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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR, NO. 3

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1988

50C

## Nicaragua twin eyed for islands

The Gulf Islands region is poised to become the first Canadian community to twin with a Nicaraguan equivalent.

Sergio Lacayo, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada, will visit the Gulf Islands this weekend to formally accept a document expressing the intent of various local groups to enter into a mutual friendship pact with residents of the island of Ometepe.

Ometepe Island is on Lake Nicaragua, has a population of 24,000 and counts agriculture as the base of its economy.

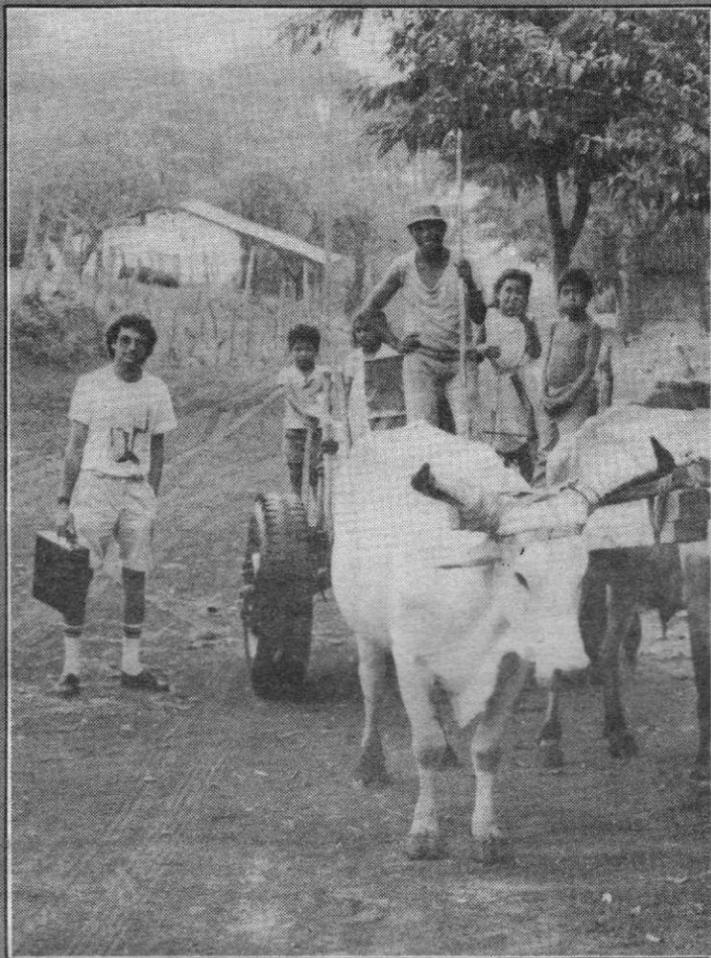
Joining Ambassador Lacayo on Salt Spring this Saturday will be MP Jim Manly (NDP,

Cowichan-Malahat-the-Islands), who has thrown his support behind the twinning plan. On Sunday, the ambassador has scheduled visits to Galiano and Mayne islands.

While the ambassador's itinerary has yet to be finalized, it is expected to include receptions on each of the three islands, followed by tours of community facilities like schools and health centres.

The twinning project was initiated by Mayne Island resident Ron Pither, who visited Nicaragua over the Christmas holidays and returned to Canada last weekend, and by Galiano Island resident George Harris, who is still in the Central American country after joining Pither there just after Christmas.

Pither said Sunday he went to Nicaragua "on a free-lance mutual aid expedition" which unexpectedly produced the twinning project. His initial purpose was to deliver to Nicaragua a shipment of goods — i.e., medicine and some communications equipment —



Galiano's George Harris touring Ometepe Island

Ron Pither photo

on behalf of Tools for Peace, and to present to a theatrical troupe the draft of a script for a play it plans to co-produce with

*'It just sprang up from our wish to investigate and foster links with the community.'*

the Caravan Stage Company of Duncan.

Pither was also investigating production of a documentary

video on the economic and spiritual state of the country and its people.

Harris was drawn to Nicaragua by the film project. After Pither reached an agreement with a major Nicaraguan video production company to share work on the video, Harris flew into the country to help scout locations and research film content.

The two Canadians found Ometepe Island in their travels. While discussing with the community's mayor the state of the local water distribution system, Pither and Harris enquired about friendship and aid arrangements the island had with other nations

Turn to Page 20

## New deal enters Coon Bay talks

A parcel of Crown land on Galiano Island will be offered in exchange for two MacMillan-Bloedel properties at nearby Coon Bay, islanders decided Saturday.

At a meeting initiated by Bruce Strachan — the provincial minister of lands and parks — and called by the Islands Trust, Galiano residents approved a call to offer the Crown land in exchange for the Coon Bay parcels.

Residents also asked that negotiations for the transfer be handled by Clear-Cut Alternatives, the recently-formed local group

that is leading the campaign to save the two Coon Bay parcels from being logged by the forest company.

The two blocks in question are part of four adjoining parcels that islanders want preserved at Coon Bay. The other two blocks are already included in land-swap talks underway between the province and MB.

MB had given Clear-Cut Alternatives until January 15 — last Friday — to secure a letter from the provincial government which said it would consider including

Turn to Page 2

## Renovation work starts at hospital

The first phase of hospital renovations is scheduled to begin this week at Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital.

Construction work will focus on the business office and extended care unit lounge and take six to seven weeks to complete.

Work to the offices will see the area opened up, eliminating the present cubby-hole effect and permitting greater interaction among workers. Changes to the extended care unit are expected to provide residents with greater privacy.

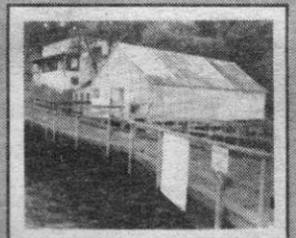
Phase two of the renovation work will involve the emergency central core unit, the nursing station, the PAR (Post Anesthetic Recovery) area, and the dietary department.

The renovations will open up the central core, allowing more

Turn to Page 3

### INSIDE

Outer Islands news begins on Page 22



### End of an era

Two Pender Island landmarks—a barn and a store—have reached the end of their days. Page 22.

### INDEX

Business Dir. . . . .	28
Classifieds . . . . .	26
Editorials . . . . .	4
Entertainment . . . . .	18
Letters . . . . .	5
Real Estate . . . . .	31
Years . . . . .	35

## Hospital's renovation priorities draw rebuke

By SUSAN DICKER

A decision by the hospital board to renovate the business area at Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital has come under attack by a local doctor. According to the hospital, however, the step is one of economic necessity.

The restructuring of business offices is part of the first phase of a \$360,000 hospital renovation project now underway and scheduled for completion in late May.

According to Dr. Robert Dixon, the approximately \$37,400 to be spent on revamping the business

### Doctor questions spending money on office changes

section could well be used elsewhere.

"The money should not be spent improving what is already adequate," he says.

The business area is located in the newer wing of the hospital. The offices were renovated only three years ago when the previous administration decided to enclose each office space, creating a cubby-hole effect. The new renovations

will effectively turn the area back to the way it was before.

Sandy Gordon, president of the hospital board, says the area is completely inefficient the way it is structured now.

"A supervisor can't supervise unless he can see," Gordon points out. "It's inefficient from both a patient and worker's point of view."

The manner in which the

offices are now structured creates unnecessary traffic through them, a *Driftwood* tour through the area showed. Supplies and medical records kept at the far end of the area assures a constant stream of traffic. Another problem is barriers between sections of the office where interaction is required.

The renovations will include glassed-in partitions, less disrupt-

tive organization and an improved security system for patient records.

"Through increased efficiency of the alterations," Gordon says, "the economics will be effected ... and over a period of time will allow for the renovations to pay for themselves."

Gordon stresses that the board has "totally agreed on all renovations to the hospital." He says the medical staff had all the plans presented to them. While Dixon sits on the board as president of

Turn to Page 2

**By island doctor**

# Hospital's office renovation work questioned

From Page 1

the medical staff, he says his concerns are as a doctor, and not a board member.

Dixon maintains money spent on revamping the business area could be put to use elsewhere. For instance, he says, the existing bathrooms are "substandard." The rooms are small, the doors too narrow to allow a wheelchair through, and it's difficult for patients to get in and out, he explained.

The renovations will solve some of those problems. All of the bathtubs will be removed, opening up an area to place walkers or folded-up wheelchairs. One

shower will be centrally installed for those able to stand while bathing, and others will use a specially designed sit-in tub.

**'There has been no sacrifice of clinical facilities because of the business offices.'**

The doors will still not be wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through.

According to Gordon, the wi-

dening of each bathroom door would be a major project. He says he cannot recall the bathroom doors becoming an issue during the course of board discussions. "It's a point worth considering," he says. "It will be looked at in the future."

Dr. Hugh Borsman, the local representative to the Capital Regional District (CRD) board and a member of the hospital board, said he believes "there has been no sacrifice of clinical facilities because of the business offices."

Dixon, however, feels there is a further area that should receive priority: suction and oxygen facil-

ities. He believes the hospital should increase the amount of available equipment, by installing it in rooms. Oxygen is now

**'Through increased efficiency of the alterations, the economics will be effected.'**

provided on a mobile tank which can be moved from area to area.

"It's a definite waste of money," Dixon says. "It (the offices) is

something you do with surplus dollars."

Gordon agrees that the current suction and oxygen system is slightly inefficient. He notes, however, that the number of times the equipment is used is minimal.

Funding for the renovation work is coming from two sources. The treasury board minor — government monies — will fund approximately \$250,000 of the work. The rest is to be taken from the "plant fund," an account that has been accumulating for some time. The fund is subsidized by donations and government grants, and used primarily for equipment and renovations.

## Crown land on Galiano Island considered for Coon Bay trade

From Page 1

the two additional parcels in the land-exchange talks. Failing that, the company say, it would proceed with tree-cutting plans in the area.

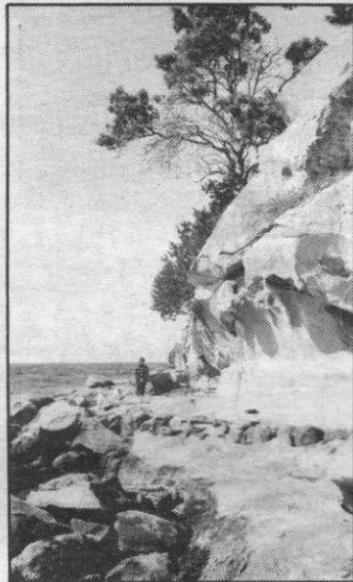
The deal being negotiated between the province and MB involves Crown land deleted from Strathcona Provincial Park, which would be offered to MB for approximately 20 blocks the forest company owns in the region — including the two other parcels at Coon Bay.

However, the provincial government said last week it can consider no more MB parcels in the transfer talks. Instead, Strachan asked islanders if they would be willing to give up a portion of nearby District Lot 84 in exchange for the two Coon Bay blocks in question.

"He (Strachan) said he wanted a meeting to gauge public opinion on the swap. If the answer was yes, he said he'd be willing to put together a package," reports Tom Hennessy of Clear-Cut Alternatives.

The meeting called by the Islands Trust heard about 100 islanders approve the proposed District Lot 84 swap in principle, and ask that Clear-Cut Alternatives represent the community in negotiations.

Hennessy said the next step is to appraise the value of the land at District Lot 84, which lies near Coon Bay and includes an ecological reserve within its borders. The land contains good marketable timber — "as good or better than on any other parcels MB has," Hennessy said — but it is not known if the value of the block is equal to that of the two parcels at Coon Bay.



Coon Bay waterfront

"There may not be enough there for the trade, but the community is committed to saving the other two blocks," Hennessy said, indicating that something else may have to be considered at the bargaining table.

A main reason islanders are pushing to save the two Coon Bay blocks is acreage. The two parcels already included in land-swap

talks between the province and MB total about 35 hectares, which Galiano residents feel is not large enough for the park which would be created. Including the other two parcels in the park would bring it up to about 100 hectares.

"We need a larger park," Hennessy said, noting that the campsite spacing normally employed in provincial parks would leave the 35-hectare site with too few sites for the number of people who visit the area.

Hennessy also noted that Coon Bay is an overflow area for campers who cannot find accommodation elsewhere on the island. If spaces are restricted there, he fears the pressures that will be applied elsewhere.

Clear-Cut Alternatives will now notify Bruce Francis, the manager of MB's Cowichan Woodlands Division, that negotiations for the two additional Coon Bay parcels will begin shortly.

"MB said that if we could get an indication that the province is willing to consider a trade, they would hold off cutting," Hennessy said. "This seems to fulfill that condition."

