

**Discovery**

# **Islander**

Community News and Events from the Discovery Islands

**Bugs  
Swarm  
Fools!**

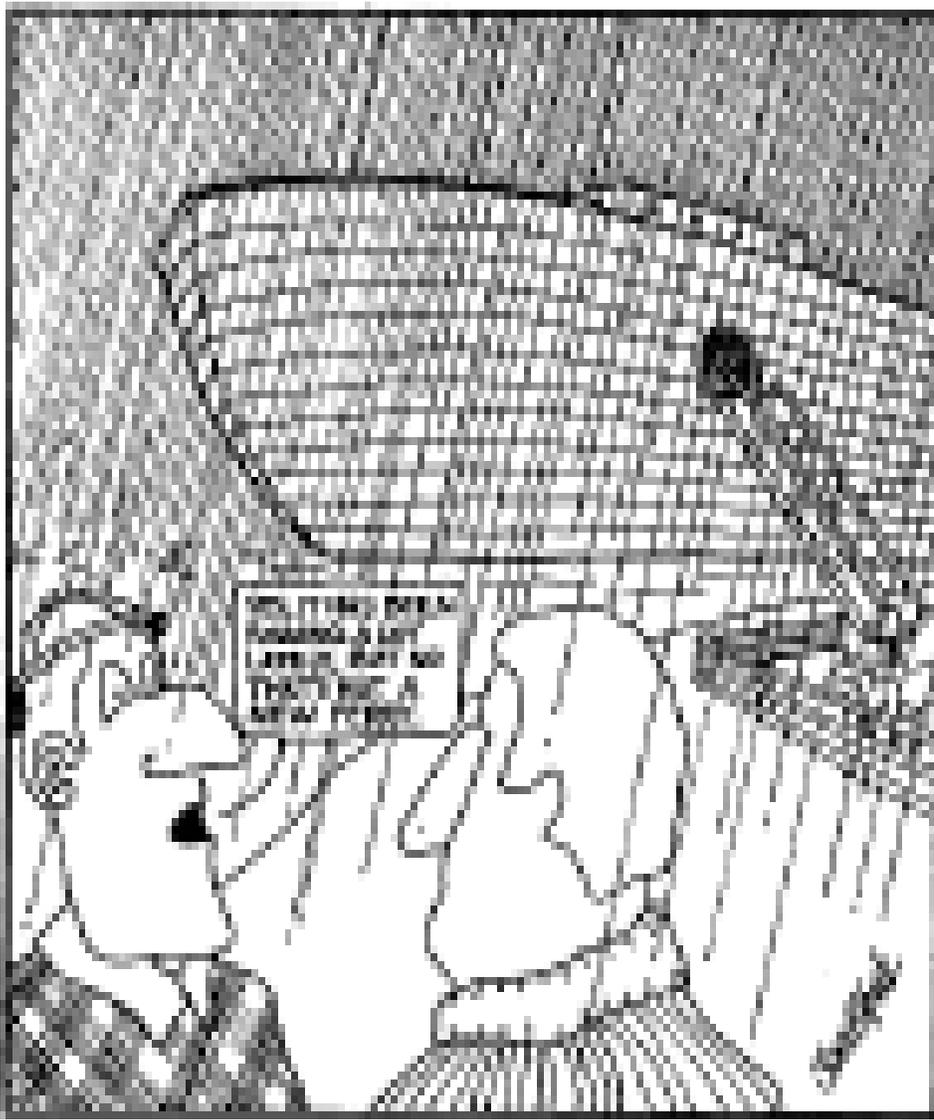
**What Is  
MIA?**

**Grape  
Hour**

**Ferry  
Wave**

*ISSUE #155*  
*FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup> 1998*





## Discovery Islander

#155 February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998

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**Please Call Monday -Friday 9 am to 5 pm**

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Letters, artwork, submissions of any kind welcome. Lengthy items are preferred by e-mail or on 3.5" floppy disk in RTF or MS Word for Mac format, **please also supply a printed copy.**

**Submissions** may be left at **Quadra Foods** or **Heriot Bay Store**.

**Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and are not**

*Printed on recycled paper*



*The Bugs have arrived at the Fool's Gallery, here Martina Kowalchuk's Marshwood Dragonfly. Photo: Tanya Storr*

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to Get Your  
Fruit Trees Pruned  
and Enjoy a  
Fruitful Summer*





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# Editorial

## Island Tides

For Quathiaski Cove  
January 19- 31, 1998

<b>19 Monday</b> 0240 Low 0945 High 1725 Low 2225 High	<b>26 Monday</b> 0435 High 0850 Low 1430 High 2230 Low
<b>20 Tuesday</b> 0320 Low 1015 High 1815 Low 2355 High	<b>27 Tuesday</b> 0510 High 1040 Low 1525 High 2305 Low
<b>21 Wednesday</b> 0410 Low 1045 High 1905 Low	<b>28 Wednesday</b> 0545 High 1125 Low 1615 High 2340 Low
<b>22 Thursday</b> 0125 High 0510 Low 1120 High 1950 Low	<b>29 Thursday</b> 0620 High 1310 Low 1710 High
<b>23 Friday</b> 0235 High 0610 Low 1155 High 2030 Low	<b>30 Friday</b> 0015 Low 0655 High 1400 Low 1805 High
<b>24 Saturday</b> 0320 High 0715 Low 1245 High 2115 Low	<b>31 Saturday</b> 0050 Low 0735 High 1450 Low 1905 High
<b>25 Sunday</b> 0400 High 0805 Low 1335 High 2155 Low	

**Deadline For Next Issue 5 pm February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
*Only Items Received Before The Deadline*  
*can be guaranteed space in the upcoming issue.*

Drop off at the Heriot Bay Store or Quadra Foods or fax to 285-2236  
Lengthy items preferred on disk, Saved As "Word for Mac" or by email.  
Disks will be returned. Any questions...call 285-2234, 9 to 5 Mon.-Fri...

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Looks like the tides are here to  
stay this way. Any protests?

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# Island Forum

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to two letters written in the Discovery Islander issue #154, January 1998.

The letters I refer to are written by John Sprungman and Ian LeChemiant. Having read these letters I can only consider these people ignorant, self-righteous, hypocrites.

First I will address John Sprungman's letter. Who is he to criticize, lobby against or otherwise condemn the profit mongers of our society or to suggest laws be implemented to lock up those who in his mind are trashing the environment? Is he proposing to have himself locked up?

It was not long ago that John owned a sizable unique parcel of land which he subsequently subdivided into small parcels. No doubt receiving a "quick orgasm of profit" (his words).

In my opinion John trashed a unique ecologically sensitive area. I have no problem with a foreigner profiteering from Canadian land. I do however have a problem with a foreigner criticizing, lobbying against and condemning others for doing what he had done.

I am curious as to what percolates through the mind of someone who continues to build with rare woods and old growth species, not to forget using environmentally destructive materials.

Does he concern himself as to how many bird species or insect species have met their demise because their habitat has now been transported to Cortes? I doubt very much there is any consideration given. All in the name of profit and higher standard of living.

As for Ian's letter and comments, I am perplexed that he would not only be involved in an illegal blockade of a public area but that he would have the gall to criticize or condemn anyone for their work ethics or environmental practices. Most Cortes Islanders are aware that Ian builds cabinets and other furniture. Much of these items are constructed with expensive rare woods. I can only imagine the cornucopia of chemicals he uses in the glues and petroleum by products that make up the laminate counter tops and hardware. All in the name of profit (greed) and better standard of living.

Environmentally you both fail miserably. As hypocrites you excel. Unfortunately you're not alone. I have much more respect for those loggers you attack with your letters. They far outrank you when it comes to their genuine concern for the environment and the laws they are

required to adhere to. Sensationalism by so called environmentalists often begets rabid distortion of the facts.

You both have so much to say about the logging on Twin Islands. This is private property and you would have received some credibility had you reported the facts about the islands as opposed to blatantly incorrect statements.

Fact: The twins were logged extensively several decades ago. The present owners are not "ravaging" the islands as one of you reported. That was also done decades ago.

Fact: The Twin Islands have never been a recreational site for the general public. These islands have been reserved for the privileged few. (So be it, they paid the property taxes.) It was also used by those who have no respect nor regard for private property. It is well known that its shores and upland (on the closest island to Cortes) have been and no doubt continue to be the play ground for Hollyhock visitors and some locals.

Fact: There are selfish reasons why a few want the Twins to remain as is. One is view from Cortes. My question is what about the owners of Twins who look at the view on Cortes? They are subjected to a marred shoreline littered with homes, shacks and clear cuts.

