

BARKLEY SOUNDER

A Coastal Journal Originating in Bamfield

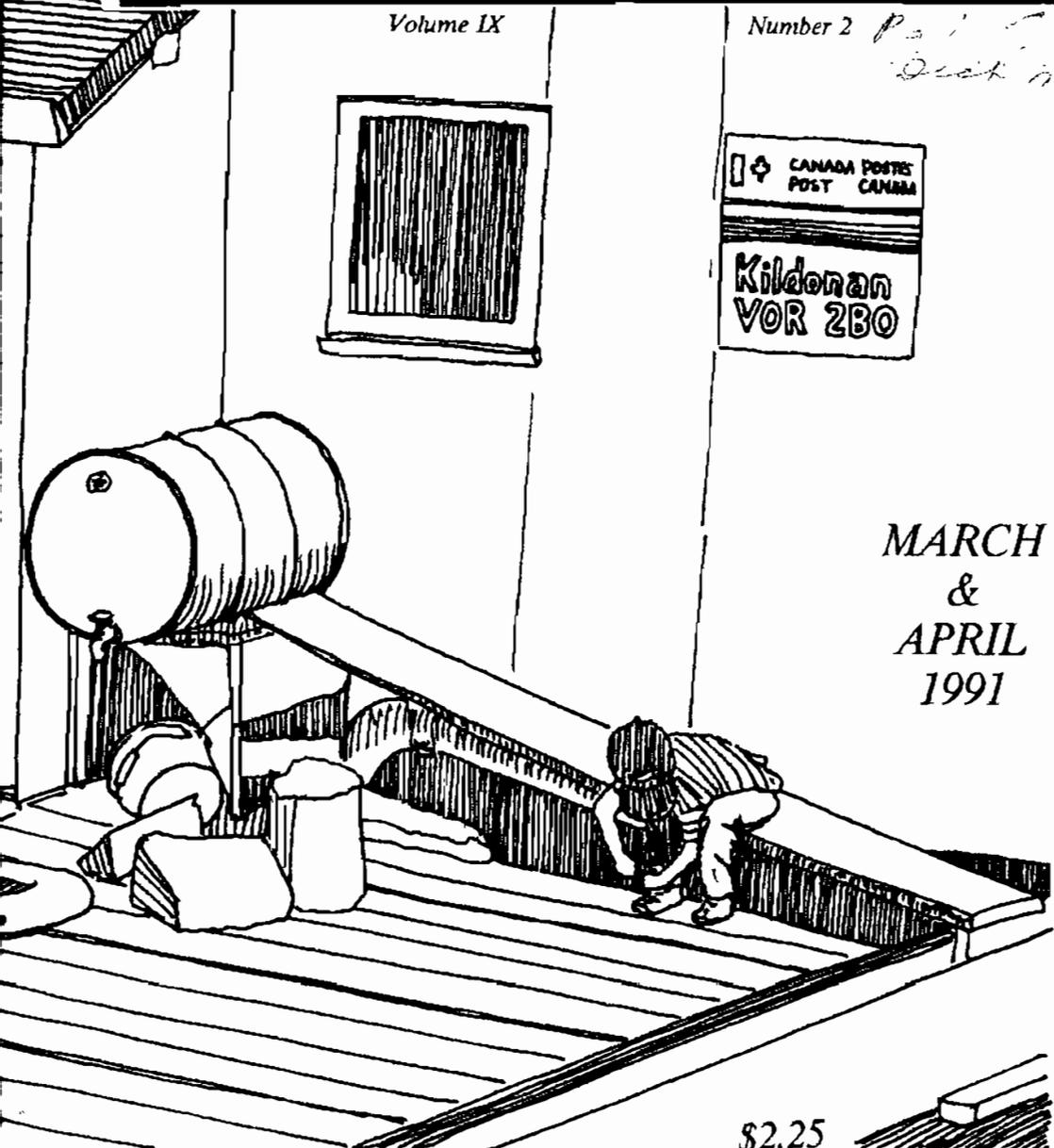
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MARCH
&
APRIL
1991



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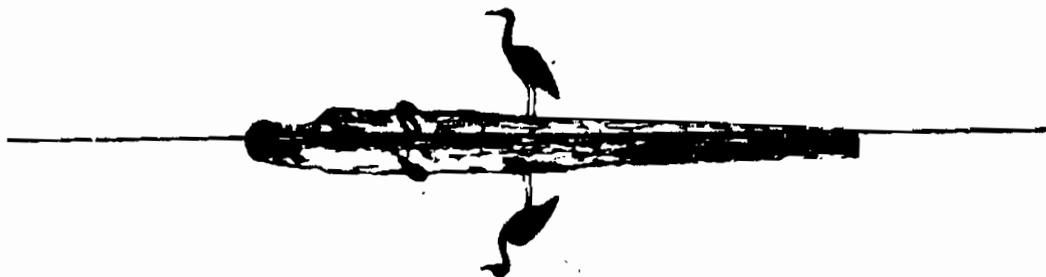
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THE MASTHEAD

by

Jeanne Ferris, editor

We splash into Spring with a hefty issue this April of 1991. Walter Hegstrom's unexpected passing, the departure of Rev. Mary and Harry Steele, the first Community Affairs Meeting in a year, Earth Day, controversy over the Bamfield Divider—who needs rumour and innuendo, we have the facts.

Our cover artist this April is Rose Jay. Her drawing is of the dock in Kildonan, a busy place back in the thirties and forties when the salmon were so plentiful you could almost walk across Barkley Sound. Now the settlement is even smaller than Bamfield. Kildonan is still a frequent stop for the **Lady Rose**, on her way down the Alberni Canal to Bamfield, and big enough to have its own postal code. I think the little girl is jiggling for pile perch between the boards. And it's not mail day--no dogs on the dock. Thank you, Rose, for a beautiful cover.

Remember that **EARTH DAY** is on Saturday, April 20 this year. Several people from the

Marine Station are organizing a beach clean-up. I'm sure they will appreciate all the help they can get. That very same day in Port Alberni three of our talented local artists: Linda Haylock, Rose Jay and Anne Stewart, will be exhibiting their works at the Silkwood Studio in Port Alberni.

My sympathies to Babe and all the Hegstrom clan on the passing of Walter. He and I would often pass one another on our bicycles on those two big hills going out of town. Usually Walter would be walking down the hill and I would be walking up (hey, it's still exercise). He had a 10-speed and was very interested in the 8 extra gears on my mountain/trail bike. I extolled the virtues of my 18-speed, especially on hills. The next thing I knew, Walter had a mountain bike of his own, delivered to the East Dock by the **Lady Rose**. I wonder if the bike shop owners knew their latest 'biker' was a frisky 72.

I will miss Harry and Mary, and their dog Judy too, as will many others. They turned the Bamfield United Church into a going concern, and brightened the Bamfield Marine Station too, where they appeared on a regular basis to complete courses with North Island College.

Spring is here, most days, and I'm getting the urge to go gardening. The yellow of the daffodils is inspiring at this time of year. Even the weeds look so fresh and healthy; I can't bear to pull them up. I think I'll just move the weedy things out of my greenhouse and to another part of the yard. Any plant

that helps to hold the soil on my hills can't be all bad.



BARKLEY SOUNDER

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WALTER HEGSTROM

by
Ebba Jennings

The community, together with relatives and out-of-town visitors who once called Bamfield home, gathered on Easter Sunday at the Bamfield United Church to hear the message of Easter by Rev. Mary Steele. She and her husband, Harry, left this community Easter Monday for their long drive home to New Brunswick.

At the conclusion of the Easter service Ray Getsman and his crew from the Coastal Mission conducted a brief memorial service for Walter Hegstrom.

The community was stunned by the sudden passing, shortly after an ambulance trip to the Port Alberni hospital and a sudden massive stroke. That his illness was so brief we are thankful, but sad that he did not quite make a 75th birthday celebration in mid-April. Many of us shared in his and Babe's 50th Wedding Anniversary in June of 1990.

Walter was born in Ontario. His mother passed away when he was a small child. His father moved from place to place in the

States and Finland and eventually to the Fraser River that led them on to Bamfield in the early thirties.

