

Lund BARNACLE

Special Free Issue!

March 2000

The Lund Barnacle

Your Community Newspaper

School Board Meetings Held to Determine Fate of the Lund School

by Valerie Durnin

Lund came out in force to discuss the fate of the Lund School at the first of three School Board meetings on February 21st. Twenty-nine Lund residents attended, and the School Board representatives, struck by the number and the passion of those who came out, called it "overwhelming support" for the school. Five Board members, including School Superintendent Brian Bennett and Assistant Superintendent Jay Yule, and trustees Ted Cooper, Debbie Lewis and Jeff Clark, discussed the status of the school in a session that lasted an hour and a half.

The school has six students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three. It is currently breaking even financially, though the cost per student is currently \$28,000, compared to an average of \$6,000 for other schools in the district. The school is funded by grants, including \$126,000 per year from the Ministry, and a school allotment of \$47,000. In addition, each student enrolled allows the school \$3,313. Should the Lund School close, the grant from the Ministry would be converted 100% to the remaining schools in the district for the first year, with lower percentages available in the second and third years, after which the money would be discontinued.

The first Lund School was constructed in 1903, and moved twice before settling into its current location. Enrollment swelled to a high of 50-60 students in the 1970's and early 1980's, and it is only in the last few years that enrollment has dropped dramatically. "A special environment was created here," says Darcie MacFronton, whose children attended the school. "It is not possible for it to close."

Nevertheless, the Board is considering that option. According to the School Act, the Ministry can close any school with less than eight children enrolled, and if the school should close there is little likelihood that it would ever reopen. Keeping it open now would require the support of the community in the form of children enrolled in the school. Though there is hope that the revitalization of the Lund Hotel will bring new life into the community, the School Board expressed the need for more solid information, and asked for letters from parents expressing their intent to

What Can You Do?

- ◆ Attend the community meeting at the Fire Hall, Wednesday, March 8th at 7pm.
- ◆ If you have a child that will be enrolling in the Lund School in the next three years, write a letter to the School Board, attention Jay Yule, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, informing him of your intention. Also, if you would choose to home-school your child should the Lund School close, provide that information as well.
- ◆ Attend the remaining School Board meetings: Monday, March 20th, 7pm, at the Lund School and Monday, April 17th, 7pm, at the School Board Office.

send their children to the school. They are looking for the number of students that will be enrolling in the next three years. "We know they'll come' is not enough," said Ted Cooper.

The School Board would also consider creating a boundary, however, according to Cooper, "there is no issue as hot as a boundary to School Boards and parents." The Lund community had the opportunity to close the boundaries ten years ago, but the community decided against the option, not wanting to force families to send their children to a particular school. As a result, many Lund children attend schools in Powell River, including James Thompson and the Assumption and Cote du Soleil schools. Special programming, larger and more complete facilities and extracurricular activities add to the appeal of these schools. Instituting such programs at the Lund School was discussed, including a French or French immersion program, and native language teaching. The School Board pointed out that extra programming comes down to money, and with small enrollment funding extra projects is difficult.

At the Lund Community Club meeting of February 22nd a discussion was held about the potential closure and what the community can do about it. One of the options is to allow the closure of the school, then reopening it as a private school. A meeting will be held for all interested parties on Wednesday, March 8th, 7pm, at the Fire Hall.

The School Board will hold two additional meetings before making their final decision regarding the fate of the school. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 20th at 7pm the Lund School, and the final meeting will be at the School Board office on Monday, April 17th, also at 7pm.



Lund School class of 1949. The first Lund school opened in 1903.

Special Issue...

This special issue has been put together to keep you informed on the status of the Lund School and the progress at the Lund Hotel.

