

Driftwood

Island Living Real Estate

SECTION

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Whittler becomes acclaimed international Inuit sculptor

Abraham Anghik did not intentionally set out to become an internationally-known sculptor.

As a young Inuit lad growing up near Paulatuk, North West Territories in the early 1950s, he inadvertently started down the path of his future career.

By JIM BLACK
Driftwood Reporter

One day he picked up a piece of wood and began to whittle. At the time it probably did not seem too important. But today, along with 20 years of "hands-on" working experience, Anghik, the sculptor, and his works are gaining a world-wide reputation for their beauty and insights into the Inuit culture.

The artist attributes most of his learned talents to an "on the road education."

"Most people don't think too much about you as an artist when you say that most of your training came from travelling down the road, looking for new experiences. But I believe it was very helpful for me," the soft-spoken Anghik said during a recent interview. "Along the way I worked with sculptors, painters, and jewellers. It was a real hands-on experience for me. I don't think that can be taught to you in school."

Not to say that Anghik didn't study at school. He spent the better part of four years developing his skills at the University of Alaska under the watchful eyes of Inuit artist Ron Senungetuk.

"Ron was a great teacher. He encouraged us to work on our projects for eight to 10 hours daily, seven days a week if we could. It was a very good experience there as well. We studied print-making, silver smithing, carving and sculpture, with emphasis on design. I think learning both from university and from the road have helped me."

Apparently so, his works are currently on display at museums and public galleries across the country, including the Royal Ontario Museum, the Canadian Museum of Modern Civilization in Ottawa and the Winnipeg Art Gallery as well as the permanent collections of corporations such as Noranda, Labatts, Imperial Oil, Citicorp and G.E. Canada.

In addition, Anghik has also had solo exhibitions at a number of leading private

galleries including the Pollock Gallery in Toronto and the Bayard Gallery in New York. He has just returned from a two-week showing in New York at the Alaska Shop Gallery where over three-quarters of his works on display were snapped up by gallery patrons.

Just prior to his show in New York, Anghik unveiled his greatest work of art to date. *Northern Myth, Northern Legend*, a 16 foot tall limestone sculpture inlaid with bone and semi-precious stones.

The work itself is made from three huge blocks of Indiana limestone which were trucked to Anghik's Salt Spring Island home last year. The piece took him nearly 10 months to complete. Once completed, the work was dismantled and shipped to its permanent home in the new corporate headquarters of Glaxo Canada in Mississauga, Ontario.

Glaxo is a company working on discovering new cures for significant diseases and producing medicines. The company has a policy of fostering Canadian art and nurturing Canadian artists.

Northern Myth, Northern Legend is an allegory with each component of the sculpture telling a story of its own as well as representing something else. At the base sit the Shaman or medicine man who represents all the men and women who have been pioneers of modern medicine on one

side and on the other Sedna. She is the life-giving sea goddess who personifies nature in all her forms. Sedna is a common link to all Inuit across the north, from Siberia to Greenland. She represents all aspects of nature - mineral, plant and animal alike.

The centre block depicts a typical Inuit family, working and living in harmony, while the upper block is the Shaman's apprentice who is learning to harmonize himself with the rhythms of nature. He symbolizes the thoughts, dreams and aspirations of future generations.

Once the sculpture was put into its permanent display, Anghik carefully inlaid the eyes of all the beings. The Shaman, Sedna and the Inuit family along with a bear, seal and a porpoise have been enhanced with either Australian opal, British Columbian jade or Brazilian carnelian.

The inlaid eyes bring to the work an interesting effect, according to Anghik. "They (the eyes) seem to follow you around the room. It really is quite an interesting feeling, which you don't normally get from a sculpture."

The sculpture is physically the largest-corporate sponsored Inuit piece in the world, according to Anghik. It was constructed from start to finish outside of Anghik's home near Mount Maxwell.

He and his family settled on the island more than five years ago, after living in the Fraser Valley for some time. "We were looking for a nice quiet place to live closer to nature."

"First we tried out Tofino. We went camping there to see what it was like. We nearly got washed away it rained so much. We woke up at four a.m. with two inches of water in the bottom of the tent. We decided that it wasn't for us."

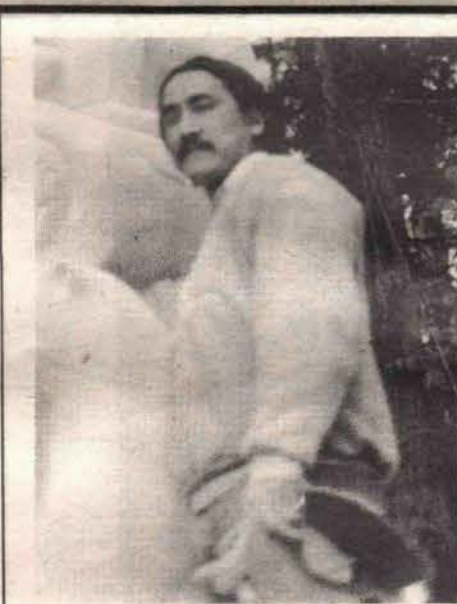
"Then we came to Salt Spring Island at the invitation of Orcas Gallery owner Wolfgang Kranz. We spent a weekend camping at Ruckle Park and decided that this was the place for us."