Fact: The lodge on the Twins which Ian would like to preserve as a cultural and heritage site leaves me, and no doubt many, puzzled. Why as a misconstrued environmentalists would you want to preserve a structure of past wealth and power? The lodge was built from many old growth trees during the 40's and the decadent interior walls are adorned with animal skins and other animal parts as is the furniture.

To John, Ian and like minded persons, before you feel the urge and justification in outrageous, lobbying against and condemning others, give your head a good shake and do some soul searching of your own. you may well be dismayed at the reality check.

Sincerely, *John Hansen*

## To the young rock throwers,

To the young people who were throwing rocks to the young dog at Rebecca Spit on January 10, 1998.

Because this young dog was treated as equal by the children of the family he

belonged to, it never came to his mind that you did not want him to play with you, so badly that you threw rocks at him.

Here he was coming to play with you, his tail wagging with happiness, ready to play, loving you because of the ball you were throwing at each other, barking with joy, loving the game and you as well.

When you hit him he did not understand that you did not want him. Belonging to a family where he was treated as an equal and loved so much by everyone, that it never came to his mind that he would be hated because of his desire to participate, that rocks would be thrown at him and he would be hurt so badly that he could not move.

You stopped and ran when you saw me coming. The poor thing was in a state of shock, like any living creature would have been, not only because of the rocks but because he did not understand that you did not want him in your game and hated his participation so much that you were ready to kill.

Killing would not have been a joyful moment as you believed. It would have left you with haunting memories.

I took him in my arms, his eyes asking "why". He tried to lick me, but his broken left leg did not permit him to move. He was suffering not only physically, but as all living beings, he was also suffering by not understanding why the humans did not love him any more. In my arms he cried little screams of pain and incomprehension as to what had happened to him. Never before did people not want him. On the contrary, his experiences in the past were with laughter and happy play.

He was trembling full of pain, so I tried to demonstrate affection to him by speaking gently to him and caressing him with caution. If you do not believe a dog can cry, he was showing that it is possible when I tried to put him down to phone the number on his collar. So I kept him in my arms speaking very softly.

When the children who own the dog came and showed their love and concern for him, his tail moved a little and his tense body relaxed despite the pain. He was back in the arms of loved ones and he barked with joy.

May you never forget the pain you caused, and try with this memory not to inflict it again on any living creature.

*R. Michel*

## Dear Premier Clark,

My message is brief. In consideration of recent screw-ups with ferry fares, Skeena Cellulose, slot

machines in Vancouver, and the future of the provincial NDP: 'It's time to CAN DAN'. Gee. that'd make a neat bumper sticker, wouldn't it?

Sincerely yours,  
*Fred Zwickel*  
Manson's Landing

## Dear Constituents,

I approached the Regional District Board with a request for Grants-In - Aid to help our Quadra Island Ferry Users Group continue our fight. I am pleased to say that funds will be forthcoming from "Area J" as well as from three other Electoral Area Directors. Other Directors whom I've lobbied will also be making contributions after they go through the process of approval in their own areas.

See you at the dance on  
Saturday, January 31st.  
*Jim Abram*,  
Regional Director

## Dear Editor

So far 55 people from around the South Coast have subscribed to BC Islanders, an Internet e-mail discussion group (listserv), that was created during the ferry fare protests to provide a forum for islanders to discuss and share information about issues of common concern. You can join at <http://www.connected.bc.ca/bcislanders>.

*John Sprungman*

## Dear Editor

Tonight, I am limping about on a sore leg, after a run with my son at Rebecca Spit. The limp, however, is not the fault of our run, but rather, the result of a run-in

with a very large dog. Unleashed, and unresponsive to both its owner's cries to heel, and my terrified calls to go, this huge animal charged at us (my dog, leashed, presumably its target).

This was an extremely frightening experience; to look up and suddenly be facing a huge animal, only metres away, charging and bearing down directly at us, and completely oblivious to its owners' commands.

I had backed up as far as possible, and at the water's edge, slipped and fell hard onto the wet rocks. I stumbled to my feet, unable to see the animal behind me, and terrified that I would feel its attack at any moment. I tried to run, still holding onto my dog's leash and saw then that the animal was finally returning to its owner.

I returned, limping and shaken, to my car and confronted the dog owner on her return. It looked as if she was shaken up too and she did apologize, but the "justification" offered made me shake my head with wonder. The idea, apparently, is that her dog would never "really hurt" somebody!

Sadly, I have experienced this attitude from other dog owners who do not leash their animals at Rebecca Spit. This owner also stated that hers is a "large dog" (understatement!) and "needs to run somewhere".

Dog owners: we have no way of knowing that your dog, charging at us in a direct line, and ignoring totally your calls to heel, is not really going to attack. Besides, actually drawing blood is not the only issue here: the emotional upset and fright caused by the owner's refusal to use a leash on her animal, is trauma enough. And what about people who are simply afraid of dogs? Do they need to avoid enjoying the spit, in case their path should cross that of an unrestrained dog? There are also important safety concerns here: What if it had been a young child walking his dog? What if it had been an elderly person, whose fall on the sharp and slippery rocks had caused more than a cut and bruised knee?

And lastly, what about respecting the park regulations, which for good reason, require all dogs to be on a leash in a Provincial Park? I wonder if any others in the community share my experiences or concerns?

*Ellen Tye.*

## "West Coast Ferry Users Group

The West Coast Ferry Users Group, which consists of representatives from ferry dependent communities all across the Georgia Basin, met for a second time,

on Jan. 22, 1998, with the B.C. Government appointed mediator, John Fryer. Quadra Island was represented by Jim Abram, Peter Gellatly, and Rick Schnurr. Cortes Island was represented by Jocelan Coty, Dusty Miller, and Ralph Nurshall. As you will recall, Dan Miller, the Cabinet Minister responsible for B.C. Ferry Corporation (BCFC) appointed Mr. Fryer to mediate a resolution to the public outrage generated by his (Miller's) arbitrary ferry fare increases back in November 1997.

This group had met with Mr. Fryer on Dec.20, 1997, and that meeting resulted in a partial roll-back of the fares imposed in November.

The Cabinet imposed "terms of reference" on Mr. Fryer and his suggested recommendations are:

- Conduct discussions with BC Ferries stakeholders concerning Ferries stakeholder process.

- Provide options for mitigating tariff impacts for minor route commuters and for re-establishing the stakeholder consultation process.

- Provide a verbal report to the Minister responsible for BC Ferries no later than Dec.23, 1997.

- Provide a written summary, with options and recommendations for BC Ferries stakeholder process and tariff mitigation to CCS and BC Ferries ( by the end of Jan. 1998)

At the Dec. 20/97, meeting your representatives made the following recommendations to the BC Cabinet through Mr. Fryer:

1. Total roll-back of the Nov. 14/97, ferry fare rates and a fare freeze pending the outcome of renewed discussions with stakeholders.

2. Recognition by the government that the coastal ferry system is a part of the Provincial Transport system.

3. There be conducted, a full investigation value for money (spent) audit of the BC Ferry Corporation.

Mr. Fryer saw his mandate as being of two parts: mitigating tariffs and re-establishing the stakeholder process. The second meeting with Mr. Fryer held on Jan. 22, 1998, was to discuss options for "re-establishing the stakeholder consultation process."

After meeting in caucus (without Mr. Fryer) on Jan. 21, the West Coast Ferry Users Group agreed by consensus to the following position which was put to Mr. Fryer in our meeting with him the next day:

1. "**FARES:** The position with respect to tariffs and roll-backs be the retention of a hard line position that any tariff modifications comply with the directions of the stakeholder process."

2. "**VALIDATION OF STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:** In order to validate the

stakeholder process, the West Coast Ferry Users Group requires the following commitment from government:" (we restated points 1,2 and 3 from the Dec.20th recommendations and added the following):

"Formal recognition by cabinet of the stakeholder process through negotiated, written terms of reference.

Commitment by the government to address the issues as presented by the stakeholder group.

Initiation of four party discussions among Stakeholders, BC Ferries, BC Ferry Workers Union, and the Minister responsible for BC Ferries."

There was about five hours of discussion with Mr. Fryer as to what we meant by the above position. As is always the case when attempting to reach a common understanding among thirty people, many definitions and examples of what is actually meant had to be examined.

While he was limited by the terms of reference imposed upon him by Minister Miller in his recommendations re: Tariffs, the group acknowledged that Mr. Fryer had fairly presented their position in Dec. We can and do hope that he will again present our current position to the Minister.

