

# High Tides

ISSUE 20

Denman island

APRIL 1984

## OIL SLICK HITS BEACHES

by Paul Bailey

Sections of Denman's foreshore along Lambert Channel were coated with oil late last month. Moderate SE winds and a flooding tide carried the oil mass (believed to be diesel), onto beaches along Seaview Land Estates.

The source of the oil was not identified. Since it was blown north up the Channel it is thought to have originated further south in the Strait. A spokesperson at the Ministry of Transportation's Ferries Division said that the oil did not come from the Hornby ferry.

Al Youds, an owner of waterfront property on East Road, first noticed the oil slick because of its smell.

"When we arrived home at about 3:30 p.m. we noticed a strong diesel odour com-

ing from the beach. There was an oil slick extending about 300 ft. out from shore and about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the north and south. It appeared to go right down to the Hornby ferry dock."

He and Island Trustee Glen Snook walked the beach but found no evidence of oil at the ferry landing.

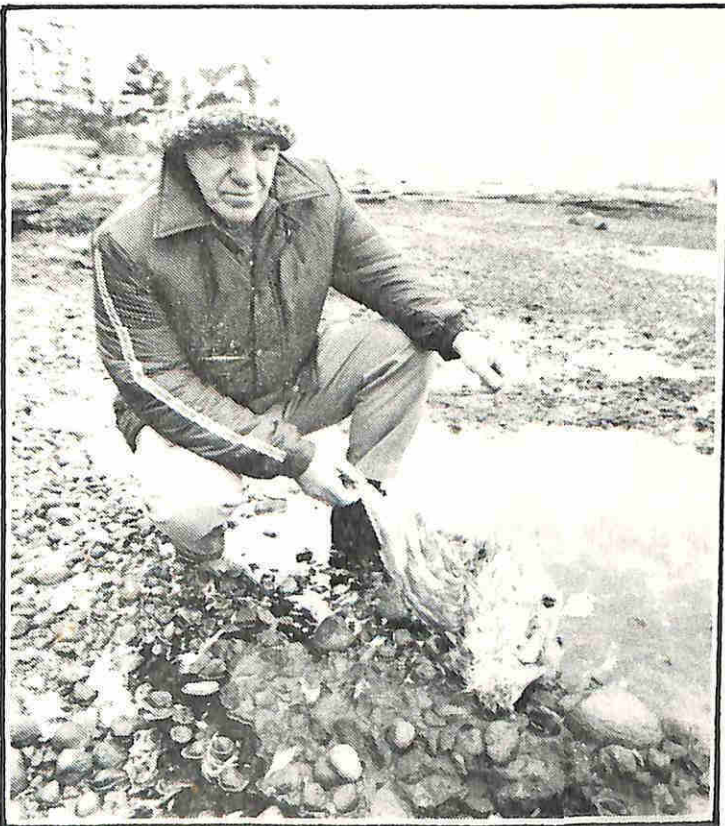
"I phoned Comox Fisheries," added Al, "They told me to phone Environment Canada's Pollution Control office in Vancouver. A lady there said they couldn't do anything about it and that I should phone Nanaimo."

Youds next contacted the Coast Guard office in Nanaimo. He was told that there was no way to mop up the slick when it was floating on the water. The Coast Guard stated that they wouldn't be able to come to Denman to view the oil deposits along the beach until the following week.

By the next day, a strong SE wind had broken the slick into three 100 ft. wide sections and dispersed it north towards Comox.

Ray Sjolund of Federal Fisheries and Oceans arrived to view the slick, collect samples of the oil and to assess the impact. He commented that Federal Fisheries was concerned about the recent herring spawn since inter-tidal spawning was very sensitive to foreign substances.

Although Sjolund would not comment on Ministry of Environment's speculation that the diesel oil would not have a detrimental affect on clams and oysters, he advised residents not to eat any seafood taken from the east coast of Denman.



## letters to the editor.....

WATERSHED PROTECTION - THE PROVINCIAL VIEW-POINT

by Brad Stormwell, Land Steward

As a member of the Denman Island Committee for community plan and zoning bylaw revision, in regards to watersheds and water resources, I forwarded a suggestion to committee that an attempt be made to acquire the provincial viewpoint on this matter.

Directly, on February 6 1984, a letter was sent to the Planning Section head for the Ministry of Municipal affairs, advising the ministry that Denman Island was concerned about watershed protection and wanted the viewpoint of the provincial government on this matter.

Four specific watershed protection measures were mentioned in particular, they being: a) Designating certain areas specifically as "Watershed" b) Prohibiting activities of intense or dense nature c) Requiring extended setbacks and prohibiting vegetation removal d) Downzoning watershed lands to lot sizes of 25 acres or greater.

A response was received by myself, dated March 5 1984, a response which has been described as a "first", "significant," and "fairly specific" by our Islands Trust staff in Victoria. It seems that, up until this letter, the standard response of the provincial administration was to duck the issue.

A general approach to evaluating watershed management has been put forward, by the Provincial administration in a four part format as follows in brief: a) examine the relative importance of different present and potential sources of contaminants. b) examine what can be done about them c) examine the relative importance of the consequences of all uses d) examine the effectiveness of management techniques relative to the cost of implementation.

The provincial position also responded specifically to the four manage-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CON'T

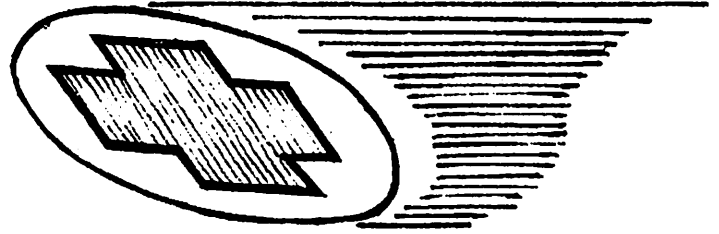
ment proposals made in our letter to them, as follows, in brief: a) designation of "watershed zones" be done "in consultation with the Ministries of Health and Environment," in regards to determination of contamination sources, "their relative significance and manageability." b) "Prohibition" of intense or dense land uses be determined on basis of "effectiveness." c) Extended "setbacks have limited use," and may be "irrelevant" in that sewage disposal setbacks are predetermined by Ministry of Health. "Setbacks may also be counter-productive" if they "result in the clearing of vegetation and increased risk of erosion and sedimentation". "Vegetation control is very difficult to enforce." d) The "value" of "large parcel zoning" "depends on the nature of the problem" and is to be used only when approach effective.

A general qualification is made at the end of the position statement allowing that each watershed has a different character, and may require a site specific response, as watershed management is a "complex issue"

The letter ends with the advise that "application of policy will be left to the Islands Trust and its staff."

Well there we have it, a provincial stand on the issue, the first time ever on record and produced in response to our concerns right here on Denman Island. Given the deadlock on the issue of watershed protection in the rest of the province, it may well be that the provincial government is hoping that the process here on Denman Island, if it goes forward in an approach effective manner, may help to evolve a province wide approach.

Anyone wishing to examine this first time ever position paper in full, will find a copy posted on the Denman Island bulletin board.