Now that he is home from his unveiling in Ontario and show in New York one might think that Anghik would want to put his feet up and relax, but that isn't the case. Already he is working on organizing an exhibition of his work in Japan, as well as organizing an exhibition of sculptors from



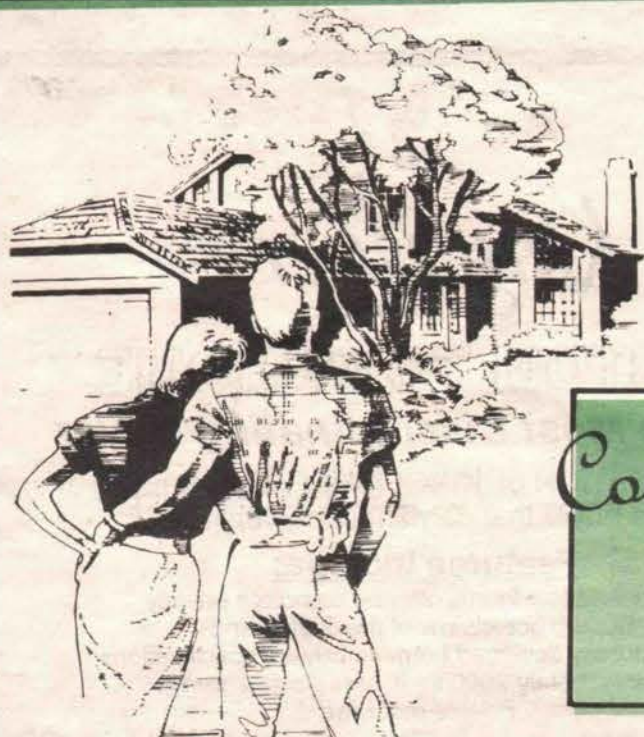
Photo contributed

Northern Myth, Northern Legend: the largest corporately-sponsored sculpture in the world, according to its Salt Spring creator.



Abraham Anghik

SCULPTOR B2



Your weekly guide to
GULF ISLANDS PROPERTIES

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ISLAND LIVING

Healthy air task force wants input

Each British Columbian produces an average of 13 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide a year from fossil fuels. Canadians are the world's largest consumers of energy per person, and gasoline consumption per citizen is four times more in many Canadian cities than European ones.

By IAN NOBLE
Driftwood Staff Writer

To combat the effects such energy consumption has on the atmosphere the Capital Regional District is canvassing region residents to develop recommendations for improving local air quality and reducing contributions to global atmospheric pollution.

Coordinator Laura Porcher said the Healthy Atmosphere 2000 initiative is "at the forefront of asking the community how they want to address global and local atmospheric change."

"We plan to develop recommendations, then take them to the relevant levels of government for their consideration and hopefully recommendation."

The region's power is limited in implementing recommendations, she said.

"Most of the power to implement the kinds of decisions that will affect air quality like transportation, land-use planning, emissions, and building regulations lie with the municipal governments."

However, there will be other recommendations relevant to provincial and federal

Salt Spring could have its own meeting

levels of government, she said.

Information on atmospheric change is contained in a 12-page booklet produced by the CRD which is available at the Mary Hawkins Memorial Public Library on Salt Spring and other libraries throughout the regional district.

The booklet contains statistics and information on ozone layer depletion, global warming, and fossil fuel and energy consumption. It also contains a call to action.

"There is consensus that the risks associated with inaction on greenhouse gas emissions are too great to wait upon the results of further research before tangible steps are taken to address the problem."

"The facts and predictions of the general scientific community warrant our concern, attention, and action."

Examples of "healthy atmosphere" initiatives undertaken by people in other communities are outlined. Traffic free zones downtown, greater use of the home for small business activities, and encouraging bicycle transportation by providing safe routes are some recommendations.

Porcher said CRD residents have expressed concern about wood stoves and backyard burning, especially on cloudy days.

Two polluters of relevance to Salt Spring are cited in the discussion paper.

"Odours of sulphur emissions from the Crofton pulp and paper mill are often noticeable on Salt Spring Island and the Gulf Islands, and they sometimes reach the southern tip of Victoria."

"As well as sulphur-based gases, the mill emits chlorine compounds from the bleaching plant and particulate matter. A major upgrading program is underway, to be completed by April, 1992."

Lady Minto's hospital incinerator is mentioned as being outdated and causing

"concern for residents."

Those wanting to address the Healthy Atmosphere 2000 Task Force can do so at the public library in Sidney February 4 at 7 p.m. Porcher said five to 10 minute submissions from Gulf Island residents can be heard first so residents can return to the islands the same night.

If enough interest is expressed by Salt Spring residents the task force may schedule a meeting on island. Readers are asked to call Laura Porcher at 1-360-3114 if they are interested. Also, Porcher has a 10-minute video that can be borrowed by calling the same number.

