal, fictional function of providing training in violence and crime. The specifics might better show the criminal escaping rather than entering.

**The scene of the brush**

There were showings everywhere lately, on the islands and off. Kirsti Shoolbraid, for instance, was featured in the Orcas Gallery recently. It was the second run for Kirsti, whose distinctive presentations, with their local touch, have been displayed in the Salt Spring Gallery during the fall.

The three-day show in Mahon Hall was an exhibition of work by painters, potters, weavers and others. Timed for Christmas, the display included a wide assortment of island work, not unlike a brief fall resumption of the summertime *Artcraft*.

The problem of Mahon Hall is its limited size. When the community is invited to see the products of islanders' artistic skills, the scene becomes a gathering place and patrons tends to form small groups to discuss the showings and everything else that might be

discussable. Each group breaks up and reforms over a glass of wine or fruit punch to make a social function of the exhibition. While opening night is always crowded, even the ensuing days were active.

Many of the Painters' Guild gathered their work and left in preparation for the workshop presented in the same Mahon Hall by the Guild the following week. For two days Loreen Legerski of White Rock was the instructor, outlining her techniques in water colours.

Two Salt Spring Island artists are featured in Victoria exhibitions.

Leroy Jensen has a number of oil paintings on display at Winchester Gallery on Fort St. He is one of the "Limners" who work is being featured. Among other exhibitors are such well-known painters as Herb Seibner, Colin Graham and Myfanwy Pavelic.

Another familiar Salt Spring name in the realm of painting, Catherine Fraser Ogilvie, is also showing her work in Victoria. An exhibition in the Gordon St. Gallery includes a wide range of her watercolours and illustrates her versatility. It is not strictly a showing of watercolours because she has included a few of her pleasing pencil sketches.

**A strange tongue**

English is a tough language. For example, a teacher serving a probationary period is an example of a student on the threshold of accomplishment. Yet a student working out his probationary period with a court-appointed officer is the opposite end of the accomplishment scale.

**Commission plans vending regulations**

From Page 2

bile Market, added that the business "rejects the concept of a bid system on a number of grounds." He suggested that "when any or all of the bids can be rejected, acceptance of any bid other than the highest would necessitate a subjective choice.

"A bid system," he continued, "could allow the space to be allocated to a non-island resident with no roots on Salt Spring and no real interest in being a member of the larger community or the health and welfare of islanders.

Donnelly accepted the commission's desire to "shrink" his operation "from approximately 1,000 square feet to approximately 500 square feet," as well as its requirement that the Mobile Market "contribute financially to the park (rent)."

**Deadline nears for posting all Christmas mail**

Mailed those Christmas parcels to relatives living off-island?

If not, better do it soon — or those gifts won't arrive in time for Yuletide.

Canada Post officials said last week that cards being sent by first class mail to destination points outside Salt Spring Island must be posted on or before December 12 if they are to arrive by Christmas. Items being sent by parcel post to destinations across Canada and the U.S. should be mailed by December 8.

Residents planning to send cards to friends and relatives on Salt Spring Island should post them by December 17. Items sent by parcel post to destinations on the island should be mailed by December 15.

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## Christmas Ship tradition must carry on

High cost of living has dissuaded few from staying with the human race. We deplore the rising costs of sticking around, we make a quick reappraisal of our priorities and we stick around.

One of the contributory factors to this steady increase in our daily costs has been the price of insurance. And one of the factors pushing up the cost of insurance has been the practice of the courts, in this land and beyond our borders, to make awards beyond the logical capacity of the man-in-the-street.

If the cost of automobile insurance soars out of reach, we use a bus. If the cost of medical treatment is pushed beyond reason by the high cost of insurance, we suffer or die.

The cost of living is oft deplored: living, however, dies hard and we carry on as best we might.

The newest victim of this spiral of costs is an international gesture and an international tradition which has endured almost 40 years. It would be difficult to find a community event further removed from the high pressures of commerce and industry than the Bellingham Christmas Ship. Since the post-war years the Christmas Ship has sailed out of Bellingham, in the state of Washington, across the international border to bring joy and laughter to Canadians throughout the islands.

Despite a 35-year history, the ship may be facing its withdrawal from its traditional role. The Bellingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has sponsored the ship since it first sailed over the line, reports that the cost of insurance is prohibitive and that the Sea Scouts who own the vessel are facing the need to settle for a smaller

vessel. The cost of insurance is beyond the reach of the sponsors. A smaller vessel would not serve the purpose when Santa Claus is aboard.

The operators have not made a positive announcement that this famous international voyage of goodwill is entering its final year and we all trust that an answer will be found.

The Christmas Ship is a tradition extending back over two generations. There are scores of Canadian fathers and mothers even now preparing to take their children to enjoy the visit of a United States Santa whose visit they themselves enjoyed a generation ago.

It would be a tragedy to see this famous annual display of international peace and goodwill abandoned. Thousands of coastal children grew up with Santa-under-sail. Let's hope that another generation will enjoy the project and that some means might be found to keep it going.

### THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS



## An example for journalists

John Turner is a famous Canadian. He is also a familiar Canadian on Salt Spring Island where many eyes watched the progress of the Liberal convention in Ottawa at the weekend. The interest shown in the islands was again augmented by the fact that of all the Liberals debating his future and other matters, Turner is the one and only Liberal member of parliament elected from British Columbia.

The attention of Canadians from sea even unto sea was closely focused on the Liberals and the call by a few Liberals for a leadership convention. While Canadians of many political persuasions watched and listened and waited, reporters, announcers and political observers speculated on a variety of matters related to the convention.

One reporter spoke over a national radio program about a recent address by the Liberal leader. His observations could well be set out as an example to budding journalists of what not to say or write.

"Some of what John Turner said was true," announced the radio. The journalist took his theme further. This was true, he conceded, and that was true. He didn't run through those parts which he found unacceptable. The obvious implication was that other comments were not true, but the statement was left unsaid. It was, no doubt, inspiring for Turner. He had laboured over his presentation and enjoyed the endorsement of a nationwide radio program. With reservations, of course.

## American football's popularity threatens our own

During the 1970s, I remember reading an article about a group of expatriate Canadians living somewhere in the Caribbean. On the day the Grey Cup game was being played, the Canucks picked up the action on short wave radio and ran the plays on a field they had marked off for the occasion. They said it brought them closer to home.

Which only goes to show the role the Grey Cup game can play as an instrument of Canadian unity. Each year, it draws hordes of people to community halls and living rooms across the nation; more than that, it encourages the choosing of sides in an East versus West battle that mirrors the psychological split facing the

country in everyday life.

But football's place in the Canadian mosaic is threatened. Of all the people who gathered last Sunday to watch Edmonton and Hamilton fight for bragging rights, chances are most people were catching their one and only glimpse of televised action this year.

The ratings tell the story: the number of people watching Canadian football is at its lowest point in 10 years. At the same time, attendance in stadiums is declining rapidly, three teams are in danger of folding (what else is new?) and a few other franchises are hovering too close to the break-even mark for comfort.

What it means is that while we

my  
word

by  
Duncan MacDonnell

may still gather in droves to watch the Grey Cup game itself, not enough of us are tuning in or turning out during the regular season to guarantee the league will be around long enough to play many more.

At the same time, we are being drawn more and more to Ameri-

can-style professional football. Ratings for south-of-the-border pigskin battles are higher here than those for Canadian games, more money is bet in Canada on a Chicago-Washington matchup than the Saskatchewan Roughriders have cash flow, and I'd wager that any young adult could tell you William Perry's weight before being able to name one person on the Montreal Alouettes' roster.

Now, if Canadian professional football is doomed to die because it happens to be an inferior brand of the game (which it isn't, in my view) we would probably accept that as the verdict of the marketplace. But entertainment value isn't the problem facing Canadian

football — the obstacle it has to overcome is the workings of the Canadian mind.

American football is not necessarily better than the Canadian brand — it's just different. But because we tune into U.S. telecasts and hype that paint American football as the most important game on the planet, we believe it to be so. It's one more example of Canadians giving in to the slightest hint that their country is somehow inferior, and never mind that it's someone else spreading the message.

It would be a shame if Canadian football died because it did not measure up to the standards set by another culture, another country. But that's Canada for you.

## Compromise

Sir,  
In the last few years, many elections in our part of the world have been won by little more than half the votes. Fifty-two or fifty-five per cent is not a "landslide" or a "clear mandate" — it's close to a half-and-half split in the peoples' viewpoints.

The next thing we hear from both the politicians and the media is to "forget our differences"; presumably we should adopt the winner's politics.

How naive — as if life were a tennis match or a card game!

Much of the political, social and economic philosophy held by the public can only be described as polarized. A developer in Victoria recently described that city as the best piece of real estate on the northwest coast. In the same mentality, forests, oceans and lands are not precious eco-systems to be harvested and nurtured on a sustainable basis for generations to come, but only sources of quick bucks now. How to bridge the gap between these two attitudes?

The laissez-faire philosophy is the exact opposite of community planning designed to insure more equitable sharing of resources and opportunities for everyone in the society. To ignore such conflicting views — views which mold political choices — is hardly realistic.

Yet somehow we must find ways to compromise. "Win-win solutions" will be difficult but they will be essential if we wish to represent all the people. Achieving a balance between individual freedom and the collective good is the challenging task for all of us. Everywhere.

At the local level all the way up to the global level. What will it take?

Anyone else care to comment? Let's dialogue.

**VIRGINIA NEWMAN,**  
Ganges.

## Recipe

Sir,  
Following is a recipe for "Christmas Spirit."

- 1 large group of people;
- 1 group of singers (Salt Spring);
- 1 choir director, talented;
- 1 piano accompanist, talented;
- a large selection of seasonal music, warmed.

Take the large group of people and carefully place in the church at 7:30 pm on December 6, or at 2:15 pm on December 7. When the people are in place, add the group of singers (use only the Salt Spring Singers, please). Now add the talented director and talented piano accompanist. When this is done, gently pour warmed, seasonal music over all and enjoy. The Christmas Spirit will follow almost immediately.

Please feel free to share this recipe with all of your friends — it's wonderful!

**ANNE ANSELL,**  
Ganges.

## Award

Sir,  
I wish to bring the following information to the attention of all Gulf Islands residents:

Beyond War Award: "During even the most adverse and violent times there exist groups of people who have chosen the difficult road of negotiation and co-operation over the expedience of military might. The followers of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, the people of the Philippines — all in their time were committed to the path of resolution without violence

despite powerful forces urging them toward confrontation. The Contradora nations — Columbia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela — are such a group, and on December 14, the Beyond War Foundation will honor Contadora for its diplomatic initiatives in Central America by presenting the group with the 1986 Beyond War Award.

"The presidents of the Contadora nations will receive the award in a Spacebridge of the Americas, a telebroadcast that will link five cities in the United States with the capitals of each receiving nation. Tens of thousands of people in North America are expected to demonstrate their support for the Contadora process by attending closed-circuit satellite "downlinks" of the award ceremony."