The BC Ferry Corporation is in serious financial trouble. We, as users dependent on the service provided by BCFC, will be the ones most seriously affected if these problems are not solved in the very near future. BC Ferries and the government initiated the Stakeholder process. That it was a flawed process, because it did not have complete representation from all user groups (like us!) from the beginning, is now being addressed. We, on Quadra Island, need to form a "Stakeholder Committee which will identify ferry related concerns of the Quadra community. These concerns will then be communicated to the government and the BCFC through your Stakeholder representative. This committee will require representation from such groups as the "commuters", island business, school groups, police, fire, and ambulance, the ferry workers, and any other interested parties. Anyone interested in participating in the Quadra Island Ferry Stakeholders Committee may call Rick Schnurr at 285-3007.

There must be serious recognition by BCFC and the government of the stakeholder process. There must be a serious independent audit of BCFC to understand not only how the money is being spent but, whether BCFC is getting the products and services at a reasonable cost. There must be a recognition by government and the rest of the citizens of British Columbia that the ferries are an integral part of the total transportation network of the province and that they too require public funding (taxes) for their continues secure operation. There must

be recognition of the fact that users of the ferry service be only required to pay tariffs in a reasonable rate structure such as those applied to other unique transportation links such as public transit, sky-trains, commuter rail lines and toll ways.

The people of Quadra and Cortes Islands are to be congratulated and appreciated by all ferry users in B.C. You let the government know in a determined, and reasonable way that we too have a say in how our government treats us. You came out to meetings, you organized, you donated money, you demonstrated and you were taken seriously.

Thank you Cortes and Quadra  
*Rick Schnurr:*  
 For the combined  
 Quadra and Cortes  
 Ferry Users Group.

Letters for *Island Forum* must include a name and phone number (which will not be printed). Send by:

1. Dropping off at Quadra Foods or Heriot Bay Store
2. Fax it to 285-2236
3. E-mail to: [alpine@island.net](mailto:alpine@island.net)
4. Mail to Box 482, Heriot Bay, V0P1H0

Next deadline:  
**5pm February 2<sup>nd</sup>**



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# Island Calendar

- Feb. 3, Tues.**  
Mac User Group Meeting 285-2652  
7:00 p.m.  
1st Ladies Time Out Church  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 6, Fri.**  
Island Rhythms Dance Community Centre  
8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7 - March 15**  
OFA call to reg.  
285-3590  
Minor Fastball Bottle Drive  
10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 8, Sun.**  
Evening Service United  
Church  
7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10, Tues.**  
Centennial May Day Mtg. Community Centre  
7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14, Sat.**  
Dance with Contraband Community Centre  
8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21, Sat.**  
Quadra Chamber of Commerce Taku Resort  
3:00 p.m.
- March 1, Sun.**  
Winds of the Southern Cross Community Centre  
2:30 p.m.
- March 7, Sat.**  
International Women's Day Community Centre
- March 14, Sat.**  
Dance with Whirlwind Community Centre  
8:00 p.m.
- March 28, Sat.**  
Goods & Services Auction 285-3511
- Mar. 29, Sun.**  
Penderecki String Quartet Community Centre  
2:30 p.m.
- April 4, Sat.**

# News and Events

## 1998 Garden Tour Meeting

A Garden Tour Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, February 16th at 7:30 PM. If you would like to volunteer to help with this years Garden Tour, please call Hilda Van Orden at 285-3458.

## Meditation

Sunday continues to be a lively, and energizing meditation at the Community Centre, 10 - 12 noon. Call 285-2882 for details. All are welcome, no fee.

## Quadra Recreation Society

Interested in helping organize a "Home Show" or some derivative on Saturday, April 4? Please phone the Centre. Such an event has the potential to be a good generator of small business activity if enough people got behind it.

*Sandra Spearing* Community Centre, 285-3243 8-2 p.m.

## OFA on Quadra Island

Quadra Ambulance is once again sponsoring an OFA course on Quadra Island from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each weekend day from Sat., Feb. 7 to Sun., March 15 (6 weekends). Class is open to both new students and recertifications. For more information and registration please call Betty at 285-3590 or Linda at 285-2881

## Dance Your Heart Out!

Date: Sat, February 14, 8:30 pm,

World beat dance featuring "Contraband" from the Comox Valley. Entrance open to all ages, admission is 10\$. For more information call 285-2557

## Ladies Time Out

"Staying Sane in a Crazy World" is our theme this year. Come and hear how you can cope better with all that life brings. Inviting all ladies of our community, to Quadra Bible Church, each Tuesday a.m., 9:30 - 11:30, starting February 3<sup>rd</sup> for six sessions. There is a cost of \$3.00 per session and babysitting will be available. For more info. contact Susan Johnson 285-2417. See you there!

## Aerobics

Monday & Wednesday nights, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Starting January 12. High/Low impact, floorwork and strength training. No Fashion show, Noncompetitive! 10 sessions for \$50.00. Drop in \$6.00. Call Marion for more info. 285-2895

## Mac User Group

Quadra Island Mac User Group General Meeting. All welcome  
**Special guest:** John William. Topic: The Latest and Greatest from MacWorld - San Francisco. **Date:** Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998  
**Time:** 7:00 PM

For location and more information please call Carol- 285-2652, or Dewart-285 3938

## Fools Gallery



*Thank You to Mr Mar  
and all the Parents  
and Children Who  
Gave Quadra  
The Bug Show*

Island Market, Heriot Bay

# News & Events

## Legion News

Remember our Meat Draws every Saturday starting at 5:00 p.m. The profits from the Meat Draws in February will be going to Quadra Elementary School to help replace equipment and supplies lost in December's fire. So plan to attend. See you at the Legion!

## Quadra Daycare Goods and Services Auction

March 28<sup>th</sup> - that's when it happens. The spirit of giving, hang-gliding in the sweet spring winds or turning somersaults in the storm clouds, flows again over Quadra. People gather, shake hands, greet old friends, laugh, remember good times. They reach into their pockets for a feeling of warmth as they purchase goods and services that will benefit themselves, their friends, and the recipients of a very special kind of care. March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998, is the date of the ninth goods and services auction for the Quadra Island Daycare.

Everyone involved with this auction gives. The donators, the buyers, the volunteers who organize and run it, the media that publicizes it. Everyone benefits. Some receive publicity for or awareness of their goods or services; some are able to buy needed things for reasonable prices; some find special things, unavailable anywhere else, they can give to those they cherish; some just have fun. And families who need it continue to receive high quality daycare. The first step is gathering donations.

If you have ever thought about helping someone build or make something with skills or materials, teaching a skill, giving someone a beautiful or unique or practical product, giving time - performing a task to give someone else peace or pleasure, now might be the time and this might be the place to do it. Call 285-3511. Talk to Dee or other staff members about your ideas and your desire to share. The Daycare needs and appreciates your help. It depends on the goods and services auction to raise a major portion of the funds required to help the staff provide the kind of care children need.

Donations of goods can be delivered to the Quadra Island Daycare or will be picked up by a volunteer at your request. Donations of services may be phoned in. To donate a product or a service just call us at **285-3511**

*Jocelyn Reekie, Board of Directors*

## Cortes Invasion

More than a dozen Cortes Island residents of all ages are descending on Quadra Community Centre. Hot! Hot! Hot! dance grooves featuring Cortes Island drummers, dancers, and singers. Led by world renowned composer and percussionist Gordy Ryan, who brings his many years of experience playing, performing, and recording with Babatunde Olatunji, Gabrielle Roth, and more recently, Native Ground.

Ecstatic African, Caribbean, Brazilian, and New Orleans rhythms provide the foundation for this evening of song, dance, and celebration. Expect to move and be moved by this dynamic rhythm ensemble that honours the roots and spirit of many world cultures.

Doors open at 8:00 p.m., Fri. Feb. 6th, Quadra Community Centre. Tickets at the door \$10.00. Kids 12 and under \$5.00. Not licensed. Contact Greg Osoba for more info. 250-935-6641

Centre. Come out and join us for an evening of entertainment, a potluck dinner, and sisterhood! We would like to honour local women who have made contributions to our local and global community. If you have any suggestions please contact Anne at 285-3457, Marion at 285-3789, or Joanie at 285-3653 by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Call for entry,

The Pacific Region Arts Council hereby invites all artists residing from the Malahat north and including Powell River to participate in the 1998 Pacific Region arts Council JURIED SHOW.

This juried regional show, which advocates public awareness of the visual arts in our Island communities, is a travelling show. The pieces selected for the exhibition are chosen from slide and 35mm photo. Two - dimensional works cannot exceed 36" x 40" framed and three dimensional works cannot exceed 50 lb. If they do exceed these restrictions and you still wish to enter, then the artist is fully responsible for all shipping arrangements of the work.

Thirty (30) pieces of work will be chosen as 'Recognition of Excellence' from the total submissions received by 'blind jury procedures and will travel during a two (2) month period to the communities Port Alberni and Courtenay. Upon acceptance it is the responsibility of the artist to deliver the work to Port Alberni on February 28th and pick it up after the final show in Courtenay April 28th through May 1st.

