



the POINTER

Early Spring '85

WPRA News

EXECUTIVE MEETING REPORT JANUARY 21, 1985

Carmen Moore reported a bank balance large enough to generate some discussion about maintaining a permanent bar at the Hall.

Dianne Twamley reported on the New Year's Dance and was again complimented on the success of the affair. She also advised that Ron's Disposal is willing to collect, without charge, the junk mail that accumulates around the Mark Lane mailboxes - thanks to the littering of some inconsiderate residents - provided that it is placed in a can convenient for the collector to dump. This will be given a trial. PLEASE NOTE: This is not a free drop point for household garbage and any abuse will cause immediate removal of this can.

Rick Kasper complimented the Fire Commission on successfully controlling budgets and expenditures, pointing out that our Commission/Department has the best record in this regard in the whole region. Particular notice was made as to how well the Fire Department is financially managed.

An extensive report by Gloria Graham on Langford Incorporation Votes, including letters to and from Bill Ritchie, Minister of Municipal Affairs, indicated that we will again be excluded from voting in March on this issue, but it seems that being left alone is basically what Willis Pointers want, so things should not change significantly whichever way the vote goes.

During a discussion about commercial signs on "our tree" at Sea Aira Heights, the officers were advised that the Highways Department personnel are obliged to remove anything on the right-of-way that comes to their attention, but that if we can keep a low profile, our occasional community announcements can continue to be posted. However, commercial postings will be removed in short order.

Mary Brelsford has been appointed the new Convenor/Reference File Co-Ordinator and will maintain records of events so that future convenors will be able to plan functions with all available skills. She will also be able to direct you to volunteers with specific abilities or interests as a result of a file initiated by Linda Cleland, so that if you are organizing an event, call Mary at 652-9826 when you are looking for help.

Bruce Wilkinson



Firefighter News

Once again the WPVFD sponsored a C.P.R. course in January - 35 members of the community took part. To our new graduates, congratulations: to those who couldn't make it, and are interested, courses are offered in town. Our next one will be Fall 1985. A special thanks to our head instructors Anne & Irene and their admirable crew.

Congratulations to Firefighter Karen Scott for presenting the Dept. with a new female firefighter born February 9th. Only good people are born Feb. 9, eh Charlie!

Pat Sloan is upgrading her Search and Rescue skills with the Provincial Emergency Program. Next step, a lonely, cold, wet survival weekend all by yourself. Good Luck Pat!

Bruce Wilkinson has rejoined the Dept. and has jumped right in and is representing the Dept. in the Lower Island Muscular Dystrophy campaign. Welcome back, Bruce.

And welcome Steve Shantz to the Dept.

As always, we welcome new members. Come down any Wednesday night and check us out. Everyone has something to offer.

The Annual Elections were held with the incumbent officers holding their positions: Congratulations Dave Carely, Chief; Bill Wright, Deputy Chief; and Vern McConnell, Captain and Training Officer.

Bill Wright

Classifieds

CLASSIFIEDS

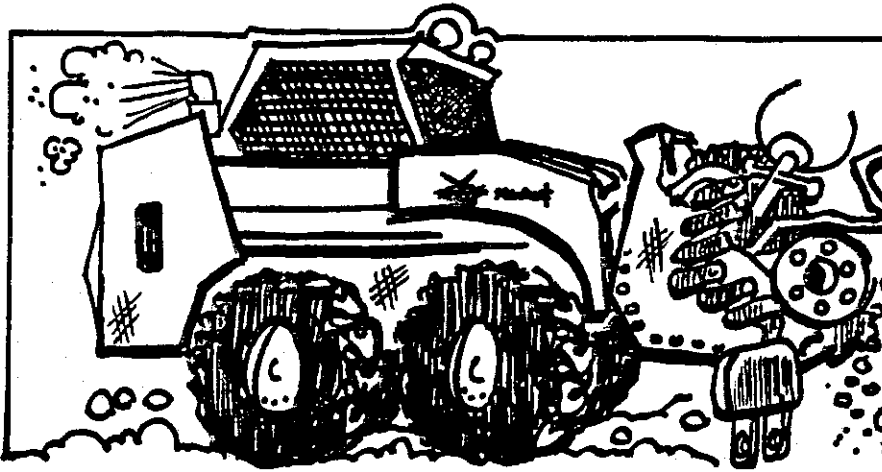
For Sale: MX Bike: 2 years old; good condition. \$60.00. 652-3519

For Sale: 7½ foot Horizon Pram Dinghy \$350.00. Call Clive 652-1215

Wanted: Shared costs in tree-topping. Call Pat 652-0226

Births: To Karen & Bob Scott; Feb. 9th Kristen Scott.

