

Mary E Davidson
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08/01/90

Your Community Newspaper

GISS production dazzles audiences. See
photo spread on Page A10

A group hopes to raise \$11,000 for a new
room in library Page B1

Gulf Islands Driftwood

THIRTY-FIRST YEAR, NO. 18

50 CENTS

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1990

Psilocybin intake poisons teenagers

Ganges RCMP believe three youths who ate "magic mushrooms" Friday night, might not be alive today if they had not been admitted to Lady Minto Hospital.

RCMP Constable Brian Brack said the youngsters could have asphyxiated in their own vomit or suffered serious injury from the effects of hallucinations, had they not been taken to the hospital where they received medical treatment.

By SUSAN DICKER
The Driftwood

A fourth individual, who admitted eating mushrooms Saturday night, was taken to a Victoria hospital early Sunday morning.

The local RCMP detachment was contacted at approximately 8:30 p.m. Friday, when an individual noted one youth in a group of youngsters gathered in Ganges appeared to be "passed out."

Brack and RCMP Constable Pat Wilkinson discovered the group —

consisting of 10 off-island youngsters between the ages of 13 and 15 — had placed the unconscious youth on a piece of plywood, and was attempting to haul him to a residence. The youth was placed in the police vehicle and taken to Lady Minto Hospital.

Although the youngsters told police the unconscious individual was drunk, police could not smell any liquor. The youths later said he had taken too many psilocybin mushrooms.

Brack said the youths were advised they might suffer the same symptoms if they had eaten the same mushrooms. They youngsters indicated, however, they hadn't eaten as many as the first youth.

Police, who decided to monitor the other youths, brought a second unconscious youngster to the hospital one hour later and a third sick teenager some time after that.

Dr. Jim Buchan, who was on-call at the hospital Friday night, said the youngsters were given fluids through

TURN TO PAGE A2

Presence of AIDS confirmed — CRD

The Capital Regional District regional health officer says there have been documented cases of AIDS on Salt Spring Island.

To protect the privacy of individuals involved, however, specifics regarding the number of cases, the ages and sex of the people involved could not be discussed.

The issue of AIDS on the island was brought up at a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting Monday night.

CRD health officer Dr. Shaun Peck said he could not release any details about the situation. However, a reliable source, who asked to remain anonymous, said there has been one AIDS-related death on the island.

Two other people are said to have the virus.

Li Decosas, executive director of

AIDS Vancouver Island, said she could neither confirm or deny the report because that would breach the agency's code of confidentiality. She said it would be reasonable to assume the AIDS virus is present on Salt Spring Island.

Peck said that presence of the virus serves as a reminder of the importance of prevention.

"The message is celibacy, monogamy or condoms," he said, adding that intravenous drug users must also be careful about the needles they use.

Barbara Jordan-Knox, director of the Salt Spring Community Centre, said the situation demonstrates the importance of making condoms easily accessible on the island.

"Kids won't access condoms at drug stores because they don't want people to know."



Oops! Arz Matheson (background) holds Koyahni Dawn-Prince as she reaches for a drink of water from the Centennial Park fountain. The water somehow missed the mark.

Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Summer ferry schedule causes problems for Mainland tourists

The operator of a travel agency in White Rock, B.C. says she will not be bringing tours to Salt Spring because of changes to B.C. Ferries' summer sailing schedule.

Helen Fosnaugh, who owns Helen's Tours and Travel, says the new schedule, confirmed on April 17, would mean any tourists she brought from Tsawwassen via Long Harbour could only spend 90 minutes on the island, before catching the 4 p.m. sailing back.

She says using the Tsawwassen/Swartz Bay/Fulford Harbour run would see customers spending the better part of the day riding ferries and waiting at terminals.

Fosnaugh adds the new schedule effectively eliminates two tours she planned to bring over this summer and suggests it will severely reduce the overall number of tourists coming from the Mainland.

As of June 22, the "morning" run from Tsawwassen will leave at 1:15

p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and arrive at Long Harbour at 3 p.m. On Tuesday and Thursday, it will leave at 11:45 a.m. and arrive in Long Harbour at 2:10 p.m. On Saturday, the ferry will sail at 10:15 a.m. and be here by 12:30 p.m.

The return sailing to Tsawwassen on all of these days is at 4 p.m.

Fosnaugh says the afternoon sailings throughout the week would give

TURN TO PAGE A2



Musical performance receives rave review

Students — you should be proud of yourselves! Your talents and hard work went into making "When You Wish Upon A Star" a couple of very enjoyable evenings... proving you can be "Stars."

Teachers — you also should be proud. Your dedication, support, and expertise brought out the best in your students.

"When You Wish Upon A Star" was the sixth annual concert put on by GISS students over the past weekend. It was billed as an extravaganza — which it certainly was, for at times the stage was overflowing with brilliantly-costumed students in a feast of colours, lights and sounds.

It would be difficult (or at least unfair) to pick any one performer or

By PETER BLACKMORE
Driftwood Reviewer

act as being "the best." Each member of the audience would have his or her own favourite. Each performance was full of merit in its own right — whether soliloquy or ensemble.

There was something to suit every taste, from classical music to pop, from solo to orchestra, from poetry to dance.

The standard of performance was consistently high.

News

THE WEATHER

OUTLOOK: For the week beginning Monday, April 30.

Cloudy with sunny periods until Wednesday, then sunny through the weekend.

HIGHS: 17 degrees C.

LOWS: 6 degrees C.

Chance of precipitation 15 per cent most of the week.

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Fourth individual taken to hospital

From Page A1

i.v. systems to help flush out the poison. They were also given an oral dose of charcoal, which acts like a sponge, absorbing the poisonous matter.

Extra nurses were called in to assist.

Buchan said the youths were definitely not suffering from simple food-poisoning. Once the first two youths gained consciousness they, like the third youth, hallucinated and convulsed.

"If they hadn't been supervised anything could have happened."

Wilkinson was called back to the hospital at approximately 2:30 a.m. Saturday, when one of the youngsters gained consciousness and underwent severe hallucinations. The youth though he could fly and hit out at nurses who tried to restrain him.

Police and ambulance crews were forced to strap him to the bed.

"If they (the youths) hadn't been supervised, anything could have happened," Brack said. "They could have jumped off a dock or thrown themselves in front of a car."

The youths told police they had eaten fresh — not dried — mushrooms picked in a bog-area on Salt Spring.

At 6:10 a.m. Sunday morning, police received a call from an island resident who said one of his room-mates was "acting bizarre." When police attended the house, they were confronted by a "violent" 19-year-old male, who was "flipping out."

It took two officers over an hour of negotiating to get the man into the police vehicle. He was then taken to a Victoria hospital.

The man later told police he and several others had taken acid (LSD) in Centennial Park the night before. Prior to his taking the acid, however, the man said he had eaten mushrooms. Those who took the acid did not suffer the same severe effects; therefore, police believe the man was reacting to the mushrooms.

No one is able to say whether the severe reactions experienced by the four individuals occurred from a overdose of the mushrooms (one youth apparently ate 12 grams: a typical dosage is one to two grams); or whether it was a "bad" lot of psilocybin.

Psilocybin is the most common variety of "magic mushrooms." It grows throughout North America, usually in the summer and fall, following heavy rains.

According to a booklet distributed by Health and Welfare Canada, typical effects of large doses of psilocybin can include perceptual distortions, dizziness, and abdominal pain. The long term effects of usage are unknown.

The drug is governed by the Food and Drug Act of Canada. It is illegal to possess or traffic psilocybin.

Coast Guard is seeking source of two oil slicks

Oil slicks on the water of Ganges Harbour have been sighted recently, however, the sources of at least two of the oil spills have not been discovered.

The Ganges Coast Guard recently reported at least three slicks. They traced one slick to a fish boat tied up at the government wharf. Fuel had leaked into the bilge of the fish boat and the bilge had been pumped out.

Two other oil slicks could not be traced to the source.

Bilge oil, said a Coast Guard spokesman, is suspected. Pumping bilges within the harbour limit is frowned upon.