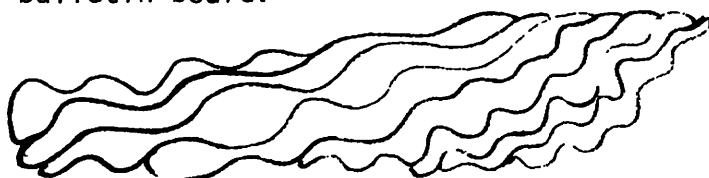


RESCUE 53 UPDATE

The Rescue Unit members have just finished taking (or updating) an extensive Industrial First Aid course. With the completion of this course each member's qualifications match those of the Provincial Ambulance Service. Many thanks to the Provincial Ambulance Service for paying for this course. (\$250.00/member)

We are hoping to offer the E.M.A.I. Emergency Medical Assistants Course to interested members of the community as soon as it can be arranged. This may not be possible to do until early fall. However if you feel you may be interested or want more information, please contact Marsha Petty Johnson at 335-0193. The course will consist of ten consecutive Sundays of eight hours each.

Please make note of the new ambulance emergency number, 338-7471. This number and this number only will get in touch with Rescue 53.



**Denman Store and Cafe**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
 Mon.-Sat. 8:30 - 6:30  
 (Cafe 8:30 - 6:00)  
 Sundays & Holidays 10:00 - 2:00

# Fire Department News

by Tom Babb

The annual general meeting was held on January 19. New officers elected are as follows: Chief, Marcus Isbister; Deputy, Bruce Cryer; Captain of Auxiliaries, Roger Smith; Training Officer, Bob Ostertag; Secretary, Tom Babb.

The Department has responded to two major calls in the past weeks, one at the Emporium, which was controlled after extensive damage had occurred, and to a car fire on East Road.

This year's operating budget, including operation of the rescue vehicle is slightly less than last year's.

We'd like to congratulate islanders on what appears to be a heightened awareness of chimney safety. We have only had one chimney fire call in the past year.

New membership, either as full members or auxiliaries are welcomed. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact any of the officers.

## PRESS RELEASE

Ms. Information sees a need on Denman Island for a column that will help the confused, guide the perplexed, and soothe the bewildered. There has been an obvious need for this type of calm, reasoned, and clear-headed counsel. Now that we have a monthly newspaper, you no longer have to be alone with your problems, hopes, fears, or general confusion. Write to Ms. Information with total confidence. Your anonymity will be scrupulously observed. Ms. Information cares about you and is very experienced in matters of good taste and morality. She wants to see you all become real people.

Write to Ms. Information c/o General Delivery, Denman Island, B.C. VOR 1T0.

Happy 90th Birthday  
Steve Veness!

## spring into summer with **SOMMER GARDEN SERVICE**

335-0134

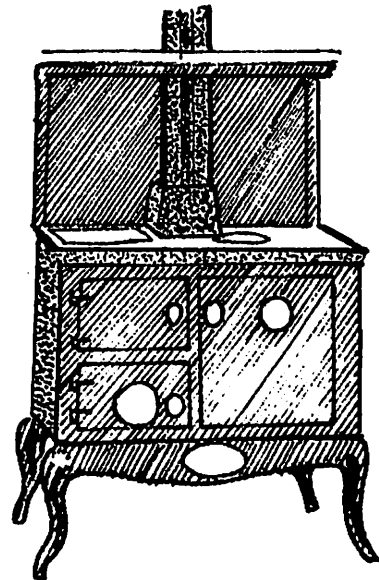
- \*POSTHOLE DIGGING
- \*ROTORATING (TRACTOR MOUNTED)
- \*LIGHT GRADING WORK

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# DIRCS data

by Joanne Hurtig

DIRCS has made application for a Summer Canada Grant again this year so if we get approval we will again be offering a Day Camp Program this summer. We hope to be able to hire 5 qualified students. Two supervisors will start the first week in June and three counsellors will start the first week in July. If you are a student or know of a student that enjoys and has experience working with groups of children, they should register with the Manpower office in Courtenay now so that they will be referred to us once the grant is approved. We prefer to hire local people (Denman Island) but, because of the nature of the program, we are obligated to consider the most qualified people from throughout the Comox-Courtenay area.

We now have a new rental contract along with a rental policy statement that will be used for all activities taking place at the Hall. Amongst the details regarding heat, kitchen, clean-up, keys, etc., please note that chairs are stored on trolleys under the stage and must be replaced there, and tables are to be stacked neatly at the back of the new extension in the main hall after use. We require a liquor licence for all events involving the serving of alcohol. Also, if minors are in attendance, alcohol must be confined to a room where minors are not admitted. A damage deposit has always been a part of the DIRCS rental contract. We have tried to be flexible about insisting on it but, with equipment not being replaced, heat being left on etc., etc., we find it necessary to be firm about a damage deposit for all rentals. There will now be charges for not replacing equipment in its proper storage area, for incomplete clean-up, if heat is left on or if keys are not returned promptly. Our only other choice would be to substantially increase rental fees so that we can cover extra costs. We are trying to avoid taking that step so,

please, co-operate and be considerate of the next group wishing to use the Hall.

Pub-Nite has been moved to April 20th so we could accomodate "Wall Street" on March 23rd. We will go ahead with Pub-Nite only if we get a few more volunteers to help out with putting it on. So, if you can put in some time and energy, please get in touch with Jayne-Ann (5-0778) or myself (5-2194).

## UP-COMING EVENTS:

April 19th - "Le Ratatouille", a return engagement, 6:30 p.m., front hall - mime theatre, clowns.

\* April 20th - Pub Nite

\* April 21st/22nd - Talent Show

\* These two events will take place only if we can get help putting them on.

## DENMAN - HORNBY

### REAL ESTATE

**Ronald Grant, LLB**

**"the island realtor"**

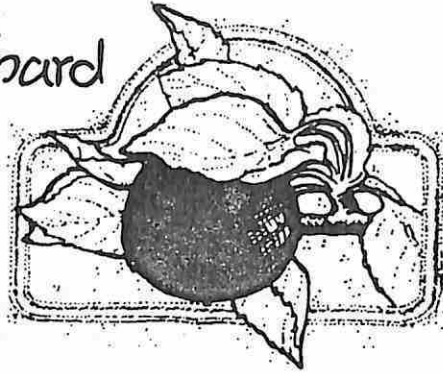
HORNBY ISLAND

RESIDENCE 335-2171

BLOCK BROS.

