

Capt. I. Lampshire-Jones
752 East 2nd
North Vancouver, BC Can V7L 1E4

1997

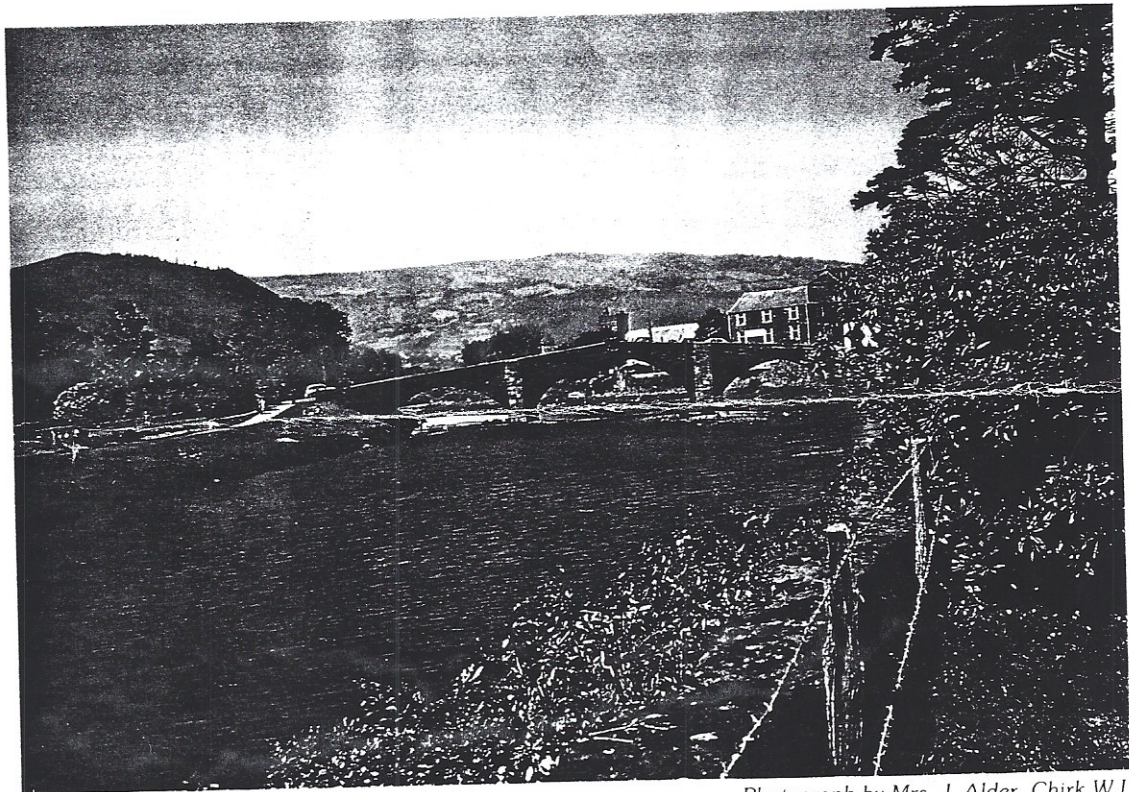


June to July
1997

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



The Bridge at Llanrwst built by Inigo Jones 1636

Photograph by Mrs. J. Alder. Chirk W.I.

Published by Clwyd-Denbigh Federation of Women's Institutes
Ffederasiwn Sefydliadau Merched Dimbych-Clwyd
May 1995 Calendar Postcard

CAMERIAN HALL. 215. EAST 17th AVE, VANCOUVER. B.C. V5V 1A6. Telephone (604) 876-2815.....

A MEMORABLE WEEK-END

For a week or so, beginning May 11th, we experienced a rare phenomenon in that in the midst of a very mediocre spring we were fortunate to be blessed with a period of perfect weather which coincided with the arrival of the Maelgwn Male Voice Choir and their families and supporters on Friday, May 16th. After a long journey, involving stops in Iceland and Calgary, the weary travellers were greeted by a warm, sunny cloudless sky when they deplaned at our international airport.