Next Issue: approx. April 7th Ad and Editorial Deadline: March 29



**Community Events Noticeboard:
Lund Events 2000**

Mar 8 7pm	Community Meeting to discuss Lund School at the Fire Hall	July 16	Market Day Family Picnic
Mar 19 7:30pm	Improv & Dance (9pm) at the Italian Hall	July 23	Kids Events Market Day
Mar 28 7pm	Lund Community Club meeting at the Fire Hall	July 30	Market Day
Apr 22 8pm	Cook-off, Improv & Dance	Aug 5 Aug 6	Lund Dayz 2000
Apr 23 12 noon	Kid's Easter Egg Hunt & Tea	Aug 13	Market Day
May 20 8pm	Long Weekend Dance at the Gazebo	Aug 20	Market Day
June 18 4pm	Prawn Fest at the Gazebo	Aug 27	Market Day
July 1	Canada Day Run / Art Music / Improv	October	Wine Tasting Date tba
July 9 12 noon	Opening Day: Lund Market	Oct 28 8pm	Halloween Dance at the Gazebo
July 16	Market Day Family Picnic		clam bake tba

For information on the above events, or if you would like to book an event at the Gazebo call Jamie at 483-8909

If you would like to post an event on the Community Events Noticeboard please call Valerie at 483-4150

Community Notes:

NEW Youth Committee
by Brenda Ahola

In the last article I wrote for the *Barnacle* I touched on the subject of the lack of things for youth to do in Lund. Patty Tawiyaka and myself are in the process of trying to start a youth committee. We are hoping to meet with local youth on Saturday, April 1st, 2000, at 3:30pm at the Gazebo. I hope that local youth will be present at this meeting because this goal can only be achieved with their support. Local youth are invited to express their thoughts and ideas on this subject.

Meeting to Discuss Lund School

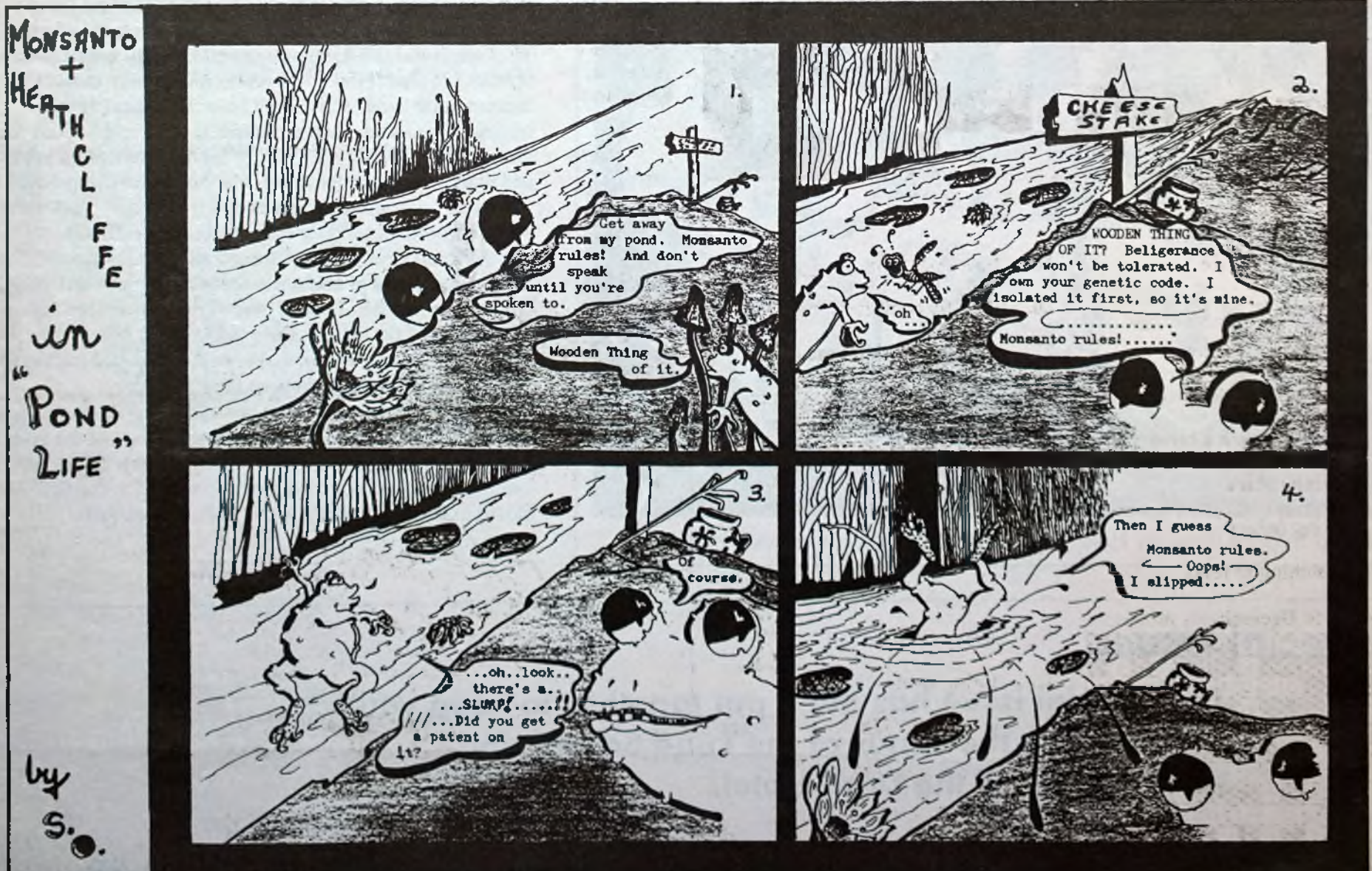
All interested community members are invited to come to the Fire Hall on Wednesday, March 8th to discuss the situation at the Lund School. This meeting is being held between the scheduled School Board meetings so that the community may openly discuss issues and put forward ideas and opinions regarding the fate of the school.

