



The Oystercatcher

THE SALT SPRING TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB - GANGES BC V0S 1E0

April 1994

Editor -- Kacey Chee -- 537-1365

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APC ALTERNATIVE REP.	NANCY BRAITHWAITE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On reading our Club's April activities listed in the Driftwood paper, I was struck by the number of events available to members.

Arising out of our February A.G.M., it is indeed good news that on two April Sunday mornings there are 'nature activities' scheduled - bird watching and botany. Long may this continue and our thanks to Nancy Braithwaite, Ailsa Pearse and Fiona Flock.

Also arising from the AGM, there will be some non-Tuesday work parties for those who are interested (as well as the regularly scheduled Tuesday work parties shown in the Driftwood). These non-Tuesday work parties will not be listed in the Driftwood for practical reasons; so if you are interested to help maintain existing trails, or cut new trails, on non-Tuesdays, please phone Fiona Flock or Betty Kirk who will then put you on the master list to be contacted from time to time to see whether you are available for a particular project on a particular day.

All these activities need additional helpers and leaders to avoid things just falling on a few members. So, as an example, if you are interested to lead a walk or hike, or you know of a new hike/walk, or you would like to learn a particular hike or walk so that you can lead it, please contact our walk coordinator Orpha Olm (537-9410) or our hike coordinator Bill Harrington (537-1116). We do need more walk & hike leaders, so how about it!!

This past winter and Spring, I have been on both walks and hikes. As President, I feel it is important that I join in with both groups to receive feedback etc. Unfortunately on a number of Tuesdays, I have been unable to take part in either the walk or the hike or the work party, in view of my fairly heavy involvement in the building and fitting out of the new Anglican Church in Ganges. It always seems that on Tuesdays something comes up that requires my immediate attention. However I'm luckier than our ardent hiking member Al Robertson who has been unable to hike since last Fall in view of his particularly heavy responsibilities at the new St. Georges church - which will soon be completed.

In closing, I should remind you that Island Trust has provisionally set June 16 as the date for public hearings on our club's proposal for an island Trail Network Master Plan to be included in the Official Community Plan. Your attendance and support at this public hearing is essential so please watch the Driftwood for the finalized date, time and place. I will also see to it that announcements are made at the early June walks/hikes.

Sincerely,
JIM BARBER

DATES TO REMEMBER

THURS. APRIL 28TH - Evening function at United Church hall at 7:30 pm. Rosemary and John. Baxter talk/slides on a West Coast Vancouver Island biosphere project. Information and reservation begin for Sept. 6-9 outing at Manning Park (nights of Sept. 6, 7 and 8).

MAY 24 - 26 - Outing on Hornby Island (nights of May 24 & 25). Contact person Dennis Seward (537-2903).

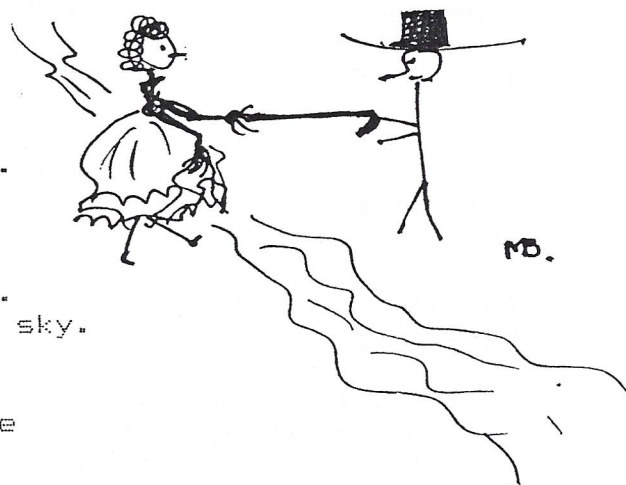
JUNE 16 (PROVISIONAL DATE) - Public hearing on our club's proposed Trail Network to form part of the Official Community Plan. Watch the Driftwood for finalized date, time and place.

TUES. JUNE 28TH - Customary Ruckle Park strawberry picnic, preceded by a short walk. Wind up of Spring programme, announcements, etc.

SEPT. 6 - 9 - Manning Park Outing. Contact person Ann Barber (537-5688). May 12-22 Contact person Diana Floritto (537-5288).

