

Discovery *Islander*

Community News and Events from the Discovery Islands

ISSUE #171
OCTOBER 5TH 1998



Artists & Carving Centre

Now Open!

- **Oct. 6, Tues.**
- Halloween Fun Night Meeting
10:00 am
Community Centre
- **Oct. 15, Thurs.**
- Minor Softball AGM
7:00 pm
Quadra Elementary
- **Oct. 18, Sun.**
- Omega String Trio
Lodge
Tsa-Kwa-Luten

Ferry Audit Results Go Public

The Coastal Council to the BC Ferry Corporation, representing ferry users on every route, will meet in Nanaimo Thursday, October 1. Delegates will hear a report on the first of three audits being undertaken in response to recommendations by mediator John Fryer after rate hikes last November led to waves of protest from most communities served by BC Ferries.

Ernst & Young, a Vancouver management consulting firm, will present the first "value for money" audit, intended to "assess the performance of the back office administration and to identify opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness." Last December protesters demanded BC Ferries improve office efficiency and reduce overhead costs. The question, according to Council Chair Neville Atkinson of Salt Spring Island, is: Will this audit show whether those demands were justified? The report will be followed by a response from Coastal Council's own Audit Working Group.

Additional studies are underway to determine the economic value of ferry service to the communities served and to study the operational efficiency of the fleet. These reports will not be completed until later this fall.

The Council, which held its inaugural meeting in June in Victoria, includes two delegates from each of the 11 stakeholder committees which BC Ferries created as advisory groups for its inter-island routes. Also included are representatives from coastal chambers of commerce, tourism offices, the BC Trucking Association, the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union, and the board of directors and management of the Ferry Corporation. About 60 participants will attend the all-day meeting, starting at 9:30 a.m. on October 1 at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo. Adequate seating will be provided for observers.

Many of the community representatives were leaders in the protests that began in November 1997 when fares were suddenly raised on all routes. The protests led Deputy Premier Dan Miller, Minister responsible for BC Ferries, to appoint Fryer to meet with community leaders. Fryer's report resulted in a rollback of fare hikes on frequent user ticket books, a one-year moratorium on further increases, and approval of \$50,000 for "value-for-money" audits. Fryer also recommended the creation of the Council as a "second tier" of the stakeholder process.

The council members also will hear reports from their own working groups on BC Ferries' financial direction, tariff policies, and service efficiency. Terms of reference for the operation of the council will be established. The mandate of the Council is to make recommendations to the minister and to BC Ferries on issues pertaining to inter-island, northern and mainland routes.

A primary concern, Atkinson said, is how BC Ferries should be financed. The government policy which led to last year's rate increases was based on a long-term plan for the Crown corporation to pay its own way. Most regular users of the inter-island ferries see them as an extension of the highway system and want BC Ferries' direct income supplemented by other tax revenue.

For further information, contact Neville Atkinson, Chair of the Coastal Council (250-537-2591 or bfcstakeholders@bcferries.com)

Items For "News and Events" Welcome.

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Coming Sunday, October 18 we are proud to welcome
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The Omega String Trio
concert starts at 2:30 p.m.



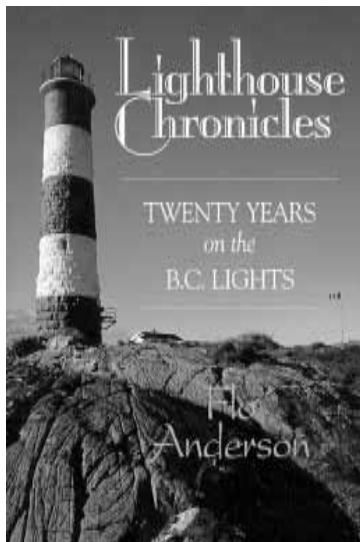
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News & Events

Lighthouse Chronicles



Twenty years of isolation, breathtaking scenery, wind, rock, and sea. Twenty years on an exposed island with few of the conveniences modern life has encouraged us to expect - only the exacting work of lightkeeping and the wild exhilaration of helping your children grow up on the BC coast.

Flo Anderson will be reading and showing slides from her book, *Lighthouse Chronicles: 20 Years on the BC Lights*, at the **Museum at Campbell River, 470 Island Highway, October 18 at 2:00pm.**

Flo Anderson offers a rare glimpse into the life of a lightkeeper, from the perspective of a woman who has lived on the lights and raised her family under these difficult and rewarding circumstances. She captures the essence of this lifestyle - which is quickly disappearing - in her memoirs, *Lighthouse Chronicles* (Harbour, \$18.95). The book is an intimate journey that traces the challenges and joys of living where there are no stores, no mail delivery, no doctors, and no schools. A number of black and white photographs enliven the author's stories.