They built a home in Bamfield South, the first in that area. They had a cow and sold milk. I can recall as a small child some sort of a picnic celebration where a picture was taken. Walter attended school here--he was the senior, I was the little one. There was a fire and I believe the house burned in most part. The wild roses at the property edge planted in those years are still the same today.

We often talked about the time the harbour froze right to the head, and also Grappler creek, but neither of us could ever remember the year. I do remember we only had half a day at school. A navy ship broke the ice in the main harbour and a Japanese troller with boards tied around the bow and water line came out of Grappler, picked us up at the Cable Station float and took us across to the school float for afternoon classes.

After Babe and Walter were married they went off to fish Kyuquot and returned in the fall. They lived for a number of years in a little house called "Nil Desperandum" [never say die]. It had been a float house and was pulled ashore where there is now a strip of

pavement, between my fenced garden and where Carl lives. The apple tree in Carl's yard is no doubt from an apple core tossed out Walter and Babe's window. While they were in this home David and Harold were born. With the passing of time Walter built their current home, where Darlene was the baby. Some of the lumber came from dismantling the "barracks" built for the soldiers who guarded the Cable Station during the war.

After fishing season, Walter got a job as patrol man on the Pachena and Beale Trails. This eventually became a full-time job. During the winter he had a second helper, good friend Ray Skognian. They had an area to patrol, cutting brush on either side and clearing away trees, more often huge than small, that fell across the trail, sometimes taking the phone lines with them. There were patrol cabins where they could overnight.

Progress called for the telegraph wires on the Lifesaving Trail to be abandoned, as was the upkeep of the cabins. Should there be a mariner who made it ashore, they were no longer deemed essential. The new idea was that with modern communications, the boats could send out a Mayday and be

rescued before having to attempt to make it ashore and utilize the basics of the stocked cabins.

Unfortunately, times change and the Trail began to be the thing to do. People began to vandalize the Trail and the cabins as they passed through. Sometimes they broke railings on the bridges and Walter would do his best to repair the damage. Time passed and Parks Canada took over and new ideas grew.

"Keep the trail at a minimum, there is no need for wide swaths to be cut on either side of the footpath". How often have I heard Walter lament this lack of understanding. The bush would bend over in the winter and sunlight couldn't dry the earth. The rain would turn the footpath to a running river in places. Then the "corduroy" bridges were replaced by nice, smooth lumber planks. On these leaves would gather and, with the elements, become slippery. Mind you, when you slipped and fell the landing was smoother on the backside.

There came a time when people objected to the trail man on his motorbike with axes, power saw, shovels, gas and etc., moving from section to section. The bridges were replaced with approaches

unsuitable for a bike and his necessary tools were lugged on his back. He mentioned also how by the grace of God he saw a rope stretched across the path and managed to stop the bike in time. He simply shook his head at what people would do--why were they out here, he would wonder.

Often times he and Ray set forth with a kerosene lantern, reached the place they stopped the night before, worked there for the daylight hours and returned home by lantern. This was a bit different from the youth group hired more recently to do a similar job. If it rained, they stayed in their bunks, and they looked for "travel time" pay to and from.

Walter often paused en route home at Camp Ross and became acquainted with all who passed through their hands. It was evident at the Memorial service as each one spoke a few words of remembrance. He often wondered, as did many of us, what became of the girl who was trying to live off the land in her bare feet, or the ones who thought the seals ate their dog as they camped on the beach. And then there was the time when just utensils and clothing were found--did they just leave and walk out, or was there a mishap.

Walter missed the Trail work when he retired, but years of using a chain saw had caught up with his hands. For a period of time he cut the grass after Camp Ross was demolished and helped the girls at the Information booth, giving experienced advice to those setting forth down the Trail. He felt the loss of Noreen, one of the Park girls who passed away in her young years from a brain tumour. They had spent many quiet hours talking.

He often sat in our store, resting from his bicycle ride down and discussing what he saw as the downfall of the care of the Trail. We shall miss these chats that included a changing community. Perhaps he realized, although we didn't, that his time of living was coming to a close. He had done what he could, now it was up to another.

I felt privileged to be with family members for the half of his ashes that were committed at Conard Creek, some being earlier committed into the waters of the harbour from the Coast Guard Vessel 104.

As we walked the Trail later Easter Sunday we wondered how many times he had walked it. We crossed over what was called the trestle bridge of my childhood and I

was appalled at the neglect on part of the Trail. Some of the side boards to prevent you from slipping into the canyon were broken. Water had washed away much of the path at the far end, making it a gooey mess of clay and dangerous as well. One looked up to see a large clump of alders with undermined roots, ready to come down and rip away the upper bank and perhaps the bridge!

Alas the loss of a man on the Trail for the winter. A few years back this would not have been. However, the view at the crest of the hill was the same as ever--the wide expanse of the bay through the trees and the gentle roll of the breakers. The serenity of Nature unchanged.

Down the hill we came to an old Patrol cabin. It looked not too bad from a distance but a closer look showed a vandalized shell. I thought back to childhood and remembered the lineman who once had his "shack" there and the swings he had up on a branch for kids to swing from after walking miles with their parents to visit from Bamfield.

We crossed onto the bridge spanning Conard Creek and stood in silence as the waters rippled gently among the boulders. How

many times had this bridge been torn loose when the creek raged out to sea. I thought of our Easter message and the stone that Mary Steele referred to, and a hymn from Sunday School days.

"Little drops of water,
little grains of sand,
make the mighty ocean
and the wondrous land."

We who live here are part of the sea and of the land. As David committed his father's ashes to swirl out in that gentle current into that mighty ocean it seemed only fitting to toss a sprig of salmonberry blossoms, bloom that heralds the budding of life come Spring. I watched as it eddied and swirled among the stones, perhaps it would be caught against a mud bank, hold and grow anew. We too live, and bloom, and then go to that other shore--that other life.

The hands that once played the accordion for community dances were no longer so nimble, but the memory remains. Somewhere out in our vast world there will be those who remember the man on the bike with Stormy, his shepherd dog, riding in front, giving the appearance of a large dog driving the motorbike. They rushed to get their cameras. The chosen memories of the "Camp Ross Kids", as

he called them, brought a ray of light and laughter to the solemn occasion.

Yes, we too shall miss the old timer who just simply went his quiet way. With deepest sympathy to his wife Babe, son David and Lorraine and grandchildren Leanne and Niel, son Harold and daughter Darlene and grandchildren Jennifer and Chris.

JOHN GISBORNE

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Bamfield Weather

by
Peter Janitis

Sorry there is no punch line this time. Obviously too, it is a great relief to most **Sounder** readers that our storyteller Bill finally resigned. So, only the weather for the last two months.

HIGH POINTS

The high points of February and March 1991 are as follows:

Temperatures:

Highs. Our February high of 16.5 C was on the 27th. In March, the high was 15.5 C on March 17.

Lows. We had -0.5 C on February 24. And in March the low was -3.0 C on March 5.

Precipitation:

In February, 14.02 inches. Had to go down south for that.

In March, 5.85 inches. Also in March, one inch of snow, on March 4.

The month of March, which normally indicates the start of Spring, was actually colder than February. The average temperature in March this year was 5.65 C, while in February the average was 7.25 C.

Total rainfall so far for 1991 is 33.01 inches. As against 41.85 inches a year ago at this time.



To:
The Community of Bamfield
from
William J. Mather, President
Bamfield Chamber of Commerce

It has been a long time since the Chamber of Commerce has addressed you, the people of Bamfield, to publicly inform you of what the Chamber is doing. Allow me to share with you what we the Chamber are trying to accomplish.

CENTENNIAL PARK

As of our last meeting, the Annual General meeting, the chamber is prioritizing the joint effort between the Park Commission and ourselves to have in place the facilities building required by this summer. Chamber members have pledged labour, money and materials in order that this project may proceed. With the prospect of having a building that can house an information booth, the Chamber itself is now able to use the approximately \$1,800 the Provincial Government donated for that use. All going well the building will be completed for Canada Day festivities.

BROCHURES

The Chamber of Commerce brochures "**Bamfield, Adventures to Remember**" are about to go out to pertinent information bureaus and to the advertising business mailing lists. Compliments were received at a meeting of tourist associations in Port Alberni recognizing the Bamfield brochure as being one of the best brochures printed in B.C. Congratulations to Marian Stokes and Leigh Buchanan for a job very well done!! The Chamber is considering having the map portion of the brochure printed in a black and white handout for the local businesses to be able to distribute to tourists requiring a guide or map.