These two galleries where the exhibitions will be displayed are;

The Rollins Arts Centre (Alberni Valley Arts Council) Port Alberni, March 7th to April 1st, 1998 (724-3412)

The Comox Valley Community Arts Council gallery - 440 Anderton Street, from April 4 through April 25th. Courtenay. (334-2983)

Entry forms may be picked up at your local community arts council or most local art galleries. If you are unable to acquire an entry form, we will fax you one upon request. Please phone George at 753-0584 or fax your request to 741-8899 or Linda at 334-2983 or fax your request to 746-1633. **Deadline for receipt of submission of entries is February 17, 1998.**

## Centennial May Day

1898 - 1998 Centennial May Day celebration meeting Tuesday, **February 10 at 7:30 p.m.** It'll be what you make it. Got ideas? Here is your chance to contribute. Hate meetings? Phone ideas in...285-3243.

## Dance with Whirlwind

**Sat., March 14.** Dance with Whirlwind at the Quadra Community Centre. All ages welcome!! \*\*Please note date change from the Rec. Brochure.

## United Church

Quadra Island United Church invites you to the next evening service on **Sun., Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.** Rev. Winston Stokes of Victoria will be the guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

## International Women's Day

A Celebration - Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.** at the Community

Items For "News and Events" Welcome, Brevity Appreciated.

*No Business Related Material Please*

**Next Deadline - 5:00 p.m. January 28<sup>th</sup>**

## Announcement

Name change **December 18, 1997**, "North Island Therapeutic Riding Society" from "Quadra Island Therapeutic Riding Society" to better reflect area of coverage for Northern Vancouver Island, Campbell river and Discovery Islands. We will be running from June through to September of 1998. For registration please call 285-3669.

## Teaching English Overseas

Teaching English Overseas workshop - **Saturday, April 7**, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. April Point Lodge. For more info. call Lynne Ramos at 285-3754.

## Bottle Drive

Quadra Island Minor Fastball Bottle Drive. **Sat., February 7, 10:30 a.m.** Save those bottles/cans for the kids proceeds going towards new batting cage & machine.

## Mitlenatch Field Naturalists

**Friday, Feb. 20.** Mitlenatch Field Naturalists Society "The Endangered Vancouver Island Marmot" Andrew Bryant of the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Program, Nanaimo. **8:00 p.m. at the Quadra Community Centre.** Refreshments.

## Games We Play

### Legends and Myths: Special Pro-D Day Program

Did you know that ice skates used to have blades made of bone? Or that old-fashioned bicycles could be taller than some adults?

In a special Pro-D Day program at the Museum at Campbell River, children can learn more about the games they play: where they came from and how they have changed over the years.

Museum education coordinator Linda Hogarth will use slides and antique games to explain the sometimes surprising origins of modern games. Children can also try playing games from other times and cultures.

The Games We Play takes place on Feb. 3 from 1-2 p.m. at a cost of \$3 per child. Please pre-register at the museum since space is limited.

To round out the afternoon, First Nations storyteller Nick Howard recounts legends and myths, some original, some handed down, highlighted with dance and songs. The Eagle and the Raven story, the Young Eaglets Flight, and many songs enliven this one-hour performance.

Tu-Toooh-Wi-Nis (Howard) is a descendant of Chief Ambrose Howard from the Mowachaht First Nation. Tu-Toooh-Wi-Nis means The Heart of the Island Where Hail Falls.

Storytelling starts at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 3 at a cost of \$2 per person.

## Friday Flicks Film Club

The third in our series of flicks takes Quadra Islanders to Scotland on **February 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Community Centre (7:45). *Breaking the Waves* is a soaring story of love and devotion set in a remote, backwards coastal village in north Scotland in the 70's. Where it soars to is likely not where your average viewer hopes to go with love, but it does attempt a dissection of faith and sacrifice - both to spouse and religion.

*Breaking the Waves* centres on Bess, a shy religious girl who's lived her life in an austere fishing community where the village elders forbid church bells, women are kept in their place and sinners are told they'll be condemned to hell when they die. Director Lars von Trier "wonderfully captures the atmosphere of the remote village where time seems to have stood still" under the inflexible rule of a deeply conservative group of churchmen.

Bess meets and marries Jan, an oil rig worker. The couple spend blissful days together, but when Jan returns to the rigs, Bess is driven to distraction. She would give anything for Jan's return and her prayers are answered cruelly when, after a terrible accident, Jan is returned to her a quadriplegic. "Immobilized by his paralysed hulk of a body", Jan makes a well-meaning bid to free Bess into the sensual world. But Bess holds a religious ideal of faith and sacrifice that turns their pact into a bizarre dogma (Francke).

Emily Watson seems to "empty herself out onto the screen as Bess" (Francke). Robby Muller's mobile camera casts a distraught eye on the players as it circles and scrutinizes. *Breaking the Waves* "strives to understand goodness," but it is an extremely rocky journey. It is "as if our very faith in the film is meant to be shaken" (Francke).

## Capilano College Singers

The north island's new chamber choir, Island Voices, invites you to a performance of *Choral Music* on **Sun., Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.** at St. Patrick's Church, 34 S. Alder, Campbell River. The visiting choir from Capilano College Music Department will be conducted by Lars Kaarto and will sing works by Renaissance, Classical and 20th

**more News & Events on page 16**

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# Money Matters

## R.R.S.P. Options Abound

By Steven Halliday

For some reason, the first 60 days of each new year bring on a frenzy of activity in the financial marketplace. This annual rite had become known as the R.R.S.P. season, and over 50% of Canadians participate. Why this occurs is anyone's guess, since one can contribute to an R.R.S.P. at any time of the year, and in most if not all cases one should be contributing throughout the year, if for nothing other than a "forced savings" program. It only makes sense to set up your retirement savings program on a basis that fits both your budget and your appetite for risk. Finally, a program of investment to your R.R.S.P. throughout the year shelters your investment income (in the case of interest bearing instruments), rather than accumulating your savings to eventually purchase an R.R.S.P. and as a result having taxable interest income.

Canadians currently enjoy a retirement savings environment of almost complete freedom of choice. You can select an R.R.S.P. eligible vehicle ranging from a 100% guaranteed savings account to a highly speculative mutual fund, or just about anything in between. The selection of an investment product is one that should not be taken lightly, as your retirement comfort will be dependant on your R.R.S.P. providing a return over the long term that will meet your eventual needs. Your investment program should be reviewed periodically to account for your changing needs, as well as determining the program's

suitability in comparison to your age. Generally speaking, as one ages your tolerance for risk diminishes. Simply put, an older person does not have the time to recover from a setback in his or her portfolio, and as one nears retirement age they should be moving their portfolio away from the more volatile or risky investments into stable investments that will eventually provide them an income. Examples of stable income generators are Term Deposits or GIC's, mortgage and bond investments, and dividend funds.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, a younger person may have a high tolerance for risk, as their relative youth means time is on their side, and the cyclical nature of the economy is what will provide them a modicum of safety. One good way to take advantage of these cycles is an investment technique called "Dollar Cost Averaging". This technique recognizes that markets will rise and fall in an unpredictable manner over time. If one is buying into the market on a steady basis (preferably monthly), one will be sure to occasionally pick up some bargains when a market is trending down. In the same way, one avoids putting a lot of money into the market when it is trending upwards, in keeping with the old adage to buy low and sell high. Finally, this disciplined approach provides the added benefit that was mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Finally, unless you feel entirely

competent to design your own investment program, you are well advised to seek out help in planning your retirement. As the plethora of ads in the papers indicate, there are lots of people out there very willing to give you this help. The level of expertise of these individuals vary widely, but then again, so do the needs of the investors. Make sure the person whose advice you seek is someone you trust, and it doesn't hurt if you like them as a person as well!!

On a totally different note, the Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce is not dead, it has been taking rest for the last 3 months. A meeting will be held at 3:00PM Saturday, February 21st at the Taku Resort meeting room. All of those who have signed on will receive a notice in the mail, but the meeting is open to any interested parties. This meeting will be the inaugural meeting, with adoption of bylaws, membership fees and selection of an interim Board as priorities.



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# Crime Stoppers

Anyone with information concerning the following can contact the Quadra Island RCMP directly or call Crime Stoppers at 287-TIPS. You donot have to give your name and you may remain anonymous.

