

Discovery *Islander*

Community News and Events from Quadra, Cortes and the Outer Islands

ISSUE #265
MAY 10TH, 2002
FREE



May Day Dance with Alpha YaYa Diallo

Tsa·Kwa·Luten Lodge

The Resort at Cape Mudge



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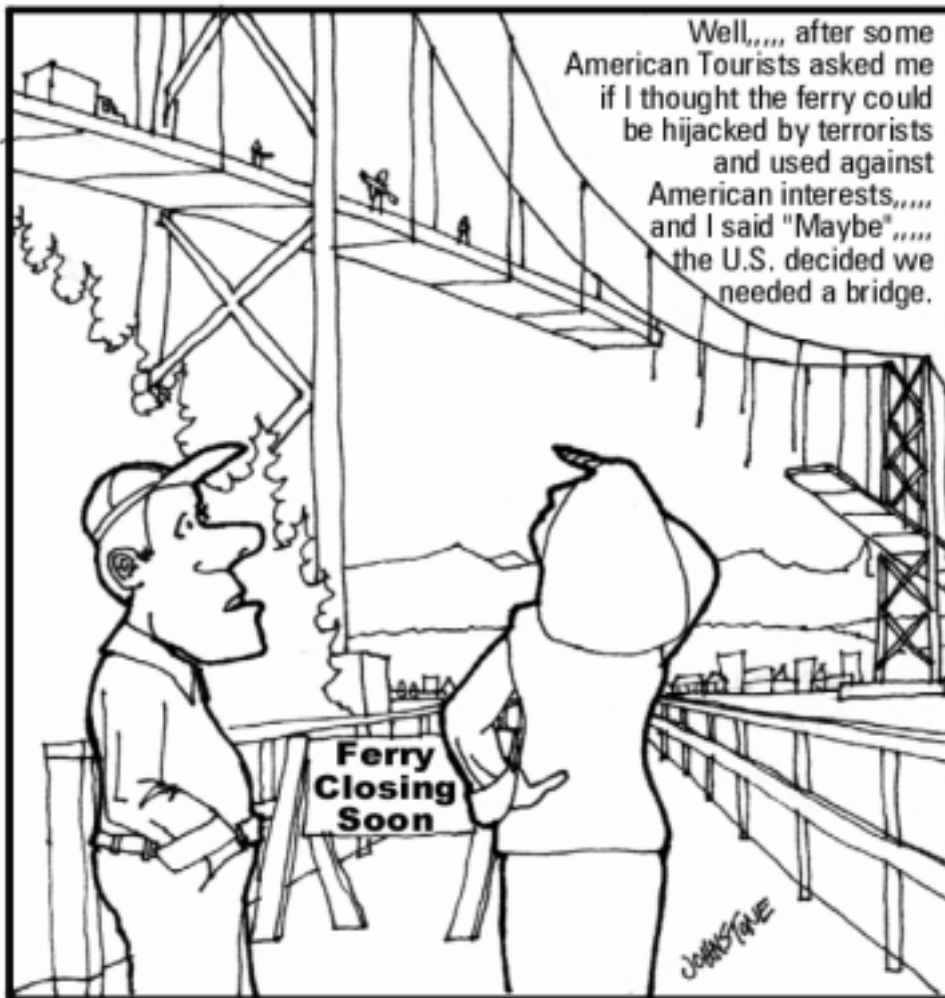
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On the cover



May Day Dance with Alpha YaYa Diallo



#265 May 10th, 2002

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Call 250 285-2234 for details

Submission Guidelines

Items for publication are welcomed on subjects of interest to the Discovery Islands community.

Please help us by following these guidelines:

- Handwritten material must be printed clearly.
- Items prepared on a computer should be sent by email or saved on disk in **Word** or **rtf** to avoid us having to retype. Please NO BLOCK CAPITALS. No lines between paragraphs & please spell check in Canadian English, 350 words maximum for unsolicited material. **No MS Publisher** files or graphics in Word files. Send graphics separately.
- Please use the title of the item as email subject & send multiple items by email in separate messages.
- Please don't send original irreplaceable material make a trip to a copier first!!
- Please remember to caption & credit photos and artwork. Don't write on the back of photographic prints, use Postlits or other labels.
- Artwork & photos sent by fax cannot be published.