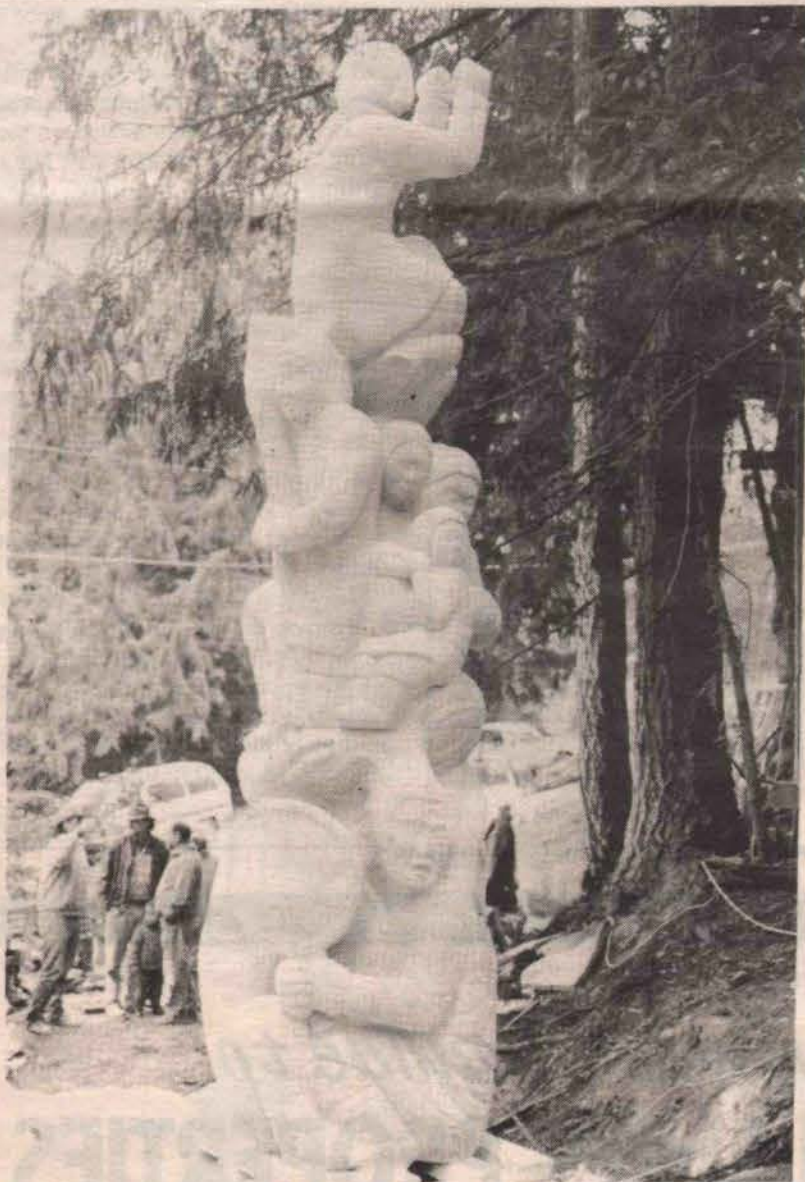
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ANOTHER SIDE: Before the sculpture left Salt Spring Island, this photo, showing the beings on the opposite side of the photo on Page B1 was taken in the woods near Anghik's island home.

Driftwood photo by Jim Blum

SCULPTOR

From Page B1

different areas of the North West Territories. When he is not busy with that, he is working on a seven foot high bronze sculpture which is being cast up in Courtenay. But it is the Japanese exhibition which currently seems to be piquing his interest.

"There is a great deal of interest in Inuit art in South Korea

and Taiwan as well. This exhibition could be a jumping board for us into the south east Asian market. They have a keen interest in this type of sculpture and other mediums as well. I think they see this work as being produced by a group indigenous to North America, but having the similar Asian cultural roots," he added.

Not bad for a whittler

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PROVINCIAL ROUND-UP

by Hubert Beyer

Company sues protesters

Fletcher Challenge said last week it plans to go to court to make environmental activists pay for illegal logging protests in the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island this fall.

Gordon Clark, vice-president, secretary and general counsel for Fletcher Challenge, said the forest company will likely file a lawsuit seeking "hundreds of thousands of dollars" for losses caused by vandalism and blockades of logging roads.

The week before, MacMillan Bloedel announced a similar lawsuit for a blockade near Tofino.

Some environmentalists have complained that the action of the companies is having a chilling effect on civil disobedience in the forests and that suits Clark just fine.

"One hopes it will be chilling. It really comes down to individuals being responsible for their actions. If their actions have been found to be unlawful, there is no reason why MacMillan or Fletcher Challenge should not have a remedy to seek compensation for extraordinary costs related to misconduct," he said.

Lighthouse layoffs spark protest

Thirteen government MLAs last week fired off a letter to federal transport minister Jean Corbell protesting the planned layoffs of all permanent staff from 14 lighthouses along British Columbia's coastal waters.

"As British Columbians have seen, the lighthouse staff you are proposing to remove often plays a

vital role in emergency and rescue situations. More importantly, they help avoid those emergency situations by providing early storm warnings to local boaters," the letter said.

"We believe your government's decision will greatly increase the risk in our waters to commercial fishing fleets, sports fishermen, and pleasure boats. The services provided by lighthouse keepers simply cannot be duplicated by a unit of travelling technicians," it added.

Crown considers appeal

Attorney General Colin Gabelmann said last week that Crown counsel is looking into the possibility of appealing the light sentence to a 47-year-old man who sexually assaulted a handicapped woman, causing her bodily harm.

Robert Thul pleaded guilty September 26 to the sexual assault of the 33-year-old autistic woman who had lived with him and his wife for three years.

Thul was sentenced December 12 to 90 days and three years probation and must seek psychological and psychiatric counselling. Crown counsel has 30 days from the sentence date to file an appeal and serve notice on the accused.

Saved by the bell

Canada's forest industry breathed a collective sigh of relief last week when the European Community extended for one year the exemption from a ban on imports of green lumber from Canada.

B.C. forest minister Dan Miller said the next 12 months are an opportunity to resolve this problem once

and for all.

"We must look at all options very thoroughly and discuss them exhaustively with the European Community," Miller said.