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELEANOR AND JOHN LLOYD
by Marjorie Radford

Happy Anniversary to you, Eleanor and John.
You must wonder where the years have gone.
John, you've put up with Eleanor, we know.
But Eleanor, you've put up with John, how?
Really, we all think that he's a great guy.
When he meets a mountain, he climbs to the sky.
He trudges on though his legs are sore.
Hikes each week and asks for more.
He helps all the ladies by holding his cane
so they can jump creeks without any pain.
When we stop for lunch, he looks to see
if anyone has brought an extra cookie.
Eleanor, you're a good sport too,
hiking like a teenager all the way through.
And what experiences you've both had.
Canada's not enough, you hike abroad too.
As we walk along, we love to hear
about your travels far and near.
Fifty years of marriage, WOW!!!
Let us know exactly how.
You've stayed together all those years.
You deserve at least 50 cheers.
We wish you many more years together.
With lots of hiking in all kinds of weather.
So let's all stand and yell "Hip Hip Hooray!!!"
For John and Eleanor on their special day.



HONORARY MEMBER OF SALT SPRING TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

T E D B R O W N

Ted is one of the "original" when the club was formed in 1973. He led hikes around Mt. Maxwell and Maxwell Lake. If you wanted to know the names of flowers or who lived where, etc., Ted was a source of Salt Spring lore. Often Ted entertained us with a recitation of his poetry.

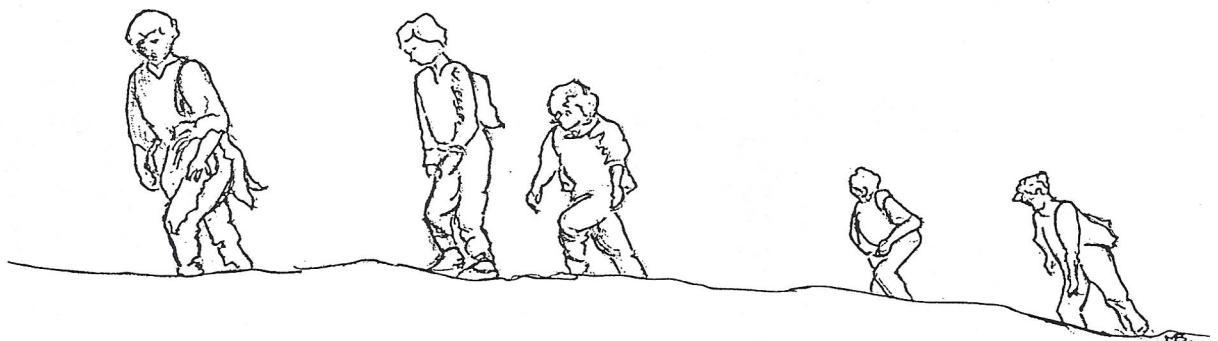
Ted Brown can tell you what Salt Spring was like in the 1920s. He was here. His father had travelled by the E & N railway from Victoria to Sidney, then by the old "Iroquois" to Ganges Harbour. Then for \$200 cash plus preempting the remainder, he bought 99 acres from a Mr. Dukes. Preempting meant felling trees, clearing brush and digging out the stumps before farming was possible.

And then they farmed; his father first, and later Ted and his brother. They had sheep; they had cattle; and chickens, and vegetables. What they didn't have was money. Ganges was a store, a blacksmith, a shoemaker, and little else.

Ted went to the Cranberry Marsh School, and a log cabin which was later replaced by one at the corner of Wright and Maxwell Roads. In his teens, Ted found occasional work at the Ganges Garage owned by Richard Toynbee. He remembers there were on Salt Spring at that time 60 Fords, 2 Chevs, 4 Overlanders, a Metz owned by the Blackburns, and one English car owned by the Ruckles. No parking problems!

In the following years, with the country still in deep Depression, Ted turned his hand to anything that would earn a few dollars. Clam digging, hand-logging in Burgoyne Bay, drag-sawing with a Donkey at Cranberry Outlet, laboring at the old Justice Mill, hand-digging a waterline from Maxwell Lake, and walking or hitchhiking from Victoria to Metchosin to spend the day cutting firewood. Times were very hard but with the farm to fall back on they didn't go hungry. There was a lot of bartering.

When Cranberry Road was put in, it ran through Ted's property. Although he sold a large portion of it some years ago, Ted still lived in the original house his father had built until a month or so ago when he decided to move to Greenwoods.



REMINISCENCES OF THE MOUNT BAKER TRIP

On all Club trips there are treasured moments when one gets an appreciation of another member's Philosophy of Life; an insight into a colleague's approach to daily routine, or maybe just a revealing glimpse of his or her interpretation of what others take for granted.

Here are a few such instances gleaned from being privileged to join the group and just listen and observe from my quiet corner.