Flo Anderson was born in Victoria, BC. From 1961 to 1982, she and her husband Trevor and their four children lived at five different BC light stations. At Race Rocks, their last posting, the Andersons spent seven years building a yacht in whatever spare time they could find. Trevor took early retirement in 1982, and over the next thirteen years the family sailed the BC coast and through the south Pacific to New Zealand. Flo and Trevor now live ashore in Sidney, BC.

Admission to the "*Lighthouse Chronicles*" presentation is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information call 287-3103.

Games We Play

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 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 **Thursday October 22 from 1 - 2pm** at a cost of \$5 per child. The cost includes a take-home activity. Please pre-register at the museum since space is limited.

To round out the afternoon, **Courtenay storyteller Hazel Lennox** builds up for Halloween with a medley of scary stories: "**Tales to Give You Goose Bumps**". **Storytelling starts at 2:30pm** at a cost of \$3 per person. For more information call 287-3103.

Welcome to Sarajevo

From Michael Winterbottom, one of Great Britain's most accomplished directors, comes this powerful adaptation of Nicholson's memoirs about the war in Bosnia. British journalist Michael Henderson travels to Sarajevo in 1992 to cover the war and "soon finds his notions of journalistic objectivity deserting him. Having had his story of a breadline massacre bumped to second spot on the news (behind a report about Fergie and Andrew's marital problems), he realizes that his bosses - and the public - are already suffering from war fatigue. Seeking new ways to bring the horrors to light, he discovers an orphanage on the front lines and begins to send regular reports from there. Eventually, he feels he must do more; he hits upon a plan to smuggle one of the girls back to England and the safety of his family..." (Vancouver International Film Festival).

Wine Tastings

A series of wine tastings is being planned to take place this fall and winter on Quadra Island. Interest in forming a wine club will also be discussed. The tastings will be held at the Lovin' Oven. If you are interested, phone 285-3687 and leave your name and number for Jim.

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At the Legion

Mon. Hockey Pool starting **Oct. 5** 7 pm. For more info call Wendy at 285-2132. Also Men's Darts.
Tues. Board Games..... Bring your favourite or play someone else's...Pool, darts, ping-pong, shuffle board also available.
Wed. Crib Night. **7 pm** start. Play every week \$5 for tournament or drop in \$3 nightly pot.
Thurs. Jam Night. Come and mix it up with Steve, Mark, Howie & Duane!
Fri. Oct. 9, 9pm Comedy once again with Bobby Dean, Elvis impersonator, entertainer extraordinaire! Joke-off after the show...Prizes!
Sat. Meat Draw! **5pm** start. Draws every 1/2 hour... You could fill the freezer cheap!
 See ya at the Legion where the pool tables are always free!

Benefit Bottle Drive

Sunday, October 25, 1998. Island fundraiser for Darlene and Owen Vig (Richards), to help with expenses during Owen's lengthy and ongoing recovery in Vancouver. If you would like to help drive and collect please meet us at the Community Centre at 10:30 or if you would like to help sort we will be at the Heriot Bay Store at 12:00. You can drop your cans off there between 12:00 and 2:00 pm. Thank you. For more information call Karen Sumner 285-3650 or Sally Bradshaw 285-3608.

Halloween Fun Night

12th Annual Halloween Fun Night needs a planning committee of fresh new faces! If you think your kids like this event, please help organize it. Can't make the meeting but want to help? Call 285 3243 and tell us. If no one comes to this meeting (like last year), Fun Night will die! **Tues. Oct. 6, 10 a.m.**

Around the World in Words & Pictures

Mark your calendar, November 14th, now so you won't miss this superb slide show by a British Columbian family sailing their way around the world on a 17ft yacht.

The show covers 18 months journeying from Europe to New Zealand via Cape Horn, with explorations in South America and the South Pacific. Their interests are largely natural history, wilderness and the people they encounter ashore. The slides, enhanced by music over, are truly superb, the subjects fascinating and unusual. The commentary, live, is light and bright and always interesting.

So make a note of the date: Saturday, November 14th, 8 pm at the Quadra Community Centre. Admission will be very affordable and all proceeds will be donated to the Community Centre Addition Project. We'll tell you more later on, but for now, mark that date!

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Islanders' Donations Reach Papua New Guinea

A wire transfer in the amount of \$3,370 was forwarded today to the Archdiocese of Malang in Papua New Guinea, representing the initial proceeds collected by the Aitape Disaster Relief Fund. The Aitape region in northwest Papua New Guinea was devastated by a tidal wave on July 17, 1998. There has been at least 3,500 known fatalities, and according to Br. Theo Becker of the Archdiocese "virtually every family has lost at least one member if not more".