"It's a matter of public awareness," the spokesman said, "a matter of people being aware of what they are doing."

Oil can wash up on the beaches and rocks and endanger shellfish. If birds become coated with the oil, it breaks down the natural oils on their feathers and soaks the birds often with fatal results.

Summer schedule criticized

From Page A1

her less than two hours to tour the island.

Erin Caldwell, a public relations officer with B.C. Ferries, says the ferry corporation is doing the best it can with the number of ships it has. The summer schedule, she adds, has been designed to move the greatest number of cars and passengers based on "priority demand."

Caldwell says scheduling has been complicated by the fact no one anticipated the annual increase in ferry ridership. Growth has occurred in "shoulder" period as well as the peak season, she said.

The ferry corporation has not, therefore, been able to take ships out for servicing in the off-season as it has in the past. Some servicing must now be done in the peak season, which affects the number of ferries available for regular runs.

Caldwell hopes the situation will improve once the two new 85-car ferries come into operation in June, 1991.

In total, the B.C. Ferry Corporation has 38 vessels covering 25 routes on the West Coast. Caldwell says the demand for ferries out of Tsawwassen is "tremendous."

"If we could make every group happy, it would be nice. You are weighing all sorts of factors for all different needs with what ships you have and the ships that will work. (Planning) is so complex and a matter of making so many people comfortable with what there is."

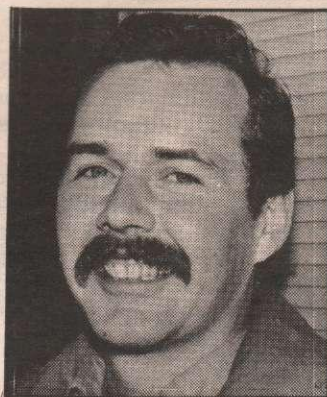
Pat Stephens, information officer with the ferry corporation, says an increasing number of people coming to the Outer Gulf Islands have been switching to the Tsawwassen/Swartz Bay/Fulford Harbour run which generally offers good connections.

Danny Evanishen, head of the Salt Spring transportation committee, says his group is also concerned about the new schedule.

He believes a number of local businesses will be inconvenienced by the late night boat into Long Harbour which will arrive at 11:30 p.m. instead of the current 10 p.m.

Evanishen says he will continue to press for a fixed year-round run which would make long-term transportation planning on the islands possible.

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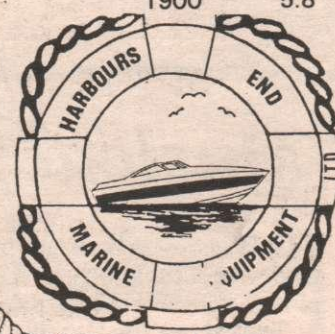
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	1755	4.8		2050	7.3
4	0125	10.6	7	0225	9.9
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	1355	7.7		1710	9.5
	1900	5.8		2140	7.9
			8	0240	9.7
			TU	1000	2.3
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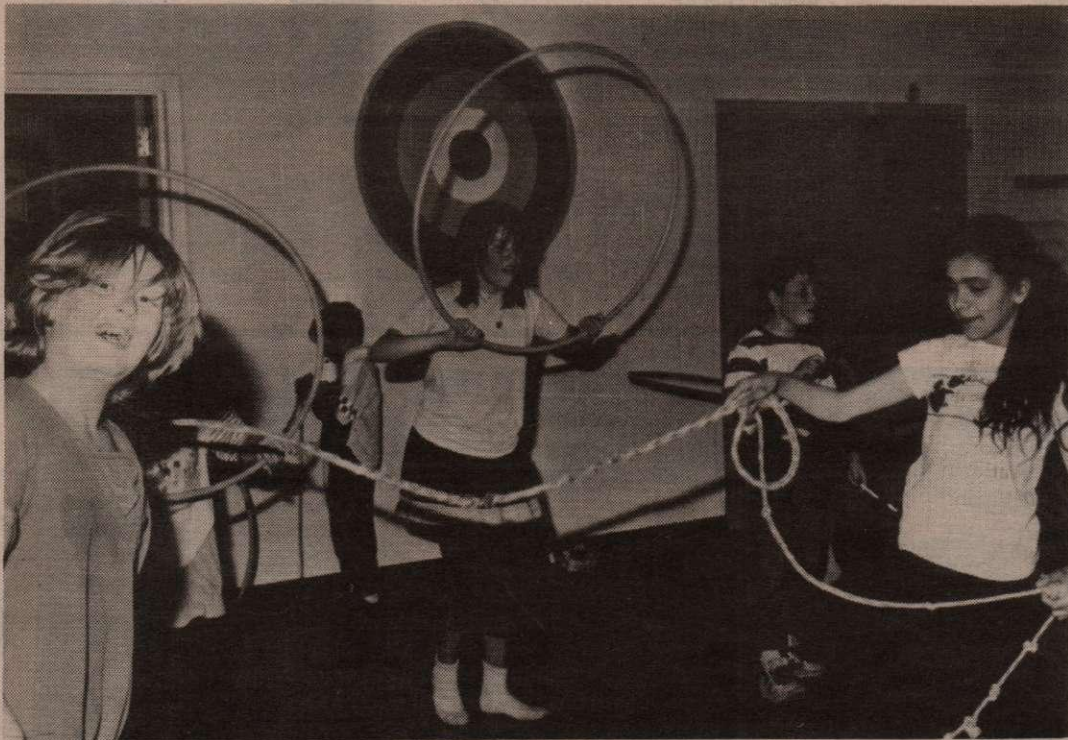
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News



By the time children at Salt Spring Elementary School finished Jump Rope for Heart last Thursday, they had raised close to \$4,000. Here (from left) Heidi Lucas, Caroline Dick, George Howard, and Alexandra Castro do their bit for the cause.

Beaver pair may be moved

The foreman with the Department of Highways says wildlife officials from Duncan may have to move a pair of beavers which insist on maintaining a home near a culvert on Long Harbour Road.

John Charlton says highway crews had to tear the dam apart recently after it caused flooding in a nearby basement. Within hours of removing the dam, Charlton says the beavers had built a new one blocking a culvert which caused a water build up on one side.

Kathy Reimer, head of the Sal-

mon Enhancement Society (SES) says she is concerned the beavers may decide to leave the area permanently if there is more tampering at the site.

This would be unfortunate, she says, because they are the only dam-building beavers on Salt Spring Island. Pond beavers are common on the island, however, dam-building beavers are rare.

Reimer was especially disappointed the original dam had been removed since the SES was planning to show it to a group of youngsters in

the middle of this month.

The SES had applied for \$16,000 in Windfall money to buy property surrounding the site in order to protect the dam.

That application, however, was not approved.

Reimer is now considering creation of a company made up of local investors willing to buy property housing ecologically sensitive sites.

She says investors could sell the portions that do not need to be saved and set the rest aside for park reserve protected by the Islands Trust.

She adds there are two properties for sale on Salt Spring now that contain environmentally sensitive areas.

Charlton suggests there are a number of other sites on the island where the beavers could build a home for themselves that would not inconvenience nearby property owners. One of his suggestions was a site near Musgrave Road.

Police warning issued

Giving personal information to someone over the telephone could lead to trouble, warn Ganges RCMP.

Police issued the warning after they received a complaint from a Salt Spring resident last week. Someone claiming to represent Zeller's department store, has been phoning residents in an effort to obtain credit card account numbers.

The caller claims the person has won a prize and confirmation can be made by stating the credit card account number.

"Don't give such information over the telephone, or at the door," RCMP Constable Chris Bomford warns. Residents should ask for verifiable identification, he added.

If residents have any questions or the identification of callers cannot be proven, the RCMP should be called.

Earlier this year, a telephone caller was polling residents about information concerning the contents of their homes. He claimed to be writing

a series of feature articles for a Vancouver daily newspaper. He asked about furniture and electronic equipment which the residents might have in the home.