To Katie & Joel Cotter; February 25th, a son.



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 ~ ELECTRICAL WORK ~
 Residential & Commercial.
 UNDERGROUND YARD & DRIVEWAY LIGHTING
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 RR15 VICTORIA, BC 652-3519

Healthy Pointers

TUESDAY EVENING FITNESS HOME OF THE HUFF & PUFFERS

Have you been wondering why the lights are on at our Recreation Centre on Tuesday evenings?

Dianne Twamley has been generously donating her time, spunk and lively music toward the cause of physical fitness.

Her class offers 45 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise. Starting with warm up stretches, we build up to simple but fun dance sequences. Dianne's follow-me-around-the-gym routine really gets our huffers puffing. And there's always some time dedicated toward shaping up those hard-to-control areas: the tummy & bum.

We finish with a good stretch. But best of all, I've never suffered from sore muscles after Dianne's class yet.

It's co-ed too. Just ask Jason. If this activity sparks an interest, come join Jason, Lorraine, Ida, Carmen, Reta, Joan, Susan and myself at 8:00 P.M. every Tuesday evening.

Kathy Crawley

RUNNING CLINIC

Coming up in the New Year, led by our Marathoner Gary Butchart. His intent is to teach you how to run, safely, with the final goal a successfully completed Hilltopper Run (and a healthy body as an extra bonus!). Call Gary at 652-1731 if you are seriously interested.



JB & P is Victoria's outdoors headquarters offering:

SALES of tents, sleeping bags, hiking boots and clothing. Running and training shoes. Peetz quality fishing tackle.

SERVICE of Coleman® outing products. Repairs of fishing tackle. Custom made "Running Thotics®".

RENTAL of camping equipment.



386-8778

570 Johnson Street

A Word from our CRD Director

Career Opportunity



Bon Vivant world traveller
 Required immediately to administer
 bulging budget in Partnership with
 Politicians who are subject to RENEWAL.

MUST be name dropping tycoon who is able to differentiate
 between microchips and freshly cut timber, and who has the
 physical strength to shovel money quickly out of the
 trunk of a leased import car!

Empty leather briefcase. Full Nanaimo dress essential. No
 personal accountability required. Salary to start \$60,000.00
 PER ANNUM. Negotiable... depending on experience...

PLEASE SEND RESUME VIA COURIER... to the
 GO NOWHERE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 VICTORIA, B.C.

You may well ask, where's the job? In fact, this career opportunity does
 not yet exist. However, a recent budget proposal of the CRD Economic Develop-
 ment Commission has contemplated a similar concept. Just how this action could
 further economic development in the Capital Region has never been made clear.

Current economics are most certainly a problem. Let us examine the actions
 of communities elsewhere who are currently addressing this problem. Let us
 examine the possibilities of discovering our strong points and advertising
 these strong points to attract both business and residents to the Capital
 Region. Let us examine the reason why each of us lives here and then broadcast
 our views to others.

There are many opportunities on our own doorstep - let us open the door.

Rick Kasper
 Langford Area Director

PAST EVENTS



BRITISH PUB NIGHT

In true British tradition, a super time was had by all Pointers and friends at Pub Night, February 16th. Highlights of the evening included entertainment on the piano by Kathy Kirk playing pub-style sing along music, along with the participation of some great local talent.

Also thanks to Terry Tabat, in the black hat, with his fantastic New Orleans late night music.

Draft beer was heartily quaffed and sold out. Thanks to Dave Carley on tap. Yummy hot meat pies and sausage rolls also sold out - thank you to the Brelsford's.

The dart contest winner was Brian Grieves and the best joke winner was visitor Kathy. Marilyn Walker and Dave Price - you were great local runner-ups!

Winner of the Great Annual Poulet Fizzée Challenge Cup was Charlie Bonner, an honour we are sure he will manage to hold down for many years. Shuffleboard players enjoyed themselves immensely, as did those playing Bob Halsey's video poker game.

Many thanks to Charlie Bonner for bringing his "good-times gut bucket"; to Pat Sloan and Jurgen Gothe for the loan of their suitably out of tune piano; to the Fire Department who moved it; and to all who attended with their many varied(!) talents.

We all enjoyed the piano sing-along music and everyone there wished we had a piano for the Hall. Any ideas for a fund raiser?