DUMP SITE

During a meeting with Mr. John Reynolds (the former Minister of the Environment) discussion ensued regarding the plight of Bamfield's garbage. Mr. Reynolds indicated the government would be receptive to Bamfield having its own garbage dump, depending on the area, length of life span (not a long term dump, the government would like to see, by the year 2000, a Van Isle central area utilizing recycling, etc). The location of a dump seemed relatively simple until we actually started to do the leg

work. After driving the better part of an afternoon, there appeared to be no suitable site within a feasible distance of our town. Several sites explored were all ruled out because of the apparent possibility of leachate. If there are any sites known that have a gravel bed, within a bowl, but not near a pond or stream, please advise the Chamber and we will look into it. The engineering studies required to license a disposal site can be funded through the Ministry of the Environment. There is a more economical and less labour intensive way for garbage disposal, we only have to identify it.

CONNECT BY ROAD

The Chamber of Commerce endorsed by majority the Road Committee's effort to physically unite Bamfield with a connector road. This endorsement was not given without just reason. It is the opinion of the majority of the Chamber members that this project must proceed to its successful completion. It is a fact that the majority of the full time residents are in favour of the Connector Project. These are the year round residents that support all of the volunteer organizations that make up our community. The west side con-

connector has been a heated topic, dividing the community, since May 31, 1964. It has repeatedly, in each decade since, been paramount in the community politics. In 1964 the community wanted a total road link but was denied by government because of funding restrictions. It is now, that Bamfield has to move ahead, united and decisive. United, Bamfield will dictate exactly what it wants, and will get what it wants. Divided we will get what someone else feels we need.

What is so unique about Bamfield? Could it be that we are a small town bordered by Tree Farm Licence (TFL), a Federal Park and the Pacific Ocean? Is it the boardwalk? Or Port Desire or Bradys Beach or South Bamfield or Anacla or the Marine Station? Just what is it that is so unique about BAMFIELD? Maybe it is the fishing, whale watching or the sea lions. No I don't believe any of these things are what makes Bamfield unique. Ucluelet and Tofino are both bounded by the same borders (TFL, Parks and Ocean). They both have all the qualities that Bamfield has (beaches, trails, whales, fishing, forests and the like). What they don't have is our size of town. Both are larger, both are too big to know everyone. Bamfield is

unique because of the PEOPLE. People are the question here. Must the majority of the people do without the access needed because of the life style of a few. It has been the experience of the community that the issue over the years has not been put to rest. The only way to put it to rest and to get on with being a united community is to work together for a common solution beneficial to all.



WOODWARD'S WOODWARD'S WOODWARD'S

APRIL 1991

- Spring Break sale continues to April 7
- Home Wicks Sale April 9-21
- \$1.49 Day Tues. April 23
- Senior's Day Thurs. April 25
- Spring Fashion Clearance - April 26 - May 12
- Home Sale April 30 - May 12

• **OUTDOOR GARDEN SHOP OPEN!!!**
 9:30 - 5:30 Mon. to Sat. 12 - 5 Sun.

EVENTS & DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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MAY 1991

- Mother's Day Sale May 7-12
- 20% off Fashion May 10-12
- Outdoor & Active Sale May 14-20
- \$1.49 Day Tues. May 14
- Holiday Weekend Sale May 18-19
- Victoria Day Open 9:30 to 5:30
- Baby Week Plus May 21-31
- Senior's Day Thurs. May 30
- Scratch / Saw / Cutters June 1-2

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FOURTH ANNUAL LIP SYNC CONTEST

by
Bernice Stewart

The Fourth Annual Lip Sync contest will be held on April 12 at 8:00 pm in the Firehall.

Each contestant must supply his or her own tape of the song to be performed fast forwarded to the selection.

Maximum number of performances:

2 if performed as a single

1 if performed as a group

Any person from a group can do one single performance as

well. Entry forms are available at the school.

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are not able to come the Contest will be aired live on local TV. Donations for prizes gratefully accepted.



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as meetings, bingo and etc. This would leave the main part of the Hall uncluttered for sports, playschool, fitness and etc. For dances it would afford somewhere for socializing and appeal to those who don't like being on top of loud music.

On March 12 the Hall sponsored an evening of Irish Music: 8 musicians from various parts of Canada. A pleasurable evening with 45 adults and many children in attendance. The proceeds from the \$5 adult admission charge went towards the musicians' next engagement--travel to Tofino. With two donations the proceeds were \$255.

The turnout for the St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 16 was disappointing. Only thirty tickets were sold. Bob McVie and his partner Rick did a marvellous job of entertaining, playing tapes and doing their own vocalizing. Those who attended enjoyed the evening, but no profit!

A Community Affairs Meeting was held March 22, a Court of Revision for the Water System was held March 25 and a UCW Potluck Supper was held March 27.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet making was held March 30.

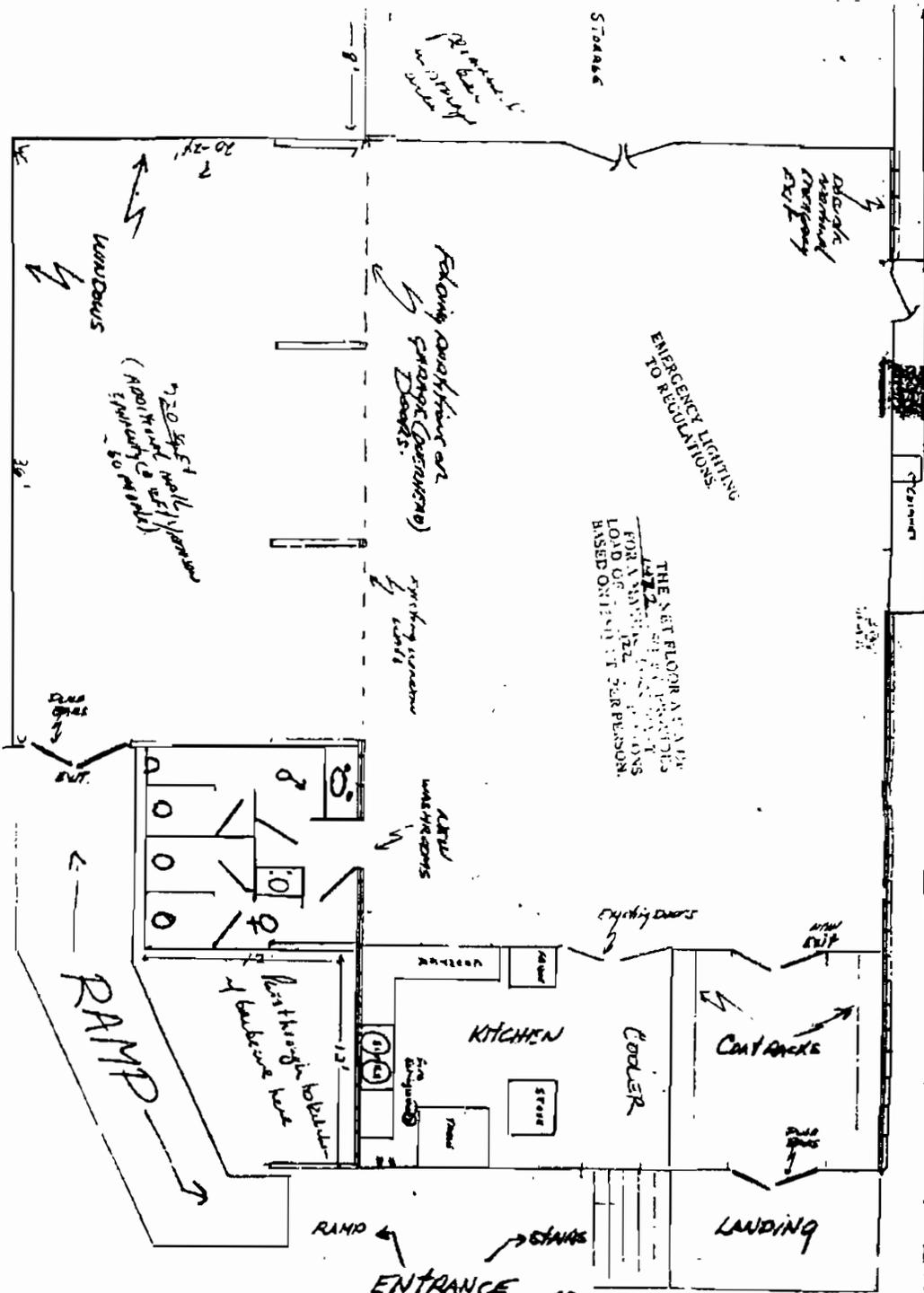
April and May

Scheduled events in April are a Parents' Advisory Team Potluck supper on April 13. A dance is scheduled for May 4.