On Salt Spring Island, the downlink is being hosted at the residence of Bev and Bob Unger. (Kings Road off Beaver Point Road — then follow the signs) at 1:30 pm on Sunday, December 14. Donations are requested to further Beyond War work.

Those with their own satellite dishes may watch the award ceremony by tuning into West Star 4, Transponder 12D, audio subcarrier 6.8.

**PAUL SADLER,**  
Fulford Harbour.

## Auction

Sir,  
This Saturday, December 6, at Central Hall at 6:30 pm, we are auctioning just about everything, from overnight babysitting to car fixing, from a Bateman book with an original sketch to chocolate hazelnut cheesecake. Pottery, dental work, cakes, hairdos, car fixing, even an antique chamber pot ... the list goes on.

The evening starts with a gourmet dinner (advance tickets only from *et cetera*) and the auction will get underway as soon as enough people arrive.

Our auctioneer is Mike Hayes, and we guarantee that he'll make you laugh (we'll refund your entry money if he doesn't).

And all the proceeds are for Christmas hampers, the Food Bank, the Achievement centre for handicapped adults and the teen program — if we raise more than the Food Bank needs.

So make sure you buy your tickets and come out for a great evening's entertainment, Salt Spring style.

**SUE BRADFORD,**  
Ganges.

## Performance

Sir,  
The title of Active PASS's performance piece, *The Day I sat with Jesus on the sundeck and a wind came up and blew my kimono open and he saw my breasts*, elicits response. Whether one felt the subject matter relevant, those who put aside preconceptions and attended the play were not disappointed.

Through the personal enactment of a mystical encounter between a lonely prairie housewife and Jesus, we are introduced to Gloria Johnson as she relives the emotional high points of her past. It is human nature to set up outer structures to help ourselves deal with confusing feelings and events. The more we find out about Gloria, that she should make her life meaningful by meeting Jesus is consistent.

## letters

The audience responds to the religious references from their own socio-religious roots. Yet the appeal of her relived experiences is on a humanistic level. Universal feelings towards parental authority, first love and life's horrors were touched by Gloria's re-enactment.

It takes courage to do a one person show. The actress has only herself to rely on for lines and movement; all generated energy depends on her rapport with the audience. Laurie Clark brought intensity and commitment to the role, which made Gloria come alive. Director Jeremy Davis shaped the piece to provide variety of mood, character and vocalization, as well as spatial relationships. The encounter was visualized clearly, as were the experiences which its retelling evoked.

The metaphor of the kimono was central to the play. Symbols rise as cultural expressions of social experience and begin as artistic images of personal experience. Who can forget the imposing magnificence of Margie Korrison's kimono displayed at *Showcase '86*? Local artist Anna Hawthorne explores the form in block prints. This transcultural T-shape has been re-created in glazed clay and origami. Laurie's performance has added to it a living dimension. On examination, its parallel to Christian symbolism emerges and words like "sacrifice, martyrdom, redemption" arise. The reflectivity of cultural symbols gives us the opportunity to find our own meanings, much the same way as Gloria found hers with Jesus. We thank Active PASS for a rich performance and await their next offering.

**BARBARA DRENNAN,**  
Vesuvius.

## Enriching

Sir,  
With regard to Carmen Braund on *Say Amen, Somebody*:

"The movie was not as exciting as expected, and turned out to be a W-5 style documentary on gospel music."

Miss Braund's surprise in the film's nature is curious given that she received an announcement that the (then upcoming) film was "a wonderful documentary jubilee of black American gospel. The most exuberant and revitalizing music in years ..." — Michael Sragow, *Rolling Stone*.

There is nothing fancy here, no flash, no pretense, nothing but a small and gentle time in the lives of people whose music is infused with their living faith. Exciting? Perhaps not. Enriching, uplifting, spiritually satisfying — definitely.

Miss Braund, who did not attend the film herself, might do well to consider the limitations of the audience, rather than fault a film otherwise hailed as a classic musical documentary.

**MARTHA MILLER,**  
Galiano.

## Peace

Sir,  
May I draw your readers' attention to the situation of women in Nicaragua? In a country which we would see as backward in many ways, since 1979 Nicaraguan women have taken great strides in improving their position in society. Despite the prevalent macho attitudes of Latin culture, more and more women are taking leadership positions in government, church and community affairs.

Yet Nicaragua is at war, and the U.S. trade embargo means that many of the basic necessities Canadian women take for granted are scarce, or simply not available in Nicaragua.

Imagine running out of sanitary napkins during your period, going to the store only to find they are all out as well. None of your friends have any. Now, you might be saying it's not "nice" to be discussing menstrual supplies in the newspaper, but neither is it "nice" for women in Nicaragua to be forced to risk infection and disease, not to mention discomfort, using and reusing bits of cloth which are themselves a scarce commodity.

Actually, it was the Association

of Nicaraguan Women who specifically asked Tools for peace to target sanitary supplies as a priority item in the 1986 campaign.

While the Tools for Peace materials collection finished at the end of November, we are still accepting cash donations through the end of December. Your contribution for sanitary napkins will be kept separate, and be used to purchase supplies at bulk prices in Vancouver. Send cheques to Tools for Peace, Box 1500, Ganges.

The spirit of the approaching holidays, along with the faltering credibility of the present U.S. administration, give us more than hope. In our hearts we know the war cannot last forever. Peace will come. And meanwhile, we can help Nicaraguan women to survive the war with a little more dignity and independence.

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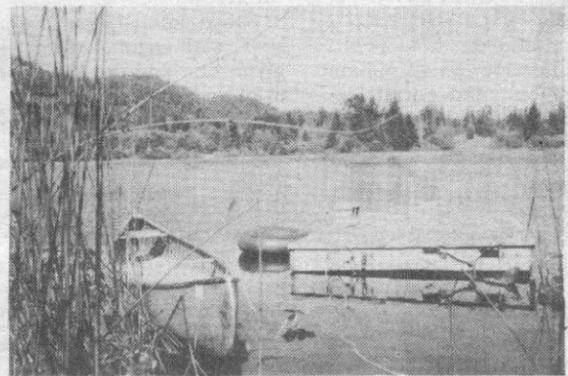
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# Hart Graham leads St. Mary Lake task force

## St. Mary Lake Task Force

It has been very gratifying to see this all important project get under way. The first meeting on Thursday, November 20 was a very encouraging one, and there is no shortage of problems to be tackled.

Hartley Graham (North Salt Spring Water Board) is the chairman, John Richardson (Highlands Water Board) is the vice-chairman, while Ed Ritaller (Lakeshore Water Board) and Ron Birth (Fernwood Water Board) are also members. A few weeks ago I arranged with the ministry of the environment to have a representative on the committee and he, or she, will attend the meetings here. I am also on the committee, and others will no doubt be added as required.

This group will devote its attention to the known major problems contributing to decreasing water quality, primarily, but not exclusively, to St. Mary Lake.

### Solid Waste Disposal

The CRD study of solid waste disposal for the whole region has so far produced some preliminary reports. While any conclusions from such a review are months away, it might be of interest to

## director's report

by

Hugh Borsman

mention a few of the findings.

1. Alternate land-fill sites have been selected on Salt Spring, but it is too early to say whether they are suitable or acceptable to the community. Furthermore, there may be additions or deletions. An area of 7.5 hectares is desirable, compared to the present land-fill area of .81 hectares.

2. We now have a more accurate figure for the amount of refuse generated per capita on the island. It is .43 tonnes per capita per year. At present we recycle 14.9 tonnes or about four per cent, which is the highest in the region. It is estimated another 11 per cent might be recycled.

3. Alternatives to land-fill include incineration and transferring waste to Victoria, at present Hartland Road. Recycling will be encouraged, but it could not be considered an alternative. Composting has been studied. Consultants in this field estimate

that a maximum percentage of waste stream that could be converted is four per cent. An estimated market for compost from refuse in greater Victoria is about five per cent of the total.

Also, the cost of marketing the product would exceed the sales revenue. In fact, it is felt that apart from the remaining need for a land-fill for 55 per cent of waste, most of the composted material, lacking a market, would probably finish up in the land-fill.

4. The capital cost for an incinerator on Salt Spring is \$617,100 plus an annual operating cost of \$67,650. The expected incinerator life is 15 years. The estimated cost of a transfer station, and equipment is \$203,000 with the estimated annual operating and maintenance cost of \$72,856.

Including replacement of equipment it would be close to \$105,000 per year. This compares to the estimated capital cost of a new land-fill of \$132,393 with an estimated first year operating cost of \$31,074. This roughly works out to \$26 per tonne for incineration, \$28 per tonne for transferring, and \$12 per tonne for a new land-fill.

But these figures are for operating and maintenance only.

5. Finally, the present owner is considering a plan that would see curbside pick-up of refuse being directly trucked to Victoria.

This information is only provided for interest; no conclusions have been drawn, nor will an attempt to do so be likely before the spring. The present S.S.I. Solid Waste Committee, chaired by Tom Gossett, is waiting for further information before resuming its study of an optimal waste disposal solution for the Island.

### Alert-Line

This project was well reported by the *Driftwood* last week, but there is one other item that should be stressed. At present we are trying to provide the service at less than cost, thanks to some generous donors. However, anyone who would like this service who might not qualify on a priority basis, and who could afford the approximate \$500 capital cost and twenty dollars a month charge, would be very welcome. As previously stated, there is no limit to the number of persons who can be accommodated by the base (hospital) unit.

While on this subject it would be appropriate to pay tribute to Mrs. Iola Brookbanks who undertook, in her usual thorough and energetic fashion, to organize the non-profit society, and has

steered the project to its present state.

### Centennial Park

Thanks to the parks and recreation commission, its park committee of Phil Hume, Lois Phillips and Jim Ballantyne, and a number of co-operative vendors, it looks as though the air of mistrust and misunderstanding which has hung over the market has at last been dissipated.

Also, it looks as though uncertainty regarding mid-week vending has also been settled. The commission has proposed allocation of limited spaces for mid-week vending, and these spaces will be put up for bids at the beginning of the year.

There now remains the problem of finding funds so that work on the present parking area can be largely completed while the market is not busy over the winter. Hopefully the tree planting can be done in the next month or so.

## CRD notes 40 per cent increase

# Building activity up in this area

Aided by a strong October surge, building activity on the Gulf Islands is running far ahead of the pace set one year ago.

Figures released last week by the Capital Regional District (CRD) building permits office show the amount and value of construction work carried out from January to October, 1986, is about 40 per cent ahead of the levels reached in the same period in 1985.

Across all of the Gulf Islands, the number of permits issued in 1986 is up 43 per cent over 1985, the value of construction work is up 37 per cent, and the revenue given the CRD permit office is up 42 per cent.

The comparative figures are as follows, with 1986 numbers given first and those for 1985 in parentheses:

- Permits issued, 678 (474); construction value, \$8.42 million (\$6.142 million); and permit revenue, \$95,729 (\$67,236).