Officials at the daily newspaper told the *Driftwood* no one by the name given over the telephone was employed or used as a stringer by the newspaper.

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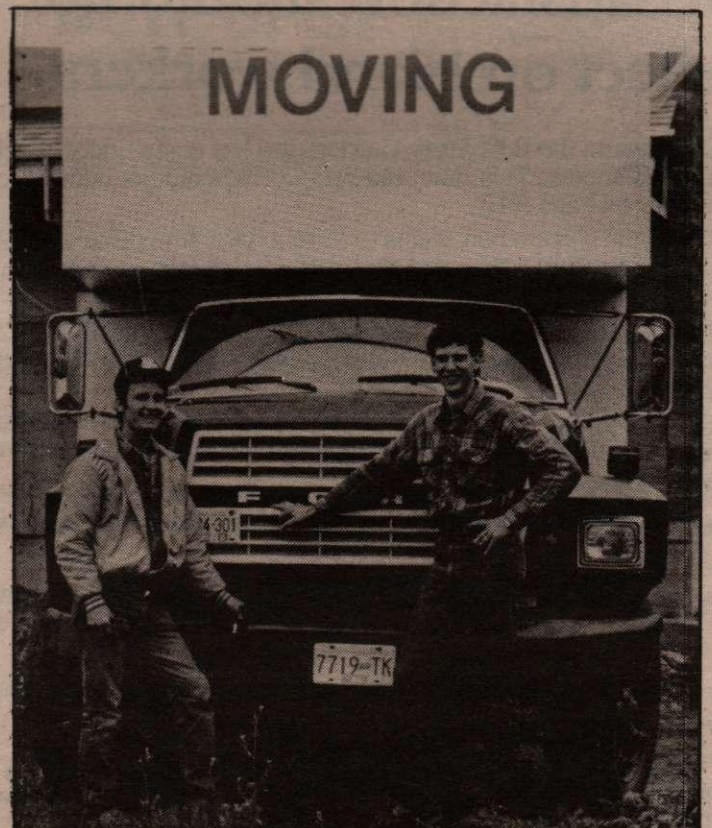
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When You Wish Upon A Star

Audiences dazzled by GISS production

Students at Gulf Islands Secondary School dazzled audiences last weekend with three brilliant performances of "When You Wish Upon a Star."

The talent displayed by all who participated in the concert was overwhelming. The amount of time, energy and effort put into the production became blatantly obvious as the concerts progressed. All who participated should be congratulated.

Many volunteer hours were put into the production which was, in many ways, a true community event.

Directors Dwaine Prosk (music) and April Curtis (production), choreographers Sue Bowler, Robbyn Scott and Anna Haltrecht, and teachers Sally Walker (dance), Sandra Locke (art) and Mary Rockliffe (drama) should be recognized for the numerous hours they contributed to the event.

Students from each of the Drama, Art and Music classes participated in the event combining, for the first time, the efforts of all the school's Fine Arts programs. They too, should be congratulated for their dedication to the production and the success of the final product.

Some 56 local businesses contributed to the production and the business community should be recognized for its support of the high school's effort.

The Gulf Islands are home to many highly talented young people.

Too often, society dwells on negative aspects of the teen years. Last weekend's performances gave everyone the opportunity to recognize what a valuable contribution our children make to this community.

Dissatisfaction should not reflect on island workers

Once again, the B.C. Ferry Corporation has come under attack by Gulf Islanders. This time, the summer schedule is under fire. (See story on Page A1.)

While the corporation seems to have a hard time pleasing Gulf Islanders, it should be noted that this dissatisfaction in no way reflects on B.C. Ferry workers.

Time and time again, crew members aboard the *Queen of Tsawwassen* have assisted islanders in ways far beyond the scope of their occupations.

Crew members on the Fulford Harbour/Swartz Bay run, plus all other Gulf Island routes, are equally co-operative and willing to help out passengers.



Driftwood

Great success

To the Editor,

Earth week events on Salt Spring were a great success. Not just a success because most were well attended, but because there was an overwhelming sense of community sharing and of caring for our environment.

The huge turnout for the bike-athon, a standing room only crowd at

Ganges United for an incredible community church service, a wonderful community dinner, a successful art auction, and a great day at Mansell Farm for 200 islanders, along with scores of other events really demonstrated the high level of understanding and motivation this community has toward our environment — globally and locally.

On behalf of the community of Salt Spring, I would like to thank

Letters

Green Islands, the individuals who staged some wonderful events and gatherings, and most of all, Patricia Brown who coordinated the entire event with incredible energy and vision.

I hope we can all carry this new awareness and understanding and "community" forward past earth day into the 90s.

RANDY HOOPER
Ganges

No time for statements made by REAL Women

I am a little of each: shocked, dismayed and angry.

"Incredulous" is another appropriate term as I review statements recently made by a group calling itself REAL Women.

The group made headlines last week after it issued a letter which, among other statements, suggested the Montreal mass killing of 14 women may have been done by a "man whose child was aborted by a feminist;" described women's centres as merely drop-in areas used for disseminating feminist literature; and said homosexuals invite AIDS with their "disgusting, filthy activities."

REAL Women is an anti-feminist, anti-abortion group which harbours sentiments which are both passe and frightening.

Just when you think we have taken great strides forward in countering intolerance and discrimination, statements such as this

Off the Record

SUSAN DICKER



(the Alliance to Preserve the English Language in Canada), attacking bilingualism, French Immersion programs and non-English Canadians in an effort to preserve the Anglo-Saxon tradition in this country.

Apparently, REAL Women blame the breakdown of the family unit on feminism. This is like blaming the flu on the weather. The breakdown of an individual's immunity to illness happens internally, regardless of exposure to the weather.

REAL Women do not believe in equal pay for equal work: a woman's work is secondary to her husband's.

backwards to a time when stereotypical roles determined a man and a woman's position in life.

My grandfather once asked why I wanted to go to university. "You'll be married by the time you're 18 and a mother by the time you're 20," he said, assuming that was my goal in life.

I quickly forgave my grandfather for the assumption: it was the product of his upbringing, which took place during a very different era.

The glory of the situation — which directly results from the feminist movement — is that I had a choice. I could set my goals at im-

mediate and valuable occupations. Women are needed in the home and women are needed in the workforce, just as men are needed in both areas.

The most frightening aspect of REAL Women philosophy is its curtailing a woman's individuality. Women should be able to exist as more than their husband's wife.

The events of last week brought to mind a trip I took a couple of years ago to Vancouver. I caught the "red-eye" from Long Harbour, grabbed some breakfast and sat down at one of the last available tables in the cafeteria. A few minutes later an elderly gentleman asked if he could share my table.

What began as a very simple conversation between me and the elderly man, turned into an in-depth discussion of life which lasted the entire journey to Tsawwassen.

The man was a remarkable 80-year-old who seemed to have been sent to my table to impart a vast

to look inside me and draw out my feelings, opinions and misconceptions about the world around me. Time and time again, I was impressed by his astute comments on life, death and just about everything in between.

About ten minutes before we docked at the Tsawwassen ferry terminal, my regard for this man was smashed.

"You know," he said, "if you were a black lady, I wouldn't have sat down with you."

Blacks are at the root of most crimes in North America, he went on to say. They are less intelligent than whites and he had no patience for them.

In retrospect, I suppose I must forgive him for those sentiments. Again, they were the product of an era which — thankfully — has passed.

Today, I like to think we are more open to differences: a gentler society. A society where statements such as

Letters

Dismay

To the Editor,
Being involved in the transportation industry, and driving propane vehicles, I note with dismay that our School Board has spent a large sum of taxpayers' money to buy two new diesel school buses. I would be interested in seeing published the Board's long term cost analysis comparing retention of the already owned propane buses to purchasing of the new diesels. Or was one done?