"Arthur" and "On the Buses Olive" (Brian & Joan McCandless) along with "Pete" and "Tillie" (Peter and Mary Brelsford), thank you all who made this a jolly good success. We are looking for volunteers to carry on the tradition.

Mary Brelsford (with thanks to Brian, Joan & Peter)



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Again! Willis Point Players you did it again with a wildly successful play. Thank you to Snow White, The Seven Dwarfs and their Castle friends and the animals: also what a great job done by the Maid and Santa.

Thanks also to the cooks, Peter & Mary, and refreshment servers Bob & Gaybrielle as well as our teacher Dianne.

The Fire Chief also did his part while all the children waited in eager suspense for the traditional Willis Point's Santa arrival via Fire Truck.

Thanks again for the great turnout: the children really appreciate it.

Joan Wright

SANTA'S VISIT

On December 23rd, Willis Point had a pleasant surprise Santa Claus came to visit us! With the help of his four elves, he gave us all a bag of goodies and a great big hug. And by the look on everyone's face we'll want him back next year!

Love you, Santa!
Adele Graham



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

1985 was welcomed in at the Firehall, despite the snow. With lots of hoots and hollering from the folks enjoying the party. "Megasound" got everyone dancing up a storm with all the good music they played.

Ham "bunwiches" were available from 10 o'clock on and tasted great with the super draft beer on tap. At Midnight we all toasted with a glass of champagne and then later devoured a traditional meal of ham & scalloped potatoes. Beth Twamley's special home-made tarts topped the meal off beautifully.

Many lovely door prizes were donated and presented to the lucky winners.

Thank you to all the folks who helped decorate the Hall, make the delicious food and to the enthusiastic crowd who turned out for the clean-up. Thanks also for all the super door prizes donated by so many. A special thanks to Beth and Glen who helped us immensely and ensured that the evening ran smoothly.

It was great to see the Dance so well supported and that is what made the evening such a success. Keep up the support in 1985!

Dianne & Mark Twamley

Incorporation?

INCORPORATION: A DEAD ISSUE

There will be no vote on incorporation in Willis Point for a long time. Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Ritchie made that very clear in a letter to the WPRA in December, 1984.

The WPRA had asked Mr. Richie not to exclude us from the new Langford incorporation vote that will take place this March. The idea was that Willis Pointers, as part of the Langford Electoral District, should have the right to vote their conscience on the issue. But Mr. Ritchie chose to keep Willis Point and the Highlands from participating in the vote.

If Langford does vote for incorporation this time around, Willis Point and the Highlands will then exist as a separate unorganized territory. We will get to send a representative to the Capital Regional District. As with all unorganized territories, the Minister of Municipal Affairs will continue to have the final say over what goes on here.

Sam Young

Calendar **

Watch the sign at the Hall and also on the sign tree for definite dates.