The 12-month grace period was good news for the province's forest industry, which sold about \$500 million worth of green lumber to the European Community in 1990.

"Our sawmills would have been adversely affected and many jobs would have been lost. Some four coastal sawmills sell up to 40 per cent of their production to EC countries," Miller said.

The ban on green lumber from which Canada continues to be exempted for one more year is considered necessary to prevent the pinewood nematode from being transferred to European forests.

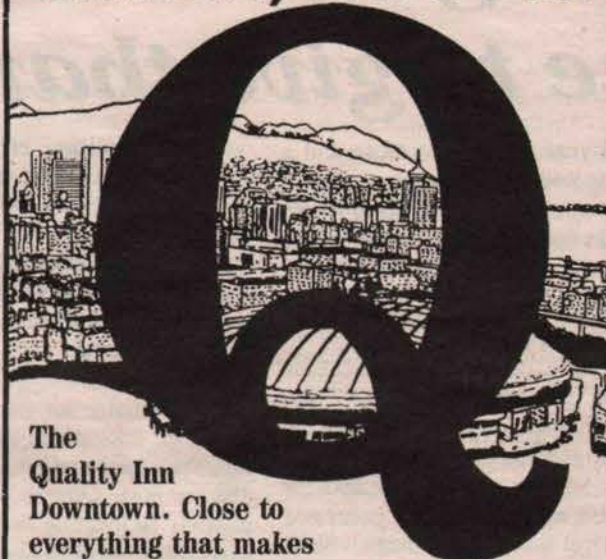
Hagen praises multi-culture group

Anita Hagen, minister responsible for multiculturalism and human rights, last week met with the provincial advisory council on multiculturalism and congratulated them for a job well done.

The council was established by the Socred government three years ago to gather community input on multicultural issues. It comprises 25 members with experience in multiculturalism.

During the three years, the group embarked on a number of projects aimed at eliminating racism, including the widely-publicized "Racism: If You Don't Stop it, Who Will?" campaign, developed in cooperation with the B.C. Broadcasters' Association.

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ISLAND LIVING

Facing a New Year time to give thanks

As the old year draws to a close and a new one opens with all its promise of new hopes and new dreams, it is time to pause and give thanks for all the blessings that we have received over the past year.

By DON DAVIES, president
Seniors for Seniors

It is far too easy to dwell on the negatives but if we stop for a moment we all have many things to be thankful for.

Seniors for Seniors must give thanks for all the goodwill and satisfaction generated by the wonderful work of its many volunteers: the drivers headed by Roy Betts who drive seniors to doctors visits, to hospitals, for shopping, etc; the office workers and resource information file workers headed by Vera Longueay and Mary Toynbee; the workers at the Thursday luncheons headed by Edna Watson and her faithful assistant Ellen Mellstrom; and the donors for the bake sales headed by Sophie Betts; the buddies and peer support workers headed by Ella Robertson and all of our volunteers who assist at Greenwoods or Lady Minto or hospice as part of our outreach community program; the work of Norm McConnell who capably handles our finances and Bob Appleton, the building committee.

The fundraising efforts of Stan Smith and the work of his good wife Margaret Smith and the very efficient work of our super secretary Betty Poole and the assistance of her husband Richard. And all the volunteers who have many hours of time and also made donations to keep our organization going.

We must also express our gratitude to the community for its support of our efforts: to the school board for its magnanimous gesture in donating a building — and we hope soon to be able to announce publicly its location — so that hopefully by early fall we will have our own home.

We must also thank the *Driftwood* and all the health organizations on the island: Greenwoods, Lady Minto hospital, Home Support Services and the Community Centre.

Thanks also to New Horizons and the Victoria Health Project, to Julia Atkins and the CRD which have provided funds to keep us going — and a special warm thanks to all the community who have supported us and made donations to assist in our work.

Finally, warmest good wishes for a Happy New Year to all the citizens of Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands and a special word to all our seniors!