After a day-long exploration of Vancouver the visitors convened on Saturday evening at the Cambrian Hall to meet members of our society, to quaff some ale and to partake in some finger-food that our members had arranged. It was immediately apparent that this was no ordinary gathering. It was probably an unique and unprecedented event in the history of our Cambrian Hall that such a large gathering — one hundred and seventy six I believe — had been hosted from a relatively small compact area of Wales. The visitors immediately felt very much at home in our hall and it was evident that several of our members were renewing old friendships with some members of the visitors. It was particularly pleasing to note that virtually all our visitors could speak the "language of heaven"!

The upper level of our hall had been set up by members of our society in a manner reminiscent of a medieval banquet hall! The smorsgarbord table had been attractively arranged by some lady members of our society, and it was apparent that many days of hard work had been expended to achieve that result. Our visitors, were completely overwhelmed by our expression of generosity towards them and were extremely surprised by the scope of our preparations. They had not experienced anything remotely comparable anywhere else ever, I was told later.

Towards the close of the Saturday night's festivities, after much reminiscence about old friendships, and the forging of new ones, we were graciously thanked by two of our visitors, and, as a bonus, treated to three songs by the choir. Our president, Jeff Owen presented a book about Vancouver to the visitors, to commemorate their first-ever tour of North America, to begin the following day. Reluctantly we had to disperse fairly early as our visitors were in the throes of jet-lag; but we left the hall that night with an air of optimism and eager anticipation for the morrow.

By 11a.m. Sunday morning a large congregation had gathered at the hall for our religious service and, for the first time for many a year, the gallery had to be used to accommodate the overflow crowd. The visitors were welcomed by Ann Roberts who also led the service. A retired minister, the Rev. Cledwyn Griffith, travelling with the visitors was introduced to the congregation, and who had, by prior arrangement, agreed to conduct a bilingual sermon. The theme for the service was the Pentecost. We very much enjoyed our bilingual sermon and, for a short time on that glorious Sunday morning, we were transported back in time to re-live the experiences of our youth. Our usual Sunday morning service format was adhered to and readings in both Welsh and English

were conducted by Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, John Pritchard, Tecwyn Roberts and Gwilym Evans. Our own Nerys Haqq sang a beautiful song Holy Spirit, Dove Devine with great feeling and expression. Four well-known hymns were sung with immense verve and passion by the congregation and we were thrilled to be surrounded by hymn-singing of such volume and power. To top it all we had a peerless performance by Enid Lewis at the piano. At the conclusion of the service the visitors were treated to a "te bach" which turned out to be almost as lavish as the preceding night's repast—much to their utter astonishment and delight.

The Maelgwn concert at the Tenth Avenue Alliance Church commenced at 7.30p.m. Sunday evening when Mrs. Ann Roberts welcomed the choir and the audience with a bilingual address gently laced with historical and heritage reflections. Next the Canadian national anthem was sung and what a stirring rendition it was with the audience joining in in fine voice. A member of the choir, Mr. Norman Roberts, also acted as a very capable compere and for the next two hours we were entertained by the choir, singing well-known Welsh and English songs, alternating with solos by Edith Pritchard, a Vancouver-born soprano who now lives in Llangollen, North Wales. Mrs Pritchard's selections amply showed her talents and range of vocal power. The grand finale was a stirring rendition of The Holy City by Edith Pritchard with choir support. Although the choir was not at its usual full strength, it performed extraordinarily well with blend and power, such as we expect to hear from Welsh male voice choirs. At the conclusion of the concert a representative of the choir gave a vote of thanks to Gwilym Evans and to the society for their assistance in arranging the concert and presented to our president, Jeff Owen, an exquisitely carved walking-stick as a memento of their visit. To close the programme we sang Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau with tremendous gusto and pride. We bade farewell to the choir which was continuing its tour by leaving for Seattle the following day.