March
Happy Hour

April
Happy Hour

April 22nd
WPRA Executive Meeting

May
Happy Hour
(no date yet)
Don & Lois Lovo

May
POINTER
Pat Sloan 652-0226

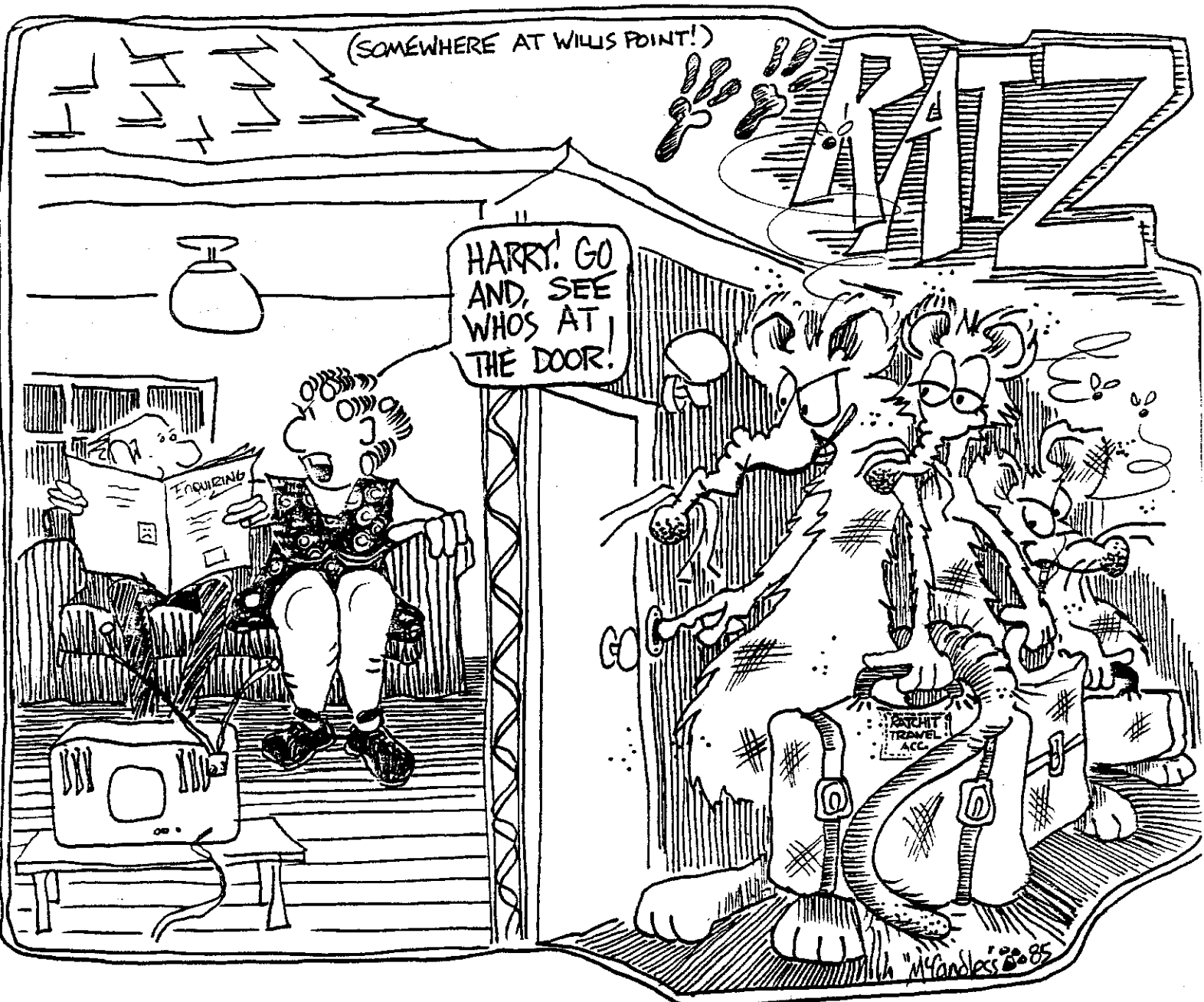
June
Hilltopper
Bob Halsey 652-4195
and Auction:
Vern McConnell 652-2996

August 25th
Fishing Derby
Butch Cleland 652-3376

Mouse - Trapped ?

Willis Point Residents take note: we've got lots of rats and mice. With luck, this may only be a seasonal problem with rodent food supplies dwindling and our houses radiating warm hospitality.

For many of us, home rodent control is simply an interesting diversion while lugging out the garbage. However, there are a few of us who may have difficulty in identifying and managing this challenge.



IDENTIFICATION & HABITS

We must first be able to identify the problem before we can take action to terminate it. Anyone who has heard of Walt Disney knows what a mouse looks like. Now, magnify this mouse to the size of a small chihuahua and "hey presto" you have a rat. Add hair to the tail and you have a squirrel. Problems they can create are not simply a minimal consumption of our food, but also potential dangers of spoilage of uneaten food, possible spread of disease and the damage caused by their energetic gnawing habits. Rodents have constantly growing front teeth which have to be constantly worn to the optimal working length. This very frequent abrading action can be used on many non-nutritional materials, from wood to plastics, even electrical insulation. This gnawing drive creates the greatest amount of damage in a residence.

Think about this when your lights flicker and gray wisps of smoke gracefully curl from under the eaves. So, leave your nail files on the pantry floor and you just might keep your little guests happy.

Rats and mice tend to work at night, consequently instead of noise or sightings, you may have to identify the area of their infestation by their droppings. To simulate (not stimulate) droppings, scatter caraway seeds among the nail files on your pantry floor. Now, let your imagination magnify the seeds a few times and you have mouse droppings. Magnify again so they are about half the thickness of a licorice jellybean and unfortunately you have rat droppings. Rodent droppings are almost always found sprinkled in their living and eating areas.

To sum it up: signs of activity will show unusual amounts of food spillage not attributable to your sloppy kids or spouses; gnawing or shredding; and of course, droppings.