ON THE FACING PAGE IS THE LAYOUT FOR THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY HALL EXTENSION.

THE EXTENSION FOR MORE PERMANENT SEATING (left side of drawing) WILL BE ON THE WATERFRONT SIDE OF THE HALL.

NOTE ALSO THE EXPANDED KITCHEN AND CLOAK ROOM AREAS, BOTH RAMP AND STAIRWAY ENTRANCES, AND THE NEW, LARGER WASHROOMS.



CURMUDGEON'S

CORNER

by

Al Benton

Jeanne has been kind enough to ask me if I would like to contribute a column to the **Barkley Sounder**. Although it has probably been quite a relief to many of you to be spared my maundering, I decided to give it a try.

When I first decided that I would not run for re-election to the Regional Board, Jim Ferris and I discussed the matter. I expressed a hope that he would run, so that I could then write a column criticising him. Unfortunately, this was not to be, but if I continue with this column I am sure that I will manage to find reason to take my successor to task on some issues in the best traditions of Jim's **In My Opinion**.

I have just finished going over the West Bamfield Road Access Study. It is about time that we had a study which impartially evaluates the various options and their impacts. Now the proponents of the road are able to see where the main opposition is coming from, the opponents of the road are able to further evaluate the drawbacks

and muster new and better arguments, and the large number of you who are somewhat on the fence can objectively evaluate both sides.

There are a couple of points that impress me very strongly in the study. First, it seems quite clear from an economic point of view that the ferry options--both vehicular and passenger--are not feasible. It seems most unlikely that the government would consider subsidizing operating costs of 0.2 to 0.8 million dollars annually to provide service across the inlet.

Second, I am flabbergasted by the cost projections. When I first spoke to the Highways Department staff about the road (after they had made a cursory on-site inspection) they were talking about \$350,000 for a road around the bottom of the inlet, but "considerably more" to upgrade the existing roads in West Bamfield. Now they are quoting \$4.75 million for the lowest cost road option. Can this all be attributed to government efficiency? Who knows!

On balance, I still have to support a road and/or bridge access, mainly because of my experience on the Regional Board in trying to deal with the problems of providing adequate services to a divided community, but with a couple of caveats

which I'll quote from the study (Page 73).

"We believe that with careful planning, the implementation of which is effectively controlled, the desires of the business community can be balanced with the desirability of preserving the character of the community."

"If development of this area is not carefully planned and effectively managed, it could destroy the very characteristics that it is designed to promote."

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THE GREAT WAVE

by
Harry Steele

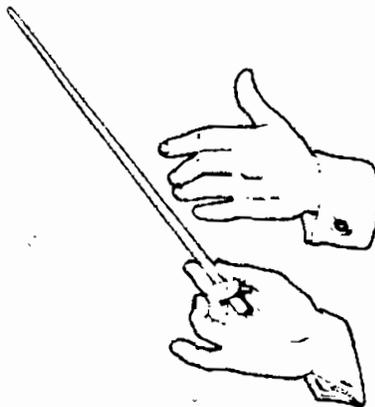
The shores of Bamfield Inlet are constantly washed by waves. Sometimes these waves are gentle caresses and at other times they are strong and violent. Last night Bamfield was subjected to a different kind of wave: a musical wave.

When I arrived at the Community Hall I found that it had been transformed. Tables and chairs had been set around the room and on each table was a lighted candle that bathed the room in a soft, gentle glow. Seated at the top of the Hall were a group of eight musicians. They had come from all parts of Canada and were on a tour of the West Coast. Included amongst their instruments were fiddles, an accordion, a concertina, drums, a flute and whistles. For three wonderful hours we were entertained with a selection of foot-tapping music from all parts of our country.

The Great Wave, for this was the name of the group, gave us an evening of unforgettable pleasure. Their music ranged from jugs and reels to unaccompanied vocals. We

do not have very much live entertainment in this part of the island and we were indeed fortunate to have such a talented group visit us.

To the group I would say a heartfelt 'Thank you, and please come again!' And to Bamfield, thank you for supporting them.



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COASTAL WATER QUALITY

by

Roberta Stevenson,
VP and CEC,
BC Shellfish Growers' Assn.

The BC Shellfish Growers' Association wishes to inform the public that they are opposed to any delays in the implementation of prevention and clean-up measures of pollution from any source in BC and the neighbouring States. In this we have much in common with the recreational public users of our coastal waters.

The culture of shellfish is likely one of the most environmentally responsible and sustainable industries in British Columbia today. There are oyster beds in the province that have been in continuous production for over forty years with no discernible effects on the surrounding ecosystem, and no reduction in their production volume. Based on the sustainable nature of the industry we expect that we will be able to provide employment and a food source for many years to come,

barring the spread of pollution.

Thus it is with frustration that we witness the rapid reduction of growing areas in BC due to pollution.

Shellfish such as clams, oysters, mussels and scallops are filter feeders, accumulating pollutants such as sewage and toxins such as dioxins by filtering contaminated organic matter from the water.

Shellfish growing beaches are unlikely sites for recreation. Usually they are a mixture of mud, gravel and rock; not the sandy, sunny areas favoured by recreational users. However, because there are some problems with access to beaches for recreational users, we have opened dialogue with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC so as to gain an understanding of the needs of the recreational user and vice versa.

In conclusion, it would seem that the public needs are in many ways aligned with those of the shellfish growers: water quality in BC that sustains safe consumption of shellfish. We urge other groups and individuals to join us in our efforts to enlighten those in power as to what BC stands to lose through continued abuse of water quality.

Together, we can achieve our goals!

A Farewell Message
from
Rev. Mary Steele

Dear Friends:

A week from now and we shall be on the road, heading back to the old farmhouse that is our home in New Brunswick. We shall be far away, but we will await reports from Bamfield with keen interest, hoping that the church is set to grow in a new and wonderful way over the next few months.

The question naturally arose, what was to happen when I had to go? Well, the Presbytery could probably send a retired Minister who would come in every two weeks, weather permitting. Something like that has been done before. Or was there another way? Some way of keeping the sense of continuity that comes with weekly services?

On the national level the church has been looking at this question of leadership. For some years now, there have simply not been enough Ministers to go around and not enough money to pay them if they were available.

In the early church, Jesus gathered a few friends around him, taught them what they needed to know, then sent them out to teach others. After Jesus' death, Paul went travelling. He would stay awhile in one place, gather a few friends and teach them enough to get started. Then he had to move on - teach somewhere else. And the little groups of friends he left behind became the "churches" of the New Testament. Corinth and Phillippi, Thessalonica and Galatia were not buildings or organisations, they were just little groups of committed people, people who had heard of the life-style of Jesus Christ and liked what they heard.

The church of today is learning something from those early times. The March Presbytery meeting of our local Comox Nanaimo Presbytery listed at least 15 little churches here on the Island without a regular Minister and with next to no prospects of being able to support one.

The training of a United Church Minister takes 7 years - the same time it takes to train a doctor, yet while everyone realises that to have medical help in a community the whole community has to pitch in and provide support, the attitude persists that while "it's nice" to have

a resident Minister, nobody has any responsibility to do anything about it. Yet, just as a doctor could not stay if there were not enough patients, so a Minister cannot stay without an active congregation.

So what do we do? There is one way, and that is the way of the early church. Last Sunday Bamfield Church stepped forward on

what I see as the way of the future for many churches when it set up a Worship Planning Committee.

When I leave on April 1st, weekly services will continue. The Committee will meet regularly to plan services, following the guidelines of a national church programme called "The Whole People of God".