Lund Players Improv Comedy Troupe Takes On Courtenay and the Oyster to Rave Reviews

Compose a poem on the spot. Out loud. In front of a crowd. That is just one of the challenges offered an improv comedian. A few Lundites have taken that challenge, and the Lund Players is the result. The group began playing improv games less than six months ago, and have worked their craft up to the point where they competed with a well-established Courtenay team (they lost 24-20), and performed in a sold-out show at the Laughing Oyster. Look for more merriment at the Easter Dance, and at other venues in Lund. The laughs are guaranteed.

PUNDATICS

NOW APPEARING IN THE BARNACLE



...to be continued...

Sliammon Development Corporation Meets with the Lund Community to Discuss Progress at the Hotel

by Valerie Durnin

On February 21st, members of Board of the Sliammon Development Corporation (DevCorp) held a informational meeting with the Lund community to discuss the progress of the Lund Hotel project. The Lund Community Club had suggested the meeting to keep residents up to date on the development of the heart of the Lund community.

The project began as one of DevCorp's financial investments; the hotel was acquired by the group in December along with the Lund Marine property and the Lund RV Park. They went looking for a joint venture partner, according to DevCorp's president Kevin Blaney. "We thought a lot about the kind of individual we wanted to bring into it, one who knows the industry and has a proven track record," he said at the meeting. Dave Formosa came on board and a new operating company was formed for the Lund Hotel project, with Formosa owning 49% of the project and the Sliammon Development Corporation holding the remaining 51%.

Though the operating company had initially planned to demolish the hotel building and start fresh. Dave Formosa, on a long visit to the site, "fell in love with it." The group decided they could save the building, realizing that it would take a lot of work to bring it up to code and structural engineering specs. A team of workers have been cleaning and renovating the hotel since the approval of the purchase. A project management team has also consulted a structural engineer from Vancouver and a restoration carpenter from Secht to ensure that the finished building is safe and maintains its historic charm. Though the costs are higher than initially projected the operating company is committed to finishing the project and taking care of the structural defects they encounter along the way.