INSPECTION & EMERGENCY TACTICS

When inspecting your premises, include all outbuildings, garbage, and compost areas. Concentrate your inspection in places where food is kept and remote areas used for storage. Use a good light and be prepared to get on your hands and knees and really look. For extra security, a chair can be also carried along in case you meet one of these shadowy creatures of the netherworld. In the unlikely event that this might happen you can very quickly jump upon your chair and scream.

ELIMINATION: DO-IT-YOURSELF

Rodent proof your premises. Starting outside, move your compost as far from the house as possible or keep a heavy layer of soil over the top. Keep garbage in lidded metal cans. Check for possible points of entry from the foundations to the top of your roof. Remember, a mouse can go through a hole you would have difficulty squeezing a tiny finger into. Seal up any possible entry points with sheet metal or a fine metal grate. Inside the house, bulk foods should be stored in closed metal cans or glass jars. Food should be kept in closed cupboards and regularly inspected for rodent signs.

If you have vengeance in mind (short of MX missiles), you may want to indulge in an energetic program of extermination. Unfortunately most methods can also present a threat to innocent beings such as yourself, your children, pets, friendly birds and your neighbours' yappy little dog.

By far the safest method is a cat that is a good ratter, but those are hard to find. Most cats make good mousers but some will not tackle anything larger or more aggressive than a cat chow pellet.

The next best method of trapping is using the traditional Victor spring trap, which comes in two sizes; small for mice and large for rats. A serious word of caution on using the rat trap: the spring has enough force to break your finger, a child's arm or a pet's leg. Always place your traps where only your prey can be in contact with them. Some people nail them to the floor. Inspect traps daily and replace with yummy fresh bait such as chunks of fried bacon. Don't forget to bait first, then set the trap.

Toxic baits such as rodenticides used by professionals, while very effective, involve serious dangers to the previously mentioned innocent beings. Be extremely cautious when placing bait and remember rats themselves scatter the bait into accessible areas. Another disadvantage of toxic baits is that a dying rat may seek out a quiet remote corner of your home. After its spirit has passed on to wherever rats go when they leave our dimension, its remains will begin to stink and I do mean stink. Most rodenticides can be purchased from local feed stores. The most common is Warfarin. Carefully follow the advice on the package - if in any doubt, consult a professional.

ELIMINATION: PROFESSIONAL

Last but not least, call up a pest control agency. A representative will do the job for you, probably the same way you could, but he will do it professionally and relieve you of about \$50.00.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

To protect your house, next door's house, etc. everyone must inspect homes and properties keeping in mind the garbage areas, which are the main targets. We will always have a rodent problem here but if it ever gets out of hand, it will be an extremely difficult and very expensive one to control.

Besides, we don't want to see this little guy with the flute leading all our kids down to Saanich Inlet, do we?

Uwe Pause



* Highlands Update *

NEWS FROM THE REST OF THE HIGHLANDS

With the New Year well advanced, planning is in high gear for the Highlands Recreation program, a branch activity of the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre. Last year's starting program, offered out of the East Highland Firehall and the Pike House was a great success, and Chris Sanford's Highland Rec. Committee with new Rec. Programmer Dave Heap, plan an even fuller program this year. February's activities include films, fitness, swimming, Saturday daycamps, and canoe skills to prepare for an upcoming canoe trip.

An increasing number of horse lovers are discovering that the Highlands is the perfect setting for their outdoor recreation, and facilities for them are beginning to pop up everywhere. The equestrian census finds 56 horses on Finlayson Arm Road and Millstream Road alone! Once a month, local riders join others from throughout the Capital Region when the Garden City Horse Club holds day long trail rides or "poker rides" through the Highlands hills and valleys. Poker rides are mounted versions of the old game, hands being dealt throughout the trip and the pot being the final goal at the end of the day. President Murray Saunders, with wife, Pat, also runs Rockhaven Ranch, where travellers come from all over the world to join their guided trail rides and overnight saddle camping trips. A number of residents, including Spencers, Schwartz', Eric Stade, and Harold Bukin offer boarding or pasturing facilities. Would-be equestrians can learn the ropes from Murray and Pat or from Carolyn Wheatcroft.

Spearheading a revival of environmentally benign horse logging in the Highlands is Doug Andrew. With his untried 3 year old Belgian, MacDuff, Doug won honours at last year's Luxton Fair in one of B.C.'s major draft horse competitions.