DAN EVANISHEN
Ganges

Visitors

To the Editor,
This past weekend my wife and I had the pleasure of a visit from 23 AFS Interculture Canada students. These students are from France, Italy, Germany, Columbia, Thailand, Finland, Jamaica, Mexico, Switzerland, Argentina, Australia, Hong Kong, Venezuela and Puerto Rico and are staying with host families throughout B.C. for one year while they attend high school. They range from 15 years to 18 years old.

They arrived on Friday from Tsawwassen and, for most of them, the ferry trip itself was worth the journey. They came by bus from the Okanagan, the Cariboo, the Kootenays, Prince Rupert and Vancouver Island as well as the Lower Mainland. The longest was an 18 hour ride from Prince Rupert.

Since they hadn't seen each other since February, Friday was party night. I feel I should point out that these young people had a ball. They sang and danced and had a fabulous time without alcohol or drugs.

On Saturday morning they were delivered to the 8 a.m. ferry to Swartz Bay and into Victoria by bus. Their objective was the B.C. Provincial Museum, Parliament Buildings, and shopping. Some of the students went on the Horse-drawn carriage tour of Victoria. They all caught the 6 p.m. ferry back to Salt Spring. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings awaited them with dancing and singing filling in the rest of the evening. The "Lambada" was taught by Renata from Brazil.

Sunday was a sleep-in day with a pancake breakfast. About half of the students went to Easter Service at the Catholic church. Afterwards a tour of Salt Spring included a stop at Centennial Park, Salty Shop, Fernwood, and Vesuvius and a late lunch (with an Easter Egg Hunt) at our home. The afternoon was spent at Bader's Beach playing beach games and examining sea creatures. It was the first time for many of them to see a real starfish.

Supper was truly an adventure for most of them — their first weenie roast, their first taste of potato salad and the most entertaining of all — roasting marshmallows!

Sunday evening was a time for relaxing and allowing friendships to mature. Addresses and invitations were exchanged for use when they go home in July. The friendships developed here are the kind that keep us within due bounds of all mankind and promote peace through understanding. If the leaders of tomorrow are developing these attributes today wars would be a thing of the past.

The students left on Monday at 11:30 a.m. A silence was all about our home that afternoon — or was it an emptiness?

At this point I would like to thank my neighbours for their understanding, the Salt Spring Achievement Centre for the use of their van, Mr. Laszlo Bedocs for picking up all the luggage to and from the ferry, to Mrs. Horrocks, Sherrie Lomas, Dorothy Sloan, and Barb Hack for the loan of their foam mattresses, and last but not least Capt. R.E. Hann and his crew on the Queen of Nanaimo for giving the students a tour of the bridge.

Anyone wishing to host a student or has a child that would be interested in the exchange program can contact

Three-way stop needed

To the Editor,
I am writing about the recent accident at the Central Hall corner, that occurred about two weeks ago. How many accidents at that corner will it take before the Highway Department recognizes that a three way stop sign is needed there?

There have been many accidents at that corner, over a period of many years. The reason is that there is a rise just to the north. Cars that are not visible when one is turning toward Vesuvius from the south, suddenly come rushing over the rise.

I have turned there when no car was in sight, to all at once have a car come rushing up at me.

I know the driver whose car was totalled. His eyesight is good, and he is a careful driver. A stop sign at that corner, and a warning to cars coming from the north to slow down and stop is what is needed.

MRS. RUTH KREISSL
Ganges

Applause

To the Editor
A grand applause for all who rode in the Bike-A-Thon and a heartfelt thanks to all who generously contributed. The common response by young and old was that they would cycle, jog, or walk much more if it was safer to do so.

Some 15,000 bicycles and a quarter million cars come to Salt Spring yearly. The \$1,500 raised by the Bike-A-Thon is only the tip of the iceberg of what will be needed to see this worthy cause become a reality. A separate account has been set up through Green Islands just for the safety paths. The first phase will start at Central, heading towards Ganges. May we all give generously in money & effort.

Thank you.
BOB STIMPSON
Ganges

Farewell to Grads

To the Editor,
Farewell to Grad was held Saturday, April 21. Farewell to Grad is a traditional party thrown by Grade 11 students for the graduating class. It is in no way connected with the school but is done entirely by the students. Each year the Grade 11s raise funds and organize the party.

This year we had a bottle drive held in conjunction with the Dry Grad Committee. The bottle drive went off with only a few minor snags and we would like to thank all of those who donated their bottles to our cause, especially Cedar Beach Resort, who managed to come up with two truck loads of bottles themselves.

The local pubs showed their support as well by donating empty beer cases in which to put the bottles and cans. We would also like to thank the Farmers' Institute for letting us use the hall to store and sort bottles and finally GVM for letting us return all the bottles we hadn't made provisions for.

The Farewell to Grad party went extremely well. There were no problems and everyone had a good time. We had our share of adventures getting it organized but with a few extra precautions it was kept under complete control. We would like to

thank Farmers' Institute again for lending us their picnic tables, as well as Lee McColl for donating a tow when we got the truck stuck while moving the tables.

We would also like to thank Brian and Anne Taylor and Rainbow Rentals for their donations. Everyone who attended should also be commended for their excellent behaviour.

A special thanks goes to the following people for chaperoning: Min Wendel, Mel and Lorraine Topping, Jewel Eldstrom, Lee Cochran, Danny Evanishen, Jack Speed, Greg Dow, Steve Stephancic, Carol Gay, Donna and Ted Akerman, Liz Dafeo, Larry and Karen Daview, Peter Stark, Jim and Claire Sharpe, Christine Donnelly, Ron and Maggie Smith, Kim Mullen, Laura Anderson and anyone else we might have forgotten.

Finally we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Dow and "the Bakers" — Alex, Jamie and Bruce for moving all the picnic tables for us. And most importantly thanks to Merv and Carol Walde and their family for opening up their home to us and helping out in making this year's Farewell to Grad a great success.

THE GRADE 11 CLASS
GISS

Makes you wonder

To the Editor,
In the April 25 issue of *Driftwood* on page C10, Hubert Beyer, in his column "Provincial Roundup" quotes Mike Harcourt as saying the provincial government intends to piggy back the 6 per cent sales tax on top of the GST 7 per cent. In so doing an extra \$100 million will be taken out of our pockets.

I called Mel Couvelier's office in Sidney and talked to his assistant. I was told in no uncertain terms that piggy backing will not happen that way.

However, I was told, since the GST is not yet passed into law, there is no guarantee that the GST will not be applied on top of the provincial 6 per cent. If this happens, the \$100 million mentioned above will go to Ottawa, because 7 per cent of 6 per cent is exactly the same as 6 per cent of 7 per cent.

At the present time the provincial sales tax is charged on top of the federal manufacturers 13.5 per cent. It makes you wonder about it all.

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Opinion

Make facts public

To the Editor,

It would seem appropriate that the Board of Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital should make public the facts about the resignation of Dr. Adam Waldie (*Driftwood* 4 Apr 90 Opinion difference brings resignation).

It would appear from the Bylaws that the Chief of Staff is appointed by the Board and "shall be responsible for the execution of the Bylaws and other policies pertaining to the medical staff."

The Bylaws also state that the duties of the Chief Executive Officer

(actually the Administrator) include: "b. to select employ control and discharge all employees of the Hospital, except for the Medical Staff."

Therefore it appears that the Medical Staff, including the Chief of Staff come directly under the control of the Board.

How therefore does the Chief Executive Officer have any say in the "disciplining of the Medical Staff?"

From my experience as a Board member and Chairman I know that the Chief of Staff has an extremely onerous position and should be given full support by all concerned.

P.R. LAYARD
Ganges

Illogical?

To the Editor,

Bill Webster's column on Wednesday, April 4 made some statements about taxes that appear to be illogical.

"The General Sales Tax replaces a tax which business should have been paying." Illogical. That is an absurd sentence. You can't replace a tax that business is not paying but should be paying.

Possibly Webster meant to say that the General Sales Tax is replacing the Manufacturers Tax. The Manufacturers Tax is a cost of

production and is included in the manufacturer's selling price. As the product goes through the chain of distribution each business that handles the product increases the cost of the tax by placing a margin of profit on the tax.