Much of the increased building activity was centred on Salt Spring. While the Outer Islands showed slight gains in construction work over 1985, Salt Spring easily outdistanced levels reached in 1985 — primarily because the installation of the Ganges sewage treatment system last January

contributed to a three-fold jump in plumbing permits.

Year-to-date comparisons for Salt Spring and the Outer Islands are as follows, with 1986 data given first and 1985 statistics in parentheses:

- Salt Spring — permits issued, 423 (262); construction value, \$4.679 million (\$3.142 million); and permit revenue, \$54,968 (\$33,996).

- Outer Islands — permits issued, 255 (212); construction value, \$3.741 million (\$3 million); and permit revenue, \$40,761 (\$33,238).

For October only, the CRD permit office figures show a slight decline in 1986 Outer Islands building activity, compared to 1985, and a near-doubling of work carried out on Salt Spring.

Those comparisons are as follows, with October, 1986, figures given first and the 1985 numbers in parentheses:

- Salt Spring — permits issued,

55 (33); construction value \$731,672 (\$398,792); and permit revenue, \$8,226 (\$4,404).

- Outer Islands — permits issued, 18 (25); construction value, \$230,283 (\$271,095); and permit revenue, \$2,771 (\$3,111).

Combining the two sets of figures, however, shows a strong increase in building activity in October, 1986, as compared to the level set across the entire Gulf Islands a year earlier.



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# Premier unaware what confederation is about

VICTORIA — Somebody should have told Premier Vander Zalm that 20 minutes of whining wasn't going to undo 119 years of injustice to the west — real or perceived — at the hands of Canada's central government.

## capital comment

by  
**Hubert Beyer**

I say *real or perceived* because most of Vander Zalm's lament at the first ministers' conference in Vancouver showed that he doesn't have a clue of what confederation is or should be all about.

In many ways, Vander Zalm's address to the conference was reminiscent of W.A.C. Bennett's Ottawa-bashing. It didn't have Wacky's belligerent overtones, but the message was the same: B.C. doesn't get its fair share out of confederation.

Like so many regionally-oriented politicians, Vander Zalm regards confederation as some sort of club that should assure members of returns on their investment.

Our premier called it "a perspective of confederation from here on the west coast." Not one to mince words, Vander Zalm put B.C.'s membership cost in confederation at \$2 billion a year with few benefits to show for that ante.

"British Columbia is seeking a new approach and a positive commitment from the federal government in terms of the extent of federal resources allocated to us as a partner in confederation," the premier told his colleagues.

B.C.'s share of the 4.3 billion in ship-building contracts awarded between 1983 and 1986, the premier said, was only four per cent.

"The bottom line is that if some overall semblance of equality in procurement was developed, British Columbia would receive and see an additional \$300 million to \$350 million injected into its economy each and every year," the premier told the conference.

With all due respect, Mr. Premier, the purpose of confederation is not to return to the provinces what they pay into it. If that was all there was to it, we might as well keep our money in the first place and cancel our membership in the club.

No, premier Vander Zalm. Being part of confederation doesn't bring an automatic entitlement to a share of the spoils equal to the dues.

That isn't to say the federal government has no obligation to combat regional economic disparity through carefully allocated spending. But before British Columbia has a right to demand handouts from Ottawa, there are the Atlantic provinces, which have never really shared in Canada's overall prosperity.

If any province has legitimate complaints about Ottawa's policies, it is Newfoundland. The last province to join confederation, Newfoundland has few if any benefits to show for its membership.

Even when British Columbia was riding the crest of economic prosperity, Newfoundland was mired in the morass of despair. To help those who have less than British Columbia — much less — is what we pay our two billion dollars a year for.

The fact that Newfoundland still sees no signs of a brighter economic future could be interpreted as Ottawa's failure in living up to its confederate responsibilities.

To accuse Ottawa of not returning as much to B.C. as it pays into confederation is an affront to the very spirit of confederation.

If the premier applied the same philosophy to our own province, only those regions which generate most of the revenue would be the recipients of any provincial spending.

Come to think of it, there are those who harbour such suspicions. Ask anyone in northern British Columbia whether they feel neglected by Victoria. Ten gets you a hundred the answer is yes — consistently.

*'With all due respect, Mr. Premier, the purpose of the confederation is not to return to the provinces what they pay into it.'*

Translated into plain English, that means B.C. wants more dough from the feds to make our membership in the club worthwhile.

Reluctant to accept my interpretation? Then consider Vander Zalm's own words: "In addition to its tariff and deficit policies, the federal government has consistently reaped more income from British Columbia than it returns in the form of expenditures, investments and employment."

The premier even provided percentage figures to show that British Columbia was a losing investor in the confederation club. In 1985-86, he said, B.C. companies and manufacturers received only 5.3 per cent of the major contracts, though the province represents 11.4 per cent of Canada's population.

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# Christmas Ship threatened by insurance costs

**From Page 1**  
is \$6,190.

Costello said the city won't come up with the money to cover increased premiums, and the Sea Scouts are unable to raise enough funds on their own.

"It's an awful lot of money for the Scouts to come up with," Costello said. "It means they may have to curtail the Sea Scout program, or they may have to give up that ship and get a smaller one." A smaller ship, he

added, would be unsuitable for Christmas sailings through the San Juan and Gulf islands.

"As far as the Jaycees are concerned, if they curtail the program and we don't have the use of that ship, where are we going to get another one? It's a tough situation — more serious than people realize."

Don White, head of the Sea Scout program, said from Bellingham that the increased cost of liability insurance represents a 55 per cent hike in the amount of money he needs to cover the ship's operating expenses. Last year, the program ran on a

budget of \$11,000 "and we were just barely able to raise enough money to cover that," he said.

What happens if insurance costs can't be met? White said ownership of the vessel is in the process of being transferred to the Sea Scouts but, at present, it is still owned by the city. If costs can't be met, he said, the city will probably sell the ship.

He added: "It's not a case of the people not wanting us, the ship or the program. It's the city — they're ignoring us, so we'll just have to launch some more fund-raisers and try to come up

with more donations."

He added, however, that the Scouts have already stretched their funding sources to the limit.

"We're not dead in the water yet, but ..."

Costello said he hopes "something could come up" to save the Christmas Ship trips if the Jaycees are denied use of the *Discovery*, but he isn't sure what that "something" might be.

"There's always the chance that, if the ship can't be insured but stays here, we might be able to use it just for the Christmas visits," he said, but cautioned

that chances are the ship may have to be sold.

Costello said contributions might raise enough money to keep the visits going, but he is reluctant to approach organizations in the Christmas Ship's ports of call because San Juan and Gulf islands residents already support the ship with monetary donations.

White agreed: "You people shouldn't get too worried about this, because we're only up your way once a year. This is our problem, and our community is going to have to come through."

## Santa's schedule prepared

The Bellingham Jaycees have finalized the schedule of stops to be made by this year's Christmas Ship.

The vessel, carrying Santa Claus and presents, will make its 36th annual visit to the San Juan and Gulf islands this year on December 13 and 14.

Visits to five Gulf Islands' ports are scheduled for December 13, as follows: Saturna Island, arrive 10:45, depart 11 am; Pender Island, arrive 12:15 pm, depart 1:15 pm; Mayne Island, arrive 2 pm, depart 3:15 pm; Galiano Island, arrive 4 pm, depart 5:15; Salt Spring Island, arrive 6 pm, depart 6:30 am December 14.

After leaving the Gulf Islands, the ship will stop at seven ports in the San Juan Islands on December 14, then head home to Bellingham.

The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, meanwhile, is organizing a sail-past to welcome the ship to Ganges on December 13.

Volunteer firemen will deliver Santa and his helpers to Salt Spring Elementary School at 6:30 pm, where gifts will be handed out to the 200 to 300 children who normally turn up. Between 8 pm and 9 pm, Santa will visit Greenwoods to distribute presents, then do the same at the extended care unit of Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital.

Once the last visit has finished, Santa and his crew will be taken to the Ganges firehall for food and other refreshments donated by local merchants.

## Target is \$1,000

# Galiano residents rally with society

Galiano Island residents have responded to the financial plight of the Christmas Ship by forming a society to raise funds on its behalf.

The *Save The Christmas Ship* society, organized by Shirley Coulter, has already raised between \$500 and \$600 and is hoping to present the Bellingham Jaycees with a cheque for \$1,000 when the vessel docks in Montague Harbour later this month.

**'A benefit dinner will be held later this week, and tickets to the event are even being purchased by island residents who will not be able to attend.'**

Ian Hooley Sr., who is chairing the fund-raising drive, said the monetary donations gathered to date are above and beyond the normal amount collected to help pay for presents and other costs. People are opening their wallets, he indicated, because they recog-

nize the severity of the financial problem and do not want to see Christmas Ship visits cancelled.

"We are in the process of trying to raise money to keep this thing afloat," Hooley said. "Rising costs make our support critical."

A benefit dinner will be held later this week, he said, and tickets to the event are even being purchased by island residents who will not be able to attend.

The dinner, to be held at the Hummingbird Inn on December 8, will feature two sittings — at 6 pm and 8 pm — and is being supported by donated food and labour. Tickets are \$9.95 each.

Hooley added that word of the Christmas Ship's plight is spreading, and Lions Clubs on Saturna and Pender are also trying to raise additional funds to help the visits continue.

Anyone wishing to contribute money in aid of the Christmas Ship should contact the above organizations, or the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce.

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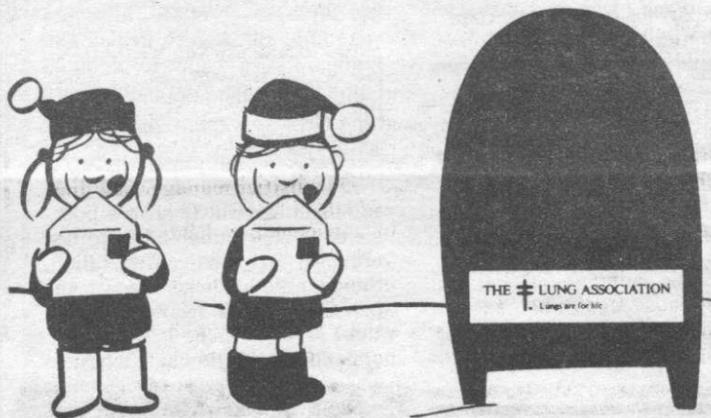
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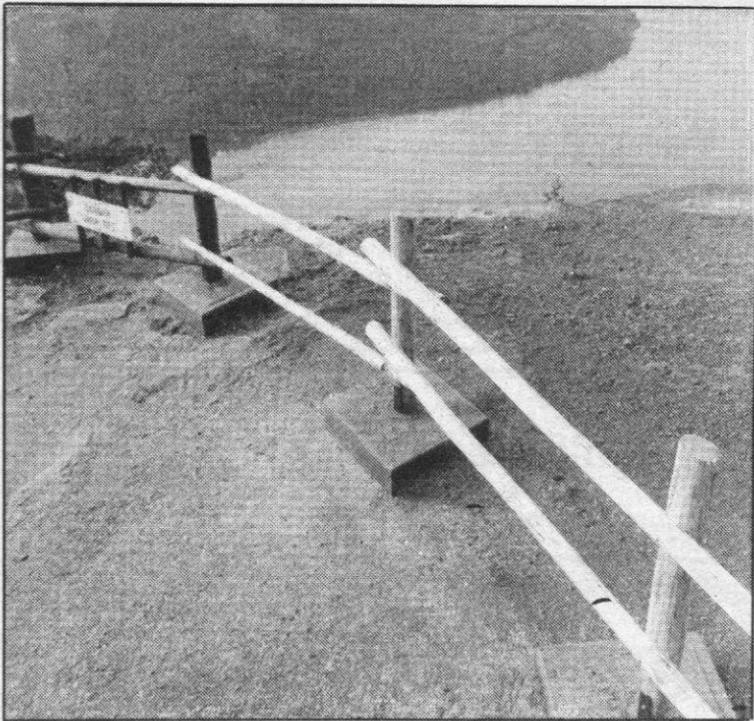
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Driftwood photo by Duncan MacDonnell

New railing installed in park

## Found in Portlock Park

# Charges over 'stolen' car?

A police spokesman said Wednesday that charges are pending against an 18-year-old man whose car was found in a ditch near Portlock Park last week.