The consensus was that it had been a highly successful and entertaining evening. I learnt on good authority that the whole contingent was overwhelmed by the beauty of Vancouver and its environs; and they had been equally overwhelmed by our generosity and genuine welcome.

It only remains for me to say a very big 'Thank You' to all the members who participated, one way or another, in all activities that made this week-end event so unforgettable. I think it would be fraught with danger for me to try and name all the good people who participated in arranging the hall and the preparation of the food; for arranging the Sunday service; for assistance at the Alliance Church and for any thing else that was remotely connected to the week-end proceedings. I would be bound to omit someone or other and that would be a tragedy. Each participant can feel justifiably proud that he or she made a valuable contribution towards a smooth-running event, which will remain in our memories for a long time, as a stellar week-end in our 1997 calendar.

Submitted by Gwilym Evans

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The first thing we would like to say is "Thank You" to the W.A. for buying a new 100cup urn, which was put to great use during the Maelgwn Choir visit, and also for two tables which will be used in the lower hall. Thank you very much once again ladies.

We would also like to say "thank you" to everyone who helped and worked so hard during the Saturday night reception for the Maelgwn Choir. Everything looked so nice and tasted so good; those of you who so kindly and generously donated food and time made the evening a wonderful success.

The Annual Picnic

Mark your calendar for July 6th and come and enjoy a fun day (and bring the sunshine and sunscreen too—ha! ha!) at Gaynor and Jeff's house at 5456 Paton Drive, Ladner. We will provide the barbecues but please bring your lawn chairs and food for the day. We look forward to seeing you from 11 a. m. onwards. You can locate our address on the accompanying map. Our phone number is: 946 - 4956

P. N. E

This year the Welsh Society is providing a booth in the Multicultural Pavillion at the PNE. We do need HELP in manning the booth, so if you have any time to spare during the period Aug. 16th — Sept 1st., to help in any way, please contact Jeff or Gaynor at 946 - 4956.

CHEPSTOW RACE NIGHT

It was a fun night, lots of laughter, and a great time was had by all. Thanks to the Great Bookie, Ivor Davies for doing a great job. It was so nice to welcome members of the St. George's Society that evening. Please come and join us again.

I know that you are still waiting for summer to arrive but our plans are under way for our Christmas Dinner Dance which will be held on Dec. 6th. Yes, the Christmas Draw Board will be ready by June 21st, night of the golf barbecue. Squares are still 50 cents each, so buy early and get more chances to win some of our Great Prizes!

Have a great summer, and see you at the picnic.

P. S.

Don't forget the Red Dragon is open throughout the summer.

Submitted by Gaynor Owen

GENEALOGY

Part 2: Guidelines for Researching Your Family History

A Research Guide

By Gordon Coslett Thomas

As you explore further into your family history, you may find that some of the methods which are used successfully elsewhere do not produce results in Wales. For those with a little more experience who have run into these problems, a new book was recently published which can help.

Published in 1993, *Welsh Family History - A Guide to Research*, examines the cultural, linguistic, religious and social differences between the records of a British state and one where a patronymic naming system used into the 1800's created inconsistencies for IGI computerized surname entries.

The Guide does not repeat the how-to information found in a

book such as *Beginning Your Family History*, recommended last month, but rather, it examines the what-to-do when confronted with non-recorded names and data which did not survive.

The contributing authors are professionals in their fields and give the reader a look at the historical aspects of Wales and an insight into how that can influence the direction of family history research in Wales.

For those looking for a broad history of Welsh background, this book is a valuable source. It includes a generous select bibliography which will be of value and relevance to the family historian researching in Wales for the first time.

Welsh Family History - A Guide to Research is published by the Association of Family History Societies of Wales in conjunction with the Federation of Family History Societies. (ISBN 0-9520727-0-X; 316 pages; indexed and illustrated)

It is available from The Benson Room, Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, U.K., B3 3BS.