This programme started in a small way 5 yrs ago. It has proved so popular that there are now Catholic as well as Protestant Guidelines, and hundreds of churches of many denominations across Canada are discovering this new/old way of organisation. The Sunday readings will be the same in all churches, building a great sense of christian community across the land. The comments, the "local input" will make it "the Church of Bamfield".

It's a great idea, and you have a committed team ready to

lead. But it needs support. The programme is called "The Whole People of God". It doesn't work in an empty church. If you can read or sing or play a guitar, come and take part. If you honestly believe you can't do anything, then do the most important thing of all, come, sit in a pew, **BE THERE**. By just **BEING THERE** you can give the support that the leaders will need. With the best will in the world, no one can lead an empty church.

Harry and I have much enjoyed our winter here. Bamfield church has the best ecumenical spirit we have ever known, Catholic, Protestant and Mormon all worship happily together - and the Sunday lunches after the service are just terrific. We shall watch with interest your progress in the next few months. You have a great opportunity here. Go for it.

God bless you all.

Larry K. Myres, C.A.

Hedden

Chong

Smith

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MARINE DEBRIS

Our extensive coastline is one of British Columbia's most cherished and valuable features. Waste plastic, glass, paper and metals become marine debris that litter our ocean and beaches. Although most modern plastics were developed less than 40 years ago, they are one of the most common forms of litter.

Plastic is strong, light, easily handled, durable and cheap to produce, making it a substitute for more traditional materials such as leather, glass and metal. Some of the more common forms of plastic debris found floating in the ocean or on beaches include styrofoam, fishing line, nylons and polyesters used in ropes, netting and clothing, fibreglass, plastic six-pack rings, and small disposable plastic items (such as cigarette lighters, flashlights, etc.). Marine birds and mammals can become entangled in plastic, or ingest floating bits of plastic, usually resulting in the death of the animal.

The very reasons that plastics are so useful to us as packing materials is what makes them so deadly in the marine environment.

- Plastic is designed to be indestructable.
- Once an animal is entangled, it is almost impossible for it to escape.
- Because most plastic does not break down, it is not digested if swallowed.
- Plastic is long lasting. Once dumped, it can stay on beaches for centuries.

What can we do to help:

- Reuse plastic containers whenever possible
- Dispose of all rubbish ashore. Even small pieces of plastic, especially floating items, can be hazards to marine life.
- If you have the option, try to avoid things packaged in plastic when possible.
- **Participate in a beach cleanup!**





BEACH CLEANUP



JOIN THE BAMFIELD MARINE STATION AT
KEEHA or PACHENA BEACH

 in honour of Earth Day 



COME RAIN...



... OR SHINE

FOR DETAILS CALL TIM RAWLINGS, NANCY SANDERS OR MARY SEWELL AT BMS: 728-3301, OR WATCH FOR POSTERS AROUND TOWN.

(IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN BAMFIELD, ORGANIZE YOUR OWN!)



21



THE AFFAIR

by
Harry C. Steele

It was raining again. I was waiting in the usual spot for her to arrive. It was always here at the same spot, she would not meet me anywhere else. Somehow I sensed that she would be late today, she was nearly always late. But she would come. I knew that. She would never let me down.

This affair with "my lady", as I called her, had been going on for a long time, and neither of us were young any longer. But I loved her. I loved the way she was, and what she meant to me, but I also knew that I could never marry her. It wasn't as if she had a husband or anything like that, she was free of any family ties, yet still we kept on meeting.

There was nearly always a gift or two for me. These I eagerly accepted, although she would not take anything from me in return. Then there was her voice. How I loved to hear the sound of her voice. Always as she approached me she would call. The sound of her low, rather husky voice would send shivers up and down my spine.

She would come today. I knew that. Even though it was raining, she would come to me and I would hear her voice again. She never stayed long, but how I treasured those few moments as we stood near each other. And then, with a final caressing word, she would slip away from me, leaving me alone once more.

Suddenly through the curtain of rain I caught a glimpse of her. She was here. At last she was here and we could spend those precious moments together again. She never rushed towards me, she would never hurry. Her movements were slow and regal, just like royalty, or so I thought. As she drew nearer, she spoke. I thrilled to the sound of that low, husky voice of she that I loved. Slowly, she came up beside me as a rope was thrown to the dock. The "Lady Rose" had arrived.

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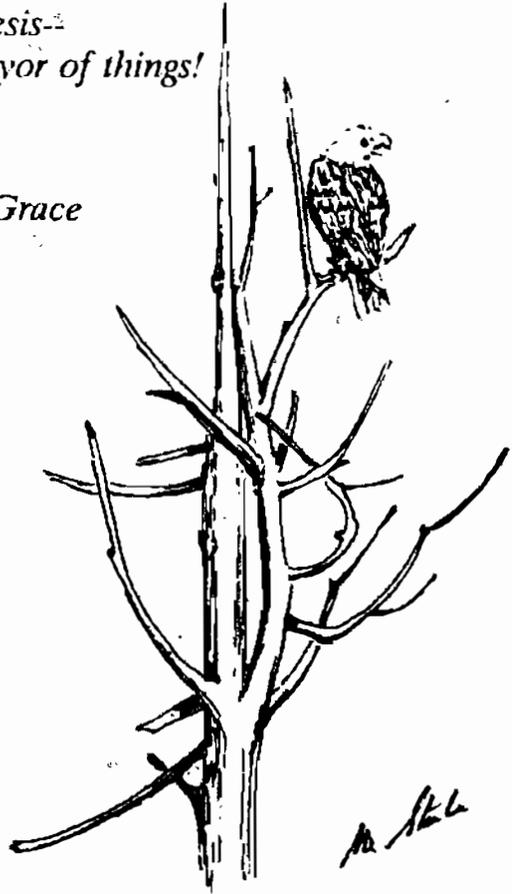
THE EAGLE

You
of the white head,
sitting in that snag
dead
of a hundred winters,
watching for the break
of a sockeye-salmon
ripe with spawn.
Talon to flesh--
paw
of three lives' destiny--
Eagle,
fish,
and tree.

O' little fish
dive deep--
from the pinioned,
white-clawed leap
from silent snag,
or fecund roe
shall feed
the gaping greed
of eaglet!

You
of the yellow eyes,
living a life
that belies
the death of freedom--
predator of skies
older than earth--
caught in time
like the beat of wings--
Eagle--
Nemesis--
Surveyor of things!

Pat Grace



Provincial Art Show
by
Dale Letourneau,
Regional Show Coordinator
Duncan, B.C.

A new and exciting challenge is being offered to visual artists. At a dozen or more regional art shows throughout the province a number of innovations, designed to further strengthen and nurture community based artists, will be initiated.

A thematic context is being introduced. This year's theme is **Creative Approaches to Community Issues.** Artists are invited to submit works which reflect what is actually going on in their own community. In this regard, these works will be connected to a noble history in art: 17th Century Dutch painting (cityscapes, interiors, meetings of town councils), and 18th Century French painting (workers working, soldiers warring, lovers boating, and cafe society).

The show challenges all artists to step outside of their norm and create more thought-provoking works. It is also intended to attract artists who may have been deterred by the entry process in former years.

So dig out your paints and brushes, and if you're going to enter the thematic section, focus on something that you know, something which has a personal meaning to you, but also something which has a social meaning for the viewer.

For more information, call:
Rollin Art Centre, Port Alberni
724-3412.

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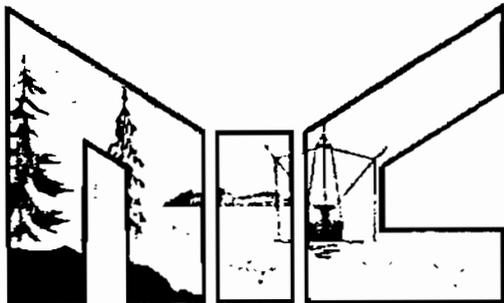
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THE COLLEGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

by
Jeanne Ferris, Tutor/advisor

Students taking North Island College courses here in Bamfield have been completing their final exams with outstanding marks in the past few months.

Congratulations to:
Loretta Amos
Hedy Demontigny
Harry Steele

for completing the coursework and final exam in the NIC computer course **Introduction to MS-DOS**.