Hennessy said Francis will be told he can expect a letter from Strachan expressing the province's willingness to open trade talks.

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Well, Murray, it's the old story... the early bird gets the worm!

Yes, Ross! Let's think Spring & take a look at the new Honda line-up!



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JAN.					
20	0720	11.6	24	0150	4.9
	1205	9.6		0900	11.7
WE	1600	10.7	SU	1555	5.4
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22	0025	1.7	26	0000	8.5
	0810	11.6		0305	8.1
FR	1355	7.6	TU	0950	11.4
	1830	9.4		1745	3.7
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	0835	11.7		0515	9.4
SA	1455	6.5	WE	1015	11.1
	1955	8.7		1840	3.0

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**to be frank**

*by richards*

**Artist at work!**

Royal Trust announces its mission of aid to its clients by means of a small desk calendar. For the year, 1988, the Royal Trust has turned to the islands.

The calendar bears a landscape water colour by a Salt Spring Island painter.

Professional artist who came to Salt Spring Island several years ago, Colin Williams, is engaged in painting as a full-time profession. Many of his paintings are to be found in numerous collections.

The painting featured by the Royal Trust is a delightful presentation of Mount Allen, at Nakiska, site of the Olympic downhill skiing course, near Calgary.

Williams taught art in Australia and in Banff before moving west to the islands.

**I got the boots!**

Worst was a comment on driving a borrowed sports car in caulked boots. Neither my son, Tony, nor my son-in-law, Patrick, will even speak to me now!

Mind you, it didn't seem to help the situation when I asked for the loan of a car again, to get rid of my garbage. And I explained that I don't like carrying garbage in my car because of the funny smell.

**A long and merry Christmas!**

It came this week. A Christmas card was mailed to me from the heart of England on December 7, 1987. I received it on Monday, January 11.

If I had needed that card to really have a merry Christmas I couldn't have had one. And I surely can't point the finger at the Ganges office.

Despite the delay in delivery, I did have a merry Christmas. In fact, it was my happy new year that suffered. I was heart-broken at the equivalent of 90 cents charged by the Royal Mail, British style. My mail came quicker than that from Britain when I was stationed on Vancouver Island at Christmas in 1942.

**You can see it now!**

I have a fair collection of ancient newspapers and magazines. Like half a dozen. But I enjoy reading the older publications to learn how much better we do it today.

I was nosing through *Punch*, the English satirical magazine as it appeared on November 12, 1919. It is the advertisements which take my attention. I have to confess that the jokes and cartoons don't come over to me as funny as they must have done to the original subscriber.

Just after the First World War, the Brits were being invited to have a suit "turned." It was a recycling of worn clothes by turning the cloth inside out and remaking the garment. The turners were The Invisible Repair Co. I never saw them, but their announcement is interesting after nearly 70 years.

"Defective parts overcome by our French invisible weaving staff," I read.

You can imagine the foreman: "I know you guys are here somewhere, so get on with the job!"

**It bounces back!**

No matter what I write about, I'm in trouble. A few weeks ago I was watching a show offering me the news of the day while I ate a hearty meal. It was probably a lettuce sandwich. The commercials were of the earth, very earthy. They started off with getting rid of phlegm and ended up with me when I switched off.

Alas! I wrote of the CBC radio program. Visiting an old sparring partner in Sidney I was hauled over the coals for a mistake and all I could do was hang my head in shame. CBC Radio carries no advertising, he remonstrated.

It all came back to me as I started my dinner to the accompaniment of the television news. The first segment presented, as I switched on the thing, was a delightful little dissertation on the problems of diarrhea, complete with working drawings.

And this time I know I'm right!

**Organization meeting slated**

Formation of minor softball and baseball leagues on Salt Spring Island will be discussed at a meeting called for this Thursday night.

Organizers are hoping that the meeting will produce a core group

of eight to 10 workers willing to organize the two local leagues.

The meeting is set for Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 pm in the library of Salt Spring Elementary School.



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**Renovation work begins this week**

from Page 1

efficient observation and interaction among the various sections. In the basement, the kitchen, storage and laundry areas will be brought up the health standards.

Total cost of the two phase project is estimated at \$363,000.

The hospital expects to have completed the work by early May.

Hospital administrator Diane Horovatin said she wishes to apologize in advance for any inconvenience or noise the renovations will cause.

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## In context of land-use laws

# 'Wholesale logging' warnings inappropriate

Land use regulation always generates a great pressure and lots of steam in any community. This is part of the islands' history. It is obviously part of the islands' future.

The sale of nearly 5,000 acres of forest land into the possession of various private owners has proved a sharp disappointment to the Salt Spring Island Trust Committee, and particularly to Chairman Nick Gilbert, who had been the architect of a proposal to transfer part of the property and density rights into public ownership.

There will be many sympathizers with the Gilbert approach. They, also, have failed in their hopes to bring these large land holdings into public use.

These are the facts of land ownership. Other facts of ownership are centred under the one, simple guideline: No agency, municipal, provincial or federal, may require of a property owner any measure which is not covered by law. Land use regulation follows an accepted, approved bylaw, or bylaws, duly approved and published and applicable to all properties within any given category.

Last week the chairman cautioned the new owners of MacMillan-Bloedel land against "wholesale logging." It was undoubtedly, a friendly advice because Nick Gilbert knows as well as the rest of us that the Islands Trust exercises no jurisdiction over logging or tree-cutting. Many

believe it should. But many are thankful that it does not.

When the chairman warned owners that they may not be able to put into effect any plans they might have for the properties after such logging, he went overboard.

A regulatory agency must not threaten members of the public. To log off some of the subject properties might well be aesthetically undesirable. But as yet the provincial government has not seen fit to accept aesthetics as part of the loggers' kit.

It would be unthinkable that any island agency would deliberately deny a citizen his rights in revenge for an action — a perfectly legal action — which that agency might deem undesirable.



## Some details about program would help

Many employers in British Columbia are no doubt waiting with interest for additional information on the provincial government's stock ownership plan, announced two weeks ago by Economic Development Minister Grace McCarthy.

But, not unlike other recent announcements by Victoria, the new program remains a promise sadly lacking in detailed information.

There is no question that such a program could be of great benefit in economic terms. Employee motivation is an important factor in the operation of any business, and there has to be considerable incentive in employee ownership of the business for which one works.

The government, however, is not being generous enough with the details. Like the decentralization scheme, this latest announcement will be regarded with growing skepticism until the government opens up.

# Decade-long search finds another query at end

In 1975, I was in temporary lodgings in an apartment in Nanaimo. One day, a fellow I knew dropped by and borrowed an album from the stack next to the stereo.

A couple of years went by. I lost track of where he was and he didn't know what street I lived on, but every once in a while we'd meet at a Pay-and-Save.

I always asked: "Where's that record?"

He always answered: "What record?"

Later, I was drifting through a few late-1970s Vancouver country-and-western bars. I'd be at the American Hotel, and I'd hear these tunes. And I'd tell the guy next to me that I used to own the

album the song came from. Except someone borrowed it. And never gave it back.

"What record?" I'd hear. "Hank never recorded that song."

He was wrong, but I couldn't prove it. The record had been deleted by the factories and by the stores. As far as the real world was concerned, it had never existed, and no one you knew could steal a copy.

When I found that out, I started haunting the Pay-and-Save parking lots whenever the used record shops were closed. Angry and desperate were my moods.

You must understand. The record was *Hank Williams Jr. and Friends*, a rare plate of vinyl marking the start of a son's climb

## my word

by  
**Duncan MacDonnell**

towards his father's honky-tonk crown. It was a pretty good start to boot.

And I'd owned it once. It was a diamond in the rough . . . a collector's item. One that had been played only two or three times before it escaped through the apartment door and found

oblivion. Or use as a scoop for cat droppings.

My search knew no limits. At one point, I had friends and acquaintances and friends of friends scouring the continent for that record. I chased down a lead to a radio station in Austin, a tip on a copy at K-Mart, even a rumour that you could hear it played backwards on this old Kitty Wells album. Zip.

Meanwhile, my ex-buddy never showed in the Pay-and-Save parking lots of this world. Never saw the guy again, in fact . . . until a few weeks ago at a funeral. At a tactful moment, I told him my story. Shook my finger. Moaned. Pleaded. Threatened his first-born. Lied.

"What record?" he said.

Some days later, a bundle arrived at the *Driftwood* office. Inside was my long-lost album, the one I'd chased in my dreams for the last 10 years. I took the disc home, played it, and it was perfect. Not a scratch or a smudge. Heaven.

I immediately called friends to call off the search. Generous offers were made to pay visits, to exchange copies and to see each other more often. Then I went back to the turntable.

Later, I looked inside the package and found a letter. After an apology for losing my records, it says: "I believe that I also lent you two albums . . ."

What records?

## Provoked

Sir,  
It is hard to believe that Tony Richards' report on NATO is meant to be taken seriously. I suspect that he, and the other nine Canadian journalists, knew they were being given the standard official line, repeated by NATO hacks on every occasion they think they can safely treat their audience as both ignorant and credulous. Were all 10 intelligent newsmen too polite to tell their hosts (and Joe Clark's minions who used our taxes to pay for their trip to Europe) that they objected to being treated as gullible simpletons?

Perhaps Tony's piece in *Driftwood* is cunningly intended to provoke us into demolishing publicly the myths he was fed in Brussels, while allowing him to remain aloof? Let's do him the honour of supposing so.

"For the 16 member nations of NATO ... the threat of (Soviet) invasion is no less serious today than it was in 1949," they told Tony. Very true: it was slight then, is equally negligible today, as every senior military officer or serious political leader in Europe knows, and admits publicly on retirement or out of office.

The reason may or may not be the fact that the Soviet Union lost 20 million of its citizens fighting our allies in World War II, and that its people want peace much more than North Americans who have never seen their cities flattened by modern war.

What is quite plain is that in all these years both opposing military blocs (NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, the Soviet alliance) have known they would lose heavily in military, economic and political terms by making war on each other, even if by some miracle no nuclear explosives were used.

It is equally obvious that each side has regarded its steadily-increasing level of armaments as "defensive," and perceived the opponents forces as offensive. Since both have remained faithful to the old idea that "attack is the best form of defence," their military forces have been structured for "deterrence" by threats of immediate and devastating attack deep into "enemy" territory as soon as aggression is perceived.

But the opposing tactical forces have their nuclear and conventional weaponry so integrated that they are unable to use any of them without precipitating uncontrollable nuclear war, the total destruction of all Europe and probably the rest of the world. NATO and WTO forces, in the words of our own Maj.-Gen. Johnson, "are hostages and agents of mutual and absolute destruction ... (they) serve no real purpose but to justify themselves and each other ... (and) provide excuses to avoid the political accommodation on which security rests ... their simplistic and self-serving doctrines make it unnecessary for politicians, generals and bureaucrats to think."

Typical of the snake-oil-salesman technique used by the NATO propagandists on Tony (and us) is their comparison of Soviet and US military spending: "The Soviets spent 14 per cent of the GNP, the US only 6 per cent between 1973 and 1982." Suitably frightened? But in fact American guesses (only the Russians actually know) put Soviet spending at \$100 billion in 1960, rising steadily to \$200 billion a year over the next 15 years. In the same constant dollar terms, US military spending was \$150 billion, and NATO over \$200 billion in 1960 — double the WTO level; by 1985 NATO was spending

over \$350 billion, still nearly twice the Soviet bloc. What they mean by the "fearful growth in Soviet military might" means that Soviet forces are not so far "behind" as they were 25 years ago.

And remember: neither side dare use any of these vastly expensive and destructive toys. Enormous waste — and we are all far less safe than before.

"The NATO allies ... are outnumbered in ... manpower two to one." This is a crude distortion. NATO accounts for 5.9 million; WTO 4.9 million (of which 3.8 are Soviet) and some 20 per cent of Soviet forces are on their border with China. (The USSR sees itself as threatened by four million Chinese troops: the US has 900 million Communist allies). And if war were to break out in Europe after all nuclear weapons had been dismantled, does anyone imagine the Polish, Hungarian, Czech, East German and Rumanian troops could be trusted to fight alongside, not against, their Russian allies?

Playing with numbers in the way NATO officials (and our own) are wont to do is plainly an insult to our intelligence.

"The key to NATO policy, deterrence, is almost wholly dependent on the nuclear capabilities of the allied nations." But NATO's nuclear "weapons" are useless, mere suicide pills without rational military value. If NATO cannot resist non-nuclear attack without ending the world, it has no defences. That is precisely why Veterans Against Nuclear Arms and other realists in the peace movement, as well as progressive (but not Conservative) politicians, are insisting NATO policy must change radically.