While every effort is made to include all items submitted, errors and accidental omissions do occur and the Discovery Islander should be only one part of your publicity efforts.

Next Deadline: 7pm Monday, May 20th



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657 Harper Road PO Box 190 Quathiaski Cove, BC

(250) 285-3327

Cortes Office

Sutil Point Road PO Box 218 Manson's Landing, BC

(250) 935-6617

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Island Calendar

- **Every Thursday** - Jam with Moe, Quadra Legion 8pm
- **Every Friday Night** - Ron Hadley Jazz Pianist TsaKwaLuten Lodge 6 to 9pm
- **1st Friday of every month** - Open stage @ Yak Shak Coffee House 7:30-10pm
- Every Monday & Wednesday - Slo-Pitch nights 4-9 pm HBI Pub

May 11, Saturday

-Plant & Bake Sale

10 am-2pm

-2nd Annual Garage Sale

10am -2pm

May 12, Sunday

-Mother's Day Brunch

11:00am & 1:00pm

May 14, Tuesday

-Quadra Island Quilters

9:30 am

May 18th, Saturday

-Comedy Night w/ Doug Funk

Show starts 8:00 pm

May 22, Wednesday

-Open House Marine Harvest Salmon Farm:

Call 286-1144 ex225 for free boat ride

May 25th, Saturday

-May Day!

10am

-May Day Dance with Alpha YaYa Diallo

doors open at 8pm

May 26, Sunday,

-Exploring Quadra hike - Maude Island

10 am

May 28, Tuesday,

-Town Hall Forum

7:30 pm

June 16th, Sunday

-Father's Day Brunch One Sitting

11:00am

QI Legion

Quadra Daycare

TsaKwaLuten Lodge

Community Centre

TsaKwaLuten Lodge

Rebecca Spit

Community Centre

Heriot Bay Store

Community Centre

TsaKwaLuten Lodge

Island Calendar is a list of on island events. Please submit separately for the **Island Calendar** and **News & Events** or indicate in your submission if you would like your event placed in both. **Following the text order exactly as above for email submissions is appreciated** (month, date, day, title, place and time), use the title as your email subject. Thank you.



Aerobics with Marion

Join Marion Eberlein for aerobics at the Community Hall. Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00- 7:00 PM. A great aerobics workout with floorwork some weight training and stretching. Come and feel good in your body again ! 8 sessions \$32. Drop in \$5. Students \$3 Everybody welcome For questions call Marion at 285 2895

Buddhist Meditation

Join us at the Inner Garden (across from the library) for chanting, meditation, teachings, discussion and tea, every Sunday at 10 am (New time). Newcomers are welcome any time. Phone Danielle or Steve at 285-3323 for more information.

CR Children's Choir

presents "My Heart Soars..." at the Quadra Island Community Centre, Sunday May 5, 2002, 2:00 pm. \$5 each. Tickets available at the door.

Odd Jobs for Fastball Team?

Quadra Bantam Boys Fastball Team have energetic, teenage boys's ready to work for 1-3 hours to help in many odd jobs! Donations for their work will help team cost for this season. To book time, please call: Richard Swanson @ 285-3793

Open Stage

Come and share your talents in an evening of variety entertainment for the family, songs, poetry, juggling, dance. Admission \$3.50. Students & performers \$2. 1st Friday each month, 7:30 - 10:00pm, Yak Shack Coffee House, corner of Taku Rd.. and Heriot Bay Rd.. Downtown Heriot Bay. For more info. call John at 285-2958



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Richard Pielou ph/fax 285-2065

Fire Dept. AGM Report

The Trustees of the South Quadra Fire Protection District would like to thank all those who gave up a sunny evening to attend our May 01, 2002 AGM. We truly appreciate your support. As the Chair, I neglected to mention one very important item, which I would like to do now.