Ganges RCMP Constable Gary Styles said the man — whose name has not been released — allegedly told police that his Ford automobile had been stolen. Police later learned the vehicle had not been stolen.

Styles said the car was officially reported missing November 25. It was recovered in a ditch near Portlock Park, and tire tracks showed the vehicle had been driven around the park.

"The investigation is still continuing," said Styles, "but charges are pending."

Under the Canada Criminal Code, it is an offense to knowingly make a false statement to police. Individuals who do so can be charged.

Styles noted that police are also investigating "considerable property damage" that occurred on the same weekend. He said local school fields and soccer fields sustained damage when a vehicle drove onto them.

It is not known if the stolen car incident and the damage to local fields are related.

Styles noted that police need assistance from the public if those

responsible for damage to fields and other properties are to be apprehended.

"We need the help of the general public," he said. "An

unreported crime is another unsolved crime. We require a licence number and a description of the car. And call us right away."



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## Vandals pull down rail at Mt. Maxwell Park

Vandals created a potential danger at Mt. Maxwell Park recently by pulling down a section of the guard rail erected at the summit.

The railing, which keeps visitors away from the sheer, 200-metre drop on the south side of Baynes Peak, was missing one section when parks officials discovered the damage last Tuesday.

Parks B.C. spokesman Cathy Mackin said two posts and four railings had been removed from the cliff's edge. Crews were dispatched immediately, she added, and the repairs completed early last Wednesday afternoon.

"We were quite concerned," Mackin said, pointing out that the missing rails constituted an extreme hazard. Anyone stepping through the missing section could

have fallen.

"Repairs were a priority item — we don't want any people hurt up there," Mackin said. Parks B.C. was also concerned about its liability insurance coverage, since a gap in the protective railing would have left the government agency open to a lawsuit.

Mackin said the vandalism took place within the week preceding its discovery, meaning conditions at the park were dangerous for at least a few days.

"Our district manager saw the vandalism last Tuesday, when he just happened to drive up to the park," Mackin said. "The superintendent from Ruckle Park goes up to check on Mt. Maxwell every week, so the damage had to have happened in the previous week."

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# Opposition MPs fighting Tory's Patent Act changes

Opposition MPs fighting the federal government's proposed Patent Act changes are hoping the public swings into the battle.

Cowichan-Malahat-the-Islands MP Jim Manly (NDP) said last week his colleagues and members from the Liberal party are "stalling and slowing down debate" on the bill while alerting the public to its ramifications.

The bill would extend to 10 years the period of time a drug manufacturer holds exclusive licence to produce a new drug. At present, the patent expires in two years, after which time a generic version can be marketed for the payment of a four per cent royalty to the original manufacturer.

**'The difference in price (between generic and non-generic drugs) can be very spectacular.'**

The Progressive Conservative government has defended the bill by arguing that it will encourage companies to invest \$1.4 billion in Canada and lead to the creation of 3,000 jobs in the research and development field. The NDP and Liberal parties reply that the change will mean higher drug prices for a group of Canadians which can least afford to pay more — the sick and elderly.

Manly said regulations allowing "low-cost, generic drugs" were first adopted in 1969. Before then, Canadians paid the second-highest drug prices in the world; since then, they have paid the second-lowest prices.

## Queen of Sidney returns late

# Mechanical problems delay ferry

Mechanical problems aboard the B.C. Ferries vessel *Queen of Sidney* on Sunday resulted in a four-hour delay for some passengers.

B.C. Ferry Corporation officials said Monday the vessel apparently experienced some "control problems" while making its scheduled early visits to Mayne and Galiano Islands.

According to a ferry corporation employee, the *Queen of Sidney* "managed to limp back to Tsawwassen" at a speed of four knots. The return trip took far longer than expected, which resulted in the ship arriving back in

"The Patent Act changes will mean increased costs for consumers and government medical plans," Manly said. "Are we supposed to go back to 1969, when people were being gouged? The difference in price (between generic and non-generic drugs) can be very spectacular."

Manly also pointed out that a study conducted in 1984 by a University of Toronto professor concluded that Canadians profited greatly from the 1969 drug law changes, both in terms of jobs created in the generic-drug manufacturing field and by way of reduced prices for consumers. It also found that producers of new drugs did not suffer, he added.

So why is the federal government proposing changes to the status quo? Manly believes it is because of pressure from the United States, and not just from manufacturers who might stand to increase their profit pictures.

"Our government is under pressure from the large pharmaceutical companies and the U.S. government," Manly said, "and one large reason is that if Canada has this (two-year patent limits), public pressure will grow in the United States to change their laws. You might call it the threat of a good example."

Manly also points out that if any new jobs are created by extended patent rights — which he doubts — they will go to Central Canada, which is already experiencing an economic boom while most of the rest of the country is still suffering from the recession.

"This bill will not create any jobs on Salt Spring or Pender or in Ladysmith," he said. "Those would go to Central Canada only, for something (profits) that is counter to the interest of all Canadians."

But the bottom line, he concluded, is that increased drug prices would follow the legislative change, and Canadians who can least afford the hikes will be the ones most affected.

Tsawwassen terminal after 9 pm. According to ferry officials, the ship generally leaves Tsawwassen on its Sunday evening trip to Long Harbour at approximately 7 pm.

The necessary repairs took approximately two hours to complete. The *Queen of Sidney* left Tsawwassen for the return trip to

Long Harbour sometime after 11 pm, arriving at its Salt Spring Island berth after 3 am Monday.

The exact number of passengers affected by the mechanical problems aboard the vessel was not available by press time Monday. However, a ferry spokesman said those who did not wish to make the late trip back will be reimbursed for their expenses.

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**Columbia to make two-hour stop**

Ganges has been dropped from the list of overnight stops made by a cruise ship operating from Seattle. However, the Salt Spring Island community will still be visited by the 76-passenger *Columbia* in 1987.

During the 1986 cruise season, the ship scheduled a Monday night stay in Ganges while sailing between stops in Victoria and Vancouver. Next year, it will dock in Ganges for two hours only, between 11 am and 1 pm on Tuesdays.

Steven Richard, a spokesman for Great Pacific Cruise Lines, the ship's owners, said last week in a telephone interview from Bellingham that the schedule change was prompted by passenger comments.

"We ask our passengers to comment on the scheduled stops, and Ganges was regarded as one of the worst," he said. "We didn't get into Ganges until about 5 pm, when everything was closed down, so there was never a whole lot the passengers could do."

The overnight stay also meant an early departure for Vancouver, which denied passengers a chance to appreciate a daylight trip through the Gulf Islands.

"We had to leave so early — about 6 am — that people were just getting up by the time we sailed into Vancouver," Richard said. "People missed the scenic pleasures of the Gulf Islands."

Richard indicated the ship's owners wanted to cancel any scheduled stop in Ganges, but decided instead to change the timing of the visit in hopes it would meet with greater passenger satisfaction.

"I think the mid-day stop will give passengers time to do some serious shopping, and a chance to stretch their legs a bit," Richard said. "Unfortunately, it eliminates any extended touring of the island, but that didn't seem to go over that well this year."

The change will also mean a daylight cruise through Active Pass, which Richard believes will be fully appreciated by passengers.

For its part, the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce welcomes the change in schedule, noting that a mid-day stop will give passengers a greater opportunity to shop in local stores.

Richard said the new cruise schedule is virtually finalized: "We're selling cruises and setting up moorage space based on this schedule."

The ship's itinerary will see it depart Seattle on Saturdays and make stops in Port Townsend, Seattle (overnight), Salt Spring, Vancouver (overnight) and Friday Harbour before docking in Seattle the following Saturday. The schedule will be in effect from May 2 to October 24, 1987.



*Columbia at Ganges dock*

Richard added that the 1986 season was a successful one for the *Columbia*. It enjoyed an occupancy rate of between 92 and 95 per cent.

The reputation of Salt Spring Island lamb may have played a large part in keeping Ganges on the schedule of stops made by the *Columbia*.

Richard said the ship regularly serves lamb on the Thursday night of its voyages, and that the

lamb is purchased on Salt Spring when the ship stops here.

"A lot of our passengers know all about the fine reputation of Salt Spring lamb," he said. "They think it's something special to have that lamb, and from a place where they had just stopped."

When asked if that consideration helped keep Salt Spring on the cruise ship's list of scheduled stops, Richard would only chuckle.

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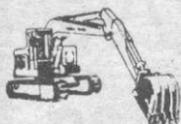


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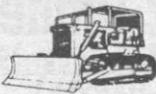
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# Cement used to fill traffic islands

From Page 1

ministry of transportation and highways in late September for permission to carry out the work. However, in a letter dated October 15, District Highways Manager Joe Jensen indicated no landscaping would be permitted on the traffic island, and no additional crosswalks would be created at the junction of Fulford-Ganges and Lower Ganges roads.

Additional parking near the front of the firehall was also rejected because, Jensen said, it would "restrict fire hall access." The district highways manager added that any trees along Fulford-Ganges Road and in front of Centennial Park would have to be planted on park property.

Yardley and other members of the group are disappointed by the ministry's attitude, and disagree with Jensen's reasons for rejecting many of the proposals.

Yardley said Wednesday that while the trees slated for planting on the traffic island would not have restricted sight, the local committee was willing to negotiate with the ministry to come up with an acceptable plan.

In subsequent discussions with local highways officials, the committee agreed to drop its request to plant trees on the main traffic island. Alternative parking proposals were also accepted.

"We agreed to take the trees out of the triangular traffic island," Yardley noted. "We agreed to discuss the parking with the fire department, and agreed to the angle parking (in front of Centennial Park). We were willing to negotiate."

Jensen claims irrigation and maintenance of the plants would be a problem, but Yardley and the Ramseys say this isn't the case.