If military defence is necessary, let it be real defence that can actually protect, not destroy us. NATO must abandon the nuclear nonsense together with all offensive structures (where major forces are stationed near East/West borders, poised for deep-strike tactics), and substitute equipment and military organization that is non-provocative and purely defensive.

The real tasks for NATO and WTO, if they are to cease being major threats to humanity, are to complete, as rapidly as possible, the de-nuclearization process; to make parallel moves to eliminate offensive force elements such as tanks and deep-strike aircraft; and to create truly defensive arrangements in depth, with large de-militarized border zones.

As Robert Neild and Anders Boserup so eloquently argue, what we all need until we grow up enough for World Peace-keeping Forces to keep us from mayhem, is to recognize and act on the simple principle that security is mutual, and lies not in futile efforts to be

stronger, but in mutual defensive superiority: our defences must threaten no one, but must be greater than any offensive forces ranged against them.

As to Tony's final point about Canada's part in NATO, is it not time to stop kidding ourselves? Our contribution is both negligible and inappropriate, since it is based on the totally unrealistic military view that has pervaded all NATO thinking. Our membership of an alliance which is a major threat to the survival of its own members can be justified only if we insist we will leave unless it comes to its senses quickly.

This, indeed, is one of the few steps Canada can take that will have any real effect on the Arms Race, and humanity's stupid slide to self-destruction.

**PETER PENTZ,**  
Ganges.

## Gratitude

Sir,  
Last Wednesday, following a basketball game at Lake Cowichan, we arrived at Crofton in time to watch the last ferry of the day pull out. We resolved ourselves to a long drive over the Malahat and home via Swartz-Fulford. That didn't happen. A couple of calls were made, approval was given and the ferry returned to get us.

First, we'd like to apologize to the passengers who were inconvenienced and to the parents who were kept waiting.

Also, we'd like to extend our gratitude to the crew and other employees involved in the decision to turn the *Salt Spring Queen* around. Thank you.

**JOHN CALLAS and the Junior Boys' Basketball Team.**  
Ganges.

## Special place

*Editor's note: The following is an open letter to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission, filed with this newspaper for publication.*

Sir,  
As the parents of young children, we would like to bring to your attention the fact that the playground equipment at Centennial Park is antiquated, inadequate and potentially dangerous.

The park is our children's central playground. It is well used by all islanders as it is in the shopping and business core of Ganges. It is also the site for special community activities. For these reasons the park is very important to us, our children and our grandchildren.

As a concerned parents group, we would like to suggest the

- following:
- toddler area with appropriate equipment;
  - baby swings, climbing frames, tire swings and tunnels;
  - child-proofing of seawall railing;
  - removal of unsafe carousel swing;
  - regular maintenance and inspection of equipment; and
  - adequate drainage under all equipment.

We would like to emphasize that this upgrading does not have to involve a large expenditure but is necessary for the safety of our children. Recycled materials could be used (e.g., tires) and community work bees organized.

Now that the park is generally being improved (new bandstand, paving stones, etc.), surely something could be spent on the playground to make it a truly special place for the children of Salt Spring.

We invite response from other concerned parents, community groups and service organizations.  
**SALT SPRING ISLAND CO-OPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL.**

## Person-ally

Sir,  
I am perturbed by your reporting of the voting structure for a local Trust committee, as written on page 13 of the December 23 issue of *Driftwood*. Rather than a "one-man, one-vote rule," it would be a one-person, one-vote rule. Just a small goof, I know, but I have come to expect better from your progressive and timely reporting.  
**SUSAN YATES,**  
Trustee,  
Gabriola Island.

## Proceeds

Sir,  
On Friday, January 29, the Canadian Cancer Society will be holding a benefit dance at the Harbour House pub. Club Mongo will be featured for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Doors open at 8 pm. There will be a \$3 cover charge at the door. All proceeds will go to help the fight against cancer.

See you there. Your support will be greatly appreciated.  
**BETSY DOSCO,**  
Ganges.

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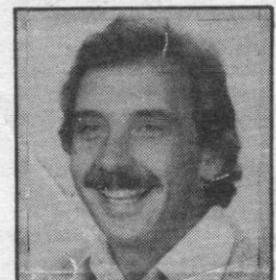


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# Rescued monkey to become sailor

By ANDREW GIBSON

A very few people have powers so far above the norm that they seem like magicians — Newton, turning science on its head after an apple falls, a Mozart composing at four, an Einstein figuring out in his spare time what mc<sup>2</sup> equals.

Conceding that I may be too obtuse to recognize it, I am not aware of having ever been in the presence of such human genius. But other species also have their prodigies, and it was once my privilege to be in daily contact for a year and a half with the monkey equivalent of, not the gentle Einstein, but rather an evil genius — Attila the Hun, perhaps. Even today I shudder to think what havoc would have been wreaked had such mischief magnification been granted to a bigger creature.

Jacko (a humdrum name unworthy of him) was of humble birth, even for a monkey. I like to think his parents were poor but honest tree-top dwellers, but he himself was born in a wooden cage on a houseboat on the Saigon River, in what was then French Indochina. It was early 1940, and beautiful Saigon, the Pearl of the Orient, was enjoying its last few months of peace. Our tramp ship, having discharged a cargo of coal at also-doomed Singapore, was anchored in the river, loading bagged rice for Britain.

The houseboat was owned by a tiny elderly lady who could crack wise with sailors in any language, even including the Glasgow, Tyneside and Cockney dialects of our crew. Our first mate was quite taken with her, and during the two weeks we were there she was allowed to tie her boat alongside, and to keep shop on deck, selling silks, tobacco, perfume, carvings — *junque a l'Indochina* — and monkeys, most of which had been recently netted in the Mekong forests, small bewildered creatures about the size of a cat.

The sailors bought three of the monkeys, and we apprentices one, for two shillings each, but then we found out that ours had a baby. The boat-lady, an unsentimental soul, was quite willing to part them in the manner of a Simone Legree, but sailors are notoriously soft-hearted about mothers, even monkey ones. We bargained the baby down to a shilling, pointing out that he was substandard, his tail having been somehow cut off. Only an inch of it remained.

He was different in other ways, too. He was very small, not more than eight inches long, but his most remarkable feature was his disproportionately large head, with huge eyes and a flat, quite unsimian face, not at all like the others. His behaviour was just as different as his appearance — the others were understandably uptight in this strange environment, and once on deck couldn't be coaxed from the rigging.

Jacko was contemplative, self-possessed, not at all nervous, and, without a tail, couldn't venture far above the deck. He looked at his human shipmates, decided that we weren't so formidable, and the best thing he could do was to join us, preparatory to licking us. He paid no further attention to the others, not even to his mother, which should have given us a clue to his demonic nature.

The ship, loaded to her Plimsoll marks, ploughed through the China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and out into the gales of the late-winter North Atlantic. The temperature dropped, and by the time we were crossing Biscay all of the monkeys, with one exception, had gone to the great jungle in the sky, in spite

of the most solicitous efforts of their owners. One had come to a freak end by jumping through an open porthole when our anti-submarine gun went off, but the others, escaping at every opportunity into the artificial jungle of the sprayswept rigging, sickened and died, to the accompaniment of I-told-you-so's from the old hands.

Jacko, however, prospered and grew to his full weight of perhaps three pounds. Wool jackets had been made for all of the monkeys, but only he would wear his, immediately realizing its use. It buttoned at the back, so he needed

help, but when he chose to promenade on deck he would come to one of his minions to be buttoned up, or, should he wish to stay inside, to be undressed.

We proles had to keep watches, of course, but he kept jungle hours — we had made a real little bed for him, and when it was dark he would yawn, jump in, pull the blanket up, turn his face to the bulkhead and go to sleep, no doubt to plan his later depredations.

He soon had the freedom of the ship, because the earliest manifestation of his genius was his ability to charm the whole crew (with one exception, of which more later). It was an education to

watch him in action. He would look at his prospective conquest, his liquid eyes brimming with simulated trust and affection. Then, as if unable to resist the impulse, he would rush forward to be picked up, when he would clutch his protector, chattering emotionally all the while. The poor sailors, most of whom betrayed their sentimental natures by having their hairy arms tattooed with such elevating artwork as a hearts-and-flowers decorated *Mother*, succumbed at once. Had we, Jacko's legal owners, been more mercenary, we could have rented him out.

Next: Jack's life of crime.

## more letters

### Caring

Sir,  
We would like to thank islanders for their continued support of our Chilean *arpillera* project. So many of you have shared our dream with family and friends far and near that in 1987 we surprised even ourselves by sending \$1,500 a month to the arpilleristas in Santiago's shantytowns.

We also realized our goal of exhibiting these amazing pieces of folk-art first at the Women in Focus Gallery in Vancouver last February, then in various communities throughout B.C. since May. Our major exhibition, *Sewing Dissent: Patterns of Resistance in Chile*, is currently showing at the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

Through the initiation of Sheila Reid, teaching kits have been prepared by Co-Development Canada and are now available from the BCTF for classroom use.

Once again Salt Springers have shown that a small but caring community can make a difference. Thank you.

In 1988 we are planning some new directions. As well as the applied wallhangings and postcards of arpilleras we now have breadcrumb necklaces and crocheted shawls which are made by political prisoners in Chile. Beginning January 23 we will be in Mouat's Mall on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please drop by and see what we're up to next.

WILLO STEVENSON,  
Salt Spring Island  
Voice of Women.

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# Ownership plan offers promise

VICTORIA — Hype or substance? That's the question to be asked in connection with the new employee share ownership program proposed by the provincial government.

The government claims the new program will not only create new jobs and secure existing ones, but also raise badly-needed funds for increased economic activity.

The opposition, on the other hand, says the program is just another example of government trying to baffle the brains of its citizens with b.s.

Whom do you believe, the critics or the government? Based on the lack of logic and substance on which some of this government's hare-brained schemes are based, you might have doubts about this latest program. After all, it's being promoted by the same man who wants to solve the problems of a hell-hole called Oakalla by pressing its inmates into chain gangs.

Still, you'd be making a mistake dismissing the employee share ownership program out of hand. It's got potential.

Here's how it would work. Employees will be encouraged to invest in the companies for which they work. Since it's doubtful that workers will turn over their savings to their employers just because Economic Development Minister Grace McCarthy thinks it's a great idea, the government offers prospective employee investors a little financial incentive in the form of a 20 per cent bonus up to \$2,000.

That means if an employee invests \$10,000 in his employer's company, the government will augment the investment by a further \$2,000. That's no gift to spit at.

The province will also pay half the start-up costs for employee-employer groups qualifying for assistance, to a maximum of \$5,000.

Program officials say that most of British Columbia's 1.4 million private sector employees will be eligible to participate in the program, but they expect that only two to eight per cent of them will actually take part.

Based on that forecast, the government will allocate \$ 6.5 million for the program in the next fiscal year, \$8 million in 1989-90 and \$10 million in 1990-91. Funds raised by the program, estimated at up to \$100 million over the next three years, are to be spent on the expansion of existing and the start-up of new companies.

The potential benefits of the program are obvious. New investment capital, no matter how it's raised, is good for the economy. It not only secures and creates jobs

## capital comment

hubert beyer

but results in spin-off effects that will benefit the province as a whole.

Then there is the consideration that employees who have a financial stake in the companies for which they work are probably more productive and less inclined to believe in the inevitability of labor-management confrontation.

The only drawback to the program that I can think of is the low participation rate anticipated by the government. Bob Williams, the NDP's economic development critic, points out that, according to the government's own estimates, only about 2,100 workers out of the total of 1.4 million eligible are expected to take part in the program.

It seems to me that's neither the government's nor the program's fault. If anyone other than financial corporations and big business has money to invest, it is those who have steady and secure jobs. The trick is to convince them to put some of their savings into the companies for which they work, rather than keep it in the bank.

Of course, not every employee will be in a position to participate in the program, despite his or her eligibility. A large percentage of the workforce is employed in industries that pay dismal wages. They don't have any savings. But there are enough who do.

Year after year, we're told Canadians have a penchant for saving money. Canada leads the industrialized nations when it comes to socking money away. The trouble is Canadians hate taking risks. They are among the most timid investors. They'd rather keep their money in the bank at a relatively low but secure rate than get a bigger return by taking a flyer.

There's nothing wrong with the employee share ownership program. I foresee no problem getting employers to participate in the scheme. The only problem will be to make employees see its advantages. To that end, the government should set aside some funds for a publicity campaign. The best program will fall flat on its face if nobody knows about it.