I wonder how many more members share Rita's dream of reincarnation as a contented bovine in some pleasant pasture, caring nought for the demands of hike or walk leaders; the call of the dinner gong; the schedule of duties to be performed, but content to be cared for and cossetted by the farmer who in turn expects nothing more than a good yield from his contented herd.

Who would have dreamed that under that relatively calm exterior of Ann's there was a dramatic soul yearning for recognition. and with what animation and passion the bonds were broken when the opportunity presented itself. No one on the hike over the icefield will ever forget her re-enactment of the Battle of Wounded Knee. If Oscars had been available that day surely she would have received one with honours.

Then there was Margaret, ever in the van, urging us to Ward Camp - "old" and "geritol" being among them, but one has to wonder just what Elixir of Youth Rita imbibed each evening from her suspicious looking 7-Up bottle.

I made a resolution not to be personal in these musings but I cannot refrain from a footnote on toes. There were sore toes, blistered toes, tired toes and even tomatoes, but when it came time for toes to go skinny dipping whose toes were the most confused?.

Submitted by the Club Scribe.
KEN STRIKE

SINGAPORE

Singapore, a country of around 640 sq km which also includes about 100 sq km reclaimed land added to the republic, from a turmoil past without natural resources, is an amazing country to see as it is today. For nature lovers, it is wonderful to see so many trees in the heart of the city. Even with the city noise (cars, buses and people), it is common to see sparrows and mynas flying around as part of the city with city-folks and high-rise apartment blocks.

Most Singaporeans are so busy working and etc. that they do not have the time to appreciate the many natural habitats and plantlife that are found in their city-state. When one will ask what Singaporeans do in their leisure time, the answer is shopping and eating. Singapore has a remarkable vast number of tropical and sub-tropical plants as well as more than 300 species of birds have been found and recorded.

For nature lovers, the Botanical Gardens established in 1859 has over 52 hectares of landscaped park, lakes, orchid enclosure and a patch of primary forest. It is a wonderful place to discover and learn about over 2,000 labelled tropical and sub-tropical plants. One can also be in ecstasy while exploring in the spectacular orchid enclosure.

The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is about 81 hectares of undisturbed rainforest which also includes Singapore's highest hill - Bukit Timah Hill at 162.5 metres above sea level. Eventhough we took the main road to the highest point, it was a joy walking and seeing the trees and the ferns in the rainforest. There are different trails found in the reserve and one can purchase a trail map from the ranger. When we were walking down the main road to the car park, we heard noise in the trees and we stopped. We saw bands of long-tailed Macaque and some of these monkeys were fighting while hanging on the branches or twigs of trees. Some came down on the ground and one little monkey pulled out an earthworm and ate it. It was quite exciting to see about two dozens monkeys moving around in the trees as well as on the ground.

The Pasir Ris Park is not only for nature lovers but is also a place for bird watchers. Pasir Ris Park contains a patch of original mangrove forest where the mangrove trees have part of their roots sticking out of the mud to help the trees breathe at low tide. Walking through the Pasir Ris Park, there were birds at home in the trees with scarlet bougainvillea underneath.

For the bird watchers, the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board recommends the Macritchie Reservoir which is set in secondary tropical rainforest where parks and footpaths make birdwatching easier; the Kranji Reservoir has a large water surface and extensive vegetation along the banks which is set in both mangrove and freshwater swamps; a rural island off Singapore's northeast coast called Pulau Ubin is the only place where the Straw-headed Bulbul can be easily spotted and the Magpie Robin with a beautiful song can also be seen.

I have been fortunate to go to the Sungei Buloh Nature Park which was designated as a wild bird reserve and nature park in 1989 and was just open to the public at the end of 1993. The 87-hectare Park consists of mudflats, fresh and brackish water pond, mangroves, coconut groves, grass ares and small orchards. We walked on the mangrove boardwalk and I saw a mudskipper. We went into the bird observation hides and I saw the Purple Heron and the Grey Heron. The Great Egret and Little Egret with their all white plumage were flying from one location to another. There were Plovers and Sandpipers on the shoreline. I also started to identify some of the wetland flora and fauna.

It is great to be back home and there is no place like home. I only hope and wish that the Singaporeans will learn to appreciate the wonderful gift of nature that they have in their own backyard. It is a historical natural heritage to be able to have these natural reserves at their fingertips.

KACEY CHEE

PLEASE RECYCLE BY PUTTING READ OYSTERCATCHER IN THE COBBLER'S BOX SO OTHERS CAN READ IT, TOO.