OFFICE 334-3111

# Apple Island Orchard



Co-operative

## AEROBIC COMPOSTING

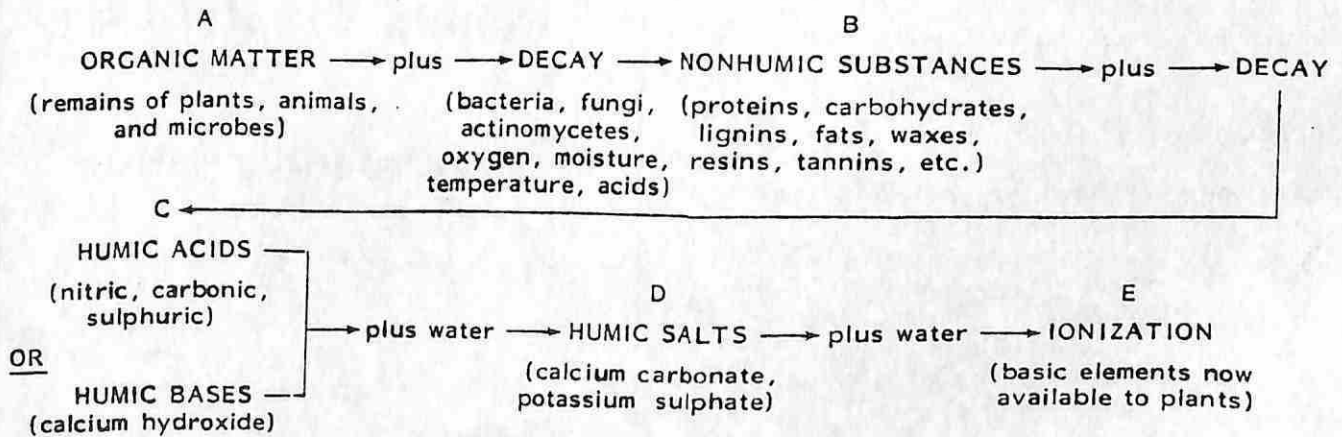
by Harlene Holm

### WHY COMPOST?

Compost is not merely an alternative to chemical fertilizers for it does far more than supply nutrients to growing plants. It contributes to the over all well being of both the plant and the soil. Completed compost stores nutrients and energy in the form of macronutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium; micro-nutrients: calcium and iron; and trace elements: magnesium, manganese, copper, zinc and boron. Unlike chemical fertilizers, these nutrients are not easily leached and are totally usable to plants as nutrient forms already selected by plants whose products have made up the compost pile. Compost does this and much more. It helps moderate soil temperature, enhances the ability of soil to retain water, aerates the soil, binds soils to prevent erosion and improves soil texture and tilth. Compost helps earth absorb and store heat and moderates soil temperature (a plants water absorption ability is negatively affected by temperature extremes). Compost adds humus which increases the potential for deep root penetration and for firm anchorage. Humus increases the water storage capacity of soil and in turn the availability of water increases the plants' nutrient uptake. Compost promotes soil aeration and aerated soil absorbs water readily and water use by plants is enhanced. Overall, the addition of compost conditions the soil by improving soil texture and tilth. Plant health is improved because soil microorganism which capture and bind impurities become more active in the presence of an abundance of organic matter. And finally, soil is less prone to erosion which might otherwise occur with repeated tillage. Compost used as a mulch discourages weeds, moderates soil temperature and enhances the water permeability of the soil.

Diagram — Organic Soil Cycle

Tilth, Arriington, WA



Stages A and B to C are basically biological. Energy, water, and carbon dioxide are the other by-products. Oxygen is critical, as are proper moisture and temperature. Without oxygen putrefication rather than decay occurs.

Stages C and D to E are basically chemical. Humic salts are the source of nearly all plant nitrogen and sulphur, plus about 1/3 of all phosphorus.

During various stages, decomposing organic matter retains soil moisture, improves tilth and texture of soil, aerates soil, and acts as a colloid.

HOW?

A heap, a pit, a variety of enclosure bins can all shape tomorrow's compost. Decomposers, the organisms that work within the compost, require a carbon source and a nitrogen source with a ratio of from 15:1 to 30:1 (most household wastes contain this ratio). Moisture is also necessary but not so much that the aerobic (oxygen using) microorganisms are drowned or the nutrients are lost through leaching. Frequent turning of the pile increases the oxygen availability and covering in very wet weather will prevent drowning and leaching. The materials in a compost pile should be as damp as a wrung out sponge. If the pile is too dry, add water.

Apple Island Co-op's preference in compost design is piles. These are created from alternating layers of high carbon products, such as sawdust, and thin layers of nitrogen rich substances, such as manure, feathers or fish. A pile must be a minimum of three cubic feet to create sufficient heat. Ideally the base should be at least 4-5 feet square rising 4 feet. Generally, the pile is carefully constructed to allow air and moisture so that turning is unnecessary for the first few weeks. When the pile's temperature drops it should be turned. It can never quite be made inside out to form a perfect shape but close is good enough. We usually turn the piles as often as there is an intense heat build up after turning.

A signal that composting is underway is the heat energy produced by micro-organism populations. Early decay should produce a temperature range between 77-86 degrees (25-30 degrees C). Heat loving bacteria take over next as the temperature rises as high as 112-150 degrees (45-65 degrees C). At these high temperatures there may be more than 10 billion microorganisms per gram of compost. If you do not have a handy temperature gauge, insert an iron pipe into the centre of the pile. If after 10 minutes the pipe is too hot to touch, the pile is well on its way. The compost is ready to use when the temperature within the pile drops to that of the surrounding air. To assure proper aeration and total composting the pile should be turned at least three times - moving its outside in and its top, down. Turning is usually done when the temperature is reduced and should create a reheating of the pile.

If the compost does not 'work', hay, green grass, or manure added, with a complete turning, often sets things right. Be sure that the pile is not a water logged mass (the likelihood of which increases with small or easily compacted materials) and that it is not too dry, particularly when hot manures are used, to avoid an overheating that destroys all nutrients.

We have composted a wide range of materials from whole fish to a mix of cedar sawdust and small chips. Wood chips and hay stalks do not entirely break down in the composting process. This does not seem important because the larger particles help aerate and condition the soil. What matters is that what looks like composted wood chips has the sweet smell of greenhouse soil.

Winter compost works more slowly and, depending on its heat and moisture content, should be turned three to four times at three week intervals. This nicely converts fall leavings to spring use. A summer compost heats more rapidly and may need turning and watering as often as every three days.

If weather and life generally prevents you from turning a compost on schedule, the composting process may become anaerobic as oxygen is depleted or excess moisture fills the oxygen pockets. Anaerobic decomposition is slower, cooler and creates a most unsoil-like smell but it is non-the-less a composting process. So relax and when you can, turn the pile and the aerobic process will begin again.

## Potato Points

by Marcus

Spring is getting closer and people are getting interested in gardens so here are a few notes for persons thinking about potatoes.

For early potato fans the earliest in my experience has been the Warba a white potato with pink eyes. The Early Rose (Red) is an older breed but also very good for home gardens. Early Epicure and Fundy are also early but I am not too familiar with them.

Mid season I recommend Kennebec or Morland. Late or Winter keepers are Netted Gem, Russet Burbank or Nooksack in this area they do well in the order listed.

Potatoes require open friable soil free from lumps and reasonably well drained; very wet soil is not preferred. The ground should be cultivated and loosened deeply and compaction avoided.

The seed pieces are normally planted about 4-6" deep and fertilizer placed two inches below and two inches to each side of row. A 4-10-10 fertilizer is the recommended proportion for potatoes in this area. Well rotted manure will help loosen the soil and feed the soil bacteria needed for plant growth. Too much nitrogen, i.e., seaweed, green manure will create large top growth and slow down maturity and potato size plus danger of scab on potato skin.

A hint for those who want an early start. Work up the ground well mixing in the well rooted manure, leave dry a day and work it up again. Avoid walking on seed bed and place the early seed pieces just into the surface, place fertilizer as stated earlier and cover seed by raking up loose soil from either or both sides to a depth of 3-4 inches of cover. As the plants grow continue to hill up the soil so the growing potatoes are covered and don't sunburn.