**98 Jan 15** Attempt to break and enter to residence on Green Rd. NO entry gained and nothing stolen.

**98 Jan 15** A found Motorola Cellular phone turned into clerk at Squirrel Cove Store. Owner may claim at detachment.

**98 Jan 18** Break and enter and theft

to Cape Mudge Boat Ways. Numerous items stolen including Honda generators, and various hand power tools. One generator was recovered from a shed in the vicinity along with some of the stolen equipment. Some of the items stillmissing include: 9.6 volt Black & Decker Drill, 9.6 volt handsaw, Sears Craftsman portable planer, Electric heat gun etc.

**98 Jan 19** Break in to shed behind Kwaqitl Museum in Cape Mudge. Two axes and a bar were removed. Broken padlock found on site.

**98 Jan 20** Theft of 14 ft. aluminum Lund boat from residence on Noble Rd. Vessel secured on land and had 1984, 20 horsepower Evinrude outboard attached. Vessel recovered on north finger of Government Wharf in Campbell River.

**98 Jan 22** Theft from two locked sheds on Jones Farm Rd. Numerous items stolen including: Edwards High Vacuum Pump, Husquvarna model 61 chain saw, Husquvarna Bruch Cutter, Laram y hot air plastic welder, 2 small drill presses, Mikita electric screw driver, Mikita electric dill, JVC cassette deck & CD player, Snap On socket wrench set etc.

**98 Jan 25** Break enter & Theft from residence at 1400 block West Rd. Entry gained through broken window. Suspect(s) took plastic bucket containing change.

Although it has only been two weeks since the last bulletin, we are investigating numerous property offences. Normally, this is a quiet time of year. Accolades to the citizens who assisted us in the recovery in some of the stolen equipment. Remember to lock your doors and windows and report and suspicious activity to the Detachment. The three Policemen residing on Quadra Island cannot be all places at all times. We need your help to keep our community safe and secure.

Cpl. Doug Chisholm is being promoted to Sergeant and transferring to Nanaimo Detachment. I know many of you appreciated his service to the community and his approach to police work. He will be missed, but best wishes are extended to him and his family in their next posting.

His replacement will be Cpl. Dan Kelly. Cpl. Kelly is arriving from Bella Coola and is looking forward to living and servicing in the community.

A final note. Yes, the new RCMP Ford Explorer you see patrolling the streets is assigned to Quadra Detachment. It is a welcome addition to the fleet. We will be securing the old Suburban on Cortes Island and developing a sub-office with a view to a manpower increase to facilitate better service to the Cortes community.

At your service, *Steve Arthur*



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# Sierra Quadra Report

## A Sierra Club For Quadra Island

After two preliminary meetings and a great deal of careful consideration, 26 enthusiastic Quadra Islanders interested in environmental issues met with Sharon Chow, the Campaign Coordinator of the Sierra Club of B.C. and decided unanimously to form a Quadra Island group of the Sierra Club of Canada. As part of Sierra Quadra's environmental initiatives, it will be writing a regular column for the Discovery Islander.

The original Sierra Club, founded in 1892 in the United States, has been instrumental in establishing a system of major parks throughout that country and in raising awareness about the importance of healthy natural and human environments. Its advertised mission is "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

As an internationally active organization, the Sierra Club has been an advocate for a wide range of ecological issues: habitat protection, eco-forestry, park formation, resource management, sustained biodiversity, land use planning, wildlife projects, and campaigns to counter global warming and ozone depletion. It now has more than a half a million members in the U.S. and Canada, with additional chapters throughout the world.

The Sierra Club of Quadra Island, as an accredited group of this respected and venerable organization, will be able to draw from extensive resources—technical, scientific, financial, strategic, and political—to address local environmental issues.

The essential strategy of the Sierra Club is to grant autonomy to local groups and then to coordinate that energy and momentum into larger campaigns. Such a strategy allows

Sierra Quadra the freedom to give priority to island environmental issues and then to relate these issues wider concerns. Since this bottom-to-the-top process also works in reverse, it will be possible to rally provincial or national support for Quadra issues when they are relevant elsewhere. Since Earth is one integrated ecosystem, each place can be understood only in its context with others. The general strategy for Sierra Quadra, therefore, will be to "Think globally. Act locally."

At a global level, the prognosis for the planet's health is not good. The eminent biologist, Edward O. Wilson writing in *The Diversity of Life*, estimates that the normal, natural rate of extinction is one species per million per year. The present rate of extinction is more than 27,000 per million per year—about one species of plant or animal every 15 minutes, 100 each day, every day of the year. Increasing pollution, human population growth, ecological damage, habitat destruction, ozone depletion, and global warming are accelerating this die-off. Indeed, biologists now commonly agree that we are now experiencing the greatest extinction of life since the demise of the dinosaurs 65,000,000 years ago. A January 1998 article in *National Geographic* magazine noted that about one third of the plant and animal species in the United States are threatened. In the same month, scientists reported that 1997 was the warmest of the last 10,000 years. The consequence of global warming to both natural ecosystems and human habitation will be—and is proving to be—traumatic.

The World Wide Fund for Nature reports that in 1997 more tropical forests burned than in any time in recorded history, "destroying wildlife habitat and sowing death, respiratory illnesses and pollution." Up to 5,000,000 hectares of forests and other land burned in Indonesia and Brazil, 45,000 fires alone in the Amazon region. "Vast areas of Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Peru,

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**Sierra Quadra**

Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, and other parts of Africa burned, and large scale fires were reported in Australia, China, Russia, and several Mediterranean countries." In keeping with the fires in Russia, unusually large fires occurred in northern Canada during 1997.

Last year also marked for Canada the Manitoba floods and weather related anomalies such as grassfires in Alberta—in December! And 1998 has started with devastating ice-storms in Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritimes, the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history.

A global pattern is now becoming clear. Each element of weather is becoming more extreme—storms are stronger, floods are bigger, droughts are longer, fires are larger. From the decade of the 1980s to decade of the 1990s, according to international insurance statistics, the number of climate related disasters has quadrupled and the dollar value of damage has increased ten-fold.

Lest we on Quadra should think ourselves exempt, Vancouver's 1997 rainfall marked coastal B.C.'s wettest year on record. Unseasonably wet springs are leaving local orchards unpollinated. And moisture and warmth are the two principal ingredients responsible for the blight that has been devastating tomato and potato crops. Other fungus, molds, insects, and diseases are migrating northward to bring new threats to gardens, forests, and human health.

Meanwhile, as if nothing of consequence were happening to global ecosystems, industrial logging plans for Quadra Island continue unabated—in fact, the cutting is increasing dramatically. The most recent plans call for a five year total of nearly 400,000 cubic metres is to be taken from 56 sites—more than 13,000 truckloads of

trees. Many of these sites will be visible from roads, trails, or coastal waterways. Additionally, extensive mineral claims have been staked on the island. This could mean 10,000 tonne samples of ore being blasted from our mountains and valleys, possibly followed by mines. In our surrounding ocean, fishfarms—with their effluent and antibiotics—press to expand into every possible bay and inlet. The scale of all these industrial activities are inappropriate to an island of Quadra's size. Industrial logging alone, as it is presently planned, is enough to radically degrade the natural beauty of Quadra.

Through education, argument, political pressure, and the presentation of realistic alternatives, these and other affronts to Quadra's environment can be ameliorated or stopped. We can make a difference if we try. Since Quadra Island is where we live, this is where we intend to begin.

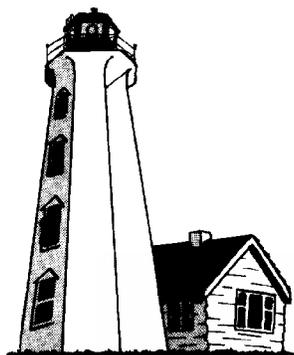
If you would like to support or join the Sierra Club of Quadra Island, please call either Caroline Heim at 285-2560, Stephen Dykes at 285-2010, Drew Williams at 285-3692, or Geraldine Kenny at 285-2272. These interim executive officers of Sierra Quadra will be pleased to give you further information. Meetings are presently scheduled for 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month in the lower floor of the United Church in Cape Mudge. The next meeting will be February 9th.

Please join us. Together we can make a difference.