The effect is cumulative and the consumer pays more than the original amount of revenue received from the

"Liquor escapes the humungous tax increase." Puzzling. What does humungous mean? Not even the 20 volume Oxford Dictionary lists "humungous."

"This year the Islands Trust will tax us." Incorrect. Gulf Islanders have partially paid for the Islands

Trust for years. The correct statement would be that tax levy for the Islands Trust will probably be increased.

Mr. Webster's sentences dealing with income tax are not clear. While writing about income tax he states "has grown to visible taxes of 25 per cent for every dollar made... by us."

A single person would have to have an earned income of \$35,000 before that person would pay Federal and BC income taxes totalling 25 per cent of the earned income. If the earned income was \$24,000 income taxes would total 19 per cent of the total income.

D.C.S. MACDONALD
Galiano

Capital Comment

HUBERT BEYER



VICTORIA — Listening exclusively and for too long to environmental groups and ecological watchdogs tends to distort one's sense of reality.

That's not to take away any credit from environmentalists. Without their relentless dedication to the cause, the public would not be as aware of the need to solve our ecological problems.

On the other hand, not every problem has crisis proportions, but that's exactly the impression many environmentalists are trying to create. The battle over the Carmanah Valley is just one example. Listening to the environmentalists, one must conclude that logging the northern half of the valley, no matter how selectively and carefully, will ruin the entire watershed, which I refuse to believe.

The constant battle between governments and environmentalists, fought largely in the media, tends to create a sense of urgency and impending disaster. Doom is perceived to be everywhere and imminent.

Enjoy without reservations

I believe it is important to occasionally count one's blessings. And it isn't as if there aren't any to count. I'm not saying we should close our eyes to problems, but why not at least admit that there are a few things that don't need fixing. And why not enjoy these things without reservations and qualifications.

Newcomers to British Columbia, whose impressions of our parks system are of necessity based on the information they get from the media, would think that whatever we have in the way of parks is too little too late, an assumption that is outright laughable.

British Columbia has an excellent parks system that offers residents and out-of-province visitors an incredible variety of recreational opportunities.

You can hike through remote wilderness parks and experience a solitude to be found in few places on earth. You can canoe through lake country that will be protected for eternity from intrusion by development.

British Columbia has 379 parks

There's a provincial park just a few miles north of Victoria that has served our family as a good friend for nearly 20 years now. There's hardly a weekend during the summer that the whole clan doesn't gather in Goldstream Park for a family picnic. When our children were smaller, we used to camp there on weekends. And even though it's close to the city, Goldstream Park is as near to a wilderness park as you can get.

British Columbia has 379 parks, covering a total of 5.4 million hectares. That's more than five per cent of the whole province. Again, I'm not knocking environmentalists for saying we should have more parks — the NDP says we should set aside 10 per cent of the province's total area — but I think it's wrong to never appreciate what you already have.

And when in the heat of verbal battle, the environmental groups fire salvo upon salvo at the government, they should perhaps also admit that our representatives haven't been entirely remiss in their duty. In the 1989 fiscal year, the government upgraded 22 recreation areas to park status, adding 207,122 hectares of fully protected parkland to the inventory.

Revenue amounted to \$3.7 million

During that same period, the taxpayers spent more than \$1 million on the acquisition of parkland, mostly smaller parcels. They included 260 hectares on the Thompson River in Kamloops, eleven parcels of privately owned land in existing parks, the purchase of a trap line to eliminate trapping in the Kakwa recreation area in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

Nothing tells the importance of the parks system as well as the number of people using it. In 1988, the last year for which figures are available, British Columbia's parks system registered more than 19.6 million visitor days, the highest level ever recorded.

More than 2.2 million campers made use of the 11,000 campsites in British Columbia's provincial parks; revenue from campers put about \$3.7 million into provincial coffers.

My score of the provincial parks system would certainly be

Bakoua & Co.

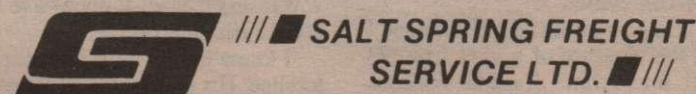
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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL GULF ISLANDS RESIDENTS

From the Board of Management,
Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital

Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital wishes to clarify recent events concerning the Chief of Staff.

First, the Board of Management would like to clarify that Dr. Adam Waldie did not have active staff privileges at the hospital and had retired from locum tenens coverage earlier this year.

Dr. Waldie's position was that of Chief of Staff, often acknowledged as a most difficult one, and his efforts to fulfill this role were both commendable and appreciated by the Board.

However, over differences of opinion concerning medical staff governance, Dr. Waldie chose to resign and the Board of Management regretfully accepted his resignation.

The Board of Management also recognizes that while differences of opinion do occur, everyone's ultimate goal is the delivery of safe and appropriate care.

A recent *Driftwood* article concerning Dr. Waldie's resignation created the impression that it took place at a "Special Meeting" of the Hospital Board. This is incorrect; he delivered his resignation verbally at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board during a discussion resulting from his monthly report.

The Board of Management are aware of the reason for Dr. Waldie's resignation and no further investigation of the matter is considered necessary.

The Board of Management also express confidence in the administration and staff of Lady Minto Hospital.

We are currently in negotiation with an excellent candidate to fill the position and expect to be able to announce the appointment in the near future.

In the interim, Dr. John Mowbray is carrying out the duties of Chief of Staff with the cooperation of the Medical Staff President Dr. Janet MacPhail and other Medical Staff members.

Board of Management

News

Salt Spring's witches claim to have built circle of rocks

A circle of stones, described in the *Driftwood* last week, was built to celebrate the forces of nature, local witches claim.

Use of the circle since that time remains uncertain.

By BILL WEBSTER
The Driftwood

Some individuals are concerned about the allegations of the presence of satanists on the island. Residents of the property where the circle is located have expressed their concerns and, while not involved with the activities at the site, said they fear retaliation just because they live near the circle.

The exact location of the circle of stones was not revealed in the article published last week.

The witches contacted the newspaper to object to being lumped in with satanists. Mauveen Moore, who claims to be a witch, said, "What we need to see more of is information, not just on that particular circle, but on circles in general."

She explained the circle in question had been built as a location for celebrating the earth. It has been used by witches in their ceremonies.

Robin Skelton, of the University of Victoria and an authority on witches as well as satanists, offered the opinion that the "satanists" on Salt Spring sounded very much like groups elsewhere. Youth, he noted, get involved in satanism for the "sex and hex."

"It really isn't satanists at all," he said.

Young people become involved in "playing" at satanism because of boredom. They seek something to do which is "interesting, entertaining and naughty," he said.

Their "distorted version of paganism" results as a form of rebellion, he went on. It takes the form of a cry of protest against society and a reaction against the ordered morality of parents.

Youth involved with satanism often indulge in "infantile cruelty," he explained. The cult has been inflated and blown out of proportion by movies and television programs, Skelton said.

Patricia Brown, of Salt Spring, objected to witches and satanists being lumped together. "People get the wrong idea," she said.

She explained the use of a circle by witches. A circle, she said, offers a whole unity and is unending. Through the circle, Mother Earth is revered as sacred.

The use of a circle dates back many centuries and had been included in the gnostic gospels to reflect a belief in the elements, she said. The modern view holds anything to do with circles as "nasty."

"Someone might be using that circle for purposes other than for what it was built," she stated.

Skelton outlined the problem involved in throwing light on activities of satanists. They don't want to talk about what they are doing.

The *Driftwood* has experienced that problem. While people are willing to talk off the record, no one involved in the cult is willing to come forward.

Research shows satanism to be a cult set up as a direct opposite of Christianity. The emphasis of satanism focuses on the seven deadly sins: greed, pride, envy, anger, gluttony, lust and sloth.

Satanist rituals can be performed in a group or individually. The "powers of darkness" are called upon to gratify sexual fantasies, to curse

other people or to achieve compassionate help for oneself or another person.

