

# Island intelligence reduces problems

By Joe Mykietyn

Are you thinking about or planning a trip to the Caribbean in the very near future? Lots of people do only to be disappointed in the long run.

Careful planning and timing are essential to a great vacation... and believe me everyone wants a great vacation only some come up on the short end of the stick so to speak.

But with a little island intelligence and a lot of patience and a few tips along the way you will be able to overcome the shuffling through immigration, waiting out delays, bouncing around in taxis,

power failures and any other inconvenience which crops up.

What exactly is the "Caribbean"? Actually, it's a sea, but most of the islands that ring it also have windward coast lines facing the Atlantic. Christopher Columbus called these islands the West Indies, but they are more identified as the Greater Antilles (from Grand Cayman to Puerto Rico) and the Lesser Antilles which flow east and south from the Virgin Islands all the way to Tabago, Trinidad and the Dutch ABC's (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao) just off the coast of South America.

There are of course other islands in the Caribbean, but they are physically surrounded by the Atlantic (Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas).

## Being Prepared

**1. Reservations** are a must, whether you book a package trip, go independent or have separate flight and hotel bookings. During the peak season which is from February to April, reservations can be a real problem anywhere. Best bet is to book no later than mid-December or early January and have the lodgings of your choice.

**2. Conventions and Construction:** When making reservations, especially in the off-season, check to make sure your stay does not overlap with a convention. Also ask your travel agent to enquire about hotel or resort construction. Usually this is done in the off-season and if you do get stuck with construction, ask for a rebate.

**3. Local Holidays:** They take

place all year, not just prior to Lent. During carnivals and holidays inter-island flights are booked, and crowded roads can add hours to the drive from or to the airport. Plan ahead.

**4. Immigration Forms:** Every island nation requires you to fill out an immigration form. Guard the carbon copy with your life as you have to turn it in again on departure.

**5. Taxis, busses and rental cars:** A taxi ride that costs \$5 in Canada could easily cost twice the amount in the Caribbean. Depending on how mobile you want to be, renting a car can be economical. I preferred the local busses - they were cheaper, safer (the island drivers are some of the worst I've seen anywhere in the world) and took you to all points of interest.

If you rent a car, some islands will require you to buy a local licence. You may end up driving plenty of miles in search of a police station that will issue one.

**6. Service:** Although the tempo of some islands is speeding up, there hasn't been a comparable acceleration in service. If you can remember that you are in the islands to slow down and relax and if you learn to anticipate your thirst or hunger ahead of time, everything works out in the end.

**7. Currency:** There are Pesos and Guilders, Francs and all sorts of dollars, U.S. being the most widely accepted. It is wise on most islands and necessary on some, to change a little money (whether Cdn. or U.S.) into local currency for use outside hotels. Many islands have an airport departure tax, which sometimes must be paid in local currency. You can change your money in hotels, but banks provide a better rate of exchange.

**8. Local Taxes:** On the French islands taxes and tips are included in the room rate. Elsewhere local

taxes vary from five to ten per cent and are sometimes levied on rooms only. In Jamaica, the government tacks on \$4 to \$12 per room per day in the high season.

**9. Climate:** Varies from island to island. Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao tend to be dry, with desert like landscapes; Dominica is 250 miles farther north and is lush with an annual rainfall of more than 40 inches on the coast and 150 inches in the mountains. Winter temperatures range from 70 to 80 degrees F with summer temperatures being 5 to 10 degrees higher. Hurricanes and tropical storms occur from mid-June through to September or October.

**10. Off-Season:** Lasts eight full months and can be enjoyed at 25 to 50 per cent less. Best times are April and May or October and November.

**11. Power Failures:** They are a fact of life on all but the most advanced islands. Most of the time the outages are minor since hotels usually have their own back-up generators. Always carry a pocket flash light.

**12. Vendors:** Beach vendors are a nuisance, but you can't blame them if tourists keep buying. Like all smart capitalists they waste no time on someone not interested. So if you're no interested say so...loud and clear.

**13. Language:** Most of the islands are English speaking, but you will also run into Native, Dutch, French, Spanish and a whole array of others.

**14. Dress:** Except for a few beaches on the French islands and Jamaica, topless sun bathing is inappropriate. The people who live on the islands tend to be conservative and God fearing. They dress modestly and expect us also to do the same. Remember, respecting their customs and codes will go a long way in making you a friend and welcome visitor.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Township of Schreiber

Take notice that the Municipal Council of the Township of Schreiber, will take into consideration the passing of, and if approved, will pass at its meeting to be held on the 9th day of January 1990, or at an adjourned meeting thereof, at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 608 Winnipeg Street.