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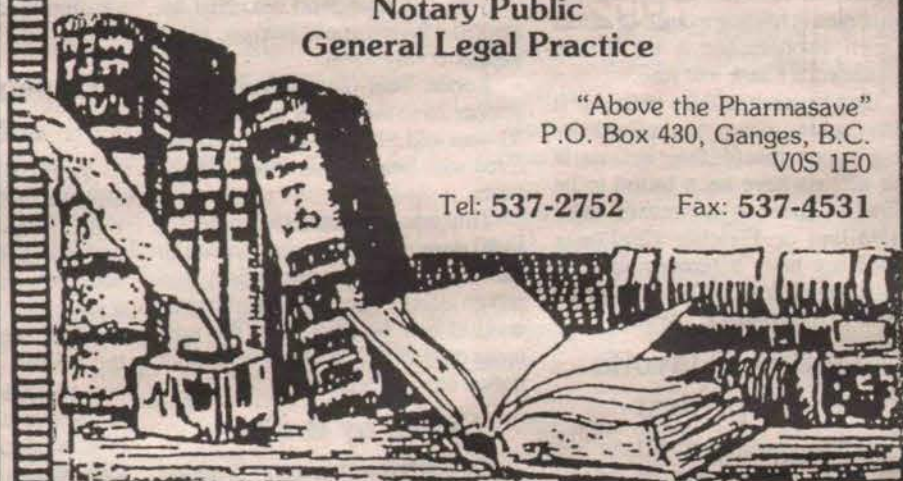
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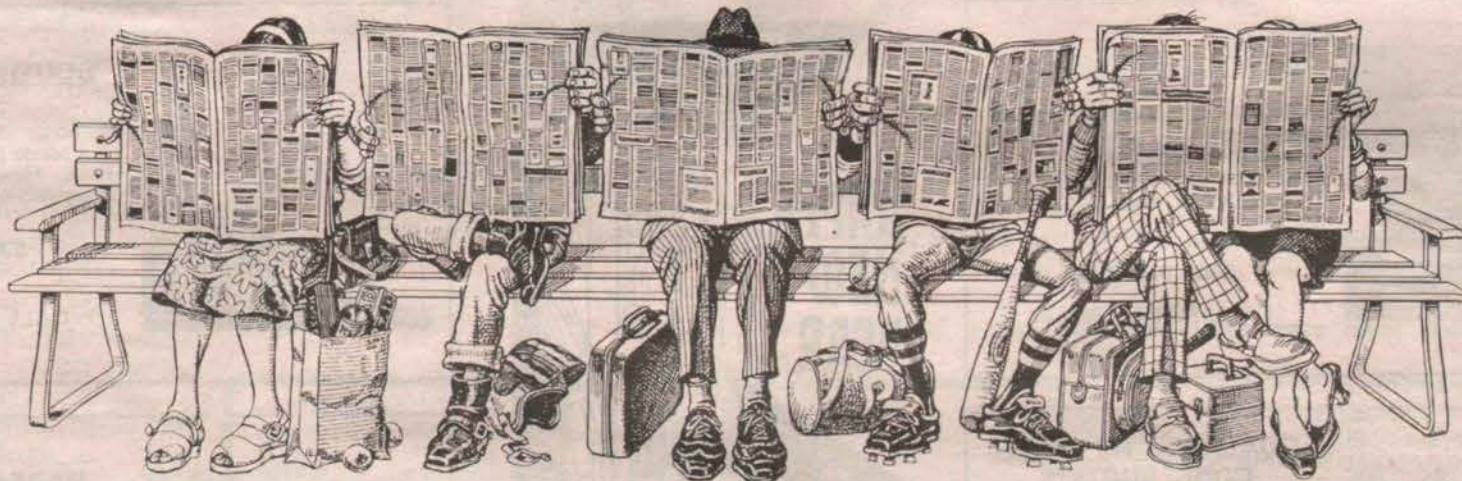
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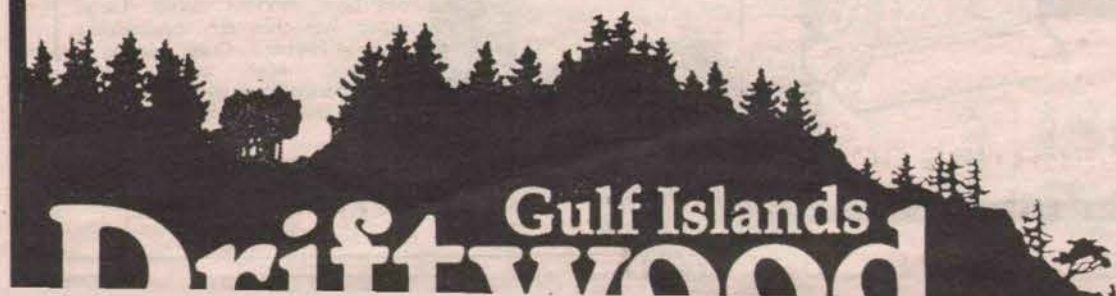
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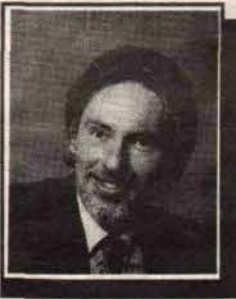
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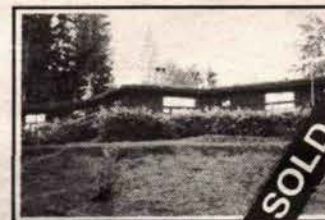
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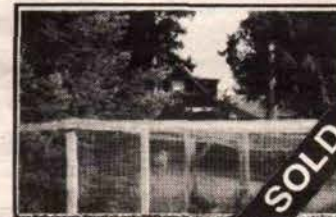
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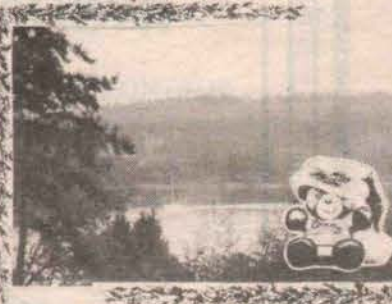
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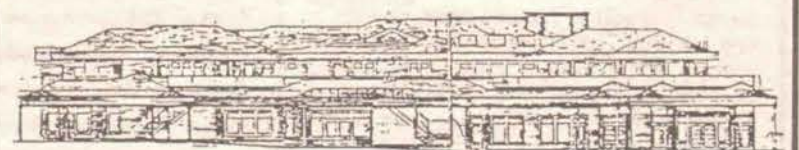
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ISLAND LIVING

Law enforcement needs public input

On behalf of the Ganges RCMP detachment I take this opportunity to wish one and all the best of the festive season and hope that the coming year brings everyone health, wealth and happiness.

By Don Smith, Sergeant
Ganges RCMP Detachment

Without boring you with a myriad of statistics, it is suffice to say that the crime rate continues to increase and I expect nothing different in 1992.

Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, the prime one being budget restraints, the number of police personnel available to control crime has not increased. This produces an increasing workload on the police currently here to the extent that the Ganges detachment is now tied for sixteenth place out of 122 provincial policing jurisdictions for the dubious honour of having the heaviest Criminal Code workload per police personnel.

The question is how do we stop this rising crime rate and overburdening workload on the police.

The answer lies with you, the individual members of society, from whence the problem comes. It is up to you to make it known to all that you are not willing to live in a lawless society. You must do so not merely by words alone but by your actions as well.

Set a proper example for others to follow. Speak out when you see an injustice being done. Take whatever action is legally

necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of both yourself and others.

Volunteer whatever evidence you may have to the proper authorities, so that it may be acted upon to rid our society of that which we do not want.

When the criminal element in any society realizes that all eyes of the society are upon them — not only those of the police; that the whole society is ready to stand up and be counted as being against them; and that the society is willing and able to do its utmost to ensure that every criminal pays dearly for the havoc he has wreaked then, and only then, will we start to live in a truly just society free from crime and wrongdoing.

This is not an easy task but one that will take hard work, dedication and perseverance. One that not only can be done but one that must be done.

Individual rights and freedoms are dear to us and so they should be, but these must be balanced with the individuals' duty to the society of which he is a part. A citizen's duty to aid in the detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals is one of the most important and is almost as old as civilization itself.

Guaranteed preservation of the inviolate personal rights and freedoms of the individual can only be achieved and maintained if the fundamental rights and freedoms of society as a whole are respected. It is with this in mind that we look forward to your continued assistance in helping us to maintain the public peace in 1992.

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ISLAND LIVING

Cause for optimism behind headlines



Lynn Hunter

As 1991 draws to an end, Gulf Islanders and indeed all Canadians are gripped by a sense of uncertainty and apprehension.

By LYNN HUNTER, MP
Saanich and the Islands

The past year has brought about monumental changes in the international community. We have watched in horror as war raged in Iraq and Kuwait. We have recoiled in disbelief at the environmental disaster which followed. We have watched the disintegration of the Soviet Union and continue to watch the horrible conflict in Yugoslavia. The pace of change has been mind-numbing.

The past year has seen many changes in Canada as well. We have lived through an entire year of the GST and an alarming increase in cross-border shopping, both of which have contributed to a deepening recession. It seems our national institutions are under assault by a government more unpopular than any in our history. Relations between the various regions of Canada are icy and filled with distrust and the constitutional haggling seems inter-

minable.

On the surface one could easily conclude that these are the worst of times. However, behind the headlines there is cause for optimism and hope for the future. Over the past year I have been listening to Canadians from coast to coast talk about their concerns and their hopes and dreams.

What I have heard repeatedly is that Canadians and Gulf Islanders are uneasy and in many ways discontented. What I have seen is a tolerance for differing views and a commitment to go the extra mile to come to terms with the economic, environmental and constitutional problems we face as a community and a nation.

Locally, an issue which requires urgent attention is the dock situation on Mayne Island. Efforts by myself and other community members have met with little success. The current federal government is of the opinion that providing services to Canadians is less important than creating a comfortable investment climate for central Canadian corporations.

I believe government has an obligation to manage the economy in the interest of all Canadians. But it must also provide ser-

vices and maintain institutions, such as government docks, if we are to retain any sense of national identity.

We have seen Galiano Islanders take on logging giant MacMillan Bloedel with inspiring success. The island arts centre in Ganges and the new library on Pender are valuable contributions to the Gulf Islands.

These community-driven ventures are testimony to the people of the Gulf Islands' determination for creative development on their terms.

The biosphere proposal can offer a vehicle to compliment this spirit of community on all the Gulf Islands. But if it is to succeed its support must be broadly based. Early indications are that the idea is catching on and with increased local involvement it can become a reality.

The first national leader of the NDP-CCF, J.S. Woodsworth, summed it up best when he said what we wish for ourselves we also wish for our fellow citizens.

As 1991 comes to an end let us hope that the new year brings the emergence of the best of Canadian values.

Some topics for stimulating discussion

We are at the beginning of a three-to-four-year association since you elected me to represent you in the provincial legislature. I thought it appropriate at this time to tell you how I propose to fill my side of that association.

By CLIVE TANNER, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

First, I will try to represent all of you, regardless of how you voted last October 17. My office at #11-9843 Second Street in Sidney, V8L 3C7 (telephone: 656-0488; fax: 655-4906) is open to all.

My assistant Odean Long and I are there Monday through Friday to serve you. Also, I try to visit Salt Spring at least one day each month, so do not hesitate to call for an appointment time on one of those visits.

Secondly, I am, and ran as, a Liberal. I believe in a Liberal point of view, which roughly stated is a middle-of-the-road mixture of government and free enterprise. Personally, I lean a little more to the "free enterprise" view of affairs; however, the

strength of the Liberal Party of B.C. is that it encompasses many divergent points of view and my slightly-right-of-centre opinion is balanced by some of my colleagues who are more to the left-of-centre.

Thirdly, it is my view that in most matters, elected representatives are there to use their "best judgement"; after consultation with constituents and input from as many people as is reasonable, the elected member must decide as he or she sees fit. The Legislature will probably sit in mid-March, when I will take my place "in the house," representing you for the constituency of Saanich North and the Islands. On an historical note, I will be the second Tanner to do so (the last one held office in 1906) and the first Liberal in this area since 1952, the previous Liberal being Arthur Ash.