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Commission agrees on site for swimming pool

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has agreed in principle to place a pool in Portlock Park if the swimming pool society satisfies a number of conditions set down by the commission.

Conditions include finding the funds necessary to cover the cost of the pool as well as its operating expenses for the first year.

Speaking at a commission meeting Monday, society member Tom McKeachie said the group expects the capital cost of the pool (coming from Smithers next month) will be an estimated \$60,000. This figure includes site modification and pool set up, plus purchase and transportation costs. He noted the society has managed to raise \$15,000 and said more is expected to come from membership and user fees.

He also noted that other groups and individuals have indicated a willingness to make a donation once a site for the pool has been found.

The heated, outdoor pool is valued at \$60,000 new. It has been

used as a community pool in Smithers for the past five years.

Commission member Matt Flanagan expressed concern that the commission will be forced to find the extra \$40,000 or \$50,000 the society has not yet raised.

However, commission member Ian Fraser said a letter should be sent to the society outlining all of the conditions it must meet before final approval is given to locate the pool in Portlock Park.

The society must assure adequate parking is available, develop a joint-use agreement with the commission and ensure health standards are met.

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Gulf Islands school stages musical event of the year



Driftwood photos by Derrick Lundy and Susan Dicker



Students at Gulf Islands Secondary School displayed a wealth of talent as they performed "When You Wish upon a Star" in three performances last week. At top left, Chrissie Noble, Tia Stevenson, Jaya Polden, and Andrea Satzinger play in The Band; top right, Tim LaPlante gives rousing performance; at centre left, is Omdrea Tickell; above, a group of dancers swing to the music; below, left, Jenni Marie Lomas performs in a dance routine; at bottom, centre, are Tim LaPlante and Sarah Morris; and at bottom, right, is Dana Hohman.





Entertainment

When You Wish Upon A Star

Music and dance concerts draw praise from audience

From Page A1

It was difficult sometimes to realize everyone was in their teens. To be sure there was trepidation and the occasional look of concern while

Hotel has no plans

The new owners of the Harbour House Hotel say there are no immediate plans to develop the land around the hotel.

Work currently being undertaken on the grounds is merely to clean up the site.

Tracy Tekatch says eventually something will be done with the 18-acre property. She added, however, it is too early to say what that will be.

She says the focus now is to work on the hotel, upgrading the bar and renovating the lounge.

A beer and wine store opened behind the dining-room last weekend.

Tekatch and husband Ron bought the property last February. She says any future plans for the site will go through the appropriate channels once the couple decides what they want to do.

awaiting cues, but that is forgivable — being on stage is difficult enough for most people, but nothing went wrong enough to notice.

There was wit and humour in the "Summertime Blues" set for example. Strutting their stuff around the stage the performers sang, danced, and posed. By contrast the solo acts often showed very personal thoughts and reflections. At times the stage was filled with well choreographed dancers, their costumes the black of "Stray Cats" or "Harlem Nights;" whilst during "Imagine" the stage overflowed with a blaze of colour and

sound as performers brought the folk costumes of the world into harmony.

There were three months of effort put into producing the show — a lot of hard work by the students and the teachers (and forbearance by parents — who had to hear the same rehearsals over and over again).

From spotlight solo down to the quietest little "Drama Cat" and from director down to stage crew, you all did splendidly in putting on an enjoyable evening.

Islanders — you must be proud of yourselves, having such talent on your doorstep.

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Entertainment

ECCAD offers art courses

Gulf Islands residents may have the opportunity to benefit from the teaching skills of some 66 professional artists at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design (ECCAD). If requested by local groups or

community members, the college will arrange visual arts workshops or other events in Ganges next fall and spring. Organizers say the program would be part the college's commit-

ment to continue providing access to quality art instruction throughout B.C.

"We can bring talented artist-teachers to Ganges for weekend workshops in drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, printmaking, colour design, art history and other topics," said Outreach Program Director Judith O'Keeffe in a prepared statement. "All we need is a local expression of interest and someone to coordinate the event(s) in Ganges."

A catalogue, listing all artist-teachers and workshops, has been updated and distributed to community college centres, college and public libraries throughout the province.

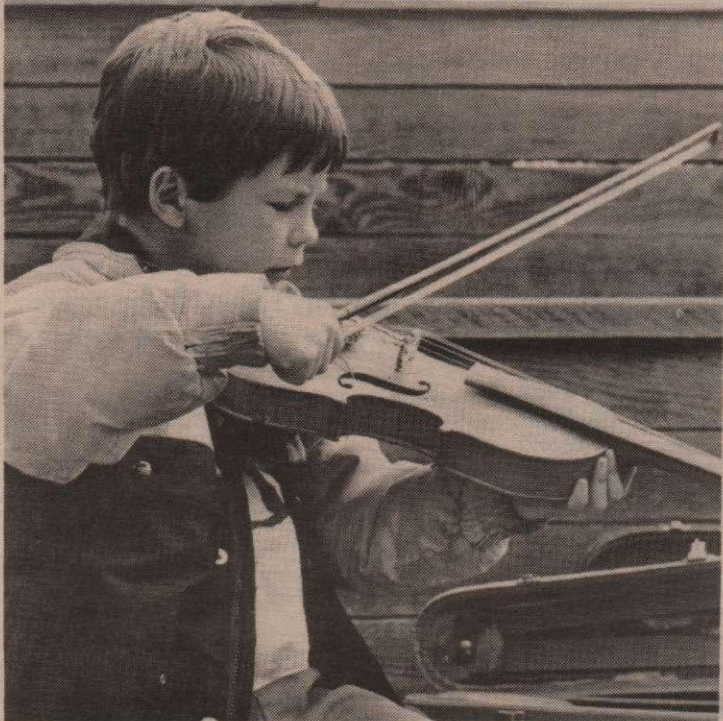
Interested people in the Gulf Islands area are invited to make selections from the list, and using the request form provided, submit them to ECCAD.

In addition to weekend workshops, ECCAD is prepared to arrange special pre-art-college courses, or an artist-in-residence program in Ganges. Courses in marketing art, portfolio preparation, and several visual arts telecourses are also offered.

Since the ECCAD outreach program was introduced in 1979, workshops have been presented in some 154 BC communities.

Outreach workshops can be scheduled October 13 to November 18, 1990, and February 2 to March 31, 1991. Details are available at community college continuing education offices, art organizations or ECCAD, 1399 Johnston Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R9, 687-2345, FAX 681-3586.

Workshop requests must be received at ECCAD by May 15, 1990.



Driftwood photo by Derrick Lundy

Honing his musical skills, seven-year-old Asa Allen keeps time with a group of musicians seen in Centennial Park last Saturday.

GISS "Bazaarnival" will raise rowing \$

As rowing gathers interest at Gulf Islands Secondary School, the student council will be raising money to buy sculls.

"Bazaarnival" is set for Friday, May 4 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and money raised will go toward the purchase of the sculls.

Tara Martin, president of the student council, said there is a growing interest in rowing among GISS students. The club has two sculls which were purchased second-hand and need repairs. New sculls, she noted, cost \$10,000 but used sculls can be purchased for as low as \$1,500.

"Bazaarnival" will feature games, contests, bingo and "great food," said Martin. Various events take place in various locations around the school. Clowns will entertain and the student council will have child care available.

While the expectation is to make money to purchase more sculls for the rowing club, Martin explained the main thrust of the event: "Let's get the community and the school together."

Various programs will be offering student work for sale. For instance, the agricultural class will be selling hanging plant baskets, the art class

will have tee-shirts for sale and the home economics class will offer food.

Part of the proceeds from these sales will go to the student council, and some of the money will be turned back to the programs involved.

Tickets, which cost \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12, are available at et cetera, McColl's Shell station and GISS.

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Entertainment



Driftwood photo by Rae-Anne Huth

Tuned Air practices for upcoming performance

Salt Spring Island's Tuned Air gears up for upcoming concert

Tuned Air is preparing to host its third annual concert next weekend (May 11 and 12), and choir leader Bruce Ruddell says it promises to be the biggest — if not the best — ever.