"I had volunteered to put in an automatic watering system," said Les Ramsay on Wednesday. "The maintenance wouldn't have been a problem, either," added Yardley, "because the parks and recreation commission had expressed a willingness to do it, and we think the fire department would have maintained the plants in front of the fire hall."

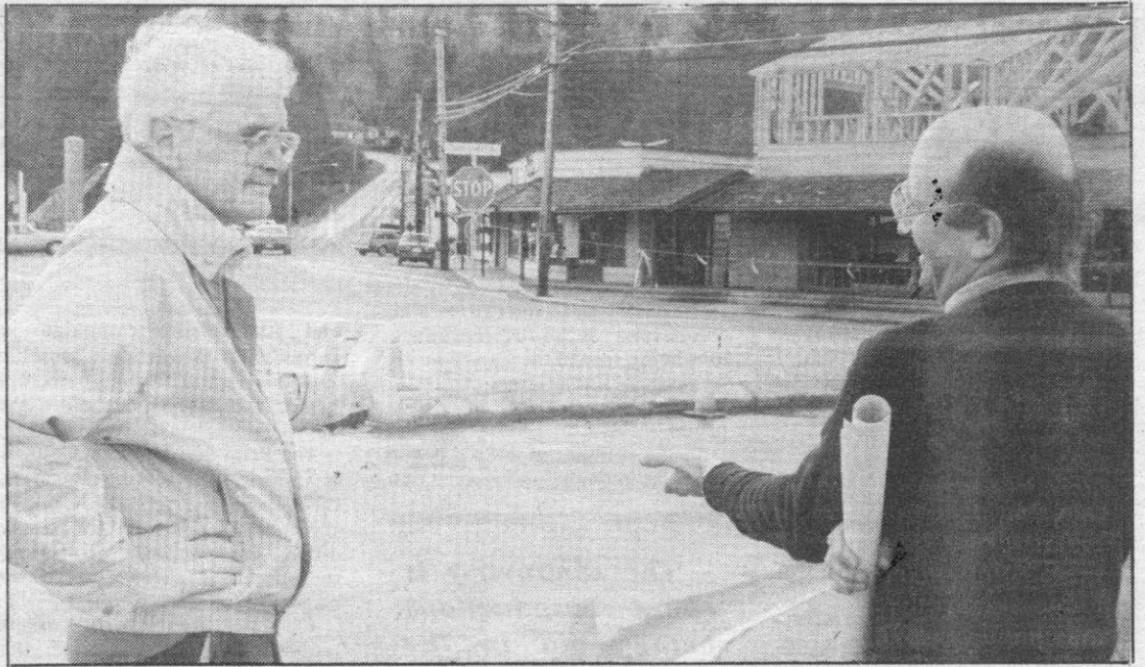
Yardley said that, contrary to Jensen's assertion, the Ramseys' underground irrigation system would not have created problems for the ministry by freezing in winter. "It could have been

turned off then, because you wouldn't need it," he pointed out.

Yardley and other committee members feel the ministry has been unwilling to co-operate on the re-development project.

"It's a sad attitude," Yardley said. "It (the project) would have shown just what could be done. The planting ... would have made it visually attractive. Other people would have seen it, and would have carried it on right down the street. It would have set a pattern (for re-development)."

"Now, of course, with the cement being put in, the opportunity is being lost. And the reasons ... are well, yes, they're ridiculous."



Les Ramsey, left, and Jonathan Yardley inspect traffic islands

## Crosswalks turned down

# Ministry approves tree planting

Ganges residents will likely see trees planted along the traffic divider separating Fulford-Ganges Road from the fire hall, but they won't get additional crosswalks at the village's main intersection.

That's the word from district highways manager Joe Jensen, who said Thursday the ministry turned down many of the re-development proposals submitted by a local ad hoc business committee because they would have created hazards to motorists and pedestrians.

The committee — which includes Sue and Les Ramsey of Pharmasave as well as architects Jane Durante and Jonathan Yardley — applied to the ministry in late September for approval to conduct improvements on the highway right-of-way in downtown Ganges. The ministry rejected most of the proposals, and last week poured cement in the traffic island separating Lower Ganges Road from the Fulford-Ganges Road.

The ad hoc group had asked permission to plant trees and low shrubs in the island. Jensen said the request was turned down for a number of reasons.

"We turned it down because, from a safety point of view, it would have restricted line of sight," he said. "The problem with planting (low shrubs) was that in winter, as part of our winter operation, we salt the roads there, and it would have killed the plants."

Jensen originally rejected planting on the traffic island on the grounds that maintenance and irrigation of the plants would have been a problem. Les Ramsey of Pharmasave offered to put in an automatic watering system, but the district highways manager claims it could have created problems if it froze in winter.

Jensen said, however, that the ad hoc committee will be permitted to plant trees along the traffic

divider between Fulford-Ganges Road and the fire hall parking lot. Planting will also be permitted in front of Centennial Park, providing the trees are set on park property.

In its application to the ministry, the committee had also asked that crosswalks be painted from the parking divider to the traffic island, and from the island to the sidewalk in front of Pharmasave. Additional crosswalks were requested across Fulford-Ganges Road to Centennial Park.

Jensen said the crosswalks were turned down but added that as soon as a sidewalk system of some type is created along Lower Ganges Road, a crosswalk will be painted from the fire hall across to Gulf Islands Trading Company.

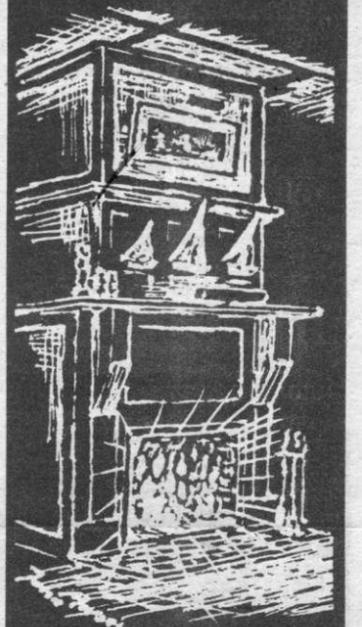
Jensen said the establishment of crosswalks around the traffic island would have "created a potential accident site" and placed pedestrians in danger.

Crosswalks along Fulford-Ganges Road near Centennial Park are not needed, the district highways manager said. "I don't think they're necessary at this time. They also tend to give pedestrians a false sense of security. Numerous studies have been done, and they show that there are more collisions between pedestrians and vehicles at crosswalks than at unmarked crossings."

"I think people tend to be more cautious when crossing at an unmarked area. When at a crosswalk, they assume that as soon as they step out there, the cars are going to stop. They might be right, legally, when using a crosswalk — but they might be dead, too."

Jensen didn't rule out the possibility of creating another crosswalk along Fulford-Ganges Road in the future. "Perhaps, when the Grace Point Development is completed, the traffic pattern would warrant it," he said.

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**Group lobbying for federal legislation**

**Print controversy brings confusion to art market**

**By LYNDA LAUSHWAY**  
Controversy and confusion in the Canadian art market have reigned supreme for the past few years over the difference between original prints and reproductions. Law suits have been undertaken and groups bolstered to lobby government in attempts to straighten out this very contentious issue.

On one side we have Canadian printmakers and their supporters rallying to maintain a distinctive identity for their age-old art form. These artists, comprised mostly of lithographers, etchers, silk-screeners and block printers, create their images on stone, metal, wood or other surfaces, and then hand-ink and pull their prints from the plate. Their editions are generally small and have the distinctive qualities of images created specifically for the medium they were printed in, they are hand-signed and numbered as to total number in the edition, and numbered to signify the point in the edition that they were printed. They are generally printed on high-quality acid-free rag paper that is meant to withstand the ravages of time.

On the other side we have the artists involved in creating reproductions of their work, the companies that produce the reproductions, and their supporters. The reproductions are made from images created in

another medium, and then through a photographic process are reproduced in large quantities.

The controversy is not about reproductions being sold in the Canadian art market. The controversy is about reproductions being sold in the Canadian art market as "fine original prints" or "original prints" or "fine art prints."

In the summer of 1984 a group of artists in Ontario were sued by a

**'The controversy is about reproductions being sold in the Canadian art market as "fine original prints" or "original prints" or "fine art prints".'**

Toronto-based company called Museum Editions Limited. The suit arose because the artists complained publicly about Museum Editions Ltd. making reproductions from the collection of the Art Gallery of Windsor as a fund-raiser for the gallery, and marketing them as "handmade limited edition prints." Museum Editions Limited sued the group of artists for damages totaling eleven and a half million dollars. Artists across Canada began a publicity

**art seen**

and fund-raising campaign in support of the artists. Museum Editions Limited went bankrupt before the case came before the court.

The Print and Drawing Council of Canada is involved in lobbying the federal government to bring in consumer legislation to clearly differentiate between prints and reproductions. They define an original print as:

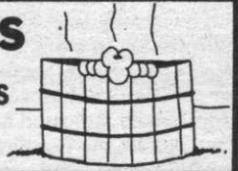
- 1) The artist alone or in collaboration has created the master image or images in or upon the plate, stone, woodblock or other material for the purpose of creating the print;
- 2) The image is conceived and developed within the print medium and does not constitute a reproduction of any image which existed previously in total in another medium;
- 3) The print is made from the said material by the artist or pursuant to his/her directions;
- 4) The finished print is approved by the artist.

The Print and Drawing Council adds that "... we feel that proper legislation can correct practices that continue to mislead the collecting public and strengthen the market for original prints. This does not imply that we are opposed to the manufacture or sale of reproductions; they have a use and

purpose. However, there are many cases where lack of information is used in a form that is fraudulent."

There you have it — at this point it is still up to the buying public to make their own choices.

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Lil Irwin with some of her art, which is on display this week at Marsim Craft and Gift Shop in Ganges. It was the first showing by the native Salt Spring Islander, who has been drawing for many years.

**FIELD MOUSE FORUM**

It seems to me that people who think of themselves as artists have the most fragile egos in the world. I am certain that this is a necessary attribute of artists in that creative expression demands a willingness to leave oneself open and sensitive to the myriad richness of all experience. Unfortunately, however, in a world in which for many, having the time to create is predicated upon the receipt of grants from under-funded government agencies, such sensitivity can also be the artist's own worst enemy.

With so many deserving and so little money available, it is inevitable that many who apply for such grants will be turned down. For a few, this is simply a disappointment, but for others, and sometimes these are the best, to be turned down is taken as a personal and sometimes crippling rejection. To these latter I say that you're wrong; wrong to take things personally and doubly wrong if you let it interfere with your work. If you've got something to say, then you just get on with it and if you still need that grant—well, you try again, and again if necessary, but you don't quit.

Richard Holden, Program Officer  
Explorations, The Canada Council

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# Writer's new book entertains

By MIKE TURKKI

The lighthouse keeper's job is often romanticized. A mere mention of the title inevitably conjures up the image of grizzled oldtimers fighting high winds and driving rain to keep their beacons burning for 'all the ships at sea.'