For my early crop I usually place seed fourteen inches apart and at least forty inches between rows so I can hill easily. After the early potatoes are out work up the ground again refertilize and use for cabbage, cauliflower, brussel sprouts whatever. (Happy potato eating.) I am always ready to answer any questions you may have. Good luck.

P.S. Fertilizer rate 7-10# per 100' of row for a guide using your own judgement on top or bottom amount as per your soil.

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### INTER ISLAND ALLIANCE UPDATE.

by Hamish Tait

A brief meeting of some of the Directors was held on Hornby on 2nd and 3rd of March 1984.

Unfortunately our chosen name "Friends of the Islands Society" was not accepted by the Registrar of Companies, and reluctantly we had to settle for the cumbersome title "West Coast Islands Stewardship & Conservancy Society of British Columbia."

From a wide ranging discussion, certain policies emerged. These policies will be placed before a full and formal meeting of the Board and delegates to be held early in May on Saltspring Island.

A scale of membership fees was adopted, an ordinary membership being set at \$5 annually. It was agreed that no more than 25% of membership fees could be used for administrative purposes.

Ron Pither of Mayne Island joined us on the second day filled with enthusiasm from his discussion with a number of fund raising organisations in Los Angeles and San Francisco. It was agreed that he and Bob Nixon would come up with a small folder outlining the aims of the Society, with a tear-off portion for membership application.

We will keep you informed on future developments.

# Denman Island

## Peace Group

by Marsha Woodburn

Firstly, a big thank-you to everyone who helped make 'The Crustaceans' Coffee House such a success. The band had such a wonderful time, they want to come back! So sometime this summer we should be having the pleasure of their company again. But between now and then, there is lots on the agenda:

The PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN is underway. Although we have not yet begun the major task of canvassing door to door, several people are already circulating the official petition here on Denman Island. Several of us will be attending a planning meeting with the Comox Valley Nuclear Responsibility Group to brainstorm our strategy for canvassing the major towns in our area: Fanny Bay, Union Bay, Royston, Cumberland, Courtenay & Comox. David Jackman from Victoria will be there to instruct us in canvassing procedures, which we'll then pass on to others who will be canvassing with us. Lots of volunteers are going to be needed, so if you can spare some time to help with this most important project, please call either Patti Willis 5-0351, or Jean Allan 5-0386.

'CONSCIENCE CANADA' is the new name for the Peace Tax Fund and is now registered under the Societies Act. As Canadians we can refuse to contribute to nuclear annihilation; we can choose to suffocate the arms race by diverting money which helps fuel it to life - not death. Conscientious objection to military service has been recognized in Canada for over 200 years; this then is its logical extension, for we are now guaranteed 'freedom of conscience' under the Charter of Rights. This year 12.2% of your tax dollar goes towards National Defense, for a grand total of 12 billion dollars! For details of how to support Conscience Canada - and anyone who files a tax return can participate; you don't even have to have a taxable income - call Jean Allan or write directly to: Conscience Canada Incorporated, Peace Tax Fund Committee, 225-835 Humboldt St. Victoria, B.C. V8V 2M4

ARMED FORCES DAY is on Saturday, April 14. CFB Comox will be hosting an 'open house' and staging its annual air show, and we think this would be a good opportunity to begin to educate the public to look at an alternative focus for the base. One idea that has been suggested is that of a Conflict Resolution Centre for the study of peace and disarmament issues. We haven't yet finalized our plans for the day, but if you would like more information and/or would like to participate, please call one of us. Any ideas would be much appreciated.

The MEARES ISLAND EASTER FESTIVAL, in which we have been invited to participate, will be held the weekend of April 20-22 in Tofino. The main purpose of this 'ecological symposium' will be to promote awareness of the proposed logging of Meares Island and other endangered west coast rainforest areas. The weekend will feature Martita Goshen, an internationally famous dancer from New York, and Hilary Stewart, an anthropologist and author. There will be performances, workshops, music, films, lectures, children's activities, native people's displays, and a boat parade to Meares Island on Easter Sunday. Be prepared to camp and bring your small boat if you have one. VIND (Vancouver Island Nuclear Disarmament) coalition, of which we are a member, has been asked to bring an information booth - so if you are planning to go and would be willing to spend a couple of hours helping to staff the booth, your energy would be most welcome. Call Marsha 5-2437 for further information. Sounds like a great time!

The 1984 WALK FOR PEACE will take place in Vancouver on Saturday, April 28 and the Peace Group will once again be making arrangements for transportation. We have already booked one bus, with a seating capacity of 45, and we'll consider renting an additional bus if numbers warrant. The cost of a seat will be \$20.00; since our funds this year are limited, if you can't go but would like to participate - please consider sponsoring someone else to go. Buy your

## Pre-school Teacher

Blackberry Lane Pre-school is accepting applications for a full time teacher for the '84 - '85 school year.

Anyone interested, please call Bev Meyer, hiring committee co-ordinator, 335-0132.

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### WINTER ACONITE

by Holly Smith

Winter aconite, more formally known as eranthis, is a small, hardy, early-flowering perennial tuber. Eranthis belongs to the Buttercup Family and its yellow flowers and leaves bear a strong likeness to the common buttercup.

There are two varieties of eranthis. One, *Eranthis sibiricas*, grows to 3-4 inches in height; the other, *Eranthis hyemalis* to 6-8 inches in height. I've only seen and grown the smaller type.

The tubers, which are quite tiny, are usually planted in the fall. I've transplanted them in the spring after they've finished flowering and they've done fine then as well. According to A.R. Willis in "The Pacific Gardener", eranthis likes a friable loam with a pH of 6.0. Eranthis is also supposed to benefit from half shade, but it's grown well for me in full sun where it flowered even before my snowdrops.

Although eranthis can be increased easily, it does not have the invading habit of the common buttercup. It can be propagated by division of the clumps of tubers or by allowing it to self-sow.

### D.I.G.S. MEETING

Monday, April 30th  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
at Joan Vinnedge's

### DESPAIR AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 7 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Pot-luck lunch Minimum donation \$5.00  
Facilitators: Sally Gose & Shannon  
Horsfield of Greater Victoria Disarmament Coalition.

Do you find yourself bursting into tears in the middle of the 6 o'clock news? Wondering if you'll live to harvest the garden you're preparing to plant? Then this is the workshop for you?

Bev and I did a similar workshop in Vancouver last fall, and we both found it very useful for dealing with the feelings of fear and depression that often overwhelm us. Political work, especially, is psychologically demanding, and our busy schedules often don't provide the time and space for us to deal adequately with the powerful emotions it produces. The workshops focus is on 'empowerment' and is designed to give us ways of working with our despair so that we are strengthened to be more effective in our work.

by Marsha Woodburn

### SENIORS AND MUSEUM SOCIETY NEWS by D.C. Kirk

Plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the official opening of the new Seniors hall have finally jelled after some delays.

The date will be April 29th at 1:30. There will be a program of music and comedy as well as speeches by island residents and visiting dignitaries. Everyone is welcome.

# DRAWBRIDGE CRITICISM UNFOUNDED

by Paul Bailey

Since its inception 10 years ago, the Islands Trust has been criticized and abused by some land developers and political opponents for too rigidly abiding by its mandate to preserve and protect the natural and rural environment of the 13 Gulf and Strait of Georgia islands.