The concert will differ from the group's past two island performances, offering a "coffee and dessert" ceremony held under the glow of candlelight. It will also run two nights — Friday and Saturday — instead of just one evening.

Last year, the concert drew 350 people to its one-night performance at the Activity Centre — the concert sold out before the doors opened.

Included in this presentation will be selections from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and some French-Canadian works. The second half will feature "heavier" works, including Mozart's *Lacrymosa*.

"It will be a potpourri of music and all in keeping with candlelight and coffee aspects," says Ruddell, adding the Activity Centre will be decorated to reflect the theme of the night.

Ruddell has been composing since his graduation from the University of British Columbia in the mid-

1970s. He moved to Salt Spring eight years ago and started Tuned Air as a way of pursuing music in a non-business way.

"The choir gives me a chance to work with people in a non-pressure situation," says director Bruce Ruddell

"I don't have other hobbies, so music is it all the time. The choir gives me the chance to work with people in a situation which isn't a pressure situation."

Ruddell writes for a variety of groups including the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the National Film Board. He recently completed work for a film featuring actor Gregory Peck.

Membership in Tuned Air has grown from the 18 singers it had

when it formed three years ago, to its current 45 members.

Ruddell says that while most of the pieces will be performed alone next weekend, a few will be accompanied by piano, flute and a few other selected instruments.

"The theme of the choir is acappella which is unaccompanied and creates a strong dynamic among the singers," he says.

A selection of desserts will be available at 7:30 p.m. before the concert starts at 8 and a "surprise" will be served during intermission.

The money raised through the admission and dessert sales will be used to buy costumes and cover travel expenses associated with off-island performances.

Last year, the group sang at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver.

Tickets to the weekend concert, which includes a "self-contained musical" by students from Salt Spring Elementary School, cost \$6 and are available at et cetera, Nibbles Scribbles & News and at the door.

Concert goers are advised to purchase tickets early.

Bainbridge and Gulf islanders will meet to discuss Ometepe

Islanders from the American San Juans and the Canadian Gulf Islands will get together, Saturday, May 5, to talk about their common interest in Ometepe, Nicaragua.

The Central American island is a "sister" to Bainbridge Island, Washington as well as the Gulf Islands. Residents of Bainbridge Island recently visited Ometepe to help with construction of various projects and to prepare a medical study of the needs of island residents.

A pot-luck supper will begin the evening at 6 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., a presentation of slides will show what the visitors from Bainbridge dis-

covered on Ometepe. George Harris, of Galiano Island, will show his 16-minute video, *Through the Eyes of Children*.

The video, released to B.C. schools, offers a glimpse of a child and his family coping with life on Ometepe. Harris made the video during a visit to the Nicaraguan island last year.

The Gulf Islands project on Ometepe, funded by Save the Children Fund, B.C. and the Canadian International Development Agency, focuses on creating a stable water supply for the residents of Ometepe.

The project is nearing completion and a report on progress will be presented at the Saturday meeting.

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PROGRAM:
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WHO IS THIS HARRY GUY?



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● OUT OF THE HOUSE?

Women Returning to School/Career

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TUES., MAY 8

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Entertainment

Searcy's art now on display

Melissa Searcy, Salt Spring ceramic artist, is now showing her work at the North Park Design Store in Victoria.

Searcy explains that "the owner of the store is an interior designer and he wants to see my bigger pieces that can work as focal points in design."

Some of Searcy's most successful creations, her wall-pieces in abstract designs, will be on display.

Searcy has been creating slab work ceramics for the past six years. Much of her work embodies sensuous colours and design. She is well known for her ceramic boxes, candle holders and wall hangings.

In describing her work Searcy

Artseen

LYNDA
LAUSHWAY

says "deep inside I feel a strong connection with the material. The clay is a microcosm of the earth. It is the earth condensed down to this wonderful organic clump that you can have in your hands. I think that everyone who works with clay feels a direct connection with the earth."

"The boxes that I make have a sensuous quality. I am excited by the movement and texture of the clay as I work with it. I listen to the clay and to the accidents that happen as I work. It is an unfolding process. Making ceramic boxes is incredibly complex. Everything has to fit together."

The soft colours of Searcy's ceramics are derived from nature.

"The pale blues, flesh-tones and purples come from the evening sky, pale sunset colours that move me end up in my work a lot," says Searcy.

She sometimes glazes a single piece five times to gain the desired effect, and most of her pieces are glazed three times. Each glazing requires a separate firing. Harmonizing the complexity of design and colour is her ultimate goal.

Searcy's current work is in the process of change. "I notice that especially in the wall pieces more and more female imagery is coming into my work. I am starting to take a more active role in the clay. My work is becoming more personal and more specific to my experience."

"Part of the reason for this shift is my own willingness to explore the personal and also being more familiar with the medium. My work is expressive but at the same time as universal as possible," says Searcy.

At the end of our interview, Searcy summed up beautifully what so many artists must constantly wrestle with in saying, "I sometimes wonder how I dare to sit in my studio making all these beautiful things when all around the world is in chaos and destruction. I feel that the expression of creativity and joy is a powerful force in the world. The reason we want to save the world is so that this kind of activity can continue, it's so precious."



Driftwood photo by Lynda Laushway

Salt Spring artist Melissa Searcy

LEGION NEWS

May will be a busy month for Salt Spring Branch 92, Royal Canadian Legion.

Members are urged to attend the general meeting Monday, May 7 for the election of officers for the coming year. The Ladies Auxiliary holds its general meeting the following week, Monday, May 14 and will also hold elections for officers. Both meetings are set for 8 p.m. in Meaden Hall.

With good weather arriving, barbecues gain interest. Brian's Kitchen offers a steak barbecue Saturday, May 12 immediately after the meat draw.

On Sunday, May 13, the Legion honours Mother's Day with a pancake breakfast. Bring the children,

mother and grandmother for the event slated for 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The "Best In The West" square dancers will entertain.

Keep Saturday, May 26 open on your calendar. A special event is planned and Brian's Kitchen again warms up the barbecue.

The dart club will hold its year-end potluck party and present awards to the winners on Saturday, June 2 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The regular events continue with Friday evening dinners each week and the meat draw set for each Saturday afternoon.

Check the bulletin board for other happenings during the month.

SHRINERS GARAGE SALE

This Saturday, May 5
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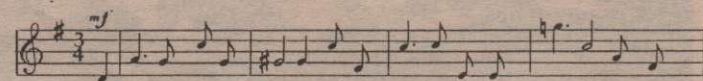
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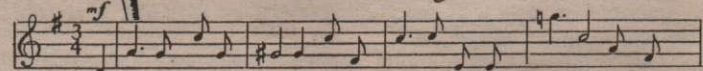
May 11 & 12 at 8:00 pm.
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special guests:

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News



Maria Cherry (left), Leslie Shields, Jacquie Hull and Ardith Walker learn office and computer skills through program sponsored by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

Four arrested for break-ins

A string of events resulted in bad luck for four youths, and good luck for a Salt Spring man who had a \$1,200 wedding ring stolen from his home two weeks ago.

The youths, apprehended at the Swartz Bay terminal April 16, now face break and enter charges, plus charges of theft over \$1,000 and under \$1,000.

The series of events began when

Salt Spring residents Darren Bell and Mike Spencer told Ganges RCMP their homes had been broken into. A small quantity of change was missing from both homes, and Bell reported that a wedding ring, valued at \$1,200, was also missing.

The next day, a member of the Ganges detachment noticed two youths hitch-hiking past the police office, in the direction of Fulford.

Further police investigation resulted in a phone call to the Fulford Harbour ferry terminal and Sidney RCMP. The youths were subsequently arrested in Swartz Bay and returned to Ganges. One of the youths had a quantity of change in his possession.

The youths admitted they had broken into the two homes. Police allege, however, the cash found in the youngsters' possession, was stolen from the *Bowen Queen*.