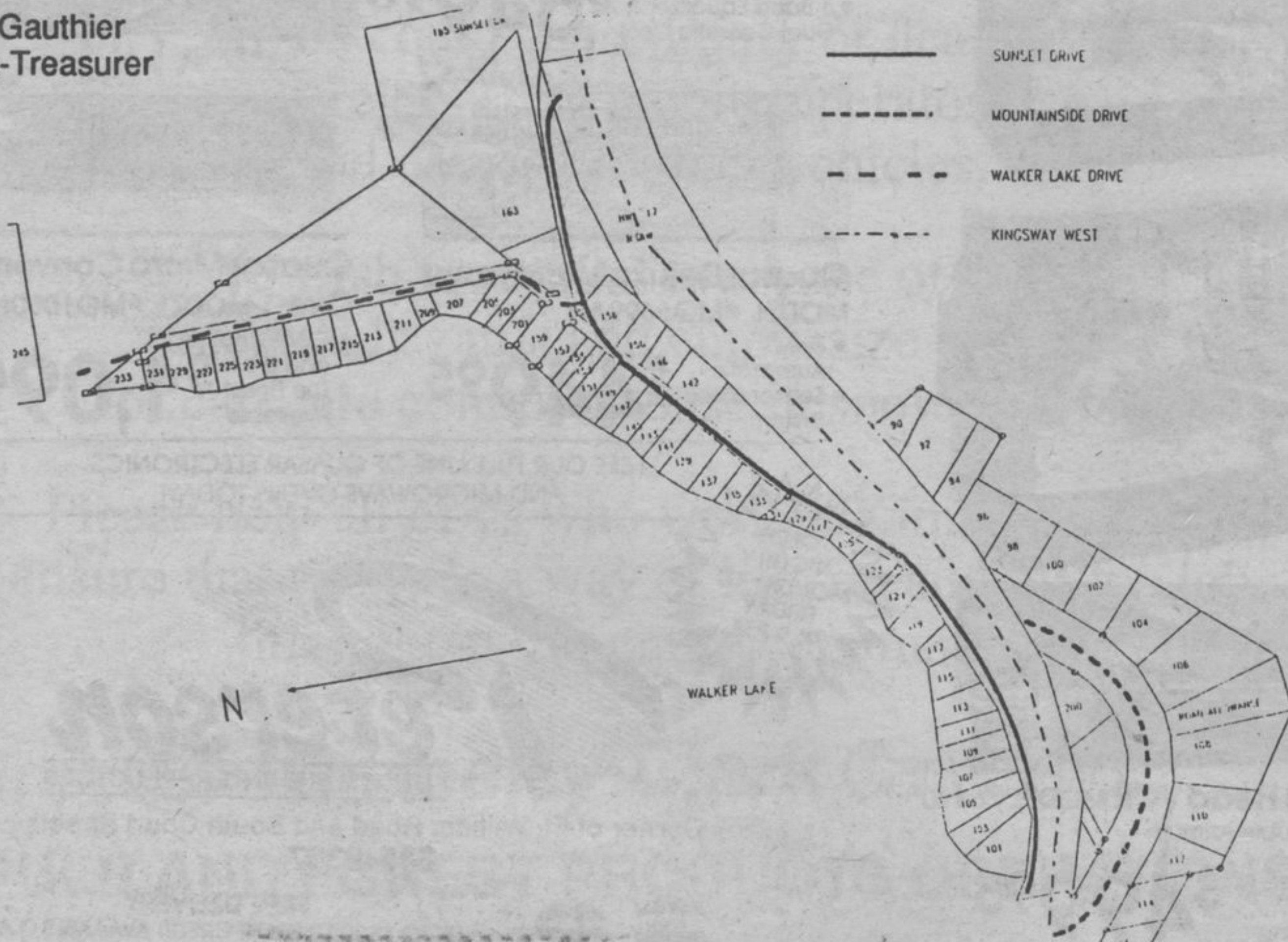
A BY-LAW NAMING STREETS AND ROADS AT WALKER LAKE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE NUMBERING OF ALL LOTS ON THE NAMED ROADS.

The following roads or streets, namely, all of the former Highway 17, on the south side of the present Highway 17, as shown on Plan M-135, to be named "Mountainside Drive", and numbered from 100 to 118, all of the service road, as shown on Plan M-135 and Plan M-55, as altered, increased or decreased by Ministry of Transportation expropriations and adjustments, such road continuing a point connecting to the north side of Highway 17, to be named "Sunset Drive" and to be numbered 101 to 165, excepting those lots detailed northerly from the renamed road "Sunset Drive", which will be named "Walker Lake Drive", and numbered from 201 to 245 inclusive, all of Highway 17 from a point west of Simon Street to be know as Kingsway West, and lot situate on the south side of Highway 17, "Kingsway West" to be numbered 90 to 98, including lot 20 of Plan M-135 which will be numbered 200.

An take further notice, that the said Council will at the time and place above mentioned, hear any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the said By-Law, and who applied to be heard. The said By-Law may be inspected during business hours by any interested party at the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Township Municipal Office, 608 Winnipeg Street, Schreiber, Ontario prior, to the passing thereof.

Dated at Schreiber, this 4th day of December, 1989.

A. J. Gauthier  
Clerk-Treasurer



# 59,392

THAT'S  
HOW MANY  
CANADIANS  
ARE  
RINGETTE  
PLAYERS



Way to go, Canada!  
PARTICIPATION

## NOTICE To all LEGION Members

### 1990 MEMBERSHIP DUES

We wish to remind all members that 1990 dues are now being accepted at the Legion. We thank members who have already paid and would like to remind those who haven't that to remain a member in good standing your dues should be paid before December 31, 1989.

Membership Chairman

## Royal Canadian Legion Terrace Bay Branch 223

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1990

A meeting to hold Election of Officers 1990 will be held on **DECEMBER 6, 1989 at 8 p.m.** in the Legion Hall. All voting members are urged to attend. The future of the Legion depends on you!

The Executive