**NINNAU welcomes
your Genealogy
questions.**

**Write to Genealogy,
Ninnau, 11 Post Terrace
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920**

GENEALOGY

SOFTWARE UPDATE

In 1997 May/June Newsletter Computer software program "Personal Ancestral File" PAF was quoted at \$40.00. This has been reduced to \$15.00 US and the program has been revised and updated as of Apr. 28 / 97

The new release is PAF 3.0 for MS-DOS, requires IBM-compatible 286 or higher and MS-DOS 3.3, 640 KB of RAM hard drive with 2.5 MB disk space available and at least one floppy disk drive.

The price is the same for first time users or upgraders by mail from Salt Lake City. Package contains 3.5" & 5.25" high-density discs, a users guide & the Getting Started manual

The Unlucky Commuter

A commuter hopped on a train in London and gave Crewe as the destination to the conductor.

"We don't stop at Crewe on Fridays," the conductor said.

"But I've got to get off at Crewe," the commuter pleaded.

"Tell you what, mate, as we slowdown at Crewe to go through the junction I'll open the door and you hop off. Mind you we'll still be going pretty fast, so hit the ground running. The platform is long enough and you should be OK.

At Crewe, the train slowed to 40m.p.h., the door opened and the commuter hit the ground running at a tremendous pace, his legs going like pistons. He valiantly tried to slow down but he saw the end of the platform rapidly approaching. Finally, with a superhuman effort, he managed to slow a little as the train resumed speed to pass him but, just as he got to the end of the platform, another burly conductor opened a door of a carriage and hauled him aboard.

"You're mighty lucky, mate," he said. "This train doesn't stop at Crewe on Fridays."

Golf Edition of the Newsletter

Since this letter is being published just before our much-heralded golf match I feel justified in posting this poem. We golfers run the risk though of being ridiculed by the non-golfing members of our society!!

"The Ball"

In my hand I hold a ball
White and dimpled, rather small
Oh how harmless it does appear
This innocent-looking little sphere

By it's size I could not guess
The awesome power it does possess
But since I fell beneath it's spell
I've been through the fires of hell

My life has not been quite the same
Since I chose to play its game
It rules my life for hours on end
A fortune it has had me spend

It has made me curse and cry
And hate myself and want to die
It promises me a thing called "Par"
If I can hit it straight and far

To master such a tiny ball
Should not be very hard at all
But my desires the ball refuses
And does exactly as it chooses

It hooks & slices, dribbles & dies
Or disappears before my very eyes
Often it will have a whim
To hit a tree or take a swim

With miles of grass on which to land
It finds that tiny patch of sand
Then has me offering up my soul
If it would first drop in the hole

It's made me whimper like a pup
And swear that I will give it up
And take to drink to ease my sorrow
But "The Ball" knows I'll be back tomorrow.

Anonymous

Wales

Though only small, Wales is a land of contrasting but breathtaking scenery that has presented its farmers, especially those in the north, with challenges since the dawn of time. The northern scenery is dramatic and rugged with lamb and cereals the major sources of income for those scraping out a living. The more affluent south, however, is softer and kinder and benefits from high rainfall and the warm breezes of the Gulf Stream. Here, in the rolling hills, sheep and cattle flourish and fruit, vegetables, cereals, and even vines provide a bounty from which all benefit.

Dairy products, lamb, and seafood from Wales' 750 miles of coastline, and freshwater fish from its deep lakes and crystal clear rivers all feature heavily in traditional Welsh cooking. The style of this cooking is uncomplicated—the type of food that can be quickly prepared at the end of a hard day. Workers on the land or down in the mines or in the factories would, in days gone by, be welcomed home with nourishing soups and

stews and delicious home-made baking.

Welsh lamb enjoys an excellent worldwide reputation for its lean, additive-free tenderness and Welsh beef is also growing in stature and quality. The Welsh Black, the native breed of Wales, has grazed here since the time of the Romans and is almost exclusively reared outdoors, resulting in naturally produced, succulent beef.