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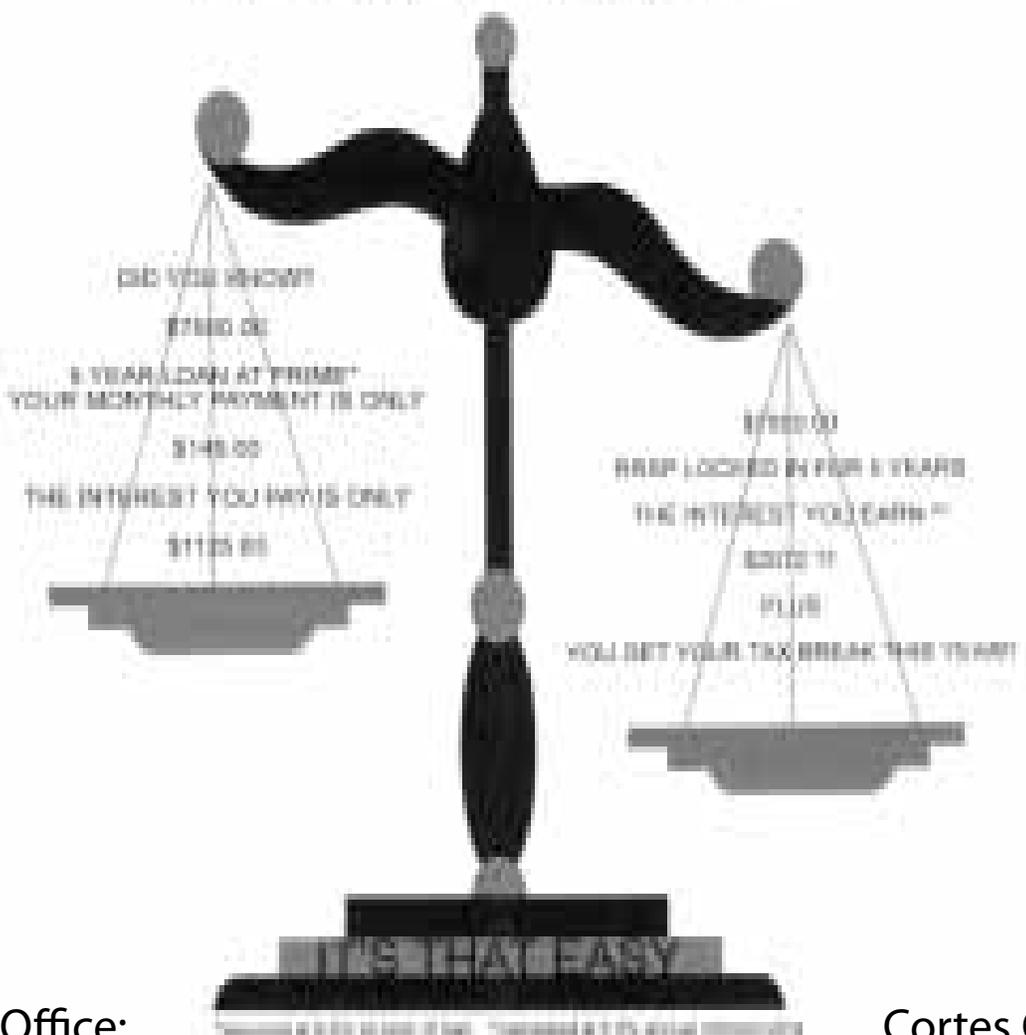
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### Wanted: Art Instructors

The Campbell River & District Public Art Gallery is looking for contract instructors to hold art classes for adults and teens in the gallery. Space is available in March & April as well as summer & fall. The gallery is also looking for participants in other public programming ventures such as lecture series and artist's demonstrations, which would appeal to all sectors of the community. For further information please contact Manon Staiger at 287-2261 or send a proposal to fax 287-2268 or email crartgal@oberon.ark.com the gallery is open Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm.

### Multiculturalism Week

A glance out the window from the Campbell River Museum's lobby reveals the Torii Gate and beyond, Cape Mudge Village. This cultural snapshot serves a perfect introduction to the photo display *Them = Us: Photographic Journeys Across Our Cultural Boundaries*, in the museum's Fletcher Challenge Canada Gallery, Feb. 12-25.

*Them=Us* is one of three events planned for **Multiculturalism Week, Feb. 15-21**. A public forum on Multiculturalism and immigration and a speech contest for high school students will also take place at the museum.

A reception on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum will officially open the photo exhibit. Everyone is welcome.

# Ethical Investing

## What is Ethical Investing?

By Michael Mascall

Is it an oxymoron? This is a question I have been asking myself over the last number of years as I save, invest, and spend and I think there are several perspectives which I will try to touch on here.

Over time I have developed a number of criteria that I personally feel concerned about: environmentally worthwhile, socially responsible, local, small-scale businesses; reduced consumption and reduced economic growth.

Right now in this RRSP season there are a number of mutual funds that invest in company stock and promise us returns with an ethical twist. In Canada, there are 15 funds: Clean Environment Funds family (4), Ethical Fund family (8), Investors Summa fund, Dynamic Millennium Fund, and the BC Working Opportunity Fund. The criteria for each fund family is different, but looking at the two major families we can get a flavour of what they are targeting.

The Clean Environment Fund Family states that it invests in "... securities which fit the environmental concept of sustainable development." This is another oxymoron and is not defined specifically, but the fund defines sustainable growth as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This is based on the 1987 World Commission on the Environment and Development report, "Our Common Future". If we look at their investments they include, Ballard Power which has developed the hydrogen fuel cell for vehicles so that their exhaust emits water (H<sub>2</sub>O) instead of CO<sub>2</sub>; Itec

Mineral which mines the slag heaps of old mines for minerals and leaves behind waste minerals on which can then grow various plants; and, Walt Disney, to name a few.

Portfolio managers for The Ethical Funds Family use six ethical principles for socially responsible investing in companies with: progressive industrial and employee relations; operate within countries and regions that support equal opportunity and adhere to non-discriminatory hiring practices, derive a majority of their income from non-tobacco related products; engage in civilian, non-military activities; utility companies that derive their income from non-nuclear forms of energy; and, lastly adhere to environmental regulations and use technologies for products what environmentally responsible. They use these criteria to choose such firms as: Inco, West Fraser Timber, Laidlaw, and the Bank of Montreal.

In addition to these funds, there is the Working Opportunity Fund that invests only in BC It has as its only criteria the requirement to invest in "... young entrepreneurial BC companies". With this fund the federal and provincial governments each offer the incentive (in addition to your RRSP tax saving) of 30% of the invested amount up to \$3,500 as a tax credit so in total the actual cost to the investor is less than 45%.

This all leads me to ask myself what has been my most ethical investment. I think that it was investing in the Bar None vegetarian café in Courtenay. The banks would not lend the owners money, so they borrowed from friends. I bought the juicer for which they repaid

me over 24 months. The first six months were tough for the new Bar None as they took ages for ordering, preparing, and serving. But in January they altered their format to a self-serve buffet style and with the film festival happening, they never looked back. I felt happy and relieved that the risk of going under was averted and the café is now a thriving gathering place.

So is ethical investing an oxymoron? I think it generally is, as it promotes more consumption, more growth, more international trade, and generally fewer large-scale corporations. However, I feel that investing becomes a personal decision based on what one feels comfortable with, particularly issues such as risk, return on investment and what is helping reduce some social and environmental travesties on our planet. In addition, at a personal level the capital system can be used to free up time required to work at 9-5 jobs and this certainly helps some people in their pursuit to change the rules of the system in which we live or in caring for others or the environment. Happy investing and enjoy your life.

*Michael Mascall has been an institutional economist for 20 years and is now a personal economist practicing as a financial advisor with Partners in Planning in Victoria. He can be reached toll free at 1 (888) 380-8848, and will be on Quadra every ten days for the next month to help with RRSP decisions, choosing mutual funds and financial planning.*

# Quadra Island



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\*But no flavour-of-the-month. For flavour-of-the-month, see a bank or other financial institution. Our office would prefer to develop long term plans and relationships with our clients, and would rather not be a part of this annual RRSP hunting season.

# Island Report

## New Safety Measures for Quadra Ferry Following Boxing Day Wave

by Tanya Storr

**B**C Ferries plans to put video cameras on the car deck of the Powell River Queen to allow officers on the bridge to observe the deck during crossings, said BCF customer and stakeholder relations officer Ann Carpenter in a January 29 telephone interview.

The decision was made after a large, steep wave crashed over the port bow of the vessel on the 1 p.m. Boxing Day sailing, causing considerable damage to one car and slamming some cars into others parked nearby. One woman suffered a back injury as a result of the incident.

According to Captain Norm Craddock, BCF marine superintendent for Inter Island Services North, the ferry's bow was in the trough of the preceding steep swell when the crest of the next swell hit the vessel before the bow could rise from the first.

Craddock said the two large waves "were not indicated in any way by the wind and tidal conditions being experienced at the time, and were in fact 'rogue waves'." He added that at the time, the master was steering a 'weather course'.

"By taking the seas on the port bow the bulwarks substantially reduced the volume of water taken on the car deck, and minimized the amount of roll experienced," said Craddock.

Cortes Island resident John Sprungman and his wife Sherry were sitting in their Honda Civic—the car that suffered the most damage—when the wave hit, and were the first vehicle parked in the port side lane.