At present, opportunities for exploring this area on horseback or on foot sometimes seem limitless. But the Highlands is the last local area remaining largely unrestricted by fences and "No Trespassing" signs, and many outdoor enthusiasts are already voicing concern for the future, fearing that development will block access to trails as it has on the Saanich Peninsula and in Metchosin. This need not happen. There is an official policy for trail development on the books. There is legislation for dedication of trails when land is subdivided. But in unincorporated areas, it is the Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Highways which administers this legislation, and local trails are of little interest to a department whose whole concern is for roads and vehicle traffic on a province-wide scale. Municipalities administer this legislation themselves, and they are naturally more concerned with local facilities and the local landscape. This is why some Highlanders were dismayed when an opportunity for local control of local concerns was snatched away when the Highlands was excluded from Langford's incorporation vote.

Point Blank

Pat Sloan

Pointer at your doorstep: Mailing costs for the Pointer have gone up - the last issue was 48¢ per copy. Thanks Adele & Gary Graham, and Bruce Wilkinson for hand delivery of the last issue; to Carmen Moore, Bruce, and Adele for delivery of this issue.

Thankyou to Bob and Nancy McMinn for their Highlands update, and to all the contributors of this issue of the Pointer. Thanks also to our advertisers - please support them. Again, Georgina Farmer, thanks for your time and expert typing. Brian's Rats is worth sticking up on the fridge, not only for an ongoing laugh but also a reminder of the hints Uwe gives us for home rodent control.

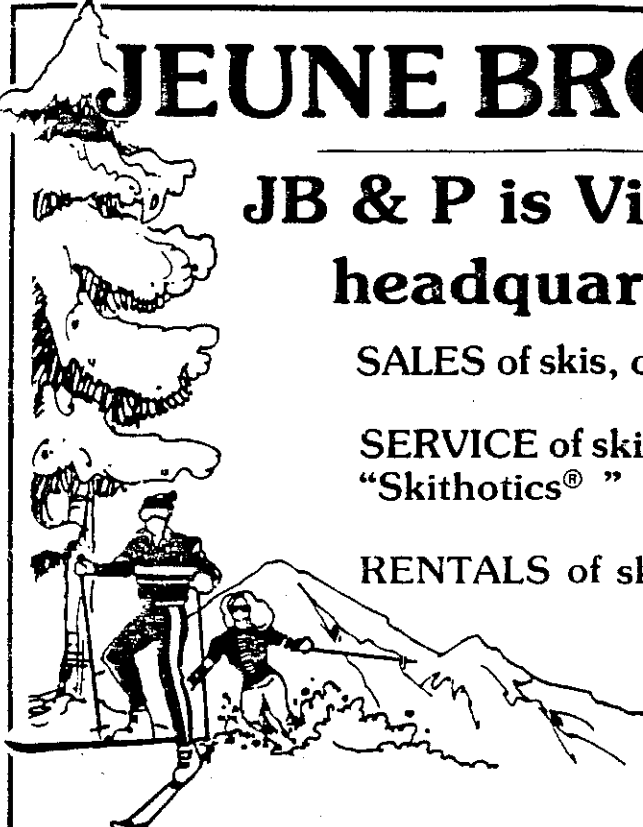
In addition to our respected and well-read regular contributors, we are lucky to have several new reporters. My thanks to all of you, and from what you tell me, your articles are all well received. Anyone else want to try? If you have information to share, don't be shy. Next issue is MAY.

Look forward to articles on the Kid's Bake Sale, Auction and Hilltopper News, APC News, Heat Stroke, Carpenter ants and wasps, Fireproofing your home, and more.

A serious note: Willis Point is becoming a minor target area for theft: recently - gas from vehicles parked on the road, the ornamental seagull on Willis Point Road, as well as other unreported articles. The Sidney RCMP has provided us with excellent literature on safeguarding your house, its contents, and its occupants. Available at the Hall or call Pat at 652-0226.

The Annual Roadside clean-up has been postponed (that white stuff...) until a clear Sunday in early March. Not much time is involved and the effort will certainly brighten up your "in and outs". Phone Dave Price at 652-1043.

And DON'T FORGET the Hilltopper Auction; Vern McConnell welcomes donations - time to start thinking about what you can do now.



JEUNE BROS. & PEETZ

JB & P is Victoria's skiing headquarters offering:

- SALES** of skis, clothing, boots, all accessories
- SERVICE** of skis, custom boot fitting utilizing "Skithotics®"
- RENTALS** of skis, boots, poles, ski racks

JB & P offer top quality name brands in equipment and fashion clothing