Brother Becker also states "The people of the Aitape area, the relief workers and we who have been involved in helping to coordinate sending relief supplies and donations have been overwhelmed by the response of people from all corners of the world. The plight of the victims of this terrible disaster has certainly touched the hearts of everyone. Whilst the crisis is now over, the effects of the tsunami will be felt in the ensuing months and for years to come. There is a mammoth task ahead rebuilding villages and communities".

Steven Halliday, General Manager of Quadra Credit Union initiated the relief fund after learning of the disaster. An appeal was made to the general public for financial assistance, and Credit Unions throughout BC were approached to assist. BC Credit Unions donated approximately 1/2 of the funds raised to date. "It was gratifying to see the generosity of my colleagues, but not surprising as Credit Union's are known to be community focused, and that care extends to the plight of a community on the other side of the world". Halliday thanks all of the individual donors who opened their hearts and their checkbooks for their wonderful response, and will be glad to provide information about the use of the donated funds to anyone interested.

Donations are still being received, and will be forwarded to the Archdiocese on a monthly basis. Brother Becker, the Treasurer of the Archdiocese, will be providing updates of the situation in the region as well as the ultimate use of the funds donated. Donations may be made care of Quadra Credit Union at P.O. Box 190, Quathiaski Cove, BC V0P 1N0, and questions should be directed to Steven Halliday at 285-3327.



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Successful Sale!

A great many thank-yous are extended to the Quadra community for making this year's Giant Garage Sale another giant success. \$2300 was raised for our Philippines connection, thanks to the combined effort and contributions of so many people. This leaves us with a sizeable surplus to begin the new year.

It is truly inspiring to see the amount of energy and number of hours that individuals are willing to commit to this cause. As always, the huge variety of goods that managed to fill the expanse of the community centre was mind-boggling. Our sporting section was especially impressive this year and included a wide variety of exercise equipment and even a canoe! The Quadra Seniors need to be acknowledged for their quality contributions that accounted for more than a few hundred

dollars. Thanks to Quadra Daycare's food concession, a tasty element was added to our event.

I was impressed with the number of sorters this year, including scheduled regulars from the past as well as many new faces who showed up unexpectedly. These helpers contributed to making this an enjoyable and satisfying experience. As well as sharing their good humour, they volunteered numerous hours pricing and sifting through mountains of clothing and other articles both before and after the sale. This year, packing up at the end included bagging clothing for the Philippines, for the thrift store and for various mechanics on the island to be used as rags. A load of kitchenware was sent to the Transition House thanks

to Barrie and Peter Calverley. The remaining sellable load was delivered to the Salvation Army via Michael Foort in a truck generously donated by Quadra Builders. Bob Binnersley once again donated a dumpster to dispose of the outright unusable. We thank all of the above, as well as "Aroma" and "Lovin' Oven" for their contributions of coffee and pizza that helped to sustain our dedicated volunteers. We must also thank the Quadra community at large for donating items for sale, as well as We Wai Kai Daycare and the families who stored everything for the month prior to the sale. (Not to forget the pick-up people for delivering the goods to the community centre and all of our cashiers!)

I will be spending the month of November in the northern Philippines and am very excited about making direct contact with our friends there. In keeping with last year, the main portion

of our \$2000 contribution will cover a year's supplies and teacher's stipend for the Paligatto preschool. The remaining portion will subsidize part of the same for a daycare program in the neighbouring village of Mabato. My intention, as well as taking photographs, is to video-tape my trip as much as possible in order to share it with others. As well as bringing remainder clothing from our sale to the daycare children, I will bring greetings and best wishes from Quadra. I look forward to this experience helping to strengthen the relationship between our communities. If you have any specific questions or areas of interest you would like me to pursue, feel free to contact me before I leave at the beginning of November.

Abram Elected by UBCM

Lightkeeper climbs to second Vice President's position

Quadra Island: Local Regional District director for Area J (Coast-Discovery)

Jim Abram was elected to the Second Vice President's position at the annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities held last week in Penticton. More than 1700 people representing all local governments in the province attended this year. Abram was the third vice president last year and a director at large for the four previous years.

Regional District Chairperson Dot Andrews congratulated Abram at the Board's monthly meeting held today in Courtenay. "It is with great pleasure that I announce that Director Abram was successfully elected to this very important position at UBCM. We are proud that someone from our area represents our interests at the provincial level and wish him all the best in the coming year!"

"I started out in local government so as to involve my community more in making and bring local control to our futures", stated Abram. "This achievement goes one step further... it puts us at the table with the provincial politicians before they make their decisions on issues that effect our lives."

The UBCM has lobbied the

provincial government for sweeping changes to the legislation that governs local governments. "Last year we signed the Protocol of Recognition which officially got us to the table through the Joint Council. This year they passed Bill 31 which recognizes us as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government. Those were incredible accomplishments!" he exclaimed.