Island Trustees throughout the Trust area have been accused of keeping the islands to themselves, of trying to prevent others from settling within the communities, of attempting to establish a closed door policy that would repulse land developments. These accusations have been euphemistically labelled "the drawbridge effect."

Despite such criticism, the islands of the Trust area have not experienced a reduced flow of population growth, of urban influence, of residential development enterprises. On the contrary, since 1976 all of the islands have shown one of the highest population growth rates in B.C.

During the last decade, the Islands Trust has attempted to encourage an orderly and appropriate rate of growth through resident participation in the formulation of community plans and land use by-laws. It has established a regional plan of general policies by which the Trust has tried to convince other Government agencies and Ministries to work cooperatively in preserving the rural beauty of the islands.

As an outcome of these policies and of Islands Trust lobbying with provincial Ministries, the Trust has been seen as being a rigid enforcer of a "freeze" on development. Shortages of small lots have been reported and blamed on the Trust. The Trust has been alleged to be committed to a "no growth" policy.

However, recent research figures released by the Trust clearly reveal a different story.

At present there are approximately 10,000 VACANT parcels of land within the Trust area. At any time many of these vacant lots are available for sale. Of these 10,000 lots, 65% are less than 2 acres in size. Over the past five years an average of 600 new lots per year were the subject of subdivision applications approved by the Trust. On Denman there are 100 lots currently being developed.

In the census period of 1976 to 1981, the Trust area population rose 34% to 12,700 while the rate of population growth for B.C. climbed by 11%. If this is an example of the drawbridge effect at work then someone's been letting the bridge down at night.

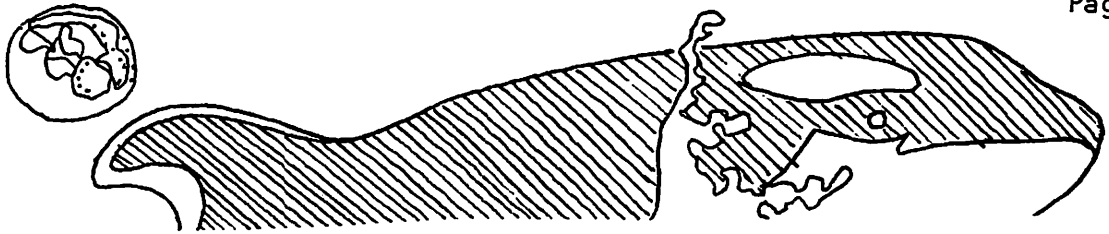
The Islands Trust policies have also been criticized for being so restrictive that ONLY THE RICH CAN AFFORD TO LIVE ON THE ISLANDS. Research shows that island property is cheaper than its urban counterpart.

The glut of lots on many islands, the limited accessibility, and the level of servicing have kept a ceiling on the realty market. Typical examples of values of non-waterfront small lots taken from the B.C. Assessment role show: Mayne Island \$22,000; Denman \$18,000; Salt Spring \$22,000; Gabriola \$17,000.



## SURFACINGS

by H. Harwood



When I first moved into my place on Hornby, I found this hung on a nail on the outhouse wall:

Words dry and riderless  
 The indefatigable hoof-taps.  
 While  
 From the bottom of the pool, fixed stars  
 Govern a life.

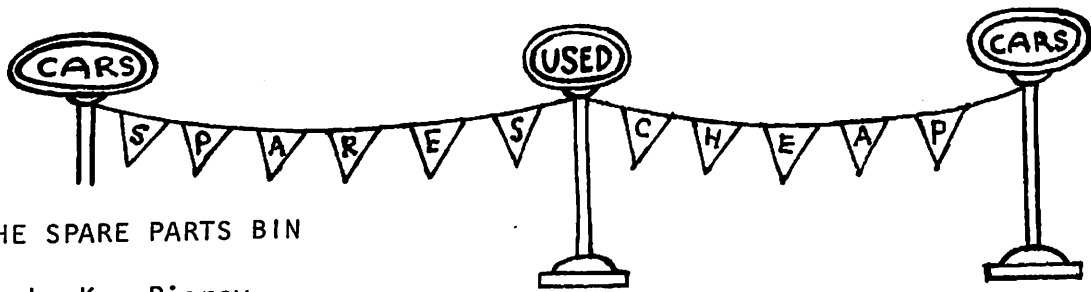
Someone'd torn it out of a book and just nailed it there.

Now it's hard to tell when the stirrings first begin. The signs aren't always that clear or definite. It's like it could be happening to you right now and you wouldn't even notice it or even think that anything out of the ordinary was happening. But it could be...it just might be...It's so hard to tell, and be sure about it, because you're not sure what to look for; and if you are, you're not sure where to look. It could be looking at you right now and you might not even see it. Most of the time we look at things and don't even see them. We just look at the outside and not the surface, and things happen on the surface. Or rather, in that space between what is the surface and what is not the surface. The rather elegant moment of surfacings. Now, that's something to learn from the sea. Those lights and darks; the ripples, the waves; the ebb and flow; the argot grammar of the rip tide. Where they begin and end? All things illuminate elements of themselves, they aren't simply reflective. The sea does not simply reflect the sky - in fact, it is more often than not the illuminator. The shiner, the glistener, the gleamer; and the sky, the heavens in their perfidy, simply throw the light back to the earth. The multiplicities is reflected in the steadfastness of the heavens. But how many times have you seen hundreds of miniature deep dwelling sharks burst into your realm of vision from the dark of the night sky? Not many, I bet. Not many. But they're there, in the dark of the sea, ready to have us beat at them in utter horror with our oars or gumboots. It's that clear, in this regard.

Even ordinary things, like the palms of our hands. The moon. The light and the dark side. The Sea of Tranquility. These are easy to see. But if you look hard or long, or easier and as quickly as possible; you may catch a glimpse of deeper surfacings. The coils and spirals, the woofs and weaves, the interconnected separatenesses of light and lack of light that simulates a memory of possibilities that have never been. That's what I get from the surfacings of the sea; reflections of the sky, surex, charts and maps and lines of navigation, and canals and islands; but also a realm of infinite possibility. A place to float.

I remember one time in Edmonton, just before I moved out here, I was reading a newspaper article about a young boy from just outside of Regina who'd lost both his feet just above the ankle in a train mishap. Before his accident, he'd loved to go ice skating on the local duck pond, and his neighbours, knowing this, had gotten together with the local shoemaker to devise a pair of skates he could wear attached to his stumps. I just burst into tears when I read it and I'm not usually that sentimental. The picture of that boy skating; it was so beautiful. That was the same day I visited the Doctor about my prostate.

It seems to me, the further out you go, the deeper the stars become.