Having suffered a decline following the Second World War, the seafood industry in Wales is gradually getting

back on its feet. Lobsters from Cardigan Bay, oysters, and scallops from Anglesey and cockles from the Gower Peninsula join whiting, dogfish, plaice, and crabs on the fish stalls of the many markets of Wales. Salmon and trout from the Dee, Teifi, Usk, and Wye rivers are a not-to-be-missed speciality in most restaurants and laver bread, a world-famous seaweed delicacy, occurs in many recipes and restaurant dishes.

Cheese-making, once an integral part of rural Welsh life, is enjoying a resur-

gence in popularity. Cow's, ewe's, and goat's milk as well as organic cheeses, hard, soft, fresh, and mature, can all be offered as a high quality finale to a Welsh meal. Names like Llanboidy, Pencarreg, Pantysgawn, St. David's, Lady Llanover, Penbryn, and Y Fenni may not yet be as famous as Caerphilly, but their popularity among gourmets grows daily.

The Romans first made wine in Wales and the expansion of its vineyards continued up to the Medieval period, but the Plantagenets almost put paid to the British vineyards. Cheaper wines from France became fashionable, causing Welsh wine production to dwindle and subsequently almost die out. It revived after the Second World War, though serious attempts at viticulture waited until the 1970s. There are now a dozen or more wine producers in South Wales and,

though the quantities they produce are small, the quality is steadily improving.

Finding traditional Welsh food in the Wales of the sophisticated 1990s is not easy. *Blas ar Gymru* in the capital city of Cardiff has made it a speciality and its owner, Meirion Dally, has diligently researched the history of Welsh food in order to offer authentic dishes to his diners. An hour to the north, the Grade II listed medieval home of Julia Evans

and Ken Peacock, six miles outside the delightful market town of Abergavenny, offers authentic food from the Stuart period. At *Penyclawdd Court* guests enjoy the best of 17th-century cuisine in stunning oak panelled, candlelit surroundings. For those who imbibe too freely, bedrooms with open fires offer cosy overnight respite in the tranquillity of the Monmouthshire countryside.

Modern interpretations of Welsh traditional dishes are often included on the menus of three magnificent hotels further north. *Maes-y-Neuadd*, a 14th-century granite and slate country house is situated among spectacular scenery just over three miles from Harlech on the West coast. Under the expert eye of Peter Jackson (also manager of the Welsh Culinary Team) diners enjoy Welsh specialities served either in the elegant dining room or aboard a steam train on the famous Festiniog railway. *Hotel Portmeirion*, again on the West coast, between Penrhyndeudrath and Portludog, uses the best local produce to create dishes to enchant its guests. Portmeirion is a magical, private Italianate village set in 120 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland and has numbered Noel Coward, George Bernard Shaw, and H.G. Wells among its past guests. *Bryn Howel Hotel's* kitchens are ruled by Head Chef Dai Davies whose culinary skills were sampled by Pavarotti when he returned to Llangollen to thank the Welsh people by singing at the 1995 International Eisteddfod. Dai is another chef fascinated by Wales's culinary past and his menus reflect this enthusiasm.

The sadness that followed the demise of the industrial past Wales once enjoyed, has now been replaced by a palpable pride in its heritage and culture. Nowhere is this more evident than in the food and hospitality industry where high quality indigenous ingredients are mixed with the enthusiasm of young and talented chefs to give visitors and residents alike unforgettable dining experiences.

LAST CALL FOR THE GOLFERS

Saturday, June 21st is the day of reckoning in the North Wales v. South Wales golf match. All the barbs and arrows have been expended and the day of performing instead talking is fast approaching. Whatever the outcome we'll have a great day(as long as it is not raining)and, again this year, we have to thank Bob Marsh and Rob Barclay for arranging the tournament.