The Trustees of SQFPD wish to acknowledge the overwhelming support we have received from everyone who has worked on the construction of your new fire hall. Local business and contractor donations of labor and machine time are being received in the range of 15% to 25% below standard rates. Cash donations (Legion), individual person-hours (some going back 10 years or more, especially previous Trustees who looked ahead), are all giving this community an excellent facility at a reasonable cost.

For those of you who could not attend the AGM, I will give a brief synopsis of figures presented. These figures are from the audited Financial Statement and the presented Long Range Plan document which both must be filed in Victoria.

A handout was also presented which compared examples of fire insurance premiums (supplied by B.C. Land and

<u>Taxes levied by SQFPD:</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
operating expenses	125,121	127,653	127,653
capital expenditures	<u>52,000</u>	<u>49,500</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	\$177,121	\$177,153	\$157,653
change from previous yr.	+2%	0%	-11%

Insurance) within or outside SQFPD.

2 Trustees terms expired at the AGM, and an election was held with 3 candidates letting their names stand. Jim Evans and Ken Dinnes were elected to 3 year terms.

Following a suggestion put forward at the AGM, we are arranging a 'pre-opening' open house at the new Fire Hall site. Many people expressed interest in seeing what goes into constructing a building to "post disaster" standards. After the general contractor has completed his part (mid May?), and while the walls are still open, we will ask you to come and tour your new Fire Hall. Watch for upcoming advertised date.

If anyone who couldn't be there would like a copy of the 2001 Financial Statements, or the Long Range Plan, please send us a letter at; SQFPD, P.O. Box 80, Quathiaski Cove B.C., V0P1H0, or leave a message at 285-3262, or phone me at 285-2521. You can include your phone number if you wish us to contact you, and we will get a copy to you. Unfortunately, we must insist that all requests for other documents be in writing.

Again, we the Trustees of SQFPD thank you for your continued support.

Jim Evans, Chair.



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Celebrate Canada Day Quadra Style

Once a year, on July 1 we celebrate our country on Canada Day with family, friends and neighbours. This summer the Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce invites one and all to join us in celebrating as a community! Festivities will include an opening parade, cake decorating contest, performances and a spectacular fireworks display to cap it all.

Any performers wishing to stage their talents can contact John Waibel at 285-2121 for more information. Donations are being accepted to help fund the fireworks display and can be sent to DICC- Canada Fund, Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce c/o PO Box 190, Quathiaski Cove BVC V0P 1N0 your contribution of \$25 or \$50 can greatly assist this event becoming reality. Donations of prizes for a silent auction also welcome.

"Exploring Quadra" Hikes

Quadra Islanders and visitors are invited to join the Sierra Club on their "Exploring Quadra" hikes.

Our first hike of the season will be to **Maude Island on Sunday May 26**. This all day hike is timed to arrive at Maude Island when the current is running at maximum through Seymour Narrows. The trail starts from Morte Lake, then heads west to Saltwater Lagoon and up to the south slopes of Mt. Lolo for a view over Discovery Passage. We will then continue south to Maude Island stopping to look at the remains of the construction camp. In 1956 this camp was established to build a tunnel under Seymour Narrows in order to blow up Ripple Rock. Hikers should meet at the Heriot Bay Store Parking Lot at 10:00 am to carpool. The hike will be over by approximately 5:00 p.m. Bring a lunch. Wear good hiking/walking shoes. Dogs are discouraged. For more information contact Richard at 285-2922.

Mark your calendar for all our scheduled hikes this summer. All times are listed and the meeting place is at the Heriot Bay Store parking lot.

Sunday, May 26 Maude Island

Sunday, June 16 Blindman's Bluff

Sunday, July 14 Main Lake & Yeatman Bay

Sunday, August 4 Small Inlet/ Waiatt Bay

Sunday, September 8 Shellalligan Pass

2nd Annual Q.C.C. Garage Sale

Spring cleaning? The Quadra Childrens' Centre is looking for donations for this annual fundraiser. Everything is appreciated. Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition. Items can be dropped off at the Quadra Daycare anytime. The Garage Sale will be held at the Quadra Daycare on **May 11, 10am -2pm. See you there!**



Explore Gallery has now re-opened!