But while the Legislature is important and the Opposition is a very necessary part of our parliamentary system, it is my belief that your representative has a more important role of serving the constituents.

Finally, I would like to provoke — no, stimulate — some discussions among you

in 1992. Would you give me the benefit of your opinion when next we meet on the following:

a) a need to resolve the multiplication and duplication of agencies serving Salt Spring, both internally and externally;

b) a perceived conflict between the planned use and intelligent application of land and the expansion of the population;

c) the requirement, I believe is necessary, to improve travel between the islands, e.g. for school children, hospital patients and tourists;

d) the expansion of local autonomy;

e) the suggestion of a biosphere type of international input to the Gulf Islands;

f) the imposition of mainland standards on smaller rural communities with respect to road allowances, health restrictions, building standards, etc.;

g) the lifestyles on the islands, why people choose to live there. Do they have priority over other Canadians who might want the same lifestyles?



Clive and Christine Tanner

Having aroused your interest, may I wish you all a Merry New Year but then it seems to me that life on Salt Spring will be merry for both of us in 1992.

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Call Jessie James

ISLAND LIVING

Time to toss out Roberts' rules of order

Often when working within an institution you can find yourself blinded to the overall perspective that you are trying to achieve.

By BOB ANDREW
Salt Spring Island Trustee

Fortunately, now and again someone comes along and gives you a nudge just to remind you. This happened to me the other day when a world traveller who lives here gave me an asked-for synopsis of what he

sees happening here at home.

He said we are pushing ourselves apart from each other, creating, unwittingly, institutions that push ourselves apart from ourselves and the earth. We do this because of our wasteful habits, our failure to appreciate what we have (and concurrent abuse of what we have) and our failure to see what others don't have. This all leads to community disassociation.

Given this, and I think it is a fair assessment, the question that comes to mind is

the job I am in is *how can local government help to relieve this disassociation?*

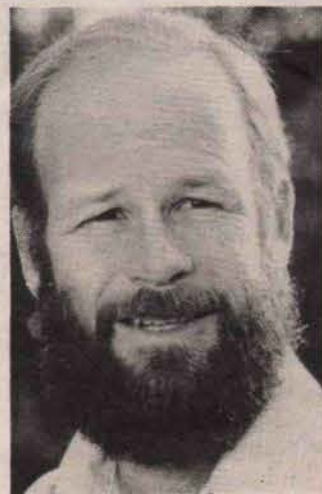
The first step, now taken, is to help the community set up its own goals and guidelines — the Community Plan. The first stated goal in our community plan is "to preserve Salt Spring's rural and unspoiled character, natural beauty and views and to protect its shores and surrounding waters."

Our goals very wisely recognize our "community" is much more than just people, it recognizes it as the whole of where we live, the land, the sea and all that lives here.

The next step is to work out how to strengthen our local government to implement the goals. The key here is to remember that strengthening our local government really means strengthening our community control.

To do this we need a government that acts more as a mediator or facilitator in community concerns rather than the judge. That is, more important than the government we build (be it a Trust, CRD or municipal or otherwise) how the community interacts itself is what determines how strong we are. In short, we need to find a way to cooperative community decision-making. We need to find the way to put the power of decision-making in the hands of those who bear the consequences and we need to find the way to keep it there.

This is the real cure for the ailments



Bob Andrew

spelled out above. Once we have this form of local government it will not matter what format the local government takes for its power will only be that of helping the community make decisions, not making decisions for it.

To put it bluntly and here is where I am going to lose a lot of support, we need to do things like toss out Roberts' Rules of Order and work on consensus gathering methods.

This is the dream. Until we can achieve it we must do our best to uphold the first dream, the first step — to preserve and protect the best way we can with what we have. Wish us luck.

Islanders must ensure they are getting value for tax dollars spent

In the world of business there are three words that are constantly repeated to those who work and serve the public.

By JOHN STEPANIUK
Salt Spring Island Trustee

Quality, dependability and delivery of services at the right price. It will be some time yet before I could say that the Islands Trust fulfils all these objectives.

Steps have been taken to make the processing of land use matters more open than ever before. At regular monthly meetings the public is given the opportunity to respond and comment on major decisions affecting the island. Residents and the business community will have the opportunity not to merely answer a questionnaire but truly comment on those long term planning decisions that have to be made.

My home calls have decreased immensely since the opening of the Trust office in Ganges and I encourage you to use this office for the services you require.

The coming year is going to be very busy with the Advisory Planning Commission and the design panel for Ganges and their considerations, recreation commission and various task forces reporting with regard to their mandate.

Our transportation committee is adapting a broader mandate and hopefully will have liaison with other agencies to look into other modes of transportation.

With regards to Ganges, a citizen's task force and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways provided valuable planning materials which are greatly appreciated.

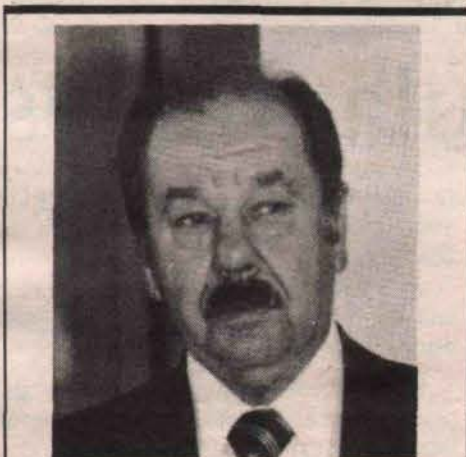
B.C. Ferry Corporation, under the leadership of Frank Rhodes, has established lines of communication that are very productive.