To answer the question: hype or substance? The program has substance, but some hype will be needed to assure its success.

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## Concerns

Sir,  
My immediate rejection of the Islands Trust regional district status proposal prompted critical replies from trustees Nick Gilbert (*Driftwood*, January 6) and Steve Wright (*Driftwood*, January 13). Normally, no reply would be indicated, but it is important to try and avoid any misunderstanding.

My article of some weeks ago made it clear at the outset that I supported the position of the Trust, but then went on to condemn the proposal, not because it supposedly would strengthen the Trust, but because of a major concern regarding the provision of services. The minister of municipal affairs had made it clear that without an "outcry," the new regional district concept would be pursued, hence my immediate objections.

It was obvious that a new regional district of less than 15,000 persons could not provide services. The 13 islands would be required to continue to obtain services from the seven regional districts that now supply them. Nick Gilbert agreed, but spoke of awaiting population growth of the islands before the new regional district could provide services. However, we all know that the Trust, speaking for most of us on the islands, is not going to actively encourage increased population density for the Islands.

Speaking only for Salt Spring Island, it was quite clear that a number of things would result:

- The CRD would have to be asked to continue to provide the same services on a contract basis.
- The cost of contracting out these services would be considerably more than at present. The CRD report on the subject has been supplied to the *Driftwood*, but while accurate figures are not possible, contracting out could increase the cost by possibly \$125,000 to \$150,000 per year.
- All political input to assist in making decisions at the CRD concerning these costs would be lost.
- The free consultation services from the senior CRD staff would be lost.
- The problem of solid waste disposal would become ours alone, and we would lose the \$100,000 that was to be supplied to us by the CRD for a transfer station, if that was the island's decision.

These were just a few of my concerns. So when Steve Wright described these matters as "clouding the issue," he was quite wrong. The reverse was true.

Fortunately the Trust Council, to their credit, recognized the pitfalls, and rejected the regional district proposal. They asked the present regional districts for support, and speaking for the Capital Regional District, they certainly have that support.

We, the CRD representatives, will be speaking to the minister of municipal affairs, and we are hoping that not only will this silly proposal be put to rest, but that the Trust can be supported in other ways. It was interesting that many on the Trust Council, perhaps a majority, and a number of CRD

directors all thought that a Trust regional district would eventually weaken the Trust, not strengthen it.

**HUGH BORSMAN,**  
Regional Director,  
Salt Spring Island.

## Be grateful

Sir,  
I recently went to my parents' home for Christmas, and I must say I was shocked. It wasn't constant bickering — it was the long-suffering patience of my mother.

She had everything ready for us. Tree, lights and cards up, and a steady stream of shortbread, cake, mince tarts and Nanaimo bars. The poor woman went around the kitchen, nodding her head and saying, *I'm a fool for doing all this.*

I find it sad. Do we never say thank you or show how grateful we are? I hope your mothers don't feel the same way.

Be grateful and say thanks. Don't forget fathers, too. I'm grown now but at Christmas I really do feel like a kid, and I really mean thanks to all you moms and dads.

**ALLAN MARCOTTE,**  
Ganges.

## Comment

Sir,  
The closing down of Pender Island's General Store should not be allowed to pass without some comment. This lovely old store has been in operation since 1910 and has enchanted visitors from all over the world.

It didn't suffer a slow, lingering death like so many other local stores, including Corbett's Store at Hope Bay. Its end was brutal, deliberate and calculated.

Since the recent opening of the Grocery Store in the new Driftwood Shopping Centre



**Happy 50th  
Dad**

## more letters

managed by the owners of the General Store, stocks at the older store have dwindled while prices have risen outrageously. Now islanders' shopping choices are limited to the Driftwood Shopping Centre, the P.J. Store in Magic Lake or going off-island.

In the coming years I expect to see many more businesses and services absorbed into the Driftwood Centre. Nice for the owners of this complex and for those able to rent business space from them.

What about those merchants and residents who located on Pender Island believing that the Islands Trust had a strict policy of not allowing centralized shopping centres? I had thought that approval for the Driftwood Shopping Centre was given on the understanding that it would not hurt the business of the thriving and much-loved General Store.

Seems to me that some very serious and searching questions need to be asked about the death of Pender Island's General Store.

**PATRICK VERRIOUR,**  
Pender Island.

## Yuk & yeh

Sir,  
It's time again for the annual yuk and yeh awards. Last year I wrote because I was annoyed that so many eyesores could happen on our island without anyone complaining. This year, there are more yehs than yuks — good things can happen.

The yeh awards are, in no particular order:

- the neat small park between the two banks;
- the great things happening to

Centennial Park and the market area;

- the new Grace Point shopping complex, and especially the signage on the building (remember we could have had a concrete block warehouse there);
- the Shell station, for painting its buildings in pleasing colours to blend into the surroundings (again they could have been painted with red and yellow stripes);
- the highways department spruce-up of the boulevard outside the works yard; and
- the pleasant paint-up to Mahon Hall.

In my opinion, there are only two yuk awards this year — but they are both dandies.

- the awful signs put up by Salt Spring Lands on the Gasoline Alley property (the real estate business stands to gain most by having a beautiful island, and yet they still keep nailing up gaudy signage on the buildings); and
- the bright blue buildings on Rainbow Road, hardly settling into the landscape.

Year by year, the island is becoming a more attractive place to live. Let's keep good things going:

**A. S. HOPPING,**  
Ganges.

## Worse

Sir,  
There's an old saying in Canada: "Whenever postal rates go up the service gets worse."

The slowness of delivering first class mail, to American cities especially, gets worse. It now takes a week to get a letter to Portland,

Oregon — the same length of time for a letter from London to reach me.

The new rates are way out of line with the American charges, despite what Canada Post claims. A first class letter rate of 37 cents compares with 22 cents in the U.S. (equivalent to 30 cents Cdn.) In the U.S. you can send a shorter message on a postcard for 14 cents; no postcard rates prevail in Canada. The U.S., like nearly all countries, has overseas airgrams which cost 36 cents; Canada has airgrams, too, but charges the full letter rate.

Canada has no third or fourth class mail for printed matter and books, like the U.S., Britain, and other countries. Sending books overseas from Canada can cost nearly as much as the books themselves. So not many people can afford to do this. Publishers and booksellers get special rates but not consumers. What this inequality does for the book market, you can ask the proprietor of Volume II.

I once asked an American postal official what he thinks of Canada Post and its inability to deliver mail expeditiously. He looked at me quizzically and said, "I would advise them to use carrier pigeons. They would be faster and more reliable."

**ANTHONY NETBOY,**  
Ganges.

PART 3 OF 26

## To the Peoples of the World

A BAHÁ'Í STATEMENT ON  
**Peace**

WITH THE ENTRENCHMENT of this view, (that aggression and conflict are intrinsic to human nature) a paralyzing contradiction has developed in human affairs. On the one hand, people of all nations proclaim not only their readiness but their longing for peace and harmony, for an end to the harrowing apprehensions tormenting their daily lives. On the other, uncritical assent is given to the proposition that human beings are incorrigibly selfish and aggressive and thus incapable of erecting a social system at once progressive and peaceful, dynamic and harmonious, a system giving free play to individual creativity and initiative but based on co-operation and reciprocity.

As the need for peace becomes more urgent, this fundamental contradiction, which hinders its realization, demands a reassessment of the assumptions upon which the commonly held view of mankind's historical predicament is based. Dispassionately examined, the evidence reveals that such conduct, far from expressing man's true self, represents a distortion of the human spirit. Satisfaction on this point will enable all people to set in motion constructive social forces which, because they are consistent with human nature, will encourage harmony and co-operation instead of war and conflict.

To choose such a course is not to deny humanity's past but to understand it. The Baha'i Faith regards the current world confusion and calamitous condition in human affairs as a natural phase in an organic process leading ultimately and irresistibly to the unification of the human race in a single social order whose boundaries are those of the planet. The human race, as a distinct, organic unit, has passed through evolutionary stages analogous to the stages of infancy and childhood in the lives of its individual members, and is now in the culminating period of its turbulent adolescence approaching its long-awaited coming of age.

For a free copy of the complete statement "TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD" or information about the Baha'i Faith and local activities, please write or call 537-5383 or 537-4588, Box 772, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0.

## COMPUTER WIZARDS!

In the 1987 INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE PROBLEM SOLVING CONTEST, run by the University of Wisconsin, more than 10,000 students from forty-five states of the U.S.A. and from twelve countries, (ranging from Ireland to Japan), competed—and two Canadian schools did especially well.

**St. Michaels University School, Victoria, was the only school among 5000 to have teams ranked in the top 1% in all three age categories.**



In the Elementary Division, SMU's **Sean Puttergill** (left), **David Ha** and **Chris Wilson**, all now in Grade 7, ranked FIRST in B.C., SECOND in Canada, (a fraction behind Zions Hts. School, Toronto) and FIFTH worldwide. They were taught by **Mr. Stephen Bankes**, (above), who holds a Master's Degree in Physics from UBC.

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## Lit the last

Sir,  
 It was March twenty-first in the year 'eighty-five,  
 It was dismal and dark and was wet,  
 It was a Thursday night at ten forty-five,  
 And a decision must soon be met.

I sat and I pondered my life and well-being,  
 And the stink that I'd helped to create,  
 But I realized that I was finally seeing  
 That it really was not yet too late.

So I made up my mind as I flicked at my Bic  
 And the flame shot up like a jet,  
 And I took a deep breath, gave my lips a fast lick,  
 And I lit up my last cigarette!

Now it's been a few years, and people they ask —  
 If I really miss them a lot,  
 And I wistfully smile — as in the clean air I bask  
 And really — "Never give them a thought!"  
**WALTER BUSSWOOD,**  
 Ganges.

P.S. The above (including time and date) is factual; however, for the record — in early February I had decided to cut down on my daily intake of cigarettes and did so by more than half up to March 21, when I quit altogether. I figure if I can do it — anyone can. Good luck to all.

## Protest

*Editor's note: The following is an open letter to the Continuing Education Department of Camosun College in Victoria, filed with this newspaper for publication.*

Sir,  
 I wish to register a strong protest against your Continuing Education course entitled "Casino Gaming."

While some of your courses may appear just trivial, this one seems to me to verge on the immoral.

Are you also attempting to teach people how to drink responsibly, and to smoke carefully, so that these habits do not affect their or others' health?

Surely you realize that gambling

is another form of addiction and an insidious one at that.

Have you not listened to the protest from many segments of the population, including the churches, at any suggestion of casino operation in B.C.?

Do you intend to include "How to deal with members of organized crime" in the "General Conduct in the Casino" portion of the course. Or are you just advising students how to gamble in moderation — don't cry when you lose — and alternatives to suicide when you lose everything?

Hitherto, I have considered Camosun to be a centre of responsible learning. Now I have to wonder about your terms of reference.

You will probably curry favour with our provincial government with this course, but I hope you will receive more expressions of disfavour from other ethical members of the community.  
**MARY C. WILLIAMSON,**  
 Ganges.

P.S. A petition expressing these sentiments is in the Continuing Education office at Mouat's Mall.

## Revolution

Sir,  
 In reference to the article on the necessity of NATO: manpower, tanks and artillery only count in parades and propoganda; nuclear submarines and their missiles would be the real tactical strength in a Third World War.

It is an established fact that the U.S. with its Trident subs, armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, are years ahead of the Soviets in technology and destructive power — and that the "maritime strategy" of a first strike attack by submarines and a "winnable nuclear war," has been openly discussed by White House and Pentagon officials in recent years.

In 1985, the Soviets spent \$200 billion on armaments, the U.S. spent \$250 billion and the world total was \$750 billion.

On the other hand it has been estimated by the world bank and non-governmental groups that \$8 billion would be required to control deforestation in the tropics, possibly the second most serious threat to our planet (at

## more letters

present there are virtually no controls or reforestation).

The Brundtland Report estimates that one million species will be extinct by the year 2,000, most from the tropical rainforests. Desertification, soil erosion, acid rain, destruction of the ozone layer

and pollution are rapidly accelerating problems that, if ignored, will certainly destroy our earth and us with it.

We, as individuals, particularly since it is the legacy of the Western World, must make a conscious decision whether to continue with

this nonsense of "Soviet threat", war alliances and arms build-up which simply have no future, or to convince our governments to dismantle the industrial-military complex and work toward a sustainable society aligned with the natural systems of the earth. Middle-class journalists may not know it, but this revolution is on its way.

**RICK LAING,**  
 Ganges.

## 41 merchants in Sidney are celebrating

# SIDNEY LOONEY DAZE!



It's here! Sidney merchants have become "LOONEYTICKS". They are going to pay you in Looneys to shop in their stores on Saturday, January 23.