The gallery has a vibrant new look with an intriguing selection of gifts and local art. This month Explore is featuring oil paintings by Lesley Matthews. Drop in for a cup of tea.

HOURS: TUES-SAT 10-5
Extended summer hours coming soon

285-3293

Public Notice

Campbell River-Quadra Island-Cortes Island Ferry Advisory Committee

The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and the District of Campbell River have agreed to assist in the establishment of the Campbell River-Quadra Island-Cortes Island Ferry Advisory Committee to BC Ferries. The mandate of the committee is to advise BC Ferries on local ferry service issues in relation to the Campbell River to Quadra Island route and the Quadra Island to Cortes Island route; and to advise on inter-dependent ferry service and policy issues that may arise from time to time.

The local governments request citizens, groups and organizations interested in representing their communities on the Ferry Advisory Committee write to Doug Raines at the District of Campbell River, advising of their interest in being members of the committee and outlining their previous experience in serving in voluntary and interest based activities in the community. A maximum of 15 persons will be appointed to the Committee to represent Campbell River (5), Quadra Island (5), and Cortes Island (5). The Committee will meet a minimum of two times each year.

Once the Ferry Advisory Committee is formed, two members will be chosen by the Committee to represent the Campbell River - Quadra Island - Cortes Island committee on the Coastal Council to BC Ferries. The Coastal Council is made up of representatives of each of the 12 Ferry Advisory Committees and its mandate is to advise BC Ferries on inter-dependent ferry service and policy issues. The Coastal Council may meet up to four times each year.

There is no remuneration paid for service on the Ferry Advisory Committee. However, BC Ferries pays approved expenses incurred by members participating on the Committee. Interested citizens, groups, and organizations are requested to express their interest in writing, by May 31, 2002, to:

Doug Raines,
Municipal Administrator,
District of Campbell River
301 St. Ann's Road
Campbell River, BC V9W 4C7



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**BOARD OF SCHOOL
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 SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.
 72 (CAMPBELL RIVER)**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
 COMMUNITY MEETING**

***TO DISCUSS THE
 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF
 SURGE NARROWS SCHOOL***

June 14, 2002
 10:30 a.m.
 Surge Narrows School

The deadline for written submissions in connection with this school closure proposal is May 31, 2002 and should be addressed to Barb Sharpe, Chairperson, Board of School Trustees, 425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, BC V9W 3P2.

The Board will also be discussing this proposal at its regular scheduled public meetings of May 14, June 4 and June 25, with the final decision being made on June 25, 2002.

ICP DECISION – Permit upheld with some improvements.

In December, 2000, Sierra Club of B.C. Quadra Group, Don McIver of Campbell River and Reach for Unbleached appealed the air pollution permit for the Island Cogeneration power plant (ICP). Both appeals were heard last June in Campbell River.

The Appeal Board released its decision last week. Although the permit was upheld and the appeals dismissed the Board ordered the following permit changes, which made it all worthwhile.

1. Oil. The permit as written allowed the government to authorize ICP to burn oil for more than 10 days per year. Reach for Unbleached and Sierra Club both made submissions on this issue as oil is so much more polluting than natural gas. We are very pleased that the Board agreed with us that ICP should not be allowed to burn oil if the price of natural gas rises again. They ordered the permit amended so that can't happen.

2. Low Load Conditions. Low load conditions at start-up or when there is not enough natural gas to operate at full load are the most polluting times of operation. The Board ordered the Regional Manager to amend the permit to address these circumstances instead of ignoring them.

3. Particulate Matter. The Board noted that Elk Falls pulp mill emits a huge amount of PM2.5 and PM10 emissions compared to ICP. However, recognizing that PM2.5 poses a serious health risk, the Board ordered that ICP do some PM2.5 stack emission monitoring and that information be made public. ICP has already paid for an ambient monitor for nitrogen oxides and ozone at the Elk Falls-Dogwood site.