All the members of the South Wales team, Dave Gilder(capt.), Bob Marsh, Rob Barclay and Gwyn Evans have purchased 'comfort' blankets in an attempt to stave off pre-match jitters!!

Tee-off time is 12noon at the Delta Golf Course, Surrey.

A Snippet of Welsh History

The Welsh Mormons were the first non-English speaking migrants to settle in Utah , and they were more easily assimilated , and were more ready than almost any other group of immigrants to assume U.S. citizenship.

But the Welsh immigrants were eager to attend religious services in their own language which favoured, therefore, the formation of established Welsh communities. By 1872 , there were 384 Welsh-language chapels in the U.S. , and two dozen Welsh periodicals had been established. Many immigrants attempted to re-create , forge and duplicate their life patterns in Wales with the underlying principle of ensuring the continuance of such communities from generation to generation. Michael D. Jones , the minister of a Welsh church in Cincinnati was a staunch advocate of these Welsh communities, and he had plans for colonies to be established in Wisconsin , Oregon , Vancouver and even Palestine.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership renewals are coming in rapidly since memories have been jogged , and I am pleased to report we are now at 160 and still growing.

Thank you !

We would like to welcome the following new members :-

Derek John - Powell River.
Gwyneth Moorside - Chase, B. C.

Dr. Alan Lloyd Thomas, and his son Morgan Thomas - Vancouver.