**Watch for the banners in our windows!**

LOONEY \$\$\$\$\$\$\$	LOONEYS EARNED
YOU SPEND	YOU GET
\$11-\$20	1
\$21-\$30	2
\$31-\$40	3
\$41-\$50	4
\$51-\$60	5
\$61-\$70	6
\$71-\$80	7
\$81-\$90	8
\$91-\$100	9
\$101-\$120	10
\$121-\$140	11
\$141-\$160	12
\$161-\$180	13
\$181-\$200	14



Enter our draw for a

## BAG OF LOONEYS

Entry deadline — Sat., Jan. 23, 12 noon. You *must be present* to win — draw will be held at 1:45 pm in front of the Post Office.

## Rita's In



at

## Mark's Linens

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Mouat's Mall

537-4014

## Cold Turkey Day message

# Smokers urged to relinquish unhealthy habit

Over 32,000 Canadians die every year from the effects of smoking.

Today, January 20, is national Cold Turkey Day: the day smokers are encouraged to butt out. Health organizations across Canada are attempting to show smokers the facts on tobacco use and help them quit the habit.

First, some statistics:

- Smoking is the number one cause of coronary heart disease.
- An estimated 12,700 Canadians died last year from lung cancer, primarily caused by smoking.

- Cigarette smoking is the single most important cause of preventable illness and premature death in this country.

- Thirty per cent of all cancer deaths and 90 per cent of chronic obstructive lung deaths are caused by tobacco use.

- One quarter of Canadian teenagers smoke daily and the age of regular use is now 12.

- Smoking causes premature wrinkling and stained teeth.

No one pretends it's easy to quit smoking and, according to Cold Turkey organizers, it's im-

portant to understand it takes some effort to be successful.

They outline several potential relapse situations to avoid. Drinking is one: a new ex-smoker should be extremely cautious the first few times he has a drink. Organizers recommend explaining to people around you that support is needed.

The idea that *I can have just one* is not a good plan, either. Some ex-smokers become curious to see if they still enjoy a cigarette, or try to prove they've kicked the habit by having just

one. This is not a recommended test.

Difficult situations, stress and anger are further trouble spots. Be prepared to stay a non-smoker, the experts say.

Cravings can be handled in several ways. Deep breathing or another relaxation technique is one method; if the craving is particularly strong, some form of exercise, such as running or walking, is suggested.

It is important for the individual to think through what it is he or she wants from the cigarette,

and to find an alternative.

All leftover cigarettes, matches, lighters and ashtrays should be out of reach.

Signs of recovery, or temporary side effects of quitting, can include irritability, coughing, sleep disturbances, sore throat, itchy hands and feet and depression.

The fun part comes after the habit has been kicked. Organizers recommend maintaining a record showing how much money (about \$85 per month for a pack-a-day smoker) has been saved.

## Series of vehicle accidents, thefts mark busy week for Ganges RCMP

A Ganges woman sustained minor injuries last week when her vehicle was struck in the front and the rear on Upper Ganges Road.

The accident occurred at midday on January 11, when Lesley Cheeseman stopped her vehicle and prepared to turn into the Harbour House parking lot.

A truck driven by Steve Stevenson hit Cheeseman's car from behind, causing it to spin and cross the road into the other lane. An oncoming vehicle driven by Andrew Clarke hit the front end of the car — sending it once again into a spin.

Cheeseman was taken to Lady Minto Hospital and treated for minor abrasions.

Police estimate damage to the three vehicles at between \$4,000 and \$5,000 dollars. They are continuing their investigation into the accident.

Another three-car accident involved local residents Warren Langley, Lisa Jorgensen and Mary Whalen. No injuries were reported, and the three vehicles sustained minor damages.

The accident took place January 13, across from the Lancer building on Lower Ganges Road.

Early in the morning of January 14, 30 sheets of plywood valued at \$17 each were stolen from the construction site at the Bin and Barrel.

According to police, the incident took place around 2 am, and the suspect vehicle is a pick-up truck. RCMP are asking the public for information regarding the incident.

A gold chain was reported missing from a Salt Spring Way residence on January 14. The 18-inch necklace is worth close to \$1,000. Police remain unsure how thieves may have entered the home.

A lamp and lamp stand were taken from the Fulford Elementary School parking lot. The theft occurred January 17.

Two bottles of beer proved expensive for a Ganges youth charged with possession of alcohol.

The 17-year-old, whose name cannot be released under the terms of the Young Offenders Act, was caught walking down a street and drinking a beer during the evening of January 15. The following afternoon, he was

caught committing the same offence.

Police charged the youth as a minor in possession of alcohol, and fined him \$50 for each offence.

A bicycle left at Patterson's Store in Fulford Harbour for two weeks is now in the possession of police.

The 10-speed bike had been parked at Patterson's since New Year's Day.

The owner may claim the bike by identifying it at the Ganges RCMP station.

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**Upper Ganges Centre 537-5455**



Province of British Columbia

# PUBLIC NOTICE ROYAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

(Public Inquiries Act, R.S.B.C. 1960, Chapter 315)

Barry M. Sullivan, Q.C.

has been appointed as Commissioner with a general mandate to review education in the province of British Columbia, kindergarten to grade 12.

Public hearings will be held at:

**Gulf Islands, Monday January 25 - 9:55 a.m.**

**On Board the Ferry from Tsawwassen**

**Salt Spring, Monday January 25 - 7 p.m.**

**Salt Spring Elementary School, Rainbow Road/Lower Ganges Road**

**Saanich, Thursday January 28 - 7 p.m.**

**Stelly's Secondary School, 1697 Stelly's Crossroads, Brentwood Bay**

The Commissioner will receive written briefs and verbal submissions from individuals and organizations.

All representations to the Commission must be made either at a hearing, or by a written brief, or by letter, addressed to the Secretary.

Telephone (24 Hours)

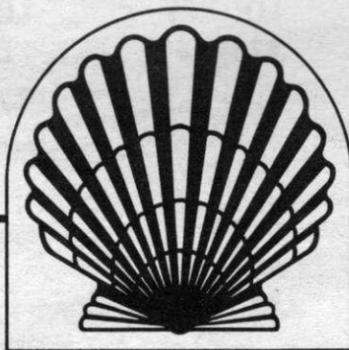
Call collect

(0) 660-4010

On behalf of the Commission:

Mr. John Walsh, Secretary  
 Royal Commission On Education  
 #350 - 900 Howe St.,

Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2M4



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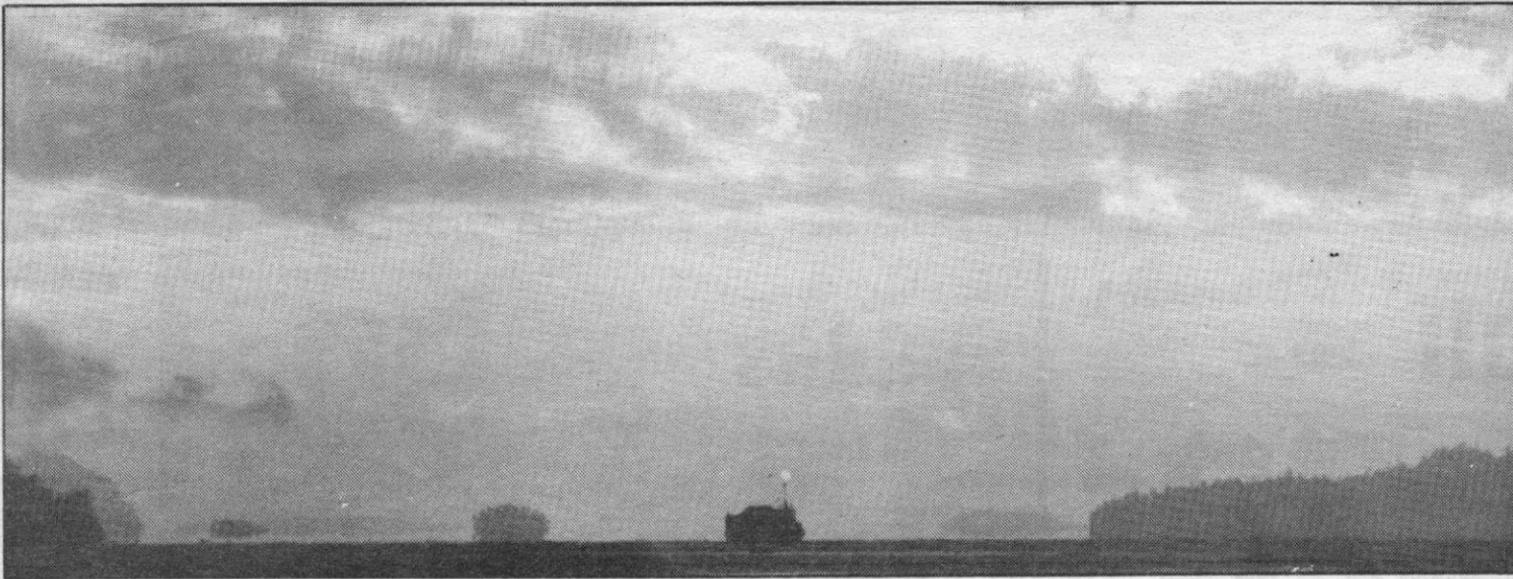
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Tom Hoover: **537-5918**

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**Bright morning**

Clouds break over Ganges Harbour after small storm brought wind and rain to island. Bright sun highlights ship heading to now-calmer seas.

**Local count indicates**

**Eagle population 'stable'**

The annual eagle count on Salt Spring indicated the island's eagle population remains on par with numbers counted last year.

A total of 34 eagles — including 25 adults, four young eagles and five which were unclassified — were spotted January 10, as 27 Salt Spring Islanders combed the local landscape. Last year's one-day exercise saw islanders count 37 eagles on Salt Spring.

The bald eagle count was part of a province-wide effort to determine the wintering eagle population and its trends. The survey is supported by the World

Wildlife Fund and the B.C. ministry of parks and environment. It is organized locally by volunteers.

Salt Spring organizer Christine Wooldridge said the island had better-than-usual coverage this year and all parts of the island but one were surveyed.

Wooldridge thought the numbers might have been higher. She noted that one group, combining 10 to 12 people, watched a total of 22 hours for eagles and spotted only two.

It is possible, she said, the fishing was poor on the day the count was held. She noted, however, that a huge number was counted in the Squamish area.

**Late coho run enters creek**

A late run of coho salmon has brightened the scene at Fulford Creek, where winter poaching adversely affected the salmon run.

The Cusheon Creek hatchery was able to obtain 3,500 eggs from two female coho captured early this week. The fry will be released next spring into Fulford Creek.

Poaching in the harbour last December left the hatchery without brood stock from Fulford Creek, raising fears that the health of the run had been set back by several years.

The hatchery has also learned that the federal fisheries department is providing Cusheon Creek with 5,000 coho from the Goldstream hatchery.

Seven classroom incubators on Salt Spring will see a total of 1,400 chum salmon eggs released into Ganges Creek. The number of classroom projects is believed to be the largest for any school district outside the Lower Mainland.

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**Zulu Spear**

**SATURDAY, JAN. 30**

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SPECIAL GUEST: **TONY BIRD**

**DANCE!**

SALT SPRING ISLAND  
**Activity Centre**  
120 Rainbow Rd.  
(S.S. Elementary School)

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**We're paying..... 7%**  
per annum

**90 day term  
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**1/3 OFF**  
All Children's Wear  
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Children's Winter Jackets  
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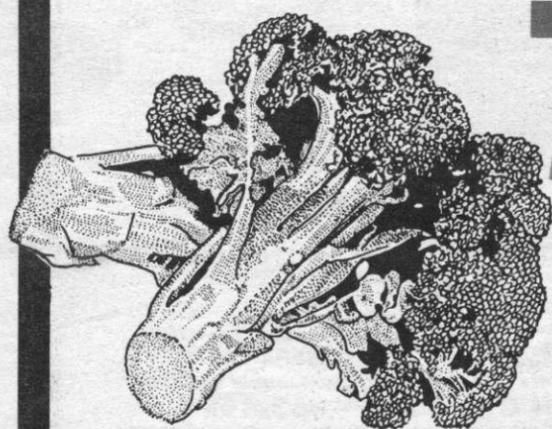
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1.72 kg

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**SOFT FRUITS**  
fresh from Chile!

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lb.