The convention also dealt with policy papers such as "Financing Local Government" which proposes bold new ideas on how to continue the ever increasing need for services with the persistent trend of diminishing funds. The Nisga'a Treaty was another major topic that Abram dealt with as the chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee. The treaty has been highly politicized over the past months and it was the challenge for UBCM to provide a broad range of presenters to inform the delegates of the facts of the treaty since many of them are involved in negotiations in their own areas.



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Island Forum

Ferry Tales or The Ballad of the Shafted Islander

The coastline of the province,
Bejewelled with little isles,
Is home to many citizens,
Whose life takes many styles.

Their highway is the saltchuck,
Come weather fierce or mild.
When ferry tariffs rise too high,
These gentle folk get wild.

What special type demands to be
Isolated by the sea?
Who are the people made to pay,
Just to go to town today?

They are:
Native bands and forest hands;
Gospel preachers and school teachers;
Therapeutic masseurs and entrepreneurs;
Drywall contractors and garbage compacters;
Corporate lawyers and mobile sawyers;
Truck farmers and lady charmers; Clam diggers and high riggers;
Retired gents with soldierly bents; Computer geeks and flower freaks;
Painters of houses and dyers of blouses;
Watchers of birds and magicians with words;
Whisky drinkers and deep space thinkers;
Shellfish growers and new tree sowers;
Fancy bakers and cabinet makers;
Writers of books and short-order cooks;
Journeyman plumbers and Dharma bummers;
Cross-dressers and pensioned professors;
Skateboarders and junk hoarders; Jewel setters and salmon netters;
Electricians and fine musicians; Shop keepers and deep sleepers;
Insurance sellers and bank tellers; Rock blasters and yoga masters;
Well drillers and road fillers;
Some just arrived, but others long thrived To the sixth generation, the
prize of the nation; People alone, whose families have flown; Sisters and
brothers , fathers and mothers; Young folks who start with a family at
heart. (And some in this rhyme can be two at a time, Or even more, if
we really kept score!)

All these and others you'll find on an isle.
It's home, where we live in pride and with style.
No different from inland, or upland or valley,
Together to maintain our rights we shall rally.

Make the case to the world that we're part of this land;
Make it clear, make it loud, so all understand.
If we're part of the country, it seems we should really
Be able to travel the province quite freely!

So we'll balk at increases in frequent use tariff.
Believe it. We're serious. We don't really care if
The CEO rants and the Minister rages.
We shall not consent to be locked into cages.

Young Robinson Crusoe

Dear Editor,

Quadra Forest Watch is a group of local citizens concerned about forestry practices on public lands. We are affiliated with local and regional environmental non-governmental organizations, including the regional environmental non-governmental organizations, including the BC Forest Watch Network. This network is coordinated by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund which provides technical advice, legal expertise and investigative training.

Forest Watch examines forestry plans and conducts pre-logging and post-logging field investigations. Careful review and documentation, including photographs and field notes are combined with an understanding of forestry law to document and report on the environmental impacts of forestry, and to hold professionals, corporations and government accountable to the laws governing forest practices in British Columbia.

The goal of Quadra Forest Watch is to participate in forest management planning, monitor all logging practices on public forest lands, both Tree Farm Licence and Woodlots, with the objective that we identify and prevent potential environmental damage.

This summer our observations and findings in Tree Farm Licence 47 were reported to the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and TimberWest. With their cooperation most of our concerns have been, or are in the process of being addresses.

R. Leicester for Quadra Island Forest Watch.

Dear Editor,

Somebody shot my friend Bucky. It was late in the evening, sometime around when summer turns to Autumn and in a park too, out of Village Bay Lake where I live year round. You didn't find Bucky, but he died you know. He died very close to where I live and now he smells really, really bad and so does my dog!

Terry Phipps

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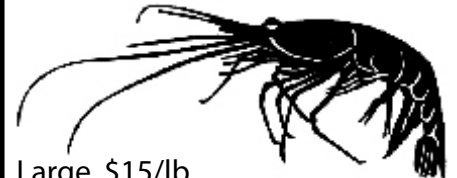
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PO Box 482, Heriot Bay, B.C. V0P 1H0
Tel.: 250 285-2234 Fax: 250 285-2236

Please Call Monday -Friday 9 am to 5 pm
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Publishers: Philip Stone & Sheahan Wilson

Staff Reporter: Tanya Storr

Cartoonist: Bruce Johnstone

Printing: Castle Printing

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Letters, artwork, submissions of any kind welcome. Lengthy items are preferred by email or on 3.5" floppy disk in RTF or MS Word for Mac format, **please also supply a printed copy.** Items may be edited for content and/or formatting.

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



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*On the cover: Gathering to celebrate the Kwagiulth Museum Artists & Carving Centre opening
Photo: Tanya Storr*

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Sierra Quadra

Sometimes, Much is Too Much

Ray Grigg

Coca-Cola Corporation's 1996 annual financial report was introduced by the following statement: "A billion hours ago humanity appeared on Earth. A billion seconds ago Christianity emerged. A billion Coca-Colas ago was yesterday morning."