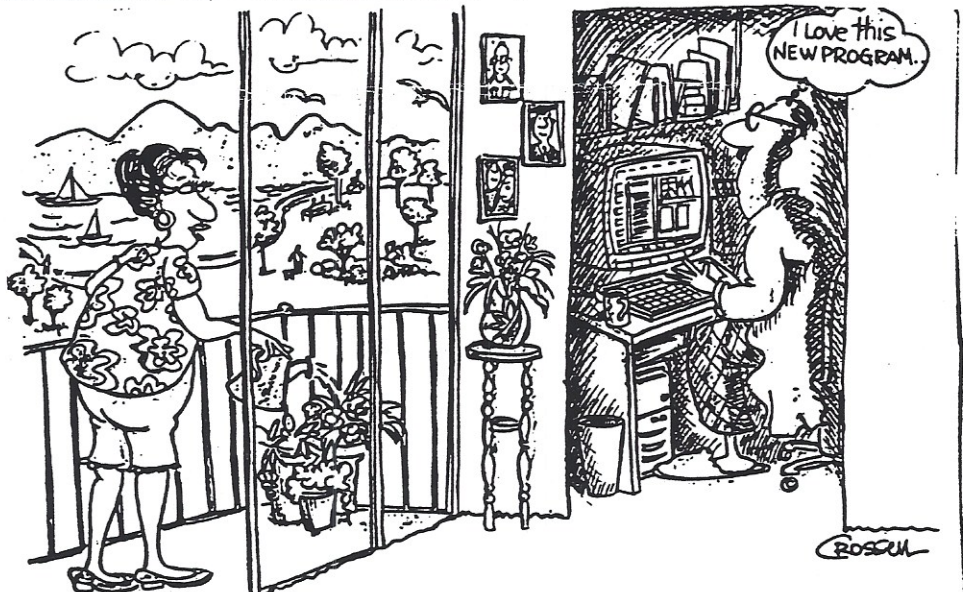
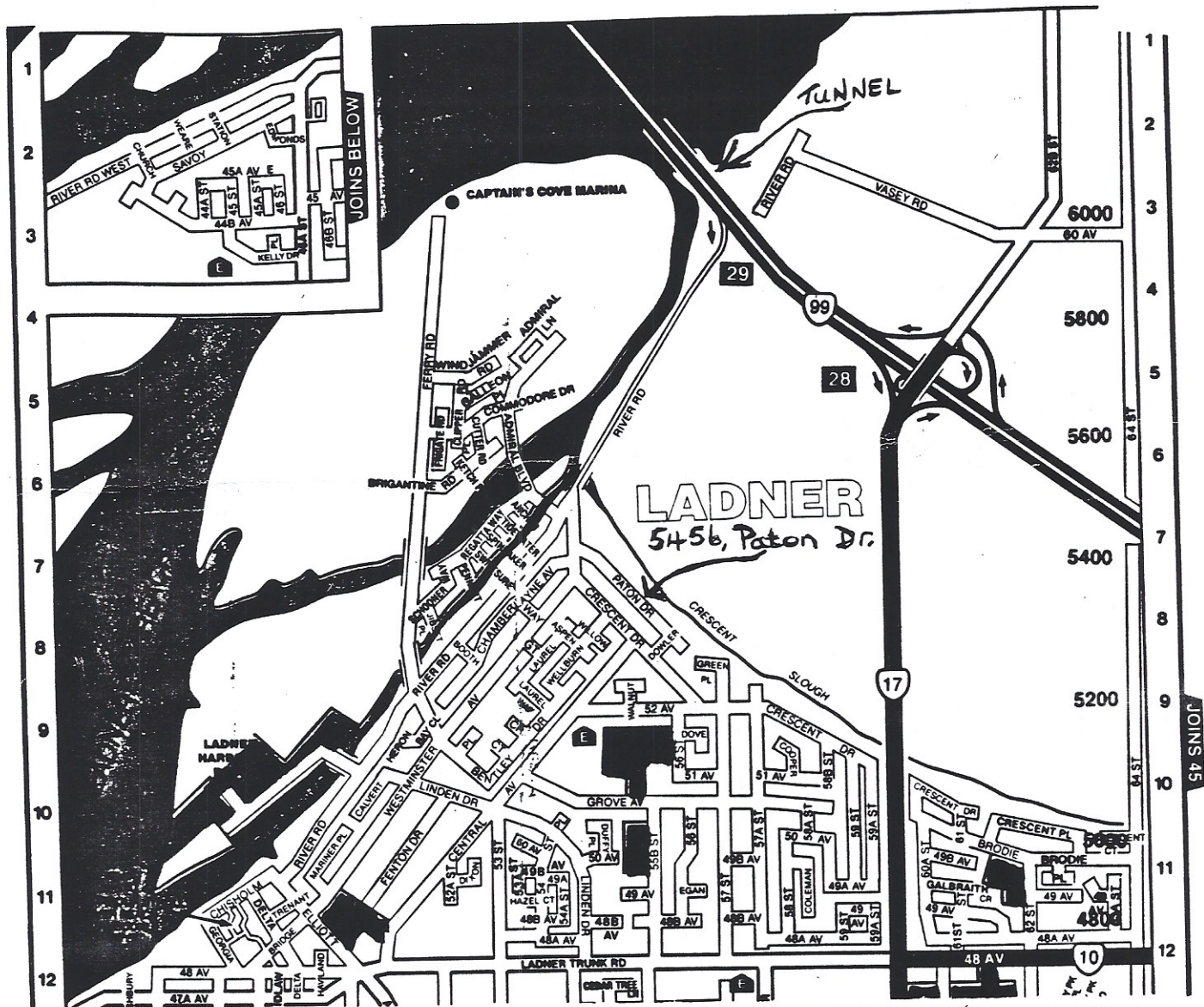
Submitted by Beverly Thomas

Editor's Note

This is the last newsletter until September.
Have a pleasant summer.
Gwilym Evans

JEFF AND GAYNOR'S HOUSE

9



Dear...what happened to our early retirement dream of spending quality time together on long walks & unlimited vacations?

July 1997

Mis Gorfennaf 1997

Farmer's Market
May to October
Trout Lake Commu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Canada Day	2	3	4	5 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
6 Annual Summer Picnic 11 am onwards at The Owen's	7	8	9	10	11	12 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
27	28	29	30	31		

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Bancwiler Celfyddyd
 Cymdeithas Ffald, 215 C. 17th Sbur, Bancwiler, Ff. C.
 959 1816 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815