"The wave came crashing down upon our car, shattering the windshield and making the hood look like a stormtrooper had stomped around on it. Glass sprayed all over both of us, but fortunately the whole windshield didn't give way or we might have been seriously injured. Water a foot and a half deep surged around us on the deck. The car next to us was thrown backwards into the one behind it and wound up with an inch of water on the floor inside it. Other vehicles were moved around as well. Four lanes over a large van was pushed back into my truck," said John.

The Sprungmans were unsure if they should stay in their car or get out after the windshield shattered. "We couldn't see whether another wave was coming. We waited.

The ferry slowed and turned. I rolled down the window. So did the driver next to us, who asked if we were all right. I got out of the car. There were no ferry crew members anywhere on the deck. None of them appeared until the ferry was about to dock in Campbell River.

Then they were surprised to discover what had happened. The mate came down with a clipboard and camera, took some pictures and gave us a form to report the incident. He offered to call a tow truck for us," John continued.

The damage to the Sprungman's car cost over \$2,500 to fix. As the Sprungmans have comprehensive insurance on the vehicle, ICBC covered the damages. However, John Sprungman said it is still unclear who is going to pay the \$100 deductible.

Quadra resident Jody Graham, a single mother with three kids, was sitting in her car with two of her children and her mother during the sailing. They were parked in the next lane over from the Sprungmans, second car from the front. When the wave hit, Jody was tensed up with her foot on the brake, and she suffered a back injury and whiplash from the incident.

"It was wild. We were all terrified. My driver's side window

was open a quarter of an inch and there was lots of water coming in through the gap. I was pressing on the brake, thinking that might stop the car from moving around, so I was totally tense on that side when the wave hit and it wrenched my back," she said.

Jody, who is still experiencing back and hip pain, is having trouble sleeping and can't shovel her garden or carry firewood. She said she is considering pursuing a lawsuit against BC Ferries because she hurt her back.

"I talked to my lawyer and she figured I have a case. It's been quite some time since the incident and I am suffering unnecessary pain," she said.

The car ahead of Jody's, occupied by Quadra resident Oliver Martin, slid backwards into Jody's car when the wave hit. Oliver said the force of the water "tore the clearance light on our fender right off."

In a letter to BC Ferries, John Sprungman expressed his concerns arising from the incident. He wrote that he was particularly distressed by "the failure of the crew to notice what had happened on the deck and to check and see whether everyone was all right." He also asked why the ferry sailed at that time.

Captain Craddock, in a reply to Sprungman, stated: "Given an identical set of known conditions, any of our masters would have made that sailing without hesitation. Conditions in Discovery



Quadra Ferry in stormy seas, then and now. Photo: David Broadland

## Ferry Safety Measures

Passage can change drastically in the period of time it takes to discharge traffic, load again, and depart Quathiaski Cove. There was no way to anticipate the isolated huge swells that came over the bulwarks on Dec. 26."

He further wrote, "As you know, the visibility of the car deck is greatly restricted from the wheelhouse of the vessel. Though the master and mate were well aware that we had taken two swells, they had no idea of the extent of damage sustained. Accordingly, cameras will be installed on the car deck, allowing the wheelhouse crew to closely monitor the activities in the areas of the car deck that are currently out of their view."

Ann Carpenter said the video cameras from the lounge will be installed on the car deck as soon as replacement cameras are found for the lounge. She emphasized that the Boxing Day incident was the first of its kind, and it has been a "real learning experience for everyone."

Carpenter said Captain Craddock and the senior captain of the Quadra-Campbell River route have been discussing ways to increase awareness and responsiveness to what is going on during crossings.

"Passengers will probably see more of a crew presence on deck in the future. With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight it gives us cause to re-examine our procedure. The incident has provided an increased awareness of some things that can occur, and we're always looking for ways to make improvements," she said.

Meanwhile, Sprungman is recommending that other passengers buy comprehensive insurance for their vehicles. "Everybody should know that we are all out there at our own risk. That means we should all have ICBC's comprehensive insurance with as small a deductible as we can afford, because otherwise we have to pay for repairs to our vehicles and then go to court and prove that BC Ferries was negligent before we would be reimbursed," he stated.

# Bugs' Wow Quadra

by Tanya Storr

For the past two weeks bugs have been the talk of the island, the papier mache variety that is. Thanks to the efforts of parents and students from Jack Mar's grade 3 and 4 class, the Fools Gallery has transformed into a rainforest inhabited by numerous colourful bugs. The Care Bugs Exhibit, which began on January 23, has been held over for an extra week until February 8.

I visited the exhibit on a dry yet cool Monday, and immediately noticed an increase in temperature and humidity when I walked into the gallery. A waterfall and pond surrounded by lush foliage in one corner helped give the impression that I was in a forest, and the alder mulch, ferns, rocks, and young alder trees added to the effect. The office corner of the gallery has become a cave. As I wandered through the subtly-lit exhibit, soundtracks of bird songs and animal cries played in the background.

Everywhere I looked larger-than-life papier mache bugs perched on trees, in nests, or on the ground. One colourful insect, the Gravel Gulch Beetle, sat on top of a saddle.

Each bug has a description next to it, telling the viewer about its dimensions, habitat, and behaviour patterns. The bugs each have a special ability to help animals, people, or the environment.

The Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge Bed Bug, for example, is said to live in trees near Tsa-Kwa-Luten. "If someone gets hurt or sick in the woods around there it will help them get help and it will wait with them until help comes," says the card next to the bed bug.

The Pine Tree Hornet, situated next to the waterfall in an alder tree, "lives forever" and builds nests along Pine Tree Drive. Noble Road, a couple of kilometres away, is home to the Noble Road Dragonfly, a bug that "can help the police by patrolling the roads and reporting car crashes."

Dave Birnie, one of many class parents who are taking turns staffing the gallery during the exhibit, said a steady stream of people had come to see the show during his three-hour shift. A comment book on the table was filling up with enthusiastic remarks.

Susan Johnson, who was admiring the exhibit with her children Rosie and Eric, called the bugs and their surroundings "very impressive." Mike Toulmin, another gallery visitor, said, "It's an amazing display by a lot of artistic, talented children."

Class parent Martina Kowalchuk helped the students make the papier mache bugs, along with Lise Burnett and Linda Elias. Martina told me the project began in September and just kept getting bigger and bigger.

"It started out as a small papier mache project, but it kept growing and we didn't finish making the bugs until December. Jack was teaching the class about bugs' anatomy at the same time, and the kids learned how to work on the computer and how to measure their bugs. Naming them after local roads and places was part of their community studies. We spoke to the Fools Gallery and they said they'd love to have the kids do a show with the bugs," she said.

The children used found materials such as bleach and pop bottles, paper tubes, cans, and balloons to form the framework of the bugs. After applying layers of papier mache, they painted the bugs with colourful designs and took them home for decorating.

Together with teacher Jack Mar, the parents decided to display the bugs against a natural backdrop. Various people contributed to the effort, and the entire show was set up in a week. The students gave advice on how each bug should be displayed.

When you walk in the door of the gallery, one of the first bugs you will see is Martina's stunning blue and gold Marshwood Dragonfly that is taller than a person and has wings stretching out to touch the walls on either side. "I thought this project was so great I would make one too—and it ended up over seven feet tall!" she said.

Martina added that she finds the kids totally inspiring and creative to work with. "From my perspective the project was wonderful. It was just so positive all the way through."

*The Care Bugs Exhibit at the Fools Gallery is open from 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily until February 8.*

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# New 'Grape Hour' Book Hot Off the Presses

by Tanya Storr

Frank Smirfitt's new book, *Observations of a Senior Correspondent*, is guaranteed to make you laugh. A compilation of Frank's 'Grape Hour' columns that made Discovery Passage readers chuckle for six years, the book provides an account of life on Quadra between 1988 – 1993 from a senior correspondent's point of view.

The key word is 'senior', of course, as Frank began writing his column as a record of what went on at Quadra Seniors' meetings. Not wanting the column to read like the minutes of a meeting, Frank added humour and personal observations in an effort to make 'Grape Hour' interesting to readers. It worked—soon readers were turning to his column first of all.

The origin of the column's name comes to light in the preface to *Observations of a Senior Correspondent*. Frank explains that he entitled his column 'Grape Hour' as a play on words for 'Grey Power' after seniors' groups across the country successfully protested Mulroney's plan to de-index the Old Age Pension.

He writes: "It was evident that 'Grey Power' had been effective and could be effective again as a means of protecting out interests. In response to a suggestion that seniors be kept aware of the existence of 'Grey Power', I titled my column 'Grape Hour' knowing that while some wouldn't get it, seniors would."