While Coca-Colas are served on Quadra Island, the significance of the comparison is not just the brevity of humanity's presence on Earth, or the relatively recent arrival of Christianity, but the fact that it is possible to produce and consume a billion Coca-Colas each day.

Such productive and consuming capacity is a symbol of humanity's collective genius—and vulnerability. A billion Cokes doesn't seem like a huge problem—provided the cans are recycled. But what if it's a billion fish caught, a billion square centimetres of river polluted, or a billion trees cut down?

There was a time when these accomplishments were considered impossible. But not any more. The ease and ingenuity with which we manufacture and consume and destroy is truly awesome. Species extinction, environmental degradation, global warming, and ozone loss all attest to the tremendous power of our capability. While it's really us—human beings—who are doing this, it somehow seems remote, abstract and impossible from the individual's perspective that we are collectively capable of wreaking such havoc.

The evidence is now fairly unequivocal that we have gotten out of scale with the ecological integrity of the planet. The consequences of this loss of scale are being felt throughout the biosphere. Historically, it happened inadvertently because individually and collectively we

didn't know better. Now that we do know better, it's happening because we lack the self-control and sustained vision to find to an appropriate relationship with the place where we live.

Consider Quadra as a microcosm of the larger problem. When the island was first logged, it was decimated—including disastrous damage to fish-rearing habitat.

Since those days, an important ingredient has changed—instead of oxen, axes, shovels and hand saws, the equipment has become chainsaws, excavators, bulldozers—and feller-bunchers. These are ingenious machines that in one single step grab a tree, cut it, rotate it to the ground, branch it, buck it to length, and then spew out the logs ready for loading onto trucks. Instead of many people working, there is just one person operating controls. Such a machine requires large spaces and many trees—TimberWest's present Five-Year Plan calls for 13,000 truckloads. Not a billion trees, perhaps, but enough to be out of synchronization with the size and scale of our little island.

The economics are also wrong. A feller-buncher costs perhaps half a million dollars—maybe used ones cost a little less, new ones a little more. If the logger does not own this machine, then payments must be made to the bank that loaned the money to buy it. This means the machine must work to pay for itself. It must cut trees to make the money to pay the bank that bought the machine. The bank owns the machine that eats the forest to feed the bank which makes the profit. What happened to the logger, and the forest, and the little island?

But the economic arguments are supposed to be clear and convincing, unequivocal and proven, overcoming any

doubtful reservations. If humanity can produce a billion Coca-Colas each day, the unit cost will go down so everyone will be able to afford a Coke for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If we can cut a billion trees, everyone can have cheap wood and paper.

But what if Cokes three times a day are not good for us? And what if industrial logging on Quadra is not good for the forests of the island—or our economic prosperity, or recreation, or scenery, or tourism, or our sense of belonging and well-being? What if all the empty places where there were once forests become unsettling and unhappy experiences for the people who live and visit here? What if islanders would be happier to see sensitively managed forests instead of clearcuts? What if we can't live long enough to see the clearcuts regrow and recarpet the island with that soft coat of strong green that we have come to love and enjoy? What then?

Beware of Coca-Cola and big machines. Beware of things that are too big to belong. More is not necessarily better. Too much of a good thing is usually a bad idea.

Sierra Quadra's next meeting, because of the Thanksgiving Weekend, will be Monday October 19th at 7:00 pm in the lower floor of the Quadra Island United Church. Please join us. Together we can make a difference.

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Hedge Fund Clipped

Steven Halliday

The world's financial markets are abuzz lately with the news of the US Federal Reserve's (the Fed) actions in assisting the bail out of a privately held investment fund to the tune of \$3.5 billion dollars. The fund, called the Long Term Capital Management Limited Partnership, was formed and managed by very highly respected market players and included two Nobel Prize winners amongst its advisors. It is definitely an exclusive club, requiring a minimum investment of \$10,000,000 to play the game. LTCM is a hedge fund, which means it operates in the derivatives market (see Money Matters - Issue #165 - July 13/98) and derives its profits by speculating on future events in the marketplace. One of their most recent and calamitous calls was that bond yields would shrink, which the Asian and Russian crisis' ensured did not happen. Losses of the fund are estimated in the multiple billions, and their capital got badly squeezed. Hence the Fed's pressure on 14 US banks and securities firms, who were already involved with the Fund, to pour in the additional capital. The total amount of assets held by the fund are estimated at \$100 billion, but no estimates of its commitments have been revealed. One can surmise from the actions taken they are sizeable.