Steve Tipton is the project manager, and Jim Aguis is the building code consultant. Workers began by cleaning away eight construction bins of garbage from the basement hotel. Over thirty support posts were added in the building's basement,

and a new concrete floor was poured. New wood floors will be added throughout the ground level, including the grocery store. The grocery store will be fairly complete, to compete with Westview stores, and will be expanded to include a deli and other service departments. A new, full lobby will be put in, and the post office will be moved. New mail boxes to be constructed inside the hotel will be accessible between the hours of 6am and midnight. The laundromat will reopen, and the laundromat and the post office will have two entrances each: one from the store and one from outside. The pub will be moved to its old location, and will feature a new outdoor patio and a stage. All of the rooms are being refurbished, and a 30-person meeting room will be added. The roof of the entire building has been replaced.

The operating company is in discussion with the Liquor Control Board about the reinstatement of the liquor store. Formosa advised the community that there was no guarantee that a license would be granted, though he has written a letter to the Board explaining the role that the hotel plays in the community. If his efforts are unsuccessful, he will look to the community for further support in the process.

Leased facilities will be available on the lower level, and these spaces will also be refurbished. The operating company will consider strong ideas, with well-developed business plans, for sustainable businesses to occupy these spaces.

Outside the building, the fuel dock is already up and running. An engineering firm has been contracted to ensure that the fuel tanks are secure, and the system will be pressurized. The company intends to be competitive with fuel prices and to offer a discounted rate to commercial users. Parking will be changed so that the lower area, near the marine wharf, will be available for day visitors. Paid, long-term parking will remain in the upper parking lot. The lot by Lund Marine will also be opened to provide more capacity. In the trailer park, creeks have been cleared and a waterfall that had been overgrown has been exposed. Crews will continue to work on it in down time from the hotel project. Plans include the restoration of the water wheel and shed, new tables, concrete pads at the lots and additional landscaping.

The old Community Hall will remain, though no work is being done on the building at this time. Other buildings on the property may be refurbished: Formosa talked of adding a gym and meeting rooms though no formal plans exist for these facilities at this time.

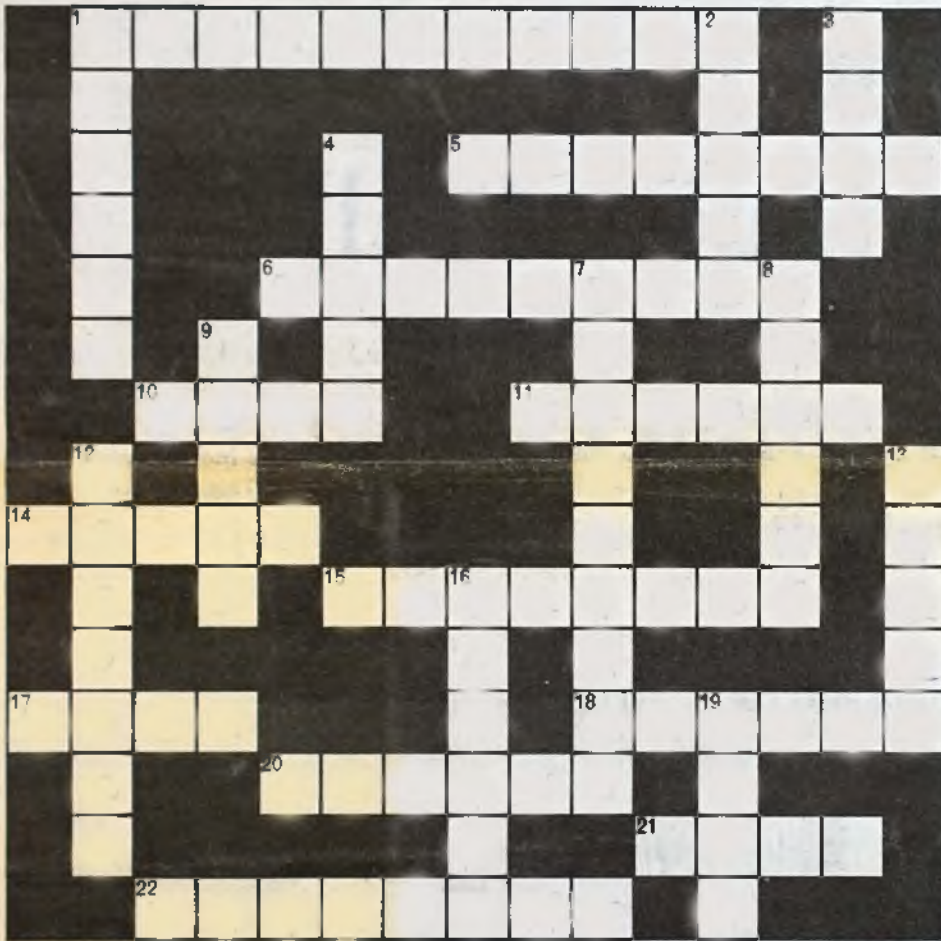
The Lund Hotel is one of several projects under the management of the Sliammon Development Corporation, which is a corporation that has been developed to look after the financial interests of the Sliammon First Nation. Other projects include the lease-hold properties on Southview and Klahanie, logging and fishing interests, and the now-abandoned plans to relocate the ferry terminal to Scuttle Bay. The meeting with the Lund community was held to provide information only, not as a consultation or a negotiation. The DevCorp is sensitive to the community's needs, but will operate the site with the intention of making it a vibrant, profitable business.