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## Nectarines

**1 39**  
lb.

3.06 kg

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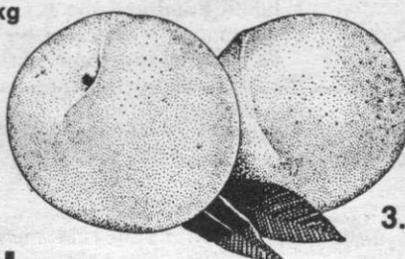
**1 78**  
lb.

3.98 kg

## Peaches

**1 39**  
lb.

3.06 kg



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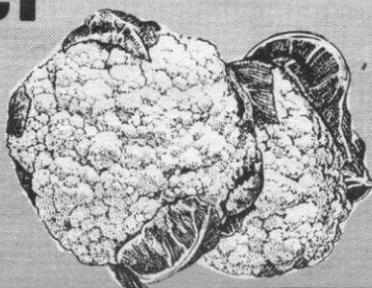
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## Cauliflower

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**5.36**

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369 g  
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SAVE  
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**66¢**

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Save 1.01

500 ml btl.

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Save 55c

60's pkg.

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Save 59c

600 g pkg.

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Save 51c

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## MCCORMICK'S MIXED DOUBLE & SINGLE BISCUITS

Save 50c

250 g pkg.

**99¢**

## CADBURY'S HOT CHOCOLATE

10 pack

**1.88**

500 g **2.78**

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Save 83c

113 g tin

**1.66**

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Save 1.01

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Save 17c

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Regular or Beef & Veg

Save 27c

25 oz. tin

**68¢**

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3 **1.39**  
1 lb. pkgs.

SAVE  
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Save 2.00

3 litre jug

**2.98**

## KRAFT VELVEETA CHEESE

1 kg  
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**4.98**

SAVE  
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SPRING  
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## NEW! KRAFT LITE CHEEZ WHIZ

Save 67c

250 g jar

**1.78**

## LOVE'S CAT FOOD

Save 60c

**3 99¢**  
6 oz. tins

## NEW! KITTY FLUSH "FLUSHABLE" CAT LITTER

Save 81c

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**1.68**

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**88¢**

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**20%** OFF  
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398 ml tin

**99¢**

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**STEAKS** 4.17 kg **1.89** lb.  
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FRESH FAMILY PACKS—  
**Breasts** (with back & wing attached) 3.06 kg **1.39** lb.  
**Legs** (with back attached) 2.84 kg **1.29** lb.  
3.95 kg  
**Drumsticks** 1.79 lb. **Thighs** 4.39 kg **1.99** lb.  
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FRESH DAILY!  
4.39 kg **1 99** lb.

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700 gram pkgs. **5 39** ea.

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2.25 kg bag **1.88**  
SAVE ON SALT SPRING 50%  
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**FROZEN YOGURT** Save 61c **2.38**  
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375 g tub  
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BUDGET **LIGHT BULBS** **98¢**  
60 - 100 Watt Twin Pack WHILE STOCK LASTS  
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FRESH! VENICE  
**Black Forest Cake** While Stock Lasts **5.98** ea.  
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**BABY FOOD** **89¢**  
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NEW! HALL OF FAME **NATURAL PEANUT BUTTER** Save 1.19 **3.28**  
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LYSOL **DEODORIZING CLEANER** Save 87c **2.68**  
800 ml btl.

**88th year**

**Mandate renewed by IODE**

The IODE has entered its 88th year of operation by reaffirming its commitment to provide aid to the ill and the infirm.

On Salt Spring, the most recent meeting of HMS Ganges Chapter of the IODE received a letter from its national president outlining the work the organization has undertaken since its founding in 1900.

The letter noted that in the early part of the century, the IODE's emphasis was on establishing much-needed hospitals for children, and to treat problems like tuberculosis — a concern for the special needs of certain groups which has continued to this day.

It was also pointed out that Clark House, a Fredericton home for seniors, is still administered by the provincial IODE chapter of New Brunswick; that members in B.C. have funded a cancer institute and a glaucoma centre; that three provincial chapters in the Atlantic region have raised funds for research into kidney disease in children; that Alberta members provide buses for the handicapped; that the IODE in Manitoba has equipped a family therapy room in a children's residential treatment centre; that Quebec members award an annual scholarship to a teacher of the hearing-impaired; and that a microcomputer dictionary for the blind — the first of its kind in North America — was a project of the Saskatchewan IODE.

Following receipt of that information at its last meeting, HMS Ganges Chapter heard a talk from Lady Minto administrator Diane Horovatin on developments at the hospital. Renovation plans and innovations were described and a question-and-answer session was held before the meeting was adjourned and tea was served.

**Youth group reschedules first session**

The first workshop of the newly-created Youth Extension Program (YEP!) has been put on hold for one week.

Organizers were unable to ensure that follow-up support for the workshop would be available for the session, which was to discuss teen depression and suicide. The workshop has been re-scheduled to March 1.

The first in the series of workshops will now take place January 26 and deal with abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Community centre counsellor Alice Friedman will discuss how the drugs may be affecting teens and those around them.

Any community members willing to volunteer some time towards the YEP! program are urged to contact coordinators Brian Davison or Judith Knight at 537-9212.



Kevin G. Green and Jessie B. Smith were married December 19, 1987, at Ganges United Church. Bride is the daughter of Bob and June Smith of Ganges; groom is son of Jean Green and the late Calvin Green of Toronto.

**December nuptials join Smith, Green families**

Jessie B. Smith and Kevin G. Green were married December, 19, 1987, at Ganges United Church.

The bride is the daughter of Bob and June Smith of Ganges. The groom is the son of Jean Green and the late Calvin Green of Toronto.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore her

mother's original lace and net wedding dress. Bridesmaid Maureen Layland from Kamloops wore a mid-calf-length red and white silk dress.

Both the bride and her bridesmaid carried bouquets of white carnations, red roses and baby's breath.

The groom was dressed in his dark green military uniform, while best man Mike Hefferman wore a grey pinstriped suit.

The bride's mother wore a red mid-calf-length dress, while the groom's mother wore a blue, floor-length dress.

The bride's two brothers, Bob and Joe, wore identical charcoal-grey pinstriped suits and acted as ushers.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Harbour House Hotel, which was decorated in red and white for the occasion. Guests attended from Salt Spring, Vancouver, Logan Lake, Kamloops, Oliver, Toronto and Victoria.

After a honeymoon in Europe, the couple will reside in Victoria.

**Equipment needs cited**

The most recent monthly meeting of the auxiliary to Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital drew 48 members to the upper hall of Ganges United Church.

After various reports were read and discussed, hospital administrator Diane Horovatin gave a brief talk on the updating of equipment needed for the hospital after renovations have been completed.

The meeting then adjourned, and tea was served.



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**SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SOCIETY NEWS**

- ★ **TEENS: YEP PROGRAM:** For more information on six scheduled workshops call the Centre at 537-9212. Workshops are from Jan. 19th through to Feb. 23rd. Topics to be addressed include: depression and suicide, drugs and alcohol, peer pressure and parent-teen relationships. If you are interested in volunteering in the YEP Program call and ask for Judith!
- ★ **CANSURMOUNT READING ROOM:** Every Friday, noon to 1:30. Please let us know if this time is not convenient.
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Suchada Prayoonvech consults with BCIT representative Anne Bullinger as the interview portion of last Friday's University Day program gets underway at

GISS. The event introduced students to various options in post-secondary education.

### Local high school students

## Less than half will pursue post-secondary education

Of 171 Gulf Island Secondary School (GISS) students recently surveyed, just under half plan to attend some sort of post-secondary institution.

The survey, conducted by grade 11 student Marnie Shaw, indicates 81 students in grades 10, 11 and 12 plan on furthering their education after graduation from high school.

The survey asked the students whether they planned to attend university or college, or work upon completion of grade 12. Forty-one students indicated university is part of their plans; 15 marked college; and 25 are looking at a university transfer.

According to Shaw, 24 students would rather find work than go to school. A total of 66 respondents have yet to decide their plans.

The education survey was given to students in preparation for university Day, which took place January 15.

## CWL recognizes long-serving members

Eight members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) of Salt Spring Island recently received pins marking their 25 years of service to the organization.

Recipients were Teresa Anderson, Lillian Beauchemin, Lucille Campbell, Doris De Long, Nellie Gilman, Julie Godwin, Vera Loxton and Mary Robertson.

Three other CWL members eligible to receive their pins — Agnes Huser, Betsy Minten and Patricia Taylor — were unable to attend the January 13 presentation ceremony. They will be given their pins at a later date.

The January 13 ceremony also saw honourable mention honors given to Dorothy Harris and Jean McCaffrey. CWL members

thanked all of the ladies for their services to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church.

After the ceremony — which began with 1 pm mass in Our Lady of Grace Church — the members gathered in the parish hall for a business meeting.

Later, Elsa Drummond gave a brief resume on resolutions. She

### bridge report

Gulf Islands Bridge Club winners on January 11 were:

• (North-South) Isabelle Richardson and Helen Shandro; Patti-May Lawson and Conhor Hunt; Phyl Henderson and Anne McConnell.

• (East-West) Althea Morrisette and Corinne Forster; Gordon Hutton and Fred Struve; Don and Nina Thompson.

Winners on Tuesday night were:

• (North-South) Isabelle Richardson and Audrey Campbell; Molly Frenette and Helen Shandro; Bill and Betsy Minten; Louise Foulis and Geo Lampier.

• (East-West) Lorna and Peter Pentz, Anne and Norm McConnell, Noel Fowles and Mike Testart; Keith Lavender and Bill Mills.

said resolutions are an important part of the CWL's work — through them, the authorities can be influenced and the members can become more aware of the conditions which affect their lives.

The meeting also saw Joy Johnsen play one half of the tape, *Mary, the Rosary and Scapular*.

## Volunteers honoured

The annual "volunteers' Christmas luncheon" was held December 8 at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club.

The event drew 93 people, three of whom received life memberships — Doris Gibson, Nora Chester and Vera Petapiece.

Following the presentation the Minto Madcaps performed a skit entitled *Do You Believe In Signs?*, much to the amusement of the players and members of the audience.

The luncheon closed with the singing of traditional Christmas songs.

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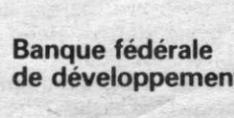
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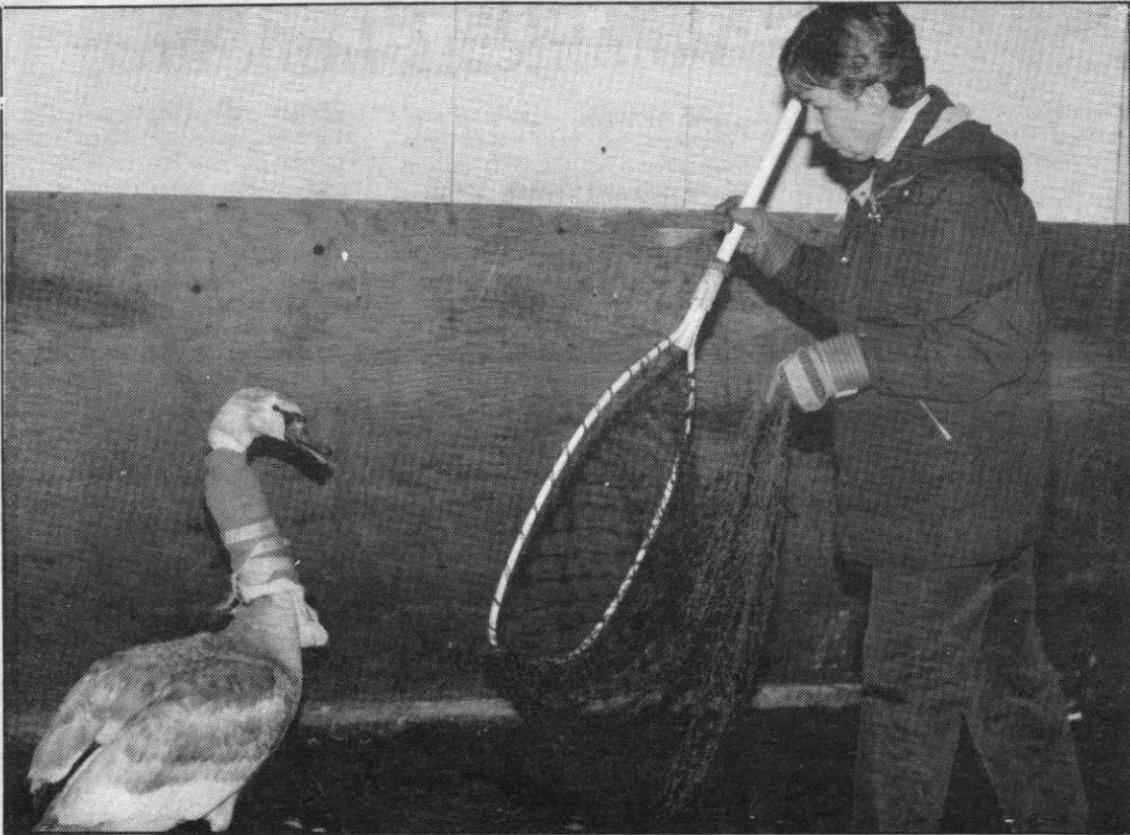
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Salt Spring SPCA official Chris Wooldridge approaches an injured swan, held at her home for recovery. Wooldridge retrieved the 16-pound mute swan from Fulford Harbour, where it was found suffering from an abrasion. A neck brace—made from

a sock, diaper and cardboard—prevents the bird from pecking at the cut. Wooldridge says the cut is a minor one, and hopes to release the swan by the end of the week.