Although lightkeepers certainly don't spend every day fighting gale-force winds or rescuing shipwrecked seamen, it's reassuring to learn that most if not all of them have done it at least once.

Donald Graham's new book *Lights of the Inside Passage* — the sequel to his first work, *Keepers of the Light*, which won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional History award — tells the real story of B.C.'s southern lightkeepers and their work. It takes the reader to such places as the Active Pass and introduces him to the likes of Scotty Georgeson, who took over the Active Pass station in June 1885 and didn't retire until March 1921.

But *Lights of the Inside Passage* is more than just a history book. Graham, a lightkeeper himself (he is currently stationed at Point Atkinson), blends historical fact with anecdotes pulled from the unique men and women who tended the lights, or those who knew them, to create an entertaining as well as informative book about B.C.'s lighthouses and their keepers. The maps inside the front and back covers, as well as the dozens of black-and-white photographs, allow the reader to actually see the stations and their early keepers.

*Lights of the Inside Passage*, printed by Harbour Publishing Ltd., is a pleasure to read, from the author's foreword to his final chapter entitled *Endangered Species*, in which he chronicles the demise of many B.C. lightstations and the federal government's proposal to automate at least seven others.

For anyone even remotely interested in lighthouses and life on B.C.'s coast, this book is a must.

Salt Spring Islanders have the rare opportunity to get their copies of *Lights of the Inside Passage* autographed this weekend, too. Graham will be appearing this Saturday (December 6) at Volume II in Ganges.

weekend at Off Centre Stage. The unique art of Victoria man Gordon Friesen will also be on display.

Salt Spring Island artist Gwen Ruckle with one of her paintings. Ruckle will show her paintings, drawings and photography this

## Local artist gets show

Paintings, drawings and photography by Salt Spring Island artist Gwen Ruckle will be on display this weekend at Off Centre Stage in Ganges.

Ruckle, 55, is one of only two native Salt Spring Island artists. A descendant of one of the island's original settlers, she lives in a Victorian home near Beaver Point and the provincial park that bears her family name.

Ruckle works primarily in oils and acrylics, although she's also an accomplished photographer. She began drawing and painting in earnest 35 years ago after completing high school and a commercial art course by correspondence.

"But I was always interested in art," she said last week in an interview with *Driftwood*. "It was what I wanted to do in high school, but someone talked me out of it. So after I finished high school, I finished an art course by correspondence."

Ruckle enjoys doing landscapes and seascapes. "I don't do people," she said emphatically. "I just can't do people. It's too hard, takes too long."

She paints primarily from photographs. Her work has been sold throughout the world and now hangs in homes in Norway, Spain and other countries. When not painting, she works in her garden or tends her sheep. She also enjoys a little golf now and again.

"I don't do as much painting as I used to," she says. "What I

really need is to be three people — one to do the painting, another to tend the sheep, and one to do the gardening."

During her life on Salt Spring, Ruckle has seen the island undergo many changes. The isolated areas that are most often the subject of her paintings are becoming increasingly more difficult to find.

"But you can still find it if you avoid the subdivisions," she said.

"When I was growing up, Mouat's, the Trading Company and the garages were all there was — and the post office, but it was in Mouat's. That was Ganges."

Ruckle's show at Off Centre Stage gets underway Friday at 7:30 pm. On Saturday, those interested in seeing her distinctive work can view it between 10 am and 4 pm. Another showing will be held between 1 pm and 4 pm Sunday.

Sharing the show with Ruckle is Victoria artist Gordon Friesen. Friesen's exhibition entitled *Color Fission* incorporates wash painting, black-and-white Xerox, hand-colored diazotypes and colored Xerox.

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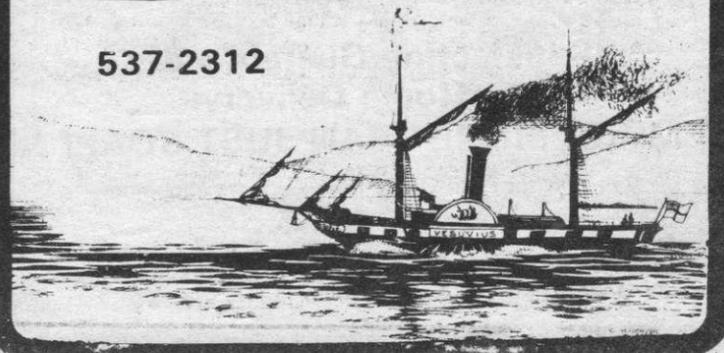
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**Bennett, B. C. and city writers are topics**

# New books published for Christmas

By **DUNCAN MacDONNELL**  
The countdown to Christmas is not measured by chilly temperatures or snowstorms; rather, its proximity is best figured by the number of new books bound for market.

For book publishers and vendors alike, Christmas sales are the year's fiscal high water mark. Accordingly, each fall sees a glut of new books hoping to find a home under your tree or mine.

Christmas arrives early at *Driftwood*, however. Our mailbag has recently been stuffed with new books kindly sent by publishers aching to see their latest works receive a kindly word or two (in hopes, of course, that readers will buy a volume or two).

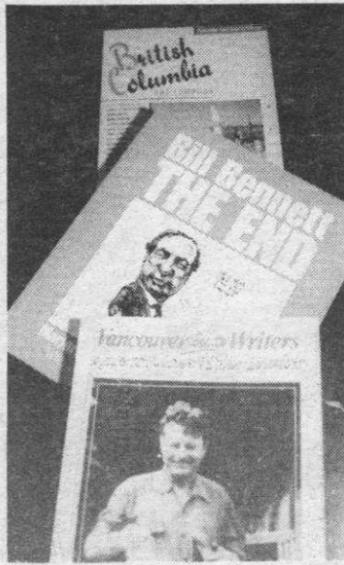
Since space (and reading time) prevents us from providing a full-blown review of each and every new book to cross our front door in the past few weeks, we'll offer instead a brief synopsis of three of the more interesting, moderately-priced works we've seen:

• *Vancouver and its Writers*, by Alan Twigg; from Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd; 175 pages, illustrated, \$10.95 paper.

Subtitled "a guide to Vancouver's literary landmarks," this book's readership will likely be limited to lovers of literary trivia in general and the Vancouver area in particular. Too bad, because it's chock-full of interesting tidbits about the connections between Vancouver and the world of writing.

For instance, the book tells us that the house at 4510 West Eighth Avenue was home to Galiano Island's Jane Rule when she wrote her best-known novel, *Desert of the Heart*, in 1964. The entry then gives us a biography of Rule, a listing of her literary colleagues of the day, a capsule review of *Desert of the Heart*, a note of her later works, and a comment on her place in Canada's writing fraternity.

The process is repeated for a staggering list of other writers, some of them famous — like Malcolm Lowry and Rudyard Kipling — and some of them obscure. Also included are notes



on landmarks honouring Vancouver writers, on locations used as settings in novels and on Lower Mainland book stores, art centres and publishing institutions.

It's not as dry or obtuse as it may sound. What emerges is not simply a book about writing and writers, but a documentation of fascinating slices of Vancouver history. Worth reading.

**'Despite its billing, however, this book is more about Vancouver than the rest of the province.'**

• *British Columbia: The Lampoon*, various contributors; from Douglas & McIntyre; 126 pages, \$9.95 paper.

The premise sounds great: this book is about the view outsiders have of B.C. as a Lotus Land, and the lengths residents reach to live that lie.

Despite its billing, however, this book is more about Vancouver than the rest of the province. A connection to the big city across the water is never far away, either in terms of content, as the home

of most contributors or as the scene of the Lotus Land lifestyles being ridiculed.

As a result, the majority of the humour present here is of the urban kind. Nothing wrong about that, of course, unless you're the kind of reader who likes to point out that *pretension* comes before *sophistication* in the dictionary.

The book can be very in spots but it suffers from a heavy reliance on the work of journalists. As a group, newspaper columnists can write well enough but their humour leans more towards cynicism than wit, which wears thin after a few pages.

Saving the day are entries from a scattering of novelists, playwrights and non-professional writers. Jane Rule's *Making The Scene*, for instance, is a funny essay on a little-realized misconception some visitors have of island folk, and is worth a read all by itself.

Unfortunately, there is not enough of that kind of dry, subtle humour in this book. The emphasis on jogging jokes and martini-set chuckles isn't for everyone, and it isn't enough to carry a book of this size. *British Columbia: The Lampoon* is not bad but, at best, I'd mark it down as a possible stocking stuffer.

• *Bill Bennett: The End*, by Bob Krieger, Marjorie Nichols and Jack Webster; from Douglas and McIntyre; 108 pages, 100 line drawings, \$8.95 paper.

Vancouver *Province* cartoonist Krieger supplies the images of Bill Bennett's last year or so in public office, Nichols gives us the prose side of the picture, and Webster contributes the forward.

Krieger is not usually regarded as one of Canada's top-flight editorial cartoonists but, with this work, he serves notice that it's time more people paid attention to him. Individually, the cartoons range from biting to amusing;

collectively, they form a vivid — and mostly jaundiced — view of Bennett's final days as premier without falling prey to repetition.

Taken with the Webster's forward and Nichols' incisive backgrounder on the political happenings of that time, *Bill Bennett: The End* is as much history as it is a portfolio of acerbic views. At its best, it is a thoughtful reminder of the public perception of Bennett and the storms he faced and, as such, will easily stand the test of time. Recommended.

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DONALD GRAHAM

**Don Graham will be at VOLUME II BOOKSTORE this Saturday, Dec. 6** to autograph copies of his new book, **LIGHTS of the INSIDE PASSAGE** as well as last year's bestseller, **KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT.**

In *LIGHTS OF THE INSIDE PASSAGE*, Graham turns from the West Coast & harbour lights covered in the first book to those of the Inside Passage, stretching from sheltered stations of the Gulf Islands to stark, storm-swept Triple Island and Langara, on Alaska's doorstep.

Donald Graham, MA (Hist.) has spent the last decade as keeper for a series of B.C. Coast lights. He won the 1986 Roderick Haig-Brown Regional History award for his first book, *Keepers of the Light*.