The management team for the hotel has been hired, including the Pub Manager, the Restaurant Manager and the Store Manager. The DevCorp is committed to hiring local talent, though the Lund community members pointed out that most of the workers currently on the project are from Sliammon or Powell River. Local (Lund) companies have been contracted to manufacture and install the flooring. Dave Formosa explained that the hotel was accepting applications for employment and taking resumes, though the staffing issue will be on hold until the construction project is further along.

Formosa also explained that there will not be much external marketing this year, with the first priority being to service local customers and the boat traffic that comes through in the summer months. Plans for marketing projects include eco-tourism packages and partnerships with local tourism businesses.

The Lund community members present expressed their appreciation at the work that the DevCorp has done, and at their willingness to keep the community informed. "We look at it as an opportunity to bring our two cultures closer together," said Jack Anderson, "and to see a way that we can create a sustainable future for our children and their children."

Camille's Crossword



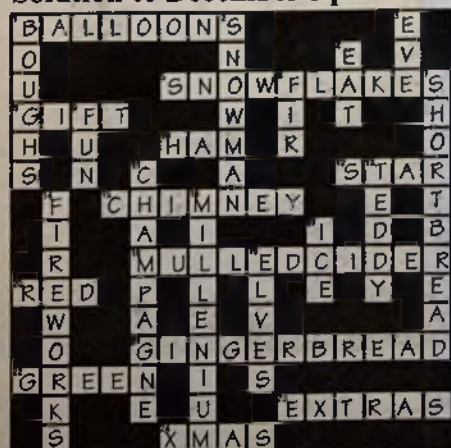
Across

- 1. Caesar's beware
- 5. its time for a _____
- 6. yellow spring flower
- 10. they're ready to open
- 11. spring gives it a break
- 14. spring babies
- 15. spring babies
- 17. stretching to relax
- 18. how does your _____ grow
- 20. they fly back for spring
- 21. it's variable this time of year
- 22. _____ savings (coming in Apr)

Down

- 1. _____ at the Oyster
- 2. opening soon
- 3. _____ and fuzzy
- 4. spring babies
- 7. spring babies
- 8. wind, rain, lightning, thunders
- 9. they're shooting up all over
- 12. fuel up here - it's open!
- 13. the color of spring
- 16. _____ has sprung
- 19. it falls from the clouds

Solution to December's puzzle



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The Lund Community Club
is holding a
Spring Dance

March 18th, 2000

at the
Italian Community Hall

featuring "Anything Grows"

(Sheila Butts, Brian Liddle, Ray Ducharme & Neko)

**** plus ****

reunion of:

Sam Hurrie & Brian Liddle

... and more

Doors open at 7:30 pm

Live Music begins at 9:00 pm

Tickets – \$7.50 in advance

(\$10.00 at the door)

(Net proceeds to Lund Community Club)

For more information,

contact Jamie at

483-8909