## Province places restrictions on beer off-sales from pubs

A recent change to B.C.'s liquor laws will soon restrict off-sales of beer from pubs.

Effective January 31, all off-sales of beer must end at 11 pm — instead of at the closing time of the establishment, which could be as late as 1 am in some instances.

The change, approved earlier this month by Victoria, was one of several recommendations made following a provincial government review of B.C.'s liquor policies in mid-1987.

The liquor control and licensing branch says the move to tighten

control over beer sales from pubs was made "out of concern regarding abuses resulting from late night and early morning off-sales."

Ganges RCMP, meanwhile, have welcomed the change.

"If the purpose is to cut sales to people who are already intoxicated, we wish it every success," said Cnst. Jim Harrison. "It would mean no drunks walking out the door at closing time with extra beer they don't need."

Will it be effective? "I don't know — that's a wait-and-see thing," Harrison said.



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## Possession charge nets court penalty

A 14-year-old Ganges youth was handed a stiff penalty for possession of narcotics in Ganges provincial court last week.

"At fourteen," Judge R.E. Hudson said, "you have to come to grips with these matters."

The youth, whose name cannot be released under the terms of the Young Offenders Act, was ordered to perform 20 hours of community work, serve a six-month term of probation, attend a program dealing with drug abuse, and write 200 words outlining what he's learned.

The sentence came after defence council Mayland McKimm asked for a conditional discharge, while the Crown recommended a fine.

The youth pleaded guilty to the incident, which took place November 20. The court was told that when local RCMP passed three youths walking along Jackson Avenue, the accused tossed something into a ditch.

When police investigated, they found a zip-lock bag filled with approximately 20 grams of marijuana.

Defence counsel McKimm told the court the accused did not purchase the marijuana, nor did he intend to sell it. He noted it was the youngster's first offence and requested a conditional discharge.

Crown counsel recommended a fine, noting that the quantity of marijuana was substantial.

In other court matters, a 29-year-old Victoria man pleaded guilty to theft of a vehicle from the Vesuvius Inn parking lot.

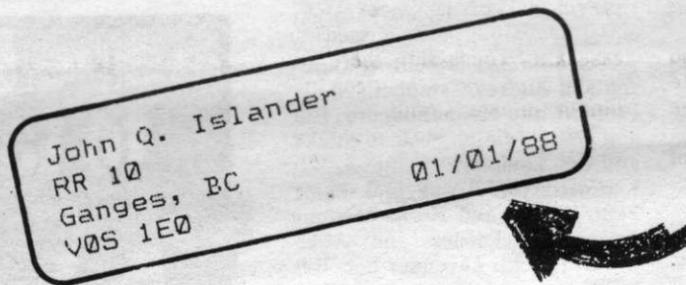
Patrick Stevenson will pay restitution amounting to \$375, plus a \$100 fine.

The incident took place October 2 when the owner of the vehicle, Jane Helm, heard the engine of her car being started. Helm was sitting inside the pub.

Stevenson, who admitted to being intoxicated at the time, was in the driver's seat of the car.

Turn to Page 17

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# Fine ordered for impaired, dangerous driving

A Ganges man will pay fines totalling \$600 after being found guilty in provincial court last week on charges of impaired driving and dangerous driving.

Joseph Raymond Brien, of Samuel Crescent, pleaded not guilty to charges of impaired driving, refusing to provide a breathalyzer sample, and dangerous driving. He was found not guilty of the second charge.

The trial heard five witnesses for the Crown, and three for the defence.

The incident took place last June 3. Elsie Cochrane, the first witness for the Crown witness, testified that she and her sister were driving home along Beddis Road when a car, moving fast and moving from side to side, appeared behind them. To avoid it, Cochrane drove faster and faster, hitting up to 70 miles per hour.

After a mile and a half, she turned onto her home street — Samuel Crescent. The car followed. As she watched through her rear view mirror, the vehicle attempted to turn into a driveway, undershot it and became hung up on the fence. Cochrane and her sister walked back up the road and saw Brien being helped out of his vehicle by neighbours.

Cochrane said Brien was "muttering and cursing" and "obviously very drunk." She went to a nearby home and phoned the police.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Mayland McKimm, Cochrane said the speed of her driving would have made it difficult for Brien to pass her.

Another Crown witness, Colin Bisset, said he was waiting to turn onto Beddis Road from Douglas Road, when he saw a vehicle approaching quickly on the wrong side of the road.

Bisset pursued the vehicle, reaching speeds of 50 miles per hour, in an attempt to record the licence number. He noted that Brien tried to pass the smaller car in front of him. He watched Brien's car go into a ditch and recover, and continued following him to Samuel Crescent.

Under cross-examination, Bisset agreed there is no centre line on Beddis Road; and noted that Brien seemed to make the left hand turn onto Samuel Crescent without difficulty.

RCMP Constable Brack attended the incident, responding to a dispatch that reported a motor vehicle accident and possible impaired driver.

Cnst. Brack said he received permission from Brien's wife to

enter the home. Under cross-examination, he said he did not recall telling Mrs. Brien she did not have to let him in.

Cnst. Brack said he located Brien in his bedroom and detected a strong odour of alcohol. He then made a demand for a breathalyzer sample, which Brien refused. Cnst. Brack asked for Brien's driver's licence and was again refused. He then arrested the accused for impaired driving and for refusing to provide a breath sample.

Defence counsel McKimm questioned Cnst. Brack's right to arrest Brien. He noted that his

evidence was based on the dispatcher's suggestion of a possible impaired driver, his observation of the vehicle and a few questions put to Brien. Once at the police station, it was noted, Brien offered to provide a sample — the two-hour time limit had passed, however.

Brien told the court he drank no more than two beer before driving home. He said Beddis Road is rough and winding, and noted that due to the size of his vehicle, he generally drives closer to the middle of the road. He said he felt no reaction to the alcohol.

As he was driving, he felt

Bisset "dangerously close" behind him, and began to drive faster in what he called an "explosive situation."

After undershooting the driveway and hitting the fence, Brien said he felt "pretty bad about the whole thing." Because he was upset, his wife gave him two 10-miligram valium tablets.

Dr. Roland Graham told the court the valium would cause Brien to stagger and to have an impaired memory and loss of comprehension.

Reverend Father Patrick Bergin testified as a character witness for Brien. He said he has

spent every Saturday night with the accused for over two years. They drank a small amount of liquor only once — on New Year's Eve.

In reaching a verdict, Judge R.E. Hudson felt Brien's rights may have been breached and dismissed the charge of refusing to provide a breath sample. He accepted the testimonies of the Crown witnesses, however, and fined the accused \$450 for impaired driving. Judge Hudson also suspended Brien's driver's licence for six months, and fined him \$150 on the dangerous driving charge.

## Saanich man earns acquittal on impaired, refusal charges

From Page 16

Unable to find reverse gear, he crashed the vehicle into a fence.

Stevenson told the court he has an alcohol problem and has since been in a treatment centre. He said he realizes he must take responsibility for his actions.

Judge Hudson ordered the man to pay \$75 to the Vesuvius Inn for repair of the fence, and \$300 to Helm for damage sustained by her vehicle. He also fined him \$100, noting that he was lucky the charge did not include impaired driving.

A Ganges man was fined \$40 after pleading guilty to colliding his car with an unattended vehicle and then leaving the scene of the accident.

George Brown, of 160 Ontario Place, parked his car outside the post office December 1. When he backed out, he told the court, he felt a jarring motion and got out of the vehicle to check the damage. He saw no damage and continued home.

A witness, however, took Brown's licence number and left it for the owner of the unattended vehicle, after noting a foot-long scrape along its side.

"The simple placing of a note could have avoided the whole thing," Judge Hudson said in fining Brown \$40.

A young offender, who pleaded guilty to breach of probation and drinking as a minor in a licenced premise, was fined \$100 and ordered to attend the Coastal Challenges program.

The youth appeared before Judge Hudson on charges of failing to attend school, breaking

his 10 pm weekday curfew, and drinking at the Vesuvius pub.

Acting on the recommendation of the 17-year-old's probation officer, Judge Hudson ordered the youth to attend the Metchosin correctional program each weekend.

The youth was on probation from a break-and-enter conviction last year. Judge Hudson said he hoped the program would help the youth change his behaviour before his 18th birthday, at which time he can be tried in an adult court.

A Saanich man was acquitted of impaired driving and refusing to provide a breathalyzer sample in provincial court last week.

Judge Hudson dismissed the case after concluding there was insufficient evidence to convince him of the man's guilt.

The incident took place last spring when Mijo Flanjack drove to the ferry from a picnic. He told the court he had three drinks — the last one at 2 pm — and that he was tired and feeling the effects of the heat of the day.

RCMP Constable Brack, alerted to the situation, approached Flanjack at the ferry terminal. He noted signs of impairment and took the accused back to the police station. Brack said Flanjack declined to provide a breathalyzer sample.

Flanjack told the court he usually wears two hearing aids. On that day however, he was only wearing one of them and consequently heard little of what was said to him.

Defence counsel Steven Kelliher said Cnst. Brack did not have reasonable and probable

grounds to believe an offence had been committed within the past two hours. Judge Hudson agreed and dismissed the charge of refusing to provide a breath sample on those grounds.

He also dismissed the impaired driving charge, saying he had suspicions, but could not believe beyond a reasonable doubt that Flanjack was impaired.

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# Woodcock's prose fine, Onley's scenes lacking

It's hard to remember what I read in high school (*Treasure Island* rings a bell), but I did get through English Literature as a major, albeit in my second try at Grade 12.

But let's face it, I wasn't much good at anything in those years except salivating over the opposite sex and playing football — mutually symbiotic adrenalin rushes.

Oh, biology was kind of interesting, and the study of land forms in geography did have a certain appeal, but I think a glimmer of awakening occurred in English 91 when Mr. Foster (who was loved by everyone) asked ME to read aloud to the class.

Seizing the golden opportunity to be a smartass (dip stick was also appropriate), I began the rhythmical passage of poetry, boldly going where no boy had gone before. The cadence of the poem was kind of bouncy, so I pursued the verse as if on horseback, with appropriate gesticulations and loudness.

As the merriment of my peers reached a din, I was required to slow down my gallop to a trot. But the thrill of that experience has tainted my reading material ever since.

I never did learn to read quickly, even though I took a speed reading course to make my university studying more efficient. What good is reading, I thought, if you couldn't savour the delicious imagination of the writer in your own good time? And I've certainly been doing that since Santa brought his annual installment of new reading material into this household.

*The Walls of India* is a lovely little book which, at the original price of \$30, was an extravagance. But when it appeared at the Book Warehouse in Vancouver for \$7, my resistance dissolved.

Travel books have always interested me, particularly when there is a collaboration between writer and artist, who in this instance was Vancouver painter Toni Onley.

India is a vast and multi-cultural nation and it would seem not to be a place easily summarized. However, writer George Woodcock delicately puts his hand to the pulse of its lands and peoples, with an insightful blend of recent and ancient history, descriptive geography and personal anecdotes from past visits.

From Delhi west through the Thar desert to Jaisalmer and south, past Bombay, to the Malabar Coast and the tropical state of Kerala, we are introduced to diverse religions and people descended from ancient civilizations.

Woodcock then returns us through some favourite places of

## artseen

by gary cherneff

the British Raj. From Bangalore to the religious centres around Bhubaneswar, then up to Darjeeling in the temperate tea-growing highlands near the Himalayas, he finally completes the circle again at Delhi, "the city of conquerors."

Woodcock's interest in passivism and co-operative communities creates the

perspective from which he investigates the realities of human existence in a very poor and overcrowded nation. He does as much to instill in the reader a respect for the diverse nature of its people as any author could. No matter how depressing present circumstances are, Woodcock rekindles thoughts of common origins and a future in which we all must inevitably be linked.