So why did the Fed take this action? They have yet to say, but the general consensus is that the action was taken to prevent the liquidation of the fund to meet its margin calls from the banks, to whom the Fund owes a bundle. The act of liquidating such a huge amount was believed to be sure to trigger a massive slide in the stock market, so the Fed pressured participants to ante up. To give you an idea of how much the fund is into the banks, UBS AG, a Swiss banking group, announced it would take a \$686 million charge against earnings because of its exposure to the Fund.

I have a few problems with this situation. First, the US Federal Reserve was the first to cry foul when both the

Japanese and Hong Kong authorities intervened in their respective markets by direct purchases with taxpayer dollars. The Fed stated that these actions undermined the integrity of the marketplace, and that the markets must be allowed to fluctuate freely and without intervention. Granted, there were no taxpayer dollars involved here, but I believe the Fed has certainly intervened in the market. Secondly, the Fed has set a very dangerous precedent, one which is receiving criticism from some market watchers who feel the Fed is signalling it will protect ultra rich investors from swings in the market, or at least those who have sufficient influence to provoke such an action. Remember, it cost at least \$10 million to enter the Fund. Does this mean that Joe or Jane Average can expect the Fed to come to the rescue if something like Templeton Fund heads for the dumpster? I think not.

The reason this topic is in Money Matters is that the subject of derivatives is something few understand, and I received many positive comments following the previous article about them. Anyone investing today needs to be aware of all the risks in the marketplace, and hedge funds are a very real and very large risk. While influences on the market are something we can do nothing about, it is certainly

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Island Report

Kwagiulth Museum Carving and Artist Centre Opening

Words & Pictures by Tanya Storr

"This building is going to play a very important role in our culture. It will be a centre for carving and other arts," said host Don Assu, president of the Kwagiulth Museum's Nuyumbalees Society, during the opening ceremonies of the Carving and Artist Centre on September 19.

People flocked to Cape Mudge village from far and wide to help celebrate the opening of the new building, located next to the Kwagiulth Museum. Over 400 people attended the event, including representatives from bands in Campbell River, Alert Bay, Port Hardy, and Port McNeill.

The Carving and Artist Centre will serve as an exhibition site for four totem poles and a home for cultural and educational programs. It will also provide a venue where carvers and students can produce works of art while visitors look on. Visitors will be able to purchase art on site, thus generating revenue for the artists.

Apprenticeship programs for First Nations artists are planned for the centre, so that students can learn traditional techniques from elders and master carvers. As well as carving, other arts that may be featured at the centre include button

blanket making, weaving, drawing, dancing, culture/history classes, and language classes.

Don Assu said he had been planning the Carving and Artist Centre for about 10 years. While on a trip to New Zealand and Australia in 1988, Don and his wife Louisa were inspired by a Maori arts and crafts centre. Housed in a traditional Maori building, the centre allowed artists to create their crafts while interacting with visitors.

"When I saw that Maori arts and crafts centre, I thought it would be an ideal type of building to have here. The building showed people on a one-to-one basis

how the artists created their arts and crafts. I thought we could have carving, weaving, and other activities taking place so visitors could see the artists at work. I've been tossing the idea around for quite awhile," Assu said.

On the same journey, Don and Louisa recognized two house posts from Cape Mudge at the National Museum of Australia. Following further investigation and lengthy negotiations, the poles were returned to the Kwagiulth Museum.

The two poles were part of a collection accompanying a dance troupe on an around-the-world tour in 1910. When the promoter ran out of money in Australia, the stranded troupe



Ceremonial dancing to celebrate the opening of the Artists and Carving Centre

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Stages of construction. Above, Rob Simpson project head.

sold their paraphernalia—including the two poles—to a private collector so they could get home. The National Museum of Australia then bought the collection.

The repatriated poles are now standing in the Carving and Artist Centre, as well as a pole from the District of Port Hardy by Willie Seaweed acquired by the Kwagiulth Museum. A pole from the Port Hardy Airport by Charlie James will also be housed in the new building. The Charlie James pole is one of only three James poles in existence.

Dora Cook, cultural director of the Kwagiulth Museum, said the two poles returned from Australia are Cape Mudge house poles that were carved in the 1800s. The poles can be seen in a large black and white photograph of Cape Mudge Village in 1897 that is on display at the museum. She added that the poles from Port Hardy likely date back to the 1800s also.

According to an article in a Kwagiulth Museum newsletter, “the four poles are of the greatest significance to

the history of carving on the Northwest Coast.”

Chief Adam Dick, who along with Chief Paul Willie led the Ceqqa or Red Cedar Bark Ceremony to open the new building, announced that the Carving and Artist Centre will be called “Kwikwik Gwilas”, meaning “The Place of Eagles”.

During the ceremony, chiefs and representatives of the House of Eagles held a ring of cedar bark around Colleen Dick, who played the same ceremonial role at the opening of the Kwagiulth

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Artists & Carving Centre

Museum in 1979.