Congratulations to:
Loretta Amos
Julie Ollis
Eileen Scott
Harry Steele
Elizabeth Spence

for completing the coursework and final exam in the NIC computer wordprocessing course **Introduction to WordPerfect**.

Congratulations to:
Rev. Mary Steele
for completing the coursework, laboratories and exams for the

entire year of university transfer Biology, NIC course **BIO 100/101**.

And finally, further congratulations to Harry Steele, who used his newly acquired computer skills to successfully complete the assignments and final exam in the NIC creative writing course **Lifewriting, ENG 097**.

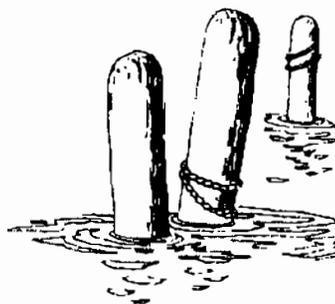
Due to increased demand, there are now two North Island College computers available for NIC students at the Bamfield Marine Station. There is also a VCR set up for students whose courses include video lectures. The Bamfield Centre will be closed for the summer from the end of June to mid-September. If you are interested in a course, let me know right away.

The next **GED** is early in June. Three people so far have expressed interest in taking this seven hour Grade 12 Equivalency exam. If you also are interested, come and get an application form from me at BMS. The fee for taking the exam is now \$26.75. Applications must be IN VICTORIA at least six weeks prior to June 7 & 8, the exam dates.

The following story was written by Harry Steele as one of his submissions for the **LIFE-WRITING** course. I hope you enjoy Harry's writing as much as I have.

another town and had been on duty for over 48 hours without a break. There were two bodies that had been dug out of the ruins of a house at the top of our road. Would I watch until the Mortuary wagon could get there to collect. The area had been roped off, and curious spectators were already gazing with a morbid interest at the two blanket-wrapped bodies on the sidewalk. That was a long wait. The wagons did not arrive until around mid-day. I stayed there until they arrived, and then went back to the remains of my home....

Watching the scenes of desolation on the television screen tonight, I can relive the anguish and sorrow that the people in the Middle East are experiencing, and I wonder at the folly of it all. Will mankind never learn.



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WEST BAMFIELD CONNECTOR STUDY PROGRESS

1. Twenty copies of report to be distributed throughout Bamfield approximately March 25.

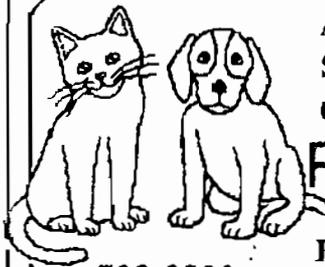
2. Regional Transportation Committee (Gillian Trumper) to meet approximately April 10 and decide what route(s) would be realistically acceptable and buildable by Ministry of Highways based on cost, environmental concerns and etc.

3. Approximately the end of April, a Bamfield public meeting to be held. Representatives of Highways, the Study Committee and the Transportation Committee will explain the study and the rationale for the selected route.

4. As soon as possible after this (May or June), a referendum will be held in Bamfield. The vote will be run by the Regional Board, ballots will be secret. Votes will go to the same voters who voted in the Regional election, within Bamfield boundaries (i.e. not Kildonan or San Mateo).

Voters will have a choice between the chosen connector route or no route at all.

5. Results will be furthered to the Ministry of Highways for eventual implementation.



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REGIONAL REPORT

by

Mike Hicks, Regional Director

The last two months have been dominated by meetings, applications and general planning in the parks, clam harvest and road maintenance of both East and West Bamfield. We have received a commitment from Highways for improved grading and maintenance. The question of a connector to West Bamfield will be finally resolved in the near future. These issues are covered in the **Souder** with the Community Affairs Meeting report.

I am delighted that Bill Mather and the Chamber of Commerce have joined forces with Eileen Scott and the Parks Commission over the building of Park facilities in Port Desire. It would seem that Bill and the Chamber will be overseeing the construction, and that this project will happen. They will need all our support, both with volunteer labour and hard cash. I understand that tax deductible receipts are involved. I hope that our community jumps into this project.

A project of some controversy is brewing in Effingham Inlet. An American company has applied

for a water lease for the purpose of building and operating a floating fishing lodge. The area comes under the Long Beach Regional area and has reached the public meeting stage, which will be held sometime this month.

Many people and groups have expressed to me their disapproval of this application. Reasons include environmental damage, potential destruction of oyster leases, pollution, and the precedent implications of allowing an American floating lodge in Effingham Inlet. I voiced these concerns at the Regional Board but was too late to have any impact on the decision.

A private petition will be circulated throughout Bamfield in the near future and will be presented at the public meeting in support of our Oyster Growers. I sincerely hope that you will give this issue some thought and, if you have grave concerns, will voice them through this petition. If you support this application, fine.

Because of my involvement with the Boeing Airlines Yacht, it has been pointed out that I may be in a conflict of interest position. I know that this is quite fashionable these days. I would like to take a

moment and explain the differences.

Boeing will be bringing their Yacht to Bamfield on August 1 and leaving approximately September 4. They are staying at my wharf and hiring Peter (Kingfisher) and Bob Baden to guide them throughout the month. The difference, of course, is that Boeing is not asking for a permanent lease in Canada and is paying for moorage and guiding. They will have no effect on the environment and will contribute considerably to our local economy. If all American yachts operated in this manner, we would

have a greater and cleaner tourist industry.

The next two months should be exciting, with the Connector meeting and hopefully the start of the Park building and Sani-dump. I look forward to seeing you all at these events.

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**MINUTES FROM THE
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
MEETING**

March 22, 1991

by

Marian Stokes, Acting Secretary

Call to order: 9:42 by Pat Garcia, acting chairperson.

Approximately 60 people attended.

Marian Stokes read the minutes of the previous meeting, April 15, 1991.

Pat Garcia requested donations for copying and postage costs. Please note that the hat will be passed at the next meeting.

**COMMUNITY GROUP
REPORTS**

RED CROSS

Liz Hicks reported the 1991 Executive:

President - Liz Hicks;

Vice-President - Pat Lindsay;

Secretary - Dorothy Robins;

Treasurer - Erma Cashin;

Staff Co-ordinator - Sheila Chambers;

Campaign Director - Ebba Jennings;

Blood Donor Co-ordinator - Pat Garcia.

The Regional Red Cross raffle for a Ford Explorer will be drawn March 23. The February 20 Pot Luck for the victims of the Gulf War was very successful raising \$480. The next event is the Strawberry Tea to be held in June. The annual fund raising campaign will begin in June. The annual Red Cross Carnival will be held again this fall. Thank you to

the community for your continuing support.

UNITED CHURCH & U.C. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Ebba Jennings reported. One Pot Luck has been held in 1991. The next one is Wednesday, March 27 in honour of Rev. and Mr. Steele who will be leaving Bamfield on Easter Monday. Easter Sunday will be Rev. Steele's last service. A Memorial for Walter Hegstrom will be held Easter Sunday after the Easter Service. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30. The church board and the community are very sorry to see the Steeles leave. We all hope they return one day and we wish them well. Services will continue at 11:00 Sunday mornings, and we hope the musicians will continue to attend.

BAMFIELD COMMUNITY HALL

Pat Garcia reported. She provided highlights from the Annual General Meeting held February 12, 1991. Executive:

President - Pat Garcia;

Vice-President - Eileen Scott;

Secretary - Lorraine Hegstrom;

Treasurer - Bev McInerney;

Directors - Irma Cashin, Dawn Renfrew, John McInerney, Hedy Demontigny, Jan Dwolinsky, Deb Garcia, Sherron Dunsmore, Kevin Dunsmore, Julie Ollis, Steve LaCasse, Marguerite Hall, and Gayle Hawkins.

The rental rate for dances held by local organizations was reduced from \$75 to \$50. The proposed Hall extension was discussed in detail and approved in principal with a motion to

apply for a BC Lottery grant. Eric Pardy submitted a ballpark estimate (does not include finishing) of \$42,500. The objective of the 720 square foot extension is to make the Hall a multi-use facility with room for permanent seating (for 60 people) for meetings, bingo, and to provide a social setting for dances and etc. The extension includes: 24'x36' seating area along the west wall; 12'x12' wash-rooms; handicap access ramp; kitchen extension into the foyer; new entrance and cloakroom to replace current wash-rooms; new cooler for the kitchen; pass-through window from kitchen to barbeque area; one handicap equipped bathroom; and a permanent bar setup. A floor plan of the extension is available from Pat. The Hall has raised \$20,000 of the cost and applied for a \$60,000 grant.

BAMFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bill Mather reported. The 1991 Executive: Chairman - Bill Mather; Secretary - Laurie MacDermid; Treasurer - Elaine Christian; Directors - Ron Logan, Bill MacDermid, Peter Brown and Marian Stokes.

The 1991 focus is on assisting the Park Commission in fund raising and building the Tourist Information Center at Centennial Park.

New members are welcome. 1991 dues are \$50 per person or business and are payable to Elaine.

BAMFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Don Amos reported. 1991 Executive: Chief - Ben Bozak;

Deputy Chief - Gord Hawkins;
First Capt. & Tr. Officer - Don Amos;
Second Captain - Don Prevost;
Treasurer - Marguerite Hall.

Many thanks to Bernice Stewart for so many years of dedicated service.

The refurbished pumper truck for the West Side is almost complete and will be moved to the west side soon. Training at the Nanaimo Fire Center is continuing. The recommended number of volunteer fire fighters for a community this size is 18 to 25 people--we have 10. Please consider making the commitment to protect our town. Practices are held every Wednesday evening. Monthly meetings are held one Wednesday a month.

BVFD WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Marian Stokes reported. 1991 Executive: President - Marian Stokes;
Sec./Treas. - Gayle Hawkins.

In February we held the annual Valentine's Day Fireman's Ball (dinner and dance), and in March we held a Ladies' Night and St. Patrick's Day Kids Dance. Up-coming events include: Mother's Day Picnic in the Park on Saturday, May 11 at Centennial Park; and the 1st Annual Summer Solstice Celebration (outdoor family barbeque and bonfire followed by an adults only dance) at the Firehall. Fire-week is Saturday, July 27 - Saturday, August 3. This spring the auxiliary will begin publishing FIRENEWS, a monthly one page newsletter about fire safety, fire fighter training, department achievements, and social events. A special project is the 1991 Bamfield Community Quilt. The queen size quilt is

being designed locally and will include 12 appliqued squares depicting Bamfield landmarks and/or scenery. Our goal is to have as many people participate in its creation as possible. Raffle tickets will go on sale soon with the draw to be held at the 1991 Christmas Craft Fair. Please contact Agnes Caravati if you would like to contribute a few stitches.

BAMFIELD PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Stuart Hall reported. 1991 Executive:
President - Kitty Lloyd;
Vice-President - Amy Philips;
Secretary - Stuart Hall;
Treasurer - Lindsi Quane.

The society is continuing research into a recycling project. The problem is transportation of the sorted garbage from the dock in Port Alberni to the landfill site for storage. The group hopes a drop-off site will be available by this summer. Continued improvement of the Cape Beale Trail project is pending public hearings by Parks Canada (their new management plan requires public hearings for all new trail development). The 1991 focus will be to complete the trail from Pachena Bay into Bamfield. An Environmental Youth Core grant was applied for and approved in principle; work is pending final approval. The Ministry of Highways will be donating paint and providing funds for labour required to paint the Boardwalk. Labour will be provided by the society with funds going to the Treasury. \$500 will be donated to the Park Commission building fund. Membership is open to all. The annual fee is \$10.

PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Carl Ostrom reported. The local chapter still exists and will be available if an emergency should occur. Look for a newsletter in the **Barkley Sounder**.

TV SOCIETY

Eileen Scott reported. For 1991 the annual fees have been collected from 57 1/4 people; there are still 10 or 12 who haven't paid. A new receiver has been ordered which should improve reception. A meeting will be called soon to elect a new executive; please try to attend.

PARK COMMISSION

Eileen Scott reported. The past year has been quite successful. Garbage continues to be a problem (1990 fees were \$1,200). With the help of the Chamber of Commerce, the building project is going ahead. It will provide toilets, tourist bureau, sani-dump, and an office for a boat launch and campground manager. The boat launch fee will help cover the cost of the building and park management.

Two grants have been applied for to cover the \$25,000 building estimate. The Chamber of Commerce has put together a plan for volunteer labour and a good portion of the required materials so we hope to complete the project early this summer.

L.Q. suggested a boat launch fee of \$15 since Poets Nook charges \$30 each for launch and exit.

Eileen Scott replied. The price is yet to be determined. It may depend on approval of the grant for student help.

A.S. asked why so much money is needed if materials and labour are being donated?

S.H. replied. The \$25,000 estimate is before donations.

B.M. added. A considerable number of donations have been committed. The concrete and cement blocks must be purchased so we ask that all future donations be cash.

P.G. asked what the blocks will cost.

B.M. replied approximately \$5,500. We are hoping to get the redimix donated. The fund raising goal is \$6,000.

E.J. asked if the \$2,000 held in trust by the Chamber of Commerce is going to the park?

B.M. replied, Yes.

E.S. added. The facility is not just for tourists. Local park users also need toilet facilities.

B.M. added. The park building will help alleviate the toilet and trespass problems the residents of Port Desire experience every summer.

CANADIAN MARINE RESCUE AUXILIARY

Pat Garcia reported that Richard Zoet could not be contacted for tonight's meeting.

Bill Mather reported. The auxiliary is set up through a branch of the Coast Guard. The main office is in Vancouver. Its purpose is to provide back-up to the Coast Guard in non-life-threatening situations. The Bamfield group has five members.

REGIONAL DISTRICT REPORT

Mike Hicks reported as Regional Director.

The Water Board is currently waiting for the 1990 financial statement for the Water Board. A synopsis will be sent to each household within the next month. Suggestions for changes will be considered at that time.

ILLEGAL CLAM DIGGING

A letter was sent to Mr. Pat Chamut (Head of the Department of Fisheries for the West Coast) demanding that the wild clam harvest in Barkley Sound be stopped or properly enforced. The Department Head in charge of shellfish could not guarantee enforcement, and said that the wild harvest will re-open this fall.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Regional Board sent a letter to Mr. Neville Hope (responsible for Southern Vancouver Island highways), to complain about the state of our roads. Mr. Dick, responsible for highways in the Port Alberni area, and Mr. Cecil Lutney, a representative of the private contractor (Island Contracting Ltd.) visited Bamfield and provided the following information:

- Contracts are not issued for small areas. We are included in the contract for Southern Vancouver Island.

- Road classification dictates the maintenance requirement.

- The Pachena Bay to Bamfield road is classed as 5E, and is the lowest on the provincial scale. MacMillan-Bloedel is responsible for the road between Port Alberni and Pachena Bay. They are required to grade the road once per year or as needed. Eight to ten inches of snow must be removed within 5 days;

there is no provision for removing ice. The Boardwalk must be kept structurally sound. There is no provision for paint.

To avoid criticism of provincial privatization policies the contractor is receptive to our requests and has made a commitment to grade the road in the second week of each month. Mark Stokes will monitor the road conditions and report requirements to Mr. Lutney.

The Fire Department has expressed concern regarding the lack of snow removal. The highways contractor will leave sand and salt for the fire department to spread as required. The fire department will be paid for this service.

WEST SIDE ROAD CONNECTOR

Mike Hicks is fighting to push the process through. The current status is that the Feasibility Study will be available on Monday, March 25 and will be distributed to concerned citizens and available at Ostroms, the stores, Marine Station, Post Office and Coast Guard. Within the next few weeks the Transportation Task Force headed by Gillian Trumper will hold an emergency meeting to choose routes to recommend to the Ministry of Highways. The choices will be based on economic and other reasons as outlined in the study. The next step is for the Task Force to hold a local meeting to explain the study and the options they recommend. If no local consensus can be reached, a vote (Regional District voters list) will be held and administered by the Regional Board, but paid for by the Department of Highways.