## LIFE IN THE SPARE PARTS BIN

by Ken Piercy

The universities keep on cranking them out, as do layoffs within the system. Their numbers now climb into the thousands, and the prospects for even a fraction of them finding work in their chosen profession grow more remote with each falling provincial budget. Most of them have worked and studied very hard to earn their professional credentials. Most grew up believing that such personal dedication was the key to success in the work ethic society. Today, in spite of the excellence reflected on their polished resumé's, in spite of their enthusiasm for their work, in spite of their willingness to relocate to remote areas, most of these newly unemployed teachers have found the doors to a career in education in B.C. firmly shut and bolted. Different individuals have invested differing degrees of personal commitment to the profession of teaching. While for some, teaching may primarily represent a means to earn a living, many others develop a strong personal identity as educators; their self-definition and, consequently, their sense of self-worth are heavily dependent upon the extent to which they are involved in their chosen field. Not surprisingly, then, some unemployed teachers have a lot more difficulty than others adjusting to the reality of not teaching, particularly inexperienced teachers who have never had a real opportunity to put their professional skills to the test. The inexperienced teacher may find him/herself looking for personal deficiencies to explain his/her state of unemployment within the school system: "Maybe I'm not good enough as a teacher, as a worker, as a human being? Maybe that's why I can't get a job." And because of the lack of concrete work experience to disprove such fears, all too often the individual involved ends up having these negative self-images reinforced. What is, perhaps, most unfortunate about this situation is the undeniable reality that the lower a person's self-esteem falls, the less likely become the possibilities for favorably impressing a potential employer.

When General Motors manufactures a line of automobiles, they also manufacture a large number of spare parts to keep on hand should any of the parts originally built into these cars prove deficient in some way. Spare parts are manufactured at the same time, on the same assembly line, and to the same exacting standards as the parts originally built into the new cars. The fact that they are stored away as spares does nothing to make the quality of their construction compare unfavorably with those parts put to immediate use. It is not pleasant to be in the "spare parts bin" of the education system, especially when an inside look at the system reveals how strained and overtaxed the "working parts" are. It is difficult to keep from wondering how there can be so many unemployed educators when the need for greater understanding and knowledge, particularly with regard to young people, is so desperately obvious. When considering their "spare parts" status, however, it is important that out-of-work teachers not blame themselves for their failure to be integrated within the system. While such a "failure" might dampen one's enthusiasm, it is crucial that the unemployed teacher not lose sight of his/her essential worth; one needs always to bear in mind not only the value of his/her special talents and skills, but also the value of wanting to share these talents and skills with others as a teacher. These are laudable qualities. The recent attitude changes within our society which have made these

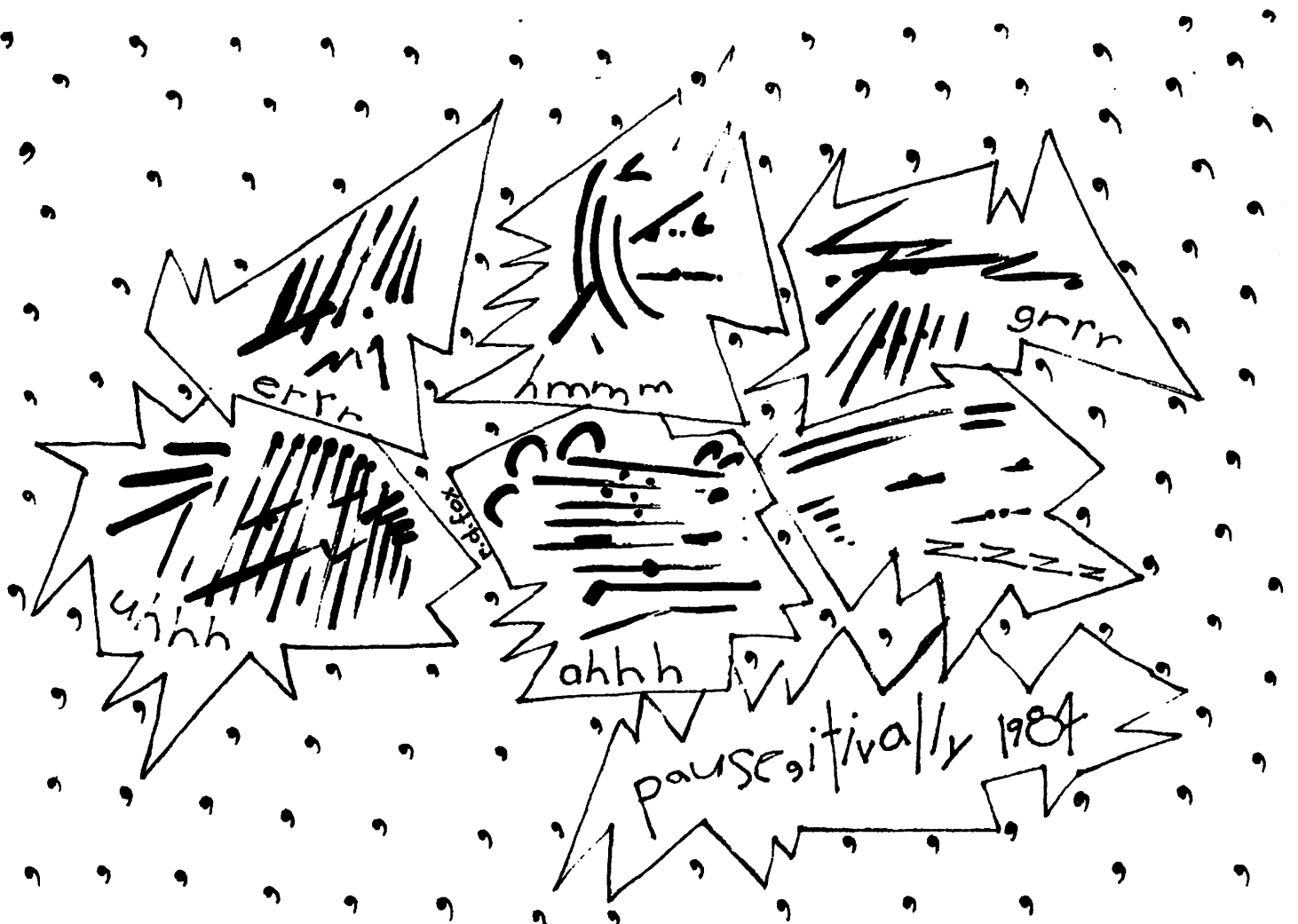
qualities less marketable can do nothing to reduce their inherent value. Life in the spare parts bin isn't a lot of fun. It carries with it many of the psychological and social characteristics associated with "being a failure." But possessing these characteristics under the social/political circumstances we, as unemployed teachers, currently face, should not be mistaken as meaning we have somehow failed. While we may not find ourselves actively working within the mechanism of the school system, even as "spare parts," our quality as educators is not in question - the unemployed teacher is not on trial; judgment will be passed, rather, on the wisdom of policies which would rather let an overburdened, metal-fatigued machine burn itself out than let the mechanism be improved and strengthened through the use of the vast reserve of "spare parts" now on hand. As a society we must do better than to run our education system like a fly-by-night used car dealership.

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Drawbridge Criticism Con't

Glen Snook, Denman Trustee, sums up the reality of the pacing of Islands Trust development policies:

"It is our obligation to work on the mandate that we have. Our goal is to maintain the rural nature of the islands, but to offer access to all. This is not an exclusive little club here, and there is no desire to close the door to anybody."



Peace Group con't

Cont'd from P.9

tickets as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the work of the planning committee and to be assured of a seat. Tickets will be available from Bev 5-0132 Joanne 5-2194, Marsha 5-2437, and Ray 5-0108. As in previous years, we will leave on the 6:45 a.m. ferry and return in time for the 10:00 p.m. ferry. This year's Walk for Peace will feature, as guest speakers, Joanne Woodward and Walter Gordon, and there will also be workshops on Sunday, April 29 for anyone interested in staying in town.