Please reserve your copy early — phone 537-9223

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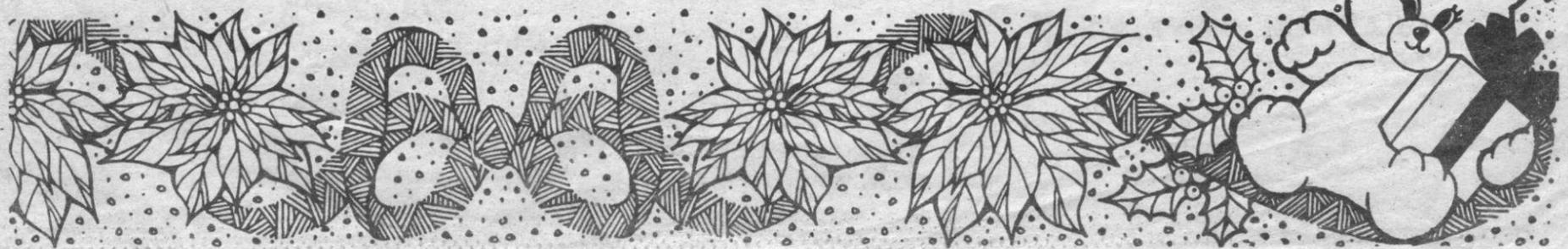


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### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9-11 am • Breakfast with Santa - Kanaka Place
- 11 am: • Fernwood School Ukelele Band in the Bandshell
- Noon: • Gulf Islands Secondary School Concert/Stage Band in the Bandshell
- 1 pm: • Santa Claus visits Salt Spring Fast Foto in Gasoline Alley (till 1:45)
- 1st Salt Spring Rangers & Pathfinders will sell hot chocolate in the fire hall (till 3:30)
- Fernwood School Ukelele Band in the Bandshell
- 2 pm: • Hayrides—departing from Village Market parking lot
- Santa Claus visits Ganges fire hall (till 2:45)
- Gulf Islands Secondary School Concert/Stage Band in the Bandshell
- 3 pm: • Ganges merchants turn on their Christmas lights
- 3:15 pm: • Santa Claus visits Mouat's Mall (till 4 pm)



# Hospital to stage Hansen fund-raiser

Members of the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital board last week voted unanimously in favour of organizing a fun run to raise money for wheelchair marathoner Rick Hansen's Man in Motion world tour.

Diana Hayes, a hospital worker who volunteered to organize the event, said the run will likely be held on Salt Spring Island in early spring. Organizers hope it might coincide with Hansen's return to British Columbia.

Hayes said she will work with the hospital board's public relations committee and other volunteers to organize the fun run. The goal, she said, will be to raise money for Hansen's cause — spinal cord research.

"What we're hoping is that with the support of Ganges RCMP, we'll be able to get Ganges as a starting point and then go down Rainbow Road," she said.

Hayes said that although the event will be a fun run, it will not be limited strictly to runners.

Everyone will be encouraged to participate, and pledge forms will likely be made available to those who plan to enter.

"We hope to have people ... out in wheelchairs, too," she suggested.

Complete details on the fun run have not yet been finalized. Organizers will meet in early or mid-January to plan the event.

At its October 1 meeting, the board of Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital unanimously agreed "to support the Rick Hansen fund by suggesting that all those interested can make their donations directly through Lady Minto hospital."

Although the board announced its decision to promote the Man in Motion world tour, as of last week the hospital had still not received a single donation.

Hansen, a disabled athlete from Williams Lake, left Vancouver on March 21, 1985. Now on the homeward leg of his marathon, he is preparing to cross the Canadian prairies.



## November wedding

Sharel Lambert, daughter of Michael and Allisen Lambert of Toronto, married Ken Tara, eldest son of Bob and Helen Tara of Salt Spring, on November 3, 1986. The ceremony took place at the provincial courthouse in Ganges

and was followed by a family luncheon at Hastings House. The bride is the granddaughter of former Salt Spring residents Margaret Lambert, now of Sardis, B.C., and the late Dr. Leslie Lambert.

## Hospital auxiliary meets

The regular monthly meeting of the auxiliary to the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital was held on Monday, November 24 in the United Church Hall at 2 pm. Forty-five members were present.

After the auxiliary prayer, president Betty Galt announced that one of our members, Mrs. Elna Cairns, had passed away in Victoria on November 19. A one-minute silence was held in her memory.

The meeting came to order and various items of business were discussed, moved and passed.

Mrs. Mary Yellowlees announced that the Thrift Shop would close on Saturday, December 20 at 4:30 pm and re-open Monday, January 5, at 10 am.

She thanked the volunteers who staff the shop, the knitters who keep the showcase at the hospital supplied with goods, and the volunteers at extended care and Greenwoods. Her encouraging words of praise made everyone feel that their time and effort was well worthwhile.

The meeting then adjourned and tea was served.

## Richards heads Speakers Club

Salt Spring Speakers Club, ITC, has had a change of officers just three months into its 1986-87 session. The November 18 meeting included the installation of president Alice Richards by past president Catherine McFadyen.

Richards assumes the chair from Rosemary Foerster, who has left Salt Spring Island for Surrey, B.C. Foerster was presented with a Japanese maple tree and blueberry bush by appreciative members.

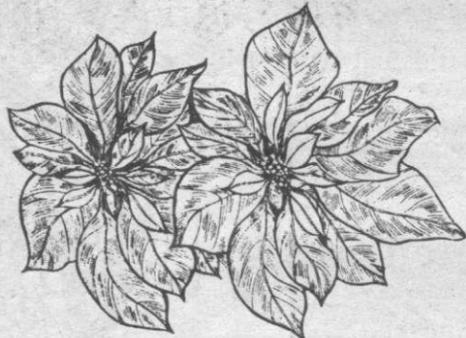
Filling the position of vice-president of the organization is Anne Lyon, Phyllis Sinclair remains secretary of the club, with

Zoe Woodside continuing as treasurer.

The public speaking group is a charter member of International Training in Communication (ITC), which was formerly known as International Toastmistresses Club. Members participate in a continuing learning program to increase communicative abilities as listeners and speakers.

Workshops focusing on those goals have been held since September with speakers on protocol, speech preparation, accreditation and evaluation. The club meets twice a month.

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# Gun Club honours Bennett

The Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club's annual wild game banquet and awards ceremony, held November 22, paid tribute to organizer Ellen Bennett for her 31 years of work on behalf of the group.

Bennett, who has held a wide variety of positions with the club, received a pole lamp from the membership. In accepting the gift, she said she was proud to be a member of the organization, and thanked the community for its support over the years.

She noted that although many of the Rod and Gun Club's founding members have passed away, it continues to be a thriving and active group.

The tribute paid to Bennett came after a meal that included exotic meats like racoon and cougar, and before the club announced its annual trophy winners. Those receiving awards were:

- Men's Trap Shooting: singles, Gordie Scarff; handicap, Bernie Reynolds; doubles, Bob Waters; singles (novice), Bob Tara; handicap (novice), Bob Tara; doubles (novice), Chris Acheson.
- Men's Rifle: small bore (.22 calibre), Louie Lorentsen; big bore, Cam Cartwright; pistol, Louie Lorentsen; men's aggregate, Bernie Reynolds; men's hunting rifle, Des Smith.



Rod and gun club worker Ellen Bennett (left) presents Bernie Reynolds with a trophy during the recent rod and gun club awards

ceremony. Bennett was also honoured for her 31 years of work on behalf of the organization.

- Ladies' Trap: singles, Anne Waters; handicap, Anne Waters; doubles, Anne Waters.
- Ladies' Rifle: small bore (.22), Bunny Lorentson; big bore, Kathy Cartwright; pistol, Kathy Cartwright; ladies' aggregate, Sharon Reynolds.
- Sub-junior (10 years and under): .22 calibre, Devon Gear; pistol, Devon Gear.

- Junior (11-16 years): .22 calibre, Sam Reynolds; pistol, Steven Smith.
- A number of awards were also presented for hunting and angling prowess:
- Frank Tarodi took home trophies for bagging the largest buck, and the buck with the largest antlers.
  - Gerry Marleau received a

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trophy for catching the largest fish in the annual salmon derby's senior division, while David Flander took home top honors in the derby's junior division.

- Harry Williamson was the winner of the club's annual fresh water derby.

After the awards presentation, those in attendance enjoyed an

evening of dancing. Another highlight of the event was the announcement that Mr. and Mrs. William De Long of Fernwood were celebrating their 47 wedding anniversary at the dinner with family and friends. Rod and gun club members and their guests gave the De Longs a round of applause.

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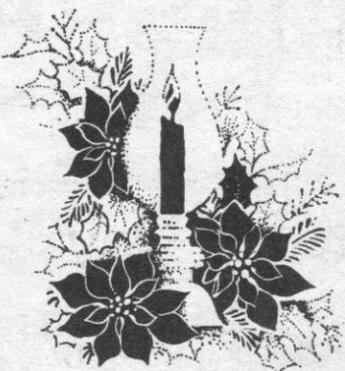
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# UVic presents award to newspaper group

A University of Victoria award given to B.C.'s community newspapers was accepted recently by Salt Spring resident Frank Richards.

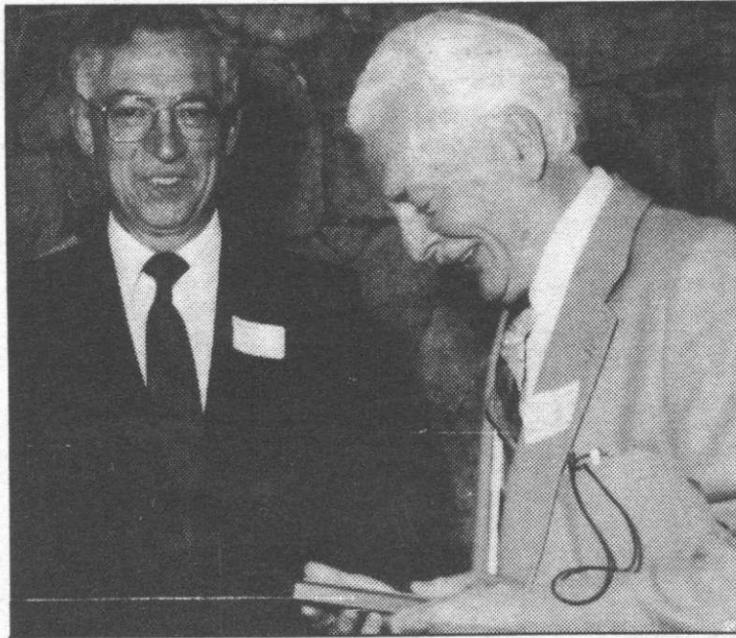
The B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association (BCYCNA) was one of 16 organizations singled for having made "significant contributions" to the university's co-operative education program.

The co-op program, which marked its 10th anniversary this year, allows students to alternate academic studies on campus with on-the-job employment with firms in their fields. Employers act as co-educators with the university, providing students with job skills, experience and contacts.

The award accepted on the BCYCNA's behalf by Richards, a past-president of the organization, recognizes the 80-plus work placements arranged for co-op students in the community newspaper field over the past 10 years.

Several community newspapers — *Driftwood* is one example — regularly hire co-op creative writing students to serve four-month work experience terms. Jane Hamilton, the current *Driftwood* Outer Islands reporter, is one such student.

The BCYCNA also provides two \$500 scholarships and one \$200 scholarship each year for University of Victoria creative writing students.



Frank Richards, right, accepts an award honouring co-op education employers from UVic president Dr. Howard Petch on behalf of the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association.

## Christian Scientists

A conference for Christian Science representatives from 50 communities (including four campuses), throughout the province was held at First Church of Christ, Scientist, in downtown Vancouver on November 22.

Sarlizabeth Stibbard attended the conference from Salt Spring. Arranged by the Christian Science committee on publication office in Victoria, its theme was "strengthening our spiritual mission."