The cost of services delivered by the Capital Regional District should receive broader discussion. I have a hard time accepting that an "on island" solution is inferior. On the contrary, the improvement districts are an example of efficiency.

Islanders' generosity to their community is notable throughout the year. God help us if we lose all those dedicated volunteers whose selfless donation of time and effort to their community is so very important to us all. I do hope that we maintain an overall view of the island rather than special interests and concerns.

Planning is often dictated by economy but I suggest that they should go hand-in-hand.

In the coming year there will be major decisions put forward for your consideration. The shoreline study, re-examining the zoning and matters of C-4 and C-4L, visitor accommodations industry, tidal and shoreline zoning proposals, parking and Ganges alternate route, CRD and Trust joint initiatives, issues of solid and liquid



John Stepaniuk

Crown lands and public buildings, the overall assessed value of property in Gulf Islands' School District 64, is more than \$1,067,000,000.00. You also pay through permitting systems, whether it is building, rezoning or power inspection. That is a lot of money in any language. My message to you for the coming year is to take a hard look at what you are getting in return.

The local government study is underway and there is a call out for consultants to examine the status quo and alternatives to the present local government. Your input is essential.

I wish to extend my appreciation to our community paper, the *Driftwood*, for attending all those meetings and keeping us all so well-informed.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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ISLAND LIVING

Salt Spring must feel more part of region

For most of us the holiday season is a time for getting together with our families, for enjoying the warmth and comfort of the family hearth. It is a time for affirming ourselves as part of a larger whole, for wishing for peace on earth and goodwill to all.

By JULIA ATKINS, Director
Capital Regional District Board

It is this spirit that I hope we can carry with us through the coming year.

In particular, I would like to see Salt Spring become a more vital part of the region to which we belong — the Capital Region. Many of us travel frequently to Victoria and to Sidney to shop, to visit friends, to seek professional help or just to get off "the rock."

These places are "our neighbourhood," a part of our region. For several years, Salt Spring has been a reluctant participant in regional government, often feeling that

decisions made there have "nothing to do" with us, and sometimes feeling overwhelmed by the larger players like Victoria and Saanich.

But in my short time at the regional board, I have become aware not only of the extent to which decisions made at the board can and do affect us, but also of the real respect and support at the board for Salt Spring.

"Real respect and support at the board for Salt Spring"

Right now, the Capital Region and Salt Spring have something very important in common. We are both subject to the same tremendous pressures for more development. As a region, and as an island, we have been "discovered."

We are a favoured destination for people from all over the world. In the next 10 years, the Capital Region is going to grow and change significantly. We have an opportunity now to help to manage and direct that growth so that our neighbourhood continues to be the kind of place we want to live in.

Over the next few months the Capital Region will sponsor public discussions about development, transportation, waste management and atmosphere change. I hope Salt Spring Islanders will get involved in these discussions, will forget our separateness for a time and think about the larger neighbourhood to which we belong.

How can we contribute to its well-being so that it can continue to contribute to ours? Although we may be a rock, we are not really an island. Let's recognize our larger family and work with it in the spirit of goodwill that characterizes this, our favourite season.



Julia Atkins

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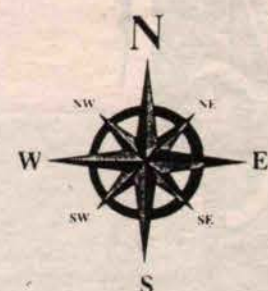
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ISLAND LIVING

New school district programs centre on individual pupils

In thinking of a message for the New Year from your school district I feel that one has to reflect on the achievements of the last year which are the stepping stones to the future.

By CHARLES BAZZARD, Chair
School District 64 Board

The major change in education brought about by the Sullivan Royal Commission and the beginnings of the implementation of the Year 2000 has brought a far greater focus on the individual student.

This has been reflected by our school district which has implemented and continued a number of initiatives that encourage individual students to flourish to the best of their abilities.

These initiatives included implementation of the primary program in the elementary schools for grades Kindergarten to three, introduction of the Phoenix alternate program, alternate graduation programs for Salt Spring and Pender Island, the GIPSY alternate program, establishment of the elementary counselling program, peer counselling, extension of the Quest program and reorganization of the Grade 8 program at Gulf Islands Secondary School to provide a smoother transition into the high school.



Charles Bazzard

Those of you who have been into the schools for open houses, art displays, music, dance and theatre performance will know that fine arts are thriving in our district.

In sports our high school has shown significant achievement in basketball, cross country running and wrestling. All of these and many

other activities have continued despite some \$400,000 in budget cut-backs. For this we are proud of all our school employees, students, parents and community members who have pulled together to help provide the best education possible.

1991 has been a very busy year with the planning of the new high school and we look forward to construction starting in 1992. We have many challenges to meet in designing programs for the new school which must be vibrant and pertinent to the students' career needs for the next century.

We are optimistic that the new government will reconsider the funding implications for our school district, which has unusual expenses associated with its dispersed nature with nine schools on five islands.

Our school district continues to be among the fastest growing districts in the province. This rapid growth has put immense pressure on staff operating in inadequate facilities. However, with the construction of the new high school we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help in 1991 and look forward to even greater achievements in 1992.

With best wishes for a happy and successful new year to all.

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**From all of us
To all of you**

*Happy
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