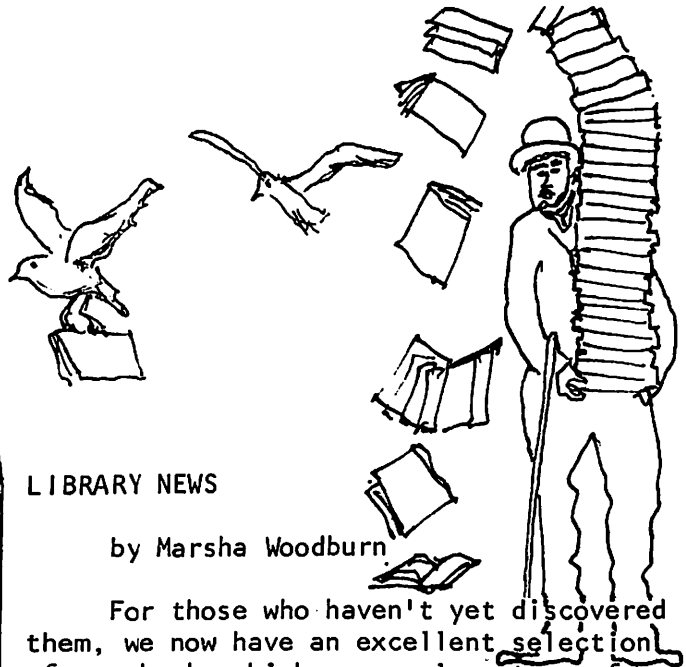
And last but not least - some food for thought contributed by Ray Lipovsky:

"And bliss is the goal. Forget the word 'peace'; become more concentrated on bliss. Peace is a negative goal. It is always good to work for something positive; it comes easier. It is as if you are sitting in the darkness and you start fighting with darkness. That is negative and you will not win; one cannot defeat darkness. It is better to search for a candle rather than fighting with the darkness. If the candle is there, the darkness will go on its own. You just have to bring in a lamp, a candle - light. Search for light.

Peace is a negative thing: it simply wants tension not to be there. Bliss is a positive goal; not that tension should not be there but that joy should be there. And remember, when joy comes, peace comes automatically, as a shadow. Peace is the shadow of joy and you cannot seek the shadow directly. You can invite me to your home. My shadow will come, but you cannot invite my shadow. You can go on inviting; my shadow cannot come.

So remember, never make peace your goal; that is a wrong goal. You are not asking for something positive. Ask for something positive: bliss, joy - and peace comes on its own."

Bhagwan shree Rajneesh



## LIBRARY NEWS

by Marsha Woodburn

For those who haven't yet discovered them, we now have an excellent selection of new books which are on loan to us from the Women's Services Society in Courtenay. Do take advantage while they're here, because we don't know just how long we'll be able to keep them. The Gardening Club is also listing their books which are available on private loan from members, and they have established a 'seed exchange' in the library - bring in your extras and try out some new varieties!

Regretfully the library committee has decided to put a lock on the door, because we feel the 'open door' policy has been abused. People - both kids and adults - have been using the library during dances, hockey nights and other events, and leaving a big mess for someone else to clean up. Also the heat has been found left on several times; since DIRCS gives us use of the library space rent-free as a community service, it is hardly fair that they should have to pay the extra cost of someone's thoughtlessness. Anyone or group wishing to use the library for a meeting or activity is most welcome to do so, but please call Jayne-Anne 5-0778 to make a booking and tidy up when you leave.

Do drop in during library hours, which are from 10 a.m. to noon every weekday morning. If we had more volunteer librarians, we could be open more often. Call Marsha 5-2437 if you'd like to help, or if you have any questions. And thanks to everyone who's helped to make the library the pleasant space that it is.\*

<p><u>LET IT BEE HONEY</u> Fireweed 1 kg, 3 kg, 15 kg, \$4.00 \$11.00 \$47.50 Leslie or David 335-0114</p>	<p>Does your water stink? Taste foul? If so, we suggest the Bon Del Water Purifier For further information call: Hamish Tait 335-2640</p>
<p><u>ISLAND PLUMBING &amp; HEATING</u> Box 19, Denman Island, Guaranteed Installation, Repairs &amp; Service by Licenced Journeyman with 14 years experience</p>	<p><u>Almeda the Mill</u> comes to your logs  Custom cutting &amp; light skidding Tim Wees 335-0719</p>
<p><u>John Isbister Backhoe Service</u>  335-2565</p>	<p><u>Deadeye Photography</u> *portraits *darkroom instruction *historic photos reproduced *framing  Paul Bailey 335-2774</p>
<p><u>Roger Smith Construction</u> Hourly or contract rates Lot 4 MacFarlane Rd. (Corner of Keith Wagner Way) 335-0435</p>	<p><u>Denman Propane Sales</u>  1 km north of store on Northwest Rd. Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:30 - 4:30 Sat. 9:30 - 12:30 335-0250</p>
<p><u>Cut Above Construction</u> Foundations to furniture  Doc Saunders 335-2408</p>	<p><u>PLUMBING &amp; CARPENTRY</u> New construction, renovations or repairs  Lloyd Strong 335-0785</p>
<p><u>DENMAN-HORNBY REAL ESTATE</u> J. Ronald Grant L.L.B. "The Island Realtor" Hornby Island Res. 335-2171 Block Ros. Ofc. 334-3111</p>	<p><u>UPHOLSTERY</u> Complete furniture service, all styles. Re- covering, custom frames, re-building, re- styling as well as auto, truck &amp; boat seats. Bob French 335-2461</p>
<p><u>Bill Johnson Log &amp; Custom Carpentry</u>  Contract or hourly  335-0193</p>	<p><u>J. MATHER TRUCKING</u>  READY-MIX CONCRETE *sand *gravel *drain rock, etc. 335-0243</p>
<p><u>North Island Drywall</u>  Complete drywall services  Richard McGuigan 335-2659</p>	<p><u>The Cedar Ship</u> *bathroom and kitchen fixtures in cedar, oak or teak *rocking horses *wood turnery products 335-2415</p>
<p><u>Sally Campbell</u>  Barrister, Solicitor &amp; Notary Public Northwest Rd. 335-0491</p>	<p><u>CARPET, LINOLEUM, AND HARDWOOD</u>  Flooring installations Paul Scanlon 335-0577</p>
<p><u>PIPPIN RIDGE ORCHARD</u>  1 year old apple trees \$8.50 each Grafted on M26 rootstock 335-2659</p>	<p><u>TIP TOP TYPING</u> Professional typing Trade or cash Wendi 335-0189</p>
<p><u>FABBI DRY WALL</u> Boarding, T-Bar Ceilings, Taping Steel Studs, Painting Lorri Fabbi 335-0978</p>	<p><u>MAJIC MACHINE WORKS</u>  335-0364 Ron Peers</p>

Cont'd from P. 20

The thing that comes through to me is the unbelievable single mindedness of the German structure. At a time when they were being beaten back on both Western and Eastern fronts, when every piece of rolling stock was needed to supply their hard pressed services, that they should divert such huge numbers of rail cars, locomotives and support material to the transportation of millions of Jews, gypsies and assorted Slavic people for slaughter. It is true that as time went on they recruited substantial numbers of women into the S.S. to do the job. Even if we ignore, which God forbid, the humanitarian aspect, it was just plain stupid. Unbelievably this process went on right up to within hours of the signing of the armistice. An additional tragedy is that the West sat back while the Russians enthusiastically carried on where the Germans left off. Russia had somehow to dispose of vast numbers of Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians who thought that with peace, they would be free. Their slaughter continued well into the late forties.