Chanting words of blessing for the building, Adam Dick performed the ceremonial cutting of the cedar bark ring. His father led this ceremony at the Kwagiulth Museum's opening.

After the ring was cut, women and young girls wearing colourful button blankets handed everyone a strip of cedar bark to wear during the remainder of the Red Cedar Bark Ceremony.

A delicious luncheon feast was held in the Cape Mudge Community Hall, followed by speeches in both Kwak'wala and English. Guests were given t-shirts and coffee mugs depicting an eagle design by Brad Assu.

The happy occasion was celebrated with dancing, drumming, and singing. Many dances were performed, including the Hamatsa and Salmon dances. People of all ages took part in the dances, and the drummers played and sang tirelessly in the background.

"I get a good feeling in my heart when I see the Carving and Artist Centre today. It really gives me a good feeling to see the old poles standing in here, because they are part of the backbone of our culture," said master carver Bill Henderson. "I am proud of what my people did in building this place."

The opening of the Carving and Artist Centre was the culmination of a good deal of hard work. Construction on the building, designed in the style of a traditional big house, began last October and finished this July.

North Island Fisheries Initiative workers, funded by Human Resources Development Canada, and North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Management Society workers, funded by Employment Insurance, played a major role in the construction of the centre. Many of the workers were from Cape Mudge village. The project was able to proceed thanks to financial donations as well as gifts-in-kind.

MacMillan Bloedel donated logs for the main structure, TimberWest donated a large amount of the framing lumber for the building, and financial support came from the Museums Assistance Program, Kwagiulth Lekwiltok Nations Treaty Society, Vancouver Foundation, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank, B.C. Ferry Corporation, B.C. Tel, McGowan & Company, and private donors.

As well, Cornerstone Concrete, Hartford Logging Ltd., Valdez Transport, G. Roy Dahlnas Excavating, M.M. Johnson Ltd., Tony Marmol Enterprises, Discovery Crane, and Quadra Building Supply assisted with and supported the project.

The building's area is 2,500 square feet, "big enough to carve a 45-foot pole in," said head of construction Rob Simpson.

Simpson said he feels really thankful to have had the opportunity to be involved in the project.

"The welcome for me working in the village with the people really made it a pleasure."

'Rites of Passage' Tour A Success

by Tanya Storr

Off the Rock Theatre's first production, *Rites of Passage*, played to a full house in the Quadra Community Centre on September 18. Focusing on the lives of six teens about to graduate from high school, *Rites of Passage* is a drama that deals with some controversial subject matter. One of the actors played a teen with an alcoholic mother, another played a teen trying to accept the fact that he is gay, and a third played a teen pregnant with her second child.

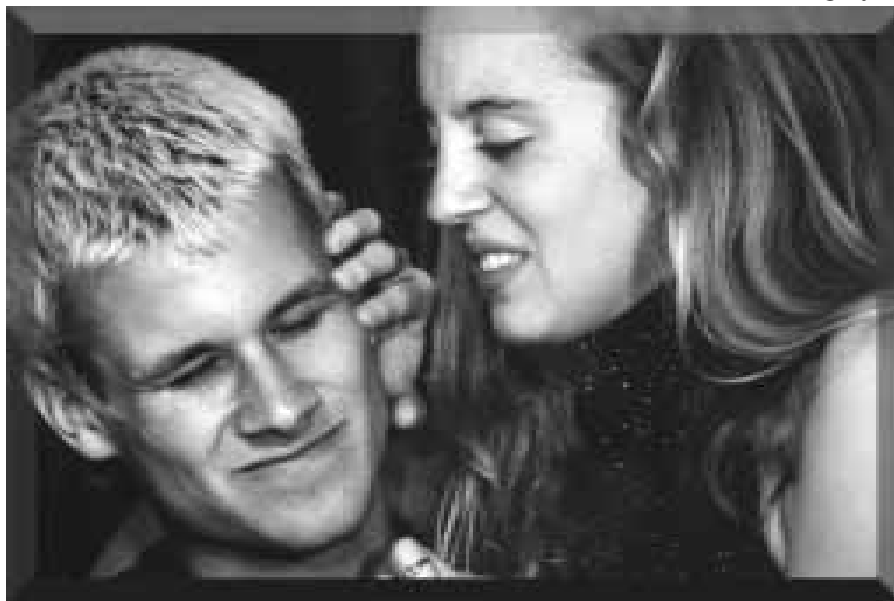
Using a simple set with virtually no special effects, the cast and crew put on an excellent, hard-hitting performance that made audience members laugh and cry. At the end, the players received a standing ovation for their efforts.

"It was great to have such support from our home community. I was thrilled that the place was so packed and also with the fact that everybody seemed to like the play," said playwright and director Wendy Richardson.