Neville Hope, Gerrard Janssen, Gillian Trumper, Jim Cameron, myself

and highways, all feel that a vote is absolutely necessary. M.H. then read a letter from Jim Cameron, Regional & Economic Development liaison office, to Gillian Trumper, Gerrard Janssen and Mike Hicks that stated the resolution process:

1. Release the study March 22, 1991.
2. Task force will review study and recommend route.
3. Public meeting to be held mid-April.
4. If no consensus can be reached, a vote will be held. The choices will include task force recommended routes and NO CONNECTOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Garcia asked if we still want to invite a representative of the Environment Coalition of Port Alberni to a meeting to discuss recycling?

R.L. reported that the Port landfill piles separated garbage and then buries it. S.H. reported that general recycled garbage is separated and distributed appropriately. Other programs exist such as recycling paper from government offices and supermarket cardboard.

C.O. reported that George Beauvier is involved in the Hornby Island recycling program and will be in Bamfield in early April. Perhaps he could give a talk?

J.B. reported regarding the Port recycling program: products are stored until optimum shipping tonnage is attained. Metal is sold; newsprint and cardboard go to the pulp mill but only a certain amount can be used in each batch of new paper made; glass is sold and made into new glass or other construction materials; also true of plastics. It may look like nothing is being done because it takes a

long time to collect amounts that are economically feasible to ship. Pat Garcia asked Marian Stokes to research the Environment Coalition.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON

Pat Garcia was elected Community Affairs Chairperson for 1991 by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

AIR TRAFFIC

L.M. asked: Last spring a meeting was held about air traffic in the harbour. What regulations were made? Pat Garcia replied. The meeting was held at the Coast Guard and co-ordinated by Dave Hegstrom. Details will be sought for the next meeting.

RECYCLING

Mike Hicks reported that the Preservation & Development Society could contact the fellow from Helby and call a meeting about recycling.

BUS SERVICE

Ebba Jennings reported that the lack of bus service in the winter is hard for the elderly. She asked if same day service could be offered at least once a month.

Mike Hicks replied that he has spoken to Western Bus Lines and Gerard Janssen regarding bus service. Another company from Victoria has asked the MLA for support so perhaps this competition will force improvements in the service.

Meeting adjourned at 20:57.

NEW BULK AGENT FOR MOHAWK/SPARTAN LUBRICANTS

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for the future. Here's our cheque for another year along with our love and best wishes,

Keith and Rhonda Rogers
Port Alberni, B.C.



Dear Jeanne,

We got your re-up notice with the last issue. It is nice to get news of the real world delivered to your very own door. I confess, of late I have been having fond memories of boating up Bamfield Inlet in a raging storm. I think city life is just a bit short on personal danger for me. No chain saws, chimney fires or deadheads floating in the dark. Every once in awhile I will ride my bicycle through an especially big puddle and pretend it is sea spray.

School consumes almost all of my waking moments. My golf game is suffering, but when we get into fourth year they give us Wednesday afternoons off to work on our handicaps. (A minimum 10 handicap is a requirement for graduation from Dental School.)

Nancy, if anything, is busier than I. Medical school is very overwhelming. There is so much to

know that one cannot possibly know it all.

We are thinking of you and hope you are well.

Bruce Burgess
&
Nancy McFadden
Vancouver, B.C.



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CAPE BEALE WEATHER

by
Norbie Brand, Lightkeeper

February Weather

Temperatures:

Mean Maximum 10.3 C

Mean Minimum 4.5 C

Temperature extremes:

Maximum 15 C on Feb 26 & 27.

Minimum 1 C on Feb 22.

Precipitation for the month of February was 386.4 mm or 15.4 inches of measureable rain, with 7 days without any rain.

Compared with February last year, our 1990 temperatures were:

Mean Maximum 7.75 C

Mean Minimum 1.60 C

Precipitation in February of 1990 was 291.9 mm or 11.4 inches, with 11 days without rain.

This February was a lot warmer, but we had more rain instead!

March Weather

Temperatures:

Mean Maximum 9.2 C

Mean Minimum 2.1 C

Temperature extremes:

Maximum 14.5 C on March 24.

Minimum -2 C on March 5.

Precipitation for the month of March was 178.1 mm or 7 inches of measureable rain, with 11 days without any rain.

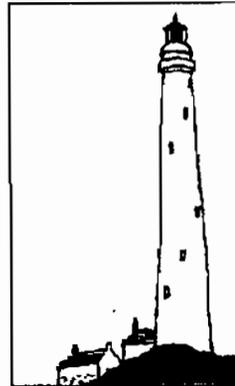
Compared with March last year, our 1990 temperatures were:

Mean Maximum 10.2 C

Mean Minimum 4.6 C

Precipitation in March of 1990 was 224.2 mm or 8.7 inches of rain, with 13 days without any rain.

March this year was a bit cooler and we had less rain, but I'm certain April will make up for it!



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EXCERPTS FROM:
BAMFIELD ACCESS STUDY
A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR
AND DESIRABILITY OF
IMPROVED ACCESS TO WEST
BAMFIELD

by

Graeme & Murray Consultants Ltd.
Victoria, B.C. Phone: 388-9161

The study was commissioned by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. The need for vehicle access is identified in the Regional Transportation Plan for Vancouver island. This Plan identifies a large number of projects which the Vancouver Island Region has expressed a desire to see implemented.

The Bamfield community is quite divided on the question of the need for, and desirability of, permanent road access to the Peninsula. This aspect of the project may have a significant bearing on the decision of whether to proceed...and is one of the reasons for the Ministry commissioning this study.

Today Bamfield is a small community with an estimated 269 permanent residents [this number does not include Anacla Reserve]. Total number of households in

Bamfield is estimated at 123 permanent and 62 part-time households. There are 44 permanent households in West Bamfield, leaving 79 permanent households in East Bamfield. "East Bamfield" here includes the Bamfield Marine Station, Grappler Inlet, South Bamfield and the Anacla Indian Reserve.

A survey of residents of Bamfield was undertaken...to ascertain the local traffic patterns; to investigate any perceived impacts of a vehicle connector; and to obtain feeling for the acceptance of the various potential vehicle connectors across the Inlet.

It is stressed that this survey was not considered to be a census, but merely to obtain views and the general perceptions of the public regarding the issue.

Several Tables from the Report are published on the following page. For more information on the considerations and results of the Victoria consultant firm contracted to conduct the study, please do read one of the copies of the study available at the Marine Station Library, the Coast Guard Station, local stores, the post office, or Mike Hicks' home.

--editor.

SURVEY RETURN RATES BY ORIGIN

	W. BAMFIELD	E. BAMFIELD	TOTAL
Households	44	96	123
Returns	56	29	85
% response	127%	30%	69%

TABLE 7

Mail back questionnaires were distributed through the postal service to households in Bamfield and immediate area (Anacla Village, Grappler Inlet). Of the 140 questionnaires sent out, 85 were returned. The responses from West and East Bamfield were 56 and 29 respectively, and are summarized in Table 7.

It should be noted that not every household in East Bamfield received a questionnaire. In addition, the high return rate (127%) from West Bamfield revealed a weakness in the survey distribution method. The detailed results, therefore, **must** be treated with some reserve because of this biased survey but the results do give an overall picture of public opinion. West Bamfield was over sampled whereas East Bamfield was under sampled. This tended to skew the results in favour of West Bamfield. All the questionnaires received by resident households were included in the analysis.

Vehicle Connector	PLACE OF RESIDENCE				Total	
	East Bamfield		West Bamfield		No.	Percent
	Number	Percent	No.	Percent		
Strongly in Favour	12	41	15	27	27	32
In favour	6	21	3	5	9	10
No Opinion	2	7	1	2	3	4
Opposed	3	10	1	2	4	4
Strongly Opposed	5	17	34	60	39	46
No response	1	4	2	4	3	4
TOTAL	29	100%	56	100%	85	100%

TABLE 8

CONNECTOR OPINION (RESIDENT)

(ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OR OPPOSED TO A VEHICLE CONNECTOR?)

Residents were asked if they were in favour or not in favour of the East-West connector. The responses varied by place of residence. Generally East Bamfielders were in favour of the connector (62%), whereas 62% of the West Bamfield residents were against. Overall, 50% were against (43 of 85) and 42% were in favour (36 of 85). Twenty-seven of the "for" responses were "strongly in favour" and 9 "in favour". Of the opposed, 46%, or 39, were strongly opposed to the connector. These responses are shown in Table 8.

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