I commend this book. For me, it is the story of a very brave man who inspired many others to bravery, but even more importantly, it tells us something about ourselves and our society. With distressing frequency I find myself exposed to the ravings of the extreme right and the whinings of the extreme left. They have much in common - petulance and thinly disguised coercion. God knows we have much to correct in our society - we also have much to be thankful for, as this book so clearly demonstrates. Sadly our culture seems to be shaped by slogans and the historical illiteracy of the bumper sticker. Maybe it is the prerogative of the victims to forgive, the obligation of the unaffected to rationalize, but to forget is to seek accommodation with the forces of evil and darkness.

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## DENMAN ISLAND TRIVIA

History: Who was Denman of Denman Island?

Geography: What was the original name of Denman Point?

Sports & Leisure: What is the distance of the Denman Island run?

Science & Nature: What is the name of the unit measuring the level of poison in red-tide shellfish?

Arts & Literature: What is the temperature of "cone six?"

Entertainment: What is the name of the internationally famous singer who spends her summers on Denman Island?

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### LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA ANSWERS

History: 1957

Geography: Graham Lake

Sports & Leisure: John McKinney

Science & Nature: Capelin

Arts & Literature: 1975

Entertainment: Manfrog

# Trust Account

by Harlene Holm

Please plan to attend the following meeting: April 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. TOPIC - Residential Development; Where Are We Going?

We are revising the Residential Development portion of the Community Plan. To do so, we must have a measure of Community response to the following questions:

Are current zoning and subdivision bylaws adequate? too lax? too restrictive?

Times are tough. Why shouldn't we be able to establish second residences for rental incomes or friends, or subdivide our land to help pay off the mortgage, or establish an intensive commercial or industrial use if it means an income?

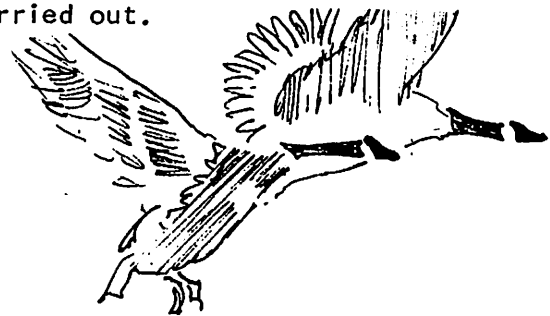
The Community Plan "is founded upon a realization that Denman Island is limited in size, fragile in ecology and aesthetically pleasing as a rural environment." This statement was written in the 1978 Plan. Should it be the basis for the 1984 revised Community Plan? If this remains the basis, what does it mean to the community? to planning? to ourselves as individuals? Are we willing to guide our own activities to achieve and uphold community values as set out in the Community Plan and reflected in our Bylaws? Or, if we want freedom to act according to our individual needs and goals, are we willing to grant that same freedom to everyone?

To evaluate the residential development portion of the bylaw and the overriding philosophy of the Community Plan, we need substantial community input. The April 17th meeting is critical - don't leave it for others to decide, you may not be able to live with the decision.

Other meetings to keep in mind are: the A.P.C./Local Trustees monthly meeting on April 19th and the upcoming Denman Trust Committee meeting on April 27th.

The meeting time will be announced in the Notice of Public Hearing.

The Zoning Bylaw will be taken to Public Hearing on April 27, 1984. Several of the changes recommended by the initial Public Hearing (such as those regarding camping) were considered "substantive" by the Trust lawyer. When there is sufficient change in the intent of the bylaw, an additional Public Hearing is necessary. For the public, it is an excellent opportunity to make certain that changes supported by the first Public Hearing have been carried out.



## TRENT RIVER GARDEN CENTRE

9' Silver Variegated Maples \$15.95

9' Purple Leaf Shubert Cherry \$21.95

Hazelnut Trees from \$ 8.95  
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10% Discount on 20 plants

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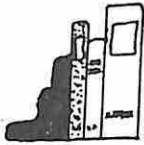
75 Varieties of Perennials  
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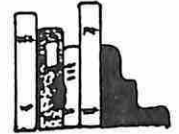
Reemay Blanket

Seedmeal

Rock phosphate



# THE BOOK SHELF



by Hamish Tait

Schindler's Ark. Thomas Keneally. Coronet About \$7.50

This book may not yet be available in Canada - my copy came from Britain, and after passing it around I will try to put it in our Denman Library.

This is a magnificent and terrible book, which richly deserves the Booker Prize it won in 1983. I confess that I had not heard of Thomas Keneally, though he has written several prior books - perhaps because he is a U.K. writer, he isn't too well known or reviewed on this continent, but, he deserves to be.

This is a true story written as a novel, based on the testimonies of many of the survivors of the Nazi occupation of Poland and the remaining written records of the Gestapo and the S.S. German records are a model of meticulousness, many of them blood-chilling in their bureaucratic ruthlessness. In short, there can be no doubt of the ghastly authenticity of this work.

In the shadow of Auschwitz, a flamboyant German industrialist became a living legend to the Jews of Cracow. To some he was a womanizer, heavy drinker and bon vivant, but to them he was a saviour. Oscar Schindler, the man who, to protect the beleaguered Jews in Nazi occupied Poland, risked his life, and withstood repeated interrogations by the Gestapo. He continually defied the S.S., cultivated friends in high places, became an agent of Canaris' Abwehr, a conduit for money to bribe and corrupt S.S. officials in his efforts to save as many Jews as possible from the gas chambers and crematoria of Auschwitz and other death factories. He was revolted by the horrors committed by his fellow countrymen and became a compassionate angel of mercy.

Given the scale of the holocaust, his efforts look pitifully small - some three or four thousand lives saved out of millions. That is not the point. What is very much to the point is that this was the only known attempt made by a German to try to rescue fellow human beings from the slaughter. What he achieved was at terrifying personal risk and at the expenditure of a vast amount of his own money. There were many acts of heroism on the part of the Dutch, Danes and Swedes, but Schindler was a German acting against his own country. The popular myth that the average German citizen didn't know what was going on has been exploded. Quite aside from the fact that cattle cars with their human freight passed through many German cities from all over Europe, there was the vast civilian bureaucracy set up just to handle the process - the clerks, dispatchers, switchmen, engineers, brakemen - all of whom knew something evil was going on. Some of the trains stood in sidings for days within sight and sound of travellers and commuters. It's asking too much to expect that these people should have risen up in wrath. The machine was too powerful for that, but what is depressing is that where there should have been a surge of collective guilt, we hear "It was all a great mistake."

Schindler's second astounding feat was the removal of his factory and the thousands of his charges from Cracow to Austria. It had become apparent in 1944 that the Russian advance into Poland was producing civilian slaughter on a scale to rival the Germans. The latent anti-Semitism of the Russians took the form of butchering the concentration camp inmates left behind by the Germans. Realizing this, Schindler, with astounding audacity pulled strings, and using his own funds, bribed officials in Berlin to arrange the transfer of the entire factory, including both personnel and heavy machinery to a safe area in Austria.