She added that *Rites of Passage* received a good deal of assistance from Quadra Players members, who helped with set-up on Quadra and gave a donation to help with costs of the production.

The Quadra performance of *Rites of Passage* was the second-to-last stop on a tour that saw Off the Rock Theatre take the play to Campbell River, Cortes, the Victoria Fringe Festival, Gabriola, Salt Spring, Quadra, and Qualicum Beach.

Actors Jessica Brooks, Jake Butler, Luke McGillis, Kerry Phillips, Elisabeth Dent, and Chris Carmen; stage manager



Luke McGillis & Kerry Phillips in a scene from "Rites of Passage" Photo: Dane Simoes

Brett Johnson; assistant stage manager Casey Guldemon; and director Wendy Richardson quickly became adept at setting up and performing in different venues.

Off the Rock Theatre is a new touring company set up on Quadra to produce live theatre with a focus on youth issues. *Rites of Passage* played to mainly young audiences, who displayed great enthusiasm for the play. Of the six actors in the play, four are either newly graduated or still in high school.

"Tomorrow's audiences for the arts depend somewhat on us getting young people into the theatre and enjoying it," said Wendy, who encouraged the actors to make changes in her script that helped ensure the characters' language and mannerisms were realistic.

During a week of performances at the Victoria Fringe Festival from August 29 to September 7, *Rites of Passage* received the following words of praise from a young reviewer in the festival newspaper:

"Rites of Passage was not unrealistic at all. In fact, it was so on the money that I felt like jumping up and screaming 'I totally agree!' As a teenager myself, I

thoroughly enjoyed this show."

Another young reviewer wrote, "*Rites of Passage* is an excellent portrayal of what goes on in high schools throughout B.C."

Chris Carmen, who graduated from high school two years ago, played the part of Tyler in the production. Tyler has an alcoholic mother and is a macho, homophobic teen with a bad attitude towards school. Audiences alternately laughed and held their breath while watching him act out an eyebrow piercing on another character,

David, during the performance—not an easy feat.

Chris said he had a lot of fun touring with the play and enjoyed getting to know other members of the cast and the crew.

"We had a good mix of people involved in the play, and we agreed to workshop the play somewhat and that's what we did. The characters were realistic and Wendy was really enthusiastic. I'd love to do more acting and touring," he said.

Although audiences weren't as large as they had hoped in all the venues, attendance was strong on local stages and quite good at the Fringe also. Off the Rock Theatre managed to break even on this first production and is applying for a Campbell River Arts Council grant to assist with the actors' touring costs.

"I think the general feeling is this was a success and we learned a lot from it. Part of the goal was to go into strange venues, set up, and perform. The tour really made that possible. It was quite a lot of fun being on the road," said Wendy.

Quadra Student Wins Provincial Chess Tournament

by **Tanya Storr**

Eleven-year-old Shelley MacKenzie is Quadra's newest provincial chess champion. A member of the Quadra Elementary Chess Club for the past two years, Shelley recently brought home a first prize trophy for her age group from an all-girls provincial chess tournament in Crescent Beach.

Shelley attended the tournament, held on the weekend of September 20 at the Crescent Beach Community Centre, with her sister Heather, mom Barb, and chess coach Philippe Desquieu. Heather also competed in the tournament and did very well, narrowly missing a trophy win herself.

"I like going to tournaments because I can see different places and meet new people," said Shelley, adding that she enjoys competing against other players.

About 50 players from all over B.C. entered the tournament, which was modelled on the Swiss system (winners play winners, losers play losers, and no knockouts). Although there were approximately 100 spectators watching, Shelley said she was able to concentrate on her games and not let the crowd faze her.

Games can last up to a maximum of one hour and then a clock runs for 10 minutes on each side. "If your time runs out on the clock you lose," Shelley explained.

Her Crescent Beach trophy is not the only prize Shelley has brought home from a chess tournament. In the past, she won first place prizes at the district and regional levels.

Philippe, who has been teaching Quadra Island children how to play chess for over 12 years, said the B.C. Chess Federation is aiming to promote chess for girls by holding all-girls chess tournaments. "All-girl tournaments are pretty new," he said.

The support of Quadra Elementary for the Chess Club has been a big factor in its success, Philippe noted. Many Quadra Elementary Chess Club players have



Shelley Mackenzie with her trophy

reached provincial and national standing over the years.

"The kids here don't get as many opportunities to play in tournaments as kids in Vancouver or Victoria," he said, "and that makes their achievements that much more remarkable. I am genuinely proud to be working with so much talent. I teach skill and technique but not talent—it's right here on the island."

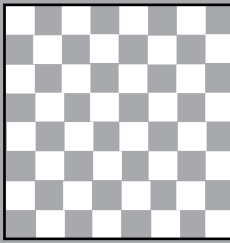
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