The Board turned down the Sierra Quadra request for lower Nitrogen Oxide limits. As David Anderson, Federal Minister of Environment, pointed out back in Sept. 2000, ICP does not have the pollution control devices that other similar plants have. ICP said that their plant is so clean that it doesn't require further pollution controls. At the same time they objected to lowering

the permit levels for Nitrogen Oxides because, they said, it might not always burn as clean as the first test results show.

We were also concerned about emissions from the cooling towers. ICP said that sulphuric acid is not being used in the cooling water and that it is currently being treated with sodium hypochlorite (bleach). They also said that in the future, the water would be treated with other unknown substances. Our concern is for the people working and living in the area. The Regional Manager can amend the Permit if cooling tower emissions result in environmental concerns in the future.

The full decision is available online at: www.eab.bc.ca

The other benefit of the Appeal is the impact of our concerns on other project or power plant Applications dealing with air pollution. The Environmental Assessment Office referred to it during the Port Alberni power plant Application and the Min. of Water, Lands and Air also considered our points in the technical report for the Elk Falls coal test.

Once again we would like to thank everyone who helped with this. Sierra Quadra and Don McIver were represented by Bill Andrews, environmental lawyer and Reach for Unbleached were represented by their Board Chair, Counsel Lynn McBride. Sierra Quadra was mainly funded by West Coast Environmental Law's Dispute Resolution Fund with supplemental funding from Sierra Club and Campbell River Environmental Society. Both groups are grateful for funding from unnamed donors.

Standing up for clean air is never a waste of time. We may not always get all we want but the cumulative efforts of many people speaking out (as is happening on Vancouver Island), will make a difference.

- Joan Sell, Delores Broten

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Quadra Recreation Society

May Day, May 25, 2002

Schedule of Events and who does what when...

"Islands of the World" is the theme of May Day 2002. Join your friends and neighbours in a big community picnic at Rebecca Spit, Saturday May 25, 2002.

Celebrate the coming of Spring and Summer with colour, costumes, floats, music- the more zany and bizarre the better! Let your imaginations soar, representing any of our sister islands IN THE WORLD. Choose your favourite and get the neighbourhood involved in a float....

8:30 a.m. Gates open for parade entries.

9:00-10 Free shuttle from Heriot Bay Inn to the Spit.

10:00 Parade starts from beginning of Spit to the parking lot.

11:00 Official ceremonies.

12:00 ishBox Lunch auction. Face painting. Concession.

12:30 ishAfternoon entertainment begins.

1:15 ishFoot races begin.

1:30 Sailboat race begins.

2:00-3:00 Shuttle back to H.B.I.

Please leave your dogs at home!

May Day is a volunteer-powered, traditional community event, first held on Quadra in 1898. The Recreation Society Board of Directors thanks the many dozens of people who contribute to the event in big and little ways and wish everyone a happy, joy filled, sunny day!

POSTERS: See more details on posters by Leslie Matthews.

PARKING: On arriving at Rebecca Spit, please do not park beyond the park gate as the parade floats, etc. need room to set up. All floats will end up in the parking lot after the parade so please don't expect to follow the parade up to the parking lot! It will already be full. Thank you Paul Ryan and Larry Waddell for gate control.

SHUTTLE SERVICE: This is donated by Heriot Bay Inn. The van will make trips to and from the Spit from 9-10 a.m. and



the from 2-3 p.m. If you are walking down the Spit road and have a box lunch, small children or are a senior citizen etc., just give a wave. They'll pick you up. [Thanks H.B.I.]

PARADE: Get your neighbourhood, business, or group together and challenge other groups to out-do your float! There are the Credit Union Trophy for best float and Clandenning trophy for best kid's costume; prize money for costumes, bike, walkers. [Many say the best fun of May Day is in the parade line up...so come on and get involved!] Thank you judge anonymous and parade marshalls, Mia Frishholz and Jeanie Stoppard.

GREASE POLE: Doug and Gretchen Peters grease the pole and monitor the contestants. No pyramids please. Note at the top tells the winner to collect \$50 from the person at the information table.

GRADE 6 PICNIC: May Day is a time to honour the Grade 6 class which will be leaving for Campbell River next year. Check out the last picnic table with the balloons. Thanks Barb Frank and parents for organizing this.