Toni Onley's contribution to the book is a difficult one to assess. His watercolours of selected temples, architecture and landscapes are not rigorously illustrative but seem

to take bits and pieces out of their context and into his own mystical world, where they form the building blocks for a misty grey mind full of Northwest Coast landscapes.

They are nonetheless evocative and beautiful paintings, which in their own right deserve consideration for their insight into the nuances of form and light. However, as far as the book is concerned, one tends to crave photographs which would extend and illustrate Woodcock's skillful prose.

As an important aside, it should

be noted that the royalties from this book go to assist the Canada India Village Aid Association (CIVA) whose intent is to assist Indian groups towards self-help in medical facilities, family planning, developing crafts and improving the quality of rural village life.

To this end CIVA is sponsoring the Canada Poetry Contest. Anyone can enter, the fee is \$5 per poem and the jury consists of Margaret Atwood, Alan Purdy and George Woodcock. The deadline is April 15 and the address is 6429 McCleery St., Vancouver, B.C. V69 1G5.

## South Pole expedition adventure recounted

South Pole explorer Gareth Wood will visit Salt Spring in early February to screen a film of his 1986 journey.

Wood, of Sidney, is the first Canadian to reach the South Pole on foot. His story is told in the film, *Trek to the South Pole: Two years in the Antarctic*, which will be shown February 4 at 7:30 pm in the Activity Centre of Salt Spring Elementary School in Ganges.

On January 11, 1986, Wood and companions Robert Swan and Roger Mear reached the South Pole on foot after a 70-day journey covering 1,434 kilometres. It was the world's first unsupported polar trek, the first walk to the South Pole in 75 years, and only the third in history.

Retracing the 1912 journey of Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, the three men each pulled sleds weighing 160 kilograms and laden

with tents and supplies and without dogs, radio contact or air support.

When the journey was completed, the trio found that their ship had been crushed in the ice and sunk. Swan and Mear flew out of Antarctica while Wood stayed behind with two expedition crew members to keep the base camp in order and make preparations to have it shipped out.

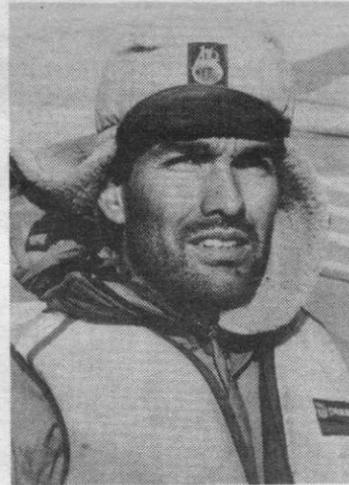
(The expedition society which organized the adventure promised from the start that it would leave behind no trace of its presence in Antarctica. That meant completely dismantling and removing its camp.)

Last December, Swan made a surprise flight back to Antarctic to retrieve Wood and the two other crew members when ice conditions threatened to hold out a ship expected this spring. The rescue cost \$100,000 — which has yet to be paid to the Vancouver company which undertook the charter flight.

Wood's February appearance on Salt Spring is part of a speaking tour he has launched to help pay the cost of that rescue mission. Although the Sidney man is not legally responsible for any part of the money owed, he says he feels a moral responsibility to contribute.

Wood added that he was not consulted about the rescue flight but, if he had been, he would have insisted a more practical way be found to evacuate the camp.

For further information about the film screening, contact Continuing Education at 537-2822.



Gareth Wood

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# Quartet opens Society series



Members of Boccherini Quartet

The Salt Spring Island Concert Society's first event of 1988 will be a January 24 performance by a chamber music ensemble.

The Sunday concert, to be held at the United Church in Ganges beginning at 2 pm, features the Boccherini Quartet. The group's four members specialize in chamber music for flute and strings.

The quartet's members are all prominent musicians in the field of early music.

Flautist Elissa Poole, a winner in CBC's national auditions competition in 1986, also plays with the baroque ensemble, Les Coucous Benevoles, founded by harpichordist Colin Tilney, and with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra.

Jean Lamon, who won the coveted Erwin Bodky award for early music performance in 1974, is concert mistress and director of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra.

Cello Christina Mahler, principal cellist with Tafelmusik, has performed extensively at major musical centres and festivals throughout Europe and North America. She has also recorded for the Philips, Musical Heritage, Titanic, Collegium, Erato and Superior Records labels.

Stephen Marvin, a principal

member of both Tafelmusik and Les Coucous Benevoles, has led many early music ensembles and enjoys an international reputation as a maker of historically-accurate bows for the violin and viol families.

The four musicians share a background of extensive chamber music experience and a dedica-

tion to the performance of 18th century music in as authentic a manner as possible — using original instruments and bows, a carefully researched approach to the style, and scholarly editions of the music.

At the Ganges concert, the quartet will perform quartets and trios by Mozart and Beethoven.

## Painters Guild arranges spring workshop outline

The program committee of the Salt Spring Island Painters Guild has prepared its outline for the spring session.

The program of courses, designed to stimulate the interest of all members while meeting their educational requirements, will feature some familiar instructors and some new faces, the guild says.

Today (Wednesday, January 20), the guild is holding an open workshop under the theme, *Let's Make Snow*. Open workshops do not have an instructor on hand, but senior guild members are available to assist beginners.

The rest of the spring schedule is as follows:

- Composition and subject matter, January 27, with instructor Gary Thurber. Participants are asked to bring a notebook and, if they wish, painting supplies.
- Putting people in your landscapes, February 3, with

instructor Allan Edwards.

- Candlelight drawing session, February 10.
- Watercolours, small studies, February 17, with instructor Jack Avison.
- Two-day workshop, February 23 and 24, at Mahon Hall with Greene Mitchell.
- Watercolours, March 2, with instructor Jack Avison.
- Painting on fabric, March 9 and 16, with instructor Olive Clayton.
- Paintings of boats in oil or acrylics, March 23, with instructor Adrien Town.
- Gallery "crawl" in Victoria, March 30.
- Watercolours, April 6, with instructor Jack Avison.
- April 13 onwards — to be announced.

Further information on the programs is available from Olive Clayton (537-2359), Imme McLean (537-9595) or Marg Threlfall (537-4535).

### CINEMA CLUB MONDAYS

*Under the Volcano*  
January 25

*28 Up*  
February 8

*Mona Lisa*  
February 22

*Bolwieser*  
March 7

*Bordertown*  
March 21

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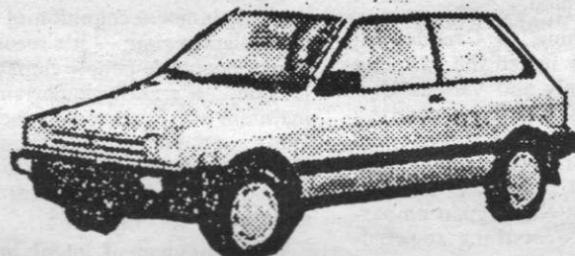
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# Canada-Nicaragua twinning project eyed

*Islands would be first to twin in Canada*

From Page 1

or cities. They found that Ometepe was twinned with Bainbridge Island — in the San Juan Islands just southeast of the Gulf Islands — and with a city in West Germany, and wondered if a similar step could be taken with a Canadian centre.

"It (the project) just sprang up from our wish to investigate and foster links with the community," Pither explained.

On returning to Canada last week, Pither tested the twinning idea on Manly and various Gulf Islands organizations ranging from churches to peace and disarmament groups. When he found solid support, he approached the Nicaraguan ambassador "and everything snowballed from there."

There are 235 cities in Europe and the U.S. that have twinned with counterparts in Nicaragua, but none in Canada, Pither said. "So ours will be the first community in Canada to twin with one in Nicaragua. It's even more unusual in that this is an island-to-island twinning."

Pither stressed that the twinning project should not be construed as support for Nicaragua's Sandinista government in its conflict with American-backed rebel groups. While initial arrangements are being handled through the country's ambassador to Canada, Pither indicated the inten-



Galiano's George Harris unloads bicycle (right) from ferry arriving at Ometepe.

tion is to sidestep governments as soon as possible.

"This is not recognition of the Sandinista regime — it's recognition of people-to-people contact," he said. "It's really important to maintain and foster new relationships, and not necessarily with governments. We just want to get this started, then get the bureaucrats out of the way."

The statement of intent to be accepted on Salt Spring this Saturday by Ambassador Lacayo will include a "message of friend-

ship and peace on behalf of various Gulf Islands groups" now forming under the umbrella of a friendship society, Pither said. It will also propose support for the people of Ometepe Island.

The support, he continued, would take the form of funding and expertise and be on a sector-to-sector — i.e., school-to-school — basis. Pither noted that Bainbridge Island residents are helping to build a pre-school on Ometepe Island, and that aid projects suitable for local support

might include helping the Nicaraguan community upgrade its water distribution system (which is in disrepair) or to prepare a "simple brochure" to assist its tourism industry.

"Ometepe is like all other islands — it's dislocated, which puts it at the bottom of the list (of communities) to receive government services," Pither said.

He added that none of the projects envisioned need to be arranged or carried out through governments.

## *Ambassador to be hosted at receptions*

Receptions for Sergio Lacayo, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada, will be held on Salt Spring, Mayne and Galiano islands this weekend.

Ambassador Lacayo, who is visiting the Gulf Islands to accept a local declaration of friendship for citizens of Ometepe in Nicaragua, will visit Salt Spring — accompanied by Cowichan-Malahat-the-Islands MP Jim Manly — on Saturday, January 23.

The day's agenda includes a 3 pm get-together at Ganges United Church at 3 pm, followed by a 6 pm potluck dinner at the same locale.

Attending the dinner will be six members of the Bainbridge Island society which has already established relations with Ometepe. They will journey from the San Juan Islands to screen a video they prepared on Ometepe.

Following the dinner, Ron Pither will deliver an address on Nicaragua, and the ambassador will also speak.

On Sunday, January 22, Ambassador Lacayo will visit Galiano and Mayne islands. A 10:45 am reception is planned at the Five Roosters restaurant on Mayne, while a noon-hour function is scheduled for the Hummingbird Inn on Galiano, followed by a 2 pm get-together at the Dandelion Gallery.

Ambassador Lacayo is also scheduled to tour community facilities — i.e., schools and health centres — on each of the three islands.

## Friendship Society to be formed

An official society is being formed to oversee promotion of friendship between the Gulf Islands and Ometepe Island in Nicaragua.

The charter of the society have yet to be finalized, but Mayne Island's Ron Pither says it will cover the following aims and objectives:

- to promote educational research and cultural exchanges between the Gulf Islands and Ometepe Island;

- to increase awareness on the Southern Gulf Islands of the special island problems confronting Ometepe, and similarly the Gulf Islands (i.e., transportation and the environment); and

- to maximize co-operation between people, businesses and community structures in the promotion of community self-sufficiency and interdependence by Gulf Islanders and Ometepe Islanders.

## Canada-Nicaragua film project to be continued

The documentary film project that sent Ron Pither to Nicaragua hasn't been forgotten in the midst of arranging a twinning agreement with Ometepe Island.

Pither said Sunday he will leave his Mayne Island home shortly to return to Nicaragua and begin work on the video. He and Galiano Islander George Harris, who remained in the Central American country when Pither flew home last week, will spend about three weeks gathering film for the project, then return to

Canada to carry out post-production work.

The project, which will aim to profile the spirit of Nicaragua and its people, is to include coverage of alternative energy programs, due process for native Indians and the country's economic crisis.

An agreement has been reached with a major Nicaraguan video production company for technical services and assistance, Pither said. The step was made to simplify the project, he indicated — and because of insurance problems.

"George (Harris) was all set to come down with cameras and a

film crew but he couldn't get insurance coverage for the equipment — not even from Lloyd's of London. Nicaragua is considered a war zone."

Pither noted, however, that Ometepe Island's geographical isolation (it's in the middle of a large lake, served by one ferry) has spared it contact with the fighting elsewhere in the country.

"It's one of the few non-combat zones," he said. "There was never any fighting there, not even during the insurrection" which toppled the government of ex-president Somoza.

The island was once owned by Somoza's family and operated as a cattle ranch, Pither continued, but is now home to about 24 separate collective farms. It is also considered a prime vacation spot for tourists drawn to see the island's two volcanic mountains.

"Ometepe is a famous, beautiful place," he said.

When he and Harris return to Canada, Pither continued, they expect to bring back a video about Ometepe produced by a Nicaraguan crew. The film would be available for screening throughout the Gulf Islands.