Police said both youths denied taking the ring, but one recalled that a friend had commented on losing "his" ring.

Subsequently, another two youths were arrested in Victoria. Both denied taking the ring.

The good luck for Bell occurred April 22 when an island resident turned in a ring she found on the upper deck of the *Bowen Queen*.

Police believe the stolen ring fell out of the thief's pocket.

Three of the four youths are awaiting trial. The fourth, who pleaded guilty to the offence in Ganges provincial court last week, has returned to his home in Edmonton.

Local court dismisses sexual assault charge

Conflicting testimony resulted in the dismissal of a sexual assault case in Ganges provincial court last week.

David Parsons, 46, of Mansell Road, entered a plea of not guilty to sexual assault.

The complainant, a 19-year-old youth who currently lives in Victoria, told the court he went to Parsons' home on February 14 to watch television and drink beer. He went there, he said, at Parsons' invitation.

Later in the evening, the youth told the court, the accused began fondling him and held him down. The youth struggled and eventually broke free. He fled the house and ran to Ganges Village Market where he phoned the RCMP.

Under cross examination by the defense lawyer, John Green, the youth denied consent to the act.

Parsons later told the court he had picked the young man up, and after watching television and drinking three beer each, they engaged in a mutual sex act.

He denied using any force. "It's not my nature," he told the court. Parsons said he and the man had indulged in a previous incident of "sexual participation" approximately two months earlier.

Judge Hudson, in dismissing the charge against Parsons, noted that with two witnesses giving conflicting testimony, it is difficult to determine where the truth lies.

He rendered his judgement because the Crown had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Parsons was guilty.

Man fined for cultivation

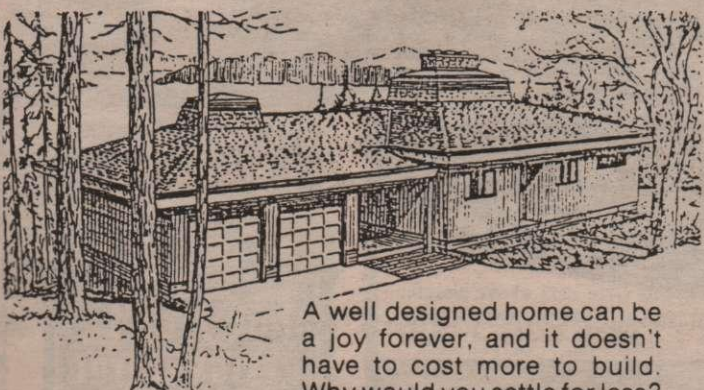
Efforts to avoid paying the high cost of purchasing marijuana resulted in a Salt Spring man facing criminal charges in Ganges court.

Nick Pawlowski, 43, of Liberty Hall Lane, entered guilty pleas to charges of cultivation of marijuana and possession of a narcotic.

Crown evidence indicated local RCMP, acting on a tip, searched Pawlowski's residence and discovered two plants growing in a cabin converted to a green house. They also found 15 seedlings in a second floor room. The police seized 10 kilograms of marijuana leaf as well.

Judge Hudson, in passing sentence on Pawlowski, noted that despite the high cost of street purchased marijuana, cultivation of the plant should be discouraged on Salt Spring.

He fined Pawlowski \$1,000 for the charge of cultivation and a further \$75 for the charge of possession.



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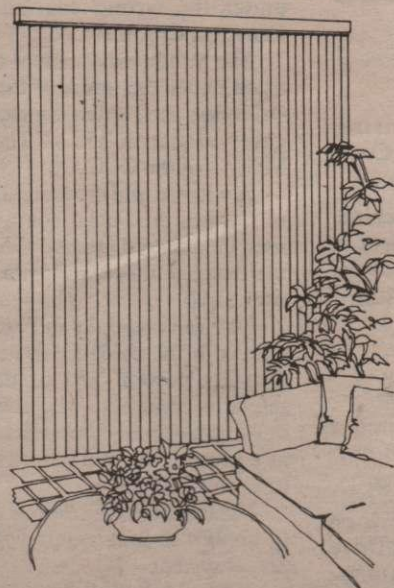
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News

POLICE REPORT

A would-be thief was frustrated when efforts to enter the Salt Spring Golf Club proved unsuccessful.

RCMP report the attempted break and entry occurred late in the night Friday, April 27.

The culprit used a pry bar on the back door of the club house. The futile effort did not set off the alarm and no entry was gained.

In Fulford, several recent attempts to break into Rodrigo's Restaurant failed.

RCMP report the most recent attempt, Friday, April 27, was more successful. Someone got as far as the storage shed. But the thief could not get into the restaurant.

Police said nothing was taken in the series of burglary attempts.

Vandalism

The soft drink dispensing machine in front of the Trading Company in Ganges will be history.

Vandals attacked the machine, again. RCMP report the incident is the most recent in many acts of vandalism aimed at the machine. It will be removed.

Impaired driving

A Salt Spring man ignored a routine RCMP roadblock and now faces an impaired driving charge.

RCMP set up the roadblock on Lower Ganges Road near Park Drive late Saturday, April 29. At 1:40 a.m., a vehicle ran the roadblock and RCMP gave chase. The vehicle was stopped at a parking lot near Upper and Lower Ganges Roads.

When asked to supply a breath sample for analysis, the driver refused. He was subsequently charged with driving while his ability was impaired and refusing to comply with a demand for a breath sample.

Roadside suspension

A visitor to Salt Spring had his driver's licence suspended for a 24-hour period.

RCMP set up a roadblock on Lower Ganges Road at Park Drive, late Saturday, April 29. At 1:20 a.m., a vehicle was stopped. The driver exhibited signs of impairment and while his ability did not seem to warrant a breath test, police suspended his licence for 24 hours.

Speeding leads to impaired charges

A speeding violation in Delta required the appearance of a Salt Spring man in court last week to answer to a charge of impaired driving.

Richard Birch, 18, of Upper Ganges Road, entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

The offence occurred in Delta in early January. A highway patrol stopped Birch after he was seen speeding. A subsequent breath test showed an excess of alcohol.

Birch has since moved to Salt Spring and the case was transferred to the Ganges court.

Judge Hudson imposed a fine of \$400 and noted an automatic loss of his driver's licence for a 12-month period. Birch was given until June 18 to pay the fine or face a jail term of 14 days for default of payment.

Wrong charge laid

A Salt Spring youth was found not guilty of stealing mail, after the defence pointed out she was charged under the wrong section of the Canadian Criminal Code.

The youth, who cannot be identified under the terms of the Young Offenders Act, entered a plea of not guilty to section 356 — Theft from Mail — of the CCC.

A witness told the April 23 sitting of Ganges provincial court she had seen the accused remove mail from a mailbox in Fulford, and place it in her pack sack.

Defence counsel Jim Pasuta later entered a "no evidence motion," indicating section 356 of the CCC refers to "everyone who steals anything sent by post, after it is deposited at a post office, and before it is delivered."

Pasuta noted the offence generally applies to individuals within the postal system.

"She didn't steal from the mail, because once it (the letter) is in the

box, it's no longer in the mail," he said.

Pasuta also noted that theft is not necessarily a lesser included offence in this section.

Judge Hudson agreed with Pasuta's argument, noting that "theft" and "theft of mail" are separate offences. He found the accused not guilty of the offence.

Probation extended

Ganges provincial court gave a Salt Spring youth an additional probation order after he pleaded guilty to breach of probation last week.

Crown Counsel Ed Ormheim told the court the 17-year-old — who cannot be identified under the terms of the Young Offenders Act — appeared drunk at a high school dance.

He was asked to leave and later spotted by police who arrested him for being drunk in a public place.

Judge Hudson agreed an extended probation order of six months was an appropriate sentence. Terms of the order include submission to a breathalyzer test on demand and 30 hours of community work.

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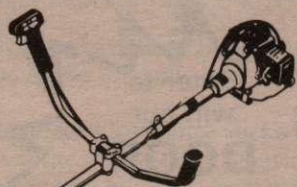


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