One of the guest speakers was Joy Wright, Christian Science associate chaplain of the Chaplains' Services office at the University of Victoria. She spoke of the campus community along with her fellow chaplains who represent the Anglican, United, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches.

## Elna Cairns

# She left her mark on island

By FRANK RICHARDS

Sure, you must have known Elna Cairns! That is, you would if you lived on Salt Spring.

Always smiling, she never failed to check on the health and well-being of her friends, of which she had many, particularly anyone who was sick, especially if they were suffering from the same disease she had fought for so long. And, until recently, so successfully.

Elna Cairns was a brave woman. It takes guts to laugh at your own ills and pains and disappointments. And she could always shrug them off; she would come back from a bout in the hospital and feel like a bad dream, but you'd never know it.

Ask her and she would laugh. She had a way of laughing that came from deep down inside her. She'd throw her head back and ridicule the idea that all was not well. At least, she would assure you, all was going to be well. I don't think she had time to be sick. She was always more worried about the other person.

This, of course, is just the way I

saw her. All the pain and concerns that come with a serious sickness were her own. And Don's. You know Don, of course, because he was for years to be found upstairs in Mouat's, or outside Mouat's, smoking his pipe. Or at the Lions Club.

On November 19, Elna's health caught up with her. She isn't around any more to ask about my family and laugh about current events.

That's the odd thing about someone like Elna, because she's still around, really. She is still there in Ganges, in spirit, laughing with her fellow sufferers, and she knew them all, offering them advice and assurance and confidence.

Elna Cairns will live on in the hearts of a hundred fellow patients on Salt Spring Island. Her memory will give them that extra spurt of courage they might need to get through a bad day or a sharp set-back. After all, you can't mope for long with the memory of her merry laughter shrugging off all the pain and the fear that come with ill health.

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**Fishermen, federal union want plan stopped**

# Lighthouse automation a marine safety threat?

By **MIKE TURKKI**

The federal government's plan to automate six B.C. lightstations and reduce staff at five others has created concern among fishermen and members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

Fred Lang, regional representative of the PSAC — the union representing lightstation workers — said last week that he feels the plan will result in a loss of lives at sea.

The unmanning of the Trial Island, Porlier Pass, Chrome Island, Pointer Island, Boat Bluff and Lawyer Island lightstations on the B.C. coast is part of a federal government plan to cut costs. The lightstation keepers at these locations will be replaced by automated equipment.

The Point Atkinson, Cape Mudge, Puttoney Point and Saturna Island lightstations, along with one other, will also be reduced to one-person operations under the program.

Lang said the PSAC is more concerned about the lives of individuals on the water than the loss of jobs that will result from the unmanning of B.C. lightstations.

He pointed out that lightstation keepers play a key role in many search-and-rescue operations at sea, even though it is not technically a part of their job. This statement, he said, is supported by the rescue co-ordination centre.

"The most important extra service they provide is assistance in search-and-rescue," he said Wednesday, adding that lightstation keepers also provide "on-the-spot" weather observations. They have also been known to pick up and relay distress calls.

"I just don't see it (the federal government plan) making sense," said Lang. "I've said it before, and I stand by my statement that lives will be lost as a result. Lightstation keepers play an integral role in search and rescue operations. Even the rescue co-ordination centre agrees."

"As far as the layoffs are concerned, the effect to our membership will be minimal," he continued. "We're more concerned about safety. If they (the federal government) implement this program, I have no hesitation to say that lives will be lost ... and if this occurs, I want to know if Mr. John Crosbie (transportation minister) will accept responsibility for those lives."

Lang described the decision to reduce lightstations staff as "asinine."

"What we have now is a system that's gone from virtually nothing to one that functions quite well," he continued. "What's his (Crosbie's) objection? If it's economic concerns, then I think we should not be cutting back and automating, but adding other services (to be supplied by the current system)."

The United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union (UFAWU) has also condemned the federal government's plan to eliminate staff at six lightstations in B.C. and reduce four other operations to one-keeper stations.

In a letter written to Crosbie's predecessor, Don Mazankowski, the union said in May that "the halibut membership of the UFAWU voted unanimously to condemn the department of transport's plan to reducing manning on lighthouses, and in (six) cases,

to eliminate the lighthouse keepers altogether.

"Fishing," the union continued, "is the most dangerous occupation in North America, a very unhappy distinction. Lighthouse keepers are vital to help make the Pacific Coast a safer place to operate. Lighthouse keepers have been instrumental in many, many rescues over the years. They have provided useful, sometimes life-saving information about weather and sea conditions that is just impossible for an automated system to do."

"We feel there should be an increase in the system of manned lighthouses and navigational aids on this coast. Fishermen's lives are becoming far too cheap. We demand that there be a full public enquiry into the department's plan to reduce manning and de-man lighthouses."

In a return letter, Crosbie rejected the idea of holding a full public enquiry. The minister added that the decision to de-man six stations was "made in light of the fact that, to date, the unmanning of lightstations in Canada and other countries has met with positive results."

Crosbie added that because lightstation keepers have played a role in search-and-rescue operations, the unmanning program "will proceed slowly, with mini-

mal unmanning by 1989-90, and none in 1986-87." He said that the addition of new relay systems on the West Coast had greatly improved radio coverage, and suggested that lightstation workers were not able to provide effective support to search-and-rescue officials.

Despite Crosbie's assurance that no lightstations would be unmanned in 1986-87, Lang and others are concerned that the program may move ahead in the near future.

The Vancouver Island Regional Action Committee constituency teams have approached each member of parliament on the island and requested that they state their position on the unmanning of West Coast lightstations.

"We asked for responses from the politicians by November 30, and they have indicated they can't meet our deadline," Lang said. "What we have here basically is a bunch of Ottawa bureaucrats making West Coast decisions. We're just trying to keep the politicians honest."

"And you know what? Here's something I haven't told anyone else. You know, the silence from the provincial people is deafening."

There are a total of 41 manned

lightstations in B.C., including 13 in the Prince Rupert district and 28 in the Victoria district. At present, there are 61 lightkeepers employed in the Victoria district and 26 in the Prince Rupert area.

The lightstation monitoring project has calculated that the unmanning of 38 lightstations would save the federal government \$8.4 million over a 15-year period.

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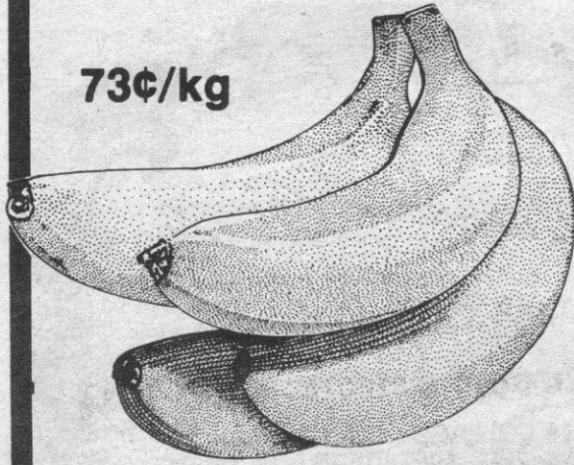
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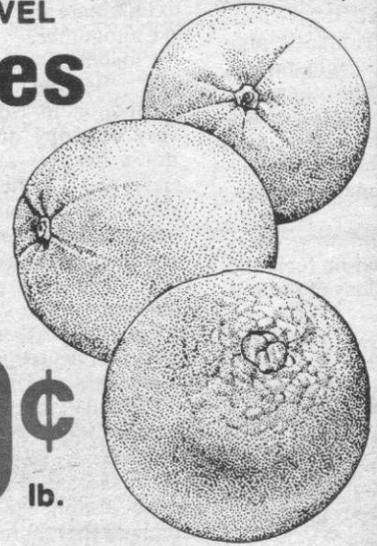


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# Trust contemplating action against businesses

Bylaw enforcement action is being considered against three Salt Spring businesses operating in a residential neighbourhood.

The Salt Spring Island Trust Committee last week received complaints that the three businesses — all operating on Beddis Road — are incompatible with a residential neighbourhood.

The Trust voted to launch enforcement action against one business and lay the groundwork for similar action against the other two.

A motion passed by the Trust requests its bylaw enforcement officer "to take appropriate action" against an auto repair business on Beddis Road and to "take a preliminary look" at two other vehicle and depot repair operations nearby.

The Trust was told that the owner of the first operation, a Mr. Wood, had indicated he intends to seek rezoning of the land to make its use conforming. However, trustees voted to launch enforcement action to "move this thing along."

Their decision followed receipt of a letter from neighbour Jack Reynolds, who complained that the residential neighbourhood was "being downgraded" by the

## Salt Spring businesses operating in residential area

business. He also pointed out that he operates a commercial business in Ganges and must pay rent "for a building in an area with proper zoning," and that he was denied a request to operate a business out of his home.

"(This business) should be forced to comply with regulations," he said.

The other two businesses are in the 100-block of Beddis Road, on land owned by a Dr. C. Beale and a Larry Fraser. The Trust received two petitions, each containing the names of 14 neighbours, protesting that one property is being used as auto body and repair businesses, while the other is home to a truck and vehicle repair and rebuilding operation. Those uses are non-conforming, they said, and should not be

permitted.

"I've looked at all three properties," trustee Pat Byrne said, "and they are certainly not residential-looking uses."

In a related matter at last week's Trust Committee meeting, a request to rezone residential land to accommodate a commer-

cial use was withdrawn by the property owners.

The request was to rezone land on Kings Lane from Residential-2 to Industrial-2 to make conforming the use of the land as a depot for vehicles used by Hal Wright Trucking Ltd.

Trustee Pat Byrne said Wright is being given "an opportunity to

move elsewhere," and that both the Trust and its task force investigating industrial land on Salt Spring are seeking an appropriate site for the business.

Earlier, the Trust had passed a resolution suspending bylaw enforcement action against Wright and the property owner "pending further efforts to locate suitable land for industrial trucking purposes."

## Commission gets grant for court

The Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission has received a B.C. Lottery Fund grant of up to \$11,000 for the construction of another tennis court at Portlock Park.

The announcement was made November 25 at the commission's regular meeting.

Commission chairman Glenn Woodley said the lottery grant — which covers one-third of the project's estimated cost — will be combined with an \$11,000 donation from Dr. Jack Fisher to fund construction of facility.

"The tennis association will probably provide another \$5,500 and the recreation (another) \$5,500 if needed," he added.

Woodley said additional tennis courts here are not "a real priority" with the recreation commission. "But when someone offers you an \$11,000 donation, you don't say no," he pointed out.

The proposed tennis court will be the last one constructed at Portlock Park, Woodley said.

In other recreation news, the commission may hire a university student next year to co-ordinate

Turn to Page 25



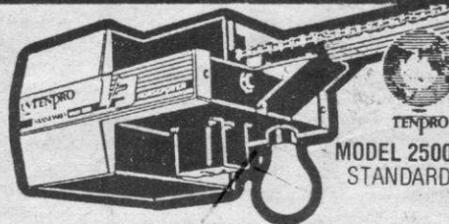
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