Discovery Passage gave Frank his first real opportunity to practice writing skills he learned in high school. "I found I had forgotten about as much as I remembered in 50 years," he said.

Frank stopped writing the column at the end of 1993. "After six years I found I was having a hard time coming up with something fresh each time," he told me. The idea for a book based on the column was born at a Quadra Seniors meeting last November, when seniors were brainstorming ways to celebrate the 1998 centenary of the Cape Mudge Lighthouse, May Day celebration, and Heriot Bay Inn.

Someone suggested that Frank put

all his 'Grape Hour' columns together and publish them as a book to mark the centenary. He agreed to take on the project, and, with help, managed to produce the book within two months so it could be published near the beginning of this centennial year.

After writing a preface and photocopying as many of his columns as he could find (a few of the originals are missing), Frank took everything to Sharon Brereton who typed the manuscript onto a disk for the printer. A copy of the manuscript then went to Lesley Matthews, who did the artwork for the book.

The book was designed, printed, and collated by Discovery Passage. Shirley Wallace did the layout on her computer, and Shirley and Frank Wallace plus the author and his wife Win did the printing. About a dozen people helped to collate (assemble the pages in sequence) the 500 copies produced. The cerlox binding was done in Campbell River.

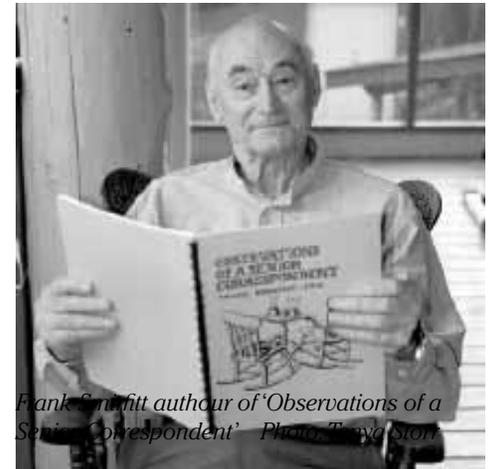
*Observations of a Senior Correspondent* has a warm yellow cover featuring a cozy scene of two rocking chairs, a table, and a couple of cups of coffee drawn by Lesley Matthews. Readers may want to take a particularly close look at the steam rising from the coffee cups. Lesley's imaginative artwork complements Frank's writing throughout the book.

The rocking chairs are a very appropriate cover image, as Frank often sets the scene in his writing by portraying himself and Win sitting in their rocking chairs, conversing about various topics. The two, who have been married 53 years and have five children, often take stock of all the changes that have happened in their lifetime.

In one passage, entitled "How Old? You Ask", Frank states: "We were around before plastic, driver's licences, frozen food, and Ann Landers. We remember when a dancer could be arrested for appearing out of sequence. (Or was it sequins?)"

While the activities, interests, and concerns of Quadra Seniors form the basis of the book's subject matter, other

humorous analyses of mistakes in news reports—'Nit Picking the Media'—are also covered.



Frank Smirfitt author of 'Observations of a Senior Correspondent' Photo: Tanya Storr

He notes that Canadian reporters often seem to have trouble with mathematics, an assertion backed up by several examples gleaned from television and newspaper event coverage. In one instance a reporter told viewers about "a family of eight living in a twenty square foot room", a space that Frank points out is "little bigger than half a sheet of plywood".

The book's pages are filled with humorous headlines, often using plays on words to get the point across. Limericks submitted by readers of the column are preceded by the headings 'Poet Scorer' and 'We're Getting Verse', and an account of Quadra Seniors' work at the salmon hatchery is entitled 'Seniors Enhance Salmon Hatchery'.

Frank points out that Quadra Seniors have an estimated 1,500 years of cooking experience in their ranks, and their combined prowess in the kitchen accounts for some memorable potlucks. One rather unusual recipe in the book tells readers how to make the 'Best Rum Cake Ever' (plenty of rum is required).

*Observations of a Senior Correspondent* also contains the odd passage about what it was like to grow up in Vancouver in the twenties and thirties. Frank was born in England in 1919 and moved to Canada two years later. He writes about a day trip he, his

brother, and two friends made to Bowen Island in their teens.

Pedaling by single speed bicycles across the railway bridge at Second Narrows, they continued on to Horseshoe Bay where they rented a rowboat for 35 cents. They then proceeded to row to Bowen Island and back, returning home by bicycle after a day of many adventures. At the time, the upper levels highway, Lions Gate and Second Narrows bridges did not yet exist.

After completing military service, Frank worked for the Western Bridge Company for 27 years and then for 8 years as General Manager of a fabricating and machine shop in Kitimat. He once wrote a company article about Victoria Island in the Eastern Arctic, but an "alert editor" in Montreal assumed Frank was confused and changed all his references to 'Victoria Island' into 'Vancouver Island'.

"My initial embarrassment and concern gave way to serious concern as I visualized hundreds of American tourists wandering around the Arctic looking for Butchart's Gardens," Frank writes.

Frank and Win retired to Quadra in 1980. They are both very active in Quadra Seniors' activities, and Frank has been teaching Tai Chi to the group for 12 years. He dedicated his book to the memory of the 19 club members who have passed away since he and Win joined Quadra Seniors.

Observations of a Senior Correspondent is selling for \$5 a copy, the amount it cost to produce the book. "There's no money to be made by Quadra Seniors or myself from the sale of the book—it's not for profit or fund raising. It's just for fun and to mark the Centenary," said Frank.

As Frank notes in his book, "enjoying ourselves causes our brains to release chemicals that boost our immune systems and help us stay well." In simpler terms, laughing is good for you. So, give yourself or a friend some laughs—buy a copy of Observations of a Senior Correspondent. You'll be glad you did.

A book launch and signing for Observations of a Senior Correspondent

## by Tanya Storr

"If the M.A.I. is ratified by Parliament in May of this year, the Canada we've come to know and love will be dramatically changed," said Kel Kelly from the Council of Canadians at an M.A.I. (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) information forum on January 20.

About 50 islanders turned out to hear Kelly speak at the Community Centre, out of curiosity to know what the M.A.I. will mean for Canada and how it will affect them and their families.

Kelly explained that the M.A.I. is an agreement currently being negotiated by 29 countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Canada is one of the 29 nations, and it has been engaged in secret M.A.I. negotiations for three years.

Draft copies of the agreement were leaked in January 1996 and May 1997, Kelly said, and many Canadians have since become aware of its unprecedented implications and have started asking questions about the secret negotiations, the agreement itself, and why the federal government initially denied it was engaged in the negotiations.

Kelly said pension and health plans, education, environmental safeguards, cultural institutions such as the CBC, and much more would "be up for grabs to foreign interests if the M.A.I. is passed." He added that the M.A.I. is the culmination of 20 years of effort by major corporations to turn the public in their favour, but Canada—a nation with many resources and strong social programs—has a great deal to lose by signing the agreement.

Following on the heels of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the M.A.I. is the next logical step for those corporate interests out to globalize the world's economy, Kelly said.

According to a fact sheet published by the Council of Canadians, some of the principles included in the M.A.I. to date are:

- Everything is included unless specifically excluded.
- Foreign investors must be accorded the same treatment as domestic investors ("national treatment" clause).
- Domestic law applies only to the extent that it is consistent with the M.A.I. itself—all existing laws at federal, provincial, and municipal levels inconsistent with the

M.A.I. are subject to a "rollback" provision, i.e. such laws must be removed within a specific period of time. No future laws violating the M.A.I. could be passed.

Kelly said if the M.A.I. passes, Canada could not place limits on what foreign companies could invest in, companies operating in Canada would not have to hire Canadians, the government could not maintain economic assistance programs solely to domestic companies, and minimum wage laws would be threatened.

Laws prohibiting countries from trading with other countries that have poor human rights records would be prohibited, as all nations would have equal trading rights. Under a "dispute resolution process", private investors and corporations would be empowered to sue national governments and seek financial compensation for anything that violates the M.A.I. International investors would have the option of suing Canada in the Supreme Court of Canada or in an international court to be established by the M.A.I.

"This is a way to empower corporations to have as much or more power than sovereign governments," said Kelly.

He added that Norway pulled out of the M.A.I. in the last six months and there is great reluctance in Britain to sign. "Norway said it has fish, forests, clean water, and almost zero unemployment, so why on earth should it sign this agreement and invite corporations to come in and do business at the level of Guatemala?"

Kelly said he believes Canadians can beat the M.A.I. and he urged those present to write letters to political leaders and the media. "The M.A.I. amounts to saying that our constitution is completely invalid. Any country that has resources is crazy to go into an agreement like this."

If you have concerns or questions about the M.A.I., write to the following political leaders:

Hon. Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Hon. John Duncan, M.P.  
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