M.C. : This year we are pleased to present our Regional Director for Area J, Jim Abram who will keep everything rolling.

QUEEN AND COURT: Speech contestants in Grade 6 deliver a speech at the Community Centre 2 weeks before May Day. The winner is the May Queen and runners up are in

the court. This is done in the spirit of honouring the Grade Sixes' transition to high school next year and having the whole age group being "special" at May Day. Thanks, Robin Beaton for guiding this process. Former May Queens are the speech contest judges.

STAGE: Thanks to Mel Doak for supplying and setting up the stage; and grade 6 parents for decorating it. Thanks Mel, also for the donating the porta-potties!

MAY DAY DEDICATION: Each year a citizen who has given positive service to the community over a lengthy period of time is honoured.

SOUND: Howard Bailey is supplying the sound system for the stage.

MAY POLE DANCERS: Barrie Calverley and Kim Field prepare the Grade 3 dancers for the traditional May Pole dance. Bravo Barrie and Kim!

BOX LUNCH AUCTION: Please support all the local businesses who donate magnificent "box" lunches each May Day. This is a big fund-raiser for next year's May Day. Get your friends together to bid and have a marvellous banquet. Deb Manery (Garde) is organizing this. Check out Beaver Clandenning as the auctioneer!

CONCESSION: Thank you Tucker Dinnes and Trina Hallum for coordinating this! Proceeds are going to Quadra Recreation Society's Minor Softball and the Community

Centre Addition Project.

RACES: Thank you once again to the Quadra Elementary school teachers for organizing the races.

ENTERTAINMENT: Want to entertain? Call Q.C.C. 285 3243 and get on the list. Thanks Howard Bailey for supplying the sound system.

SAIL BOAT RACES: Brian Simons is organizing this event. If you want to enter the race, phone Brian at 285 3128 in the evening. If dinghy sailing is your sport, call Frank Wallace at 285 2297. Start time for the big boats is 1 p.m and 1:30 for the dinghies.

VOLLEYBALL: Pat Field will start you off.

CREDIT UNION DISPLAY WINDOW: Nancy Barker will put her special spin on the "Islands of the World".

PHOTOGRAPHER: See photos by Sheahan Wilson when it's all over.

INFORMATION/1ST AID TABLE: Lost? Need direction? Check in at the info centre. Meet the summer recreation programmer, Janis Meier and tell her what you would like to see at summer rec this year! Thank you Betty Doaks and first responders who will be close at hand for any medical emergency.

EQUIPMENT GUARDIANS: Thanks Clandenning family for care-taking over night.

MAY DAY DANCE: Thank you Sunday Dennis and crew for bringing Alpha Ya Ya Diallo and band to the Community Centre in the evening. Buy your ticket early; it will be a sell out!

CLEAN UP and recycling. Help keep the park clean. Please pick up litter when you see it. Dan Bingham and Greg Ross are doing their part.

Have a great May Day and VISUALIZE SUN!

Sandra Spearing - Coordinator
285 3243 (M-F 8-2pm)



May Day Dance

Quadra Islanders are celebrating our 104th May Day on Saturday the 25th with the usual parade and Maypole celebrations at Rebecca Spit.

At the Community Centre that night we are honoured and excited to present the much celebrated Alpha YaYa Diallo and his high-energy Afro-funk band Bafing, who are bound to get us dancing.

Guitarist and singer Diallo, from Guinea in West Africa, is one of the hottest acts on the current world music scene. Now based in Vancouver, he's earned a matchless reputation internationally for the excellence of his musicianship and the excitement of his live shows, whether performing solo or with band Bafing.

Diallo is a uniquely multi-talented artist. His dexterous acoustic and electric guitar playing, with its fluid melodic lines and compelling grooves, places him in the front ranks of African axemen. In addition he is a skilled and experienced performer on a variety of percussion instruments including the balafon, a wooden xylophone. To complete the embarrassment of riches, Diallo writes his own songs, and his voice has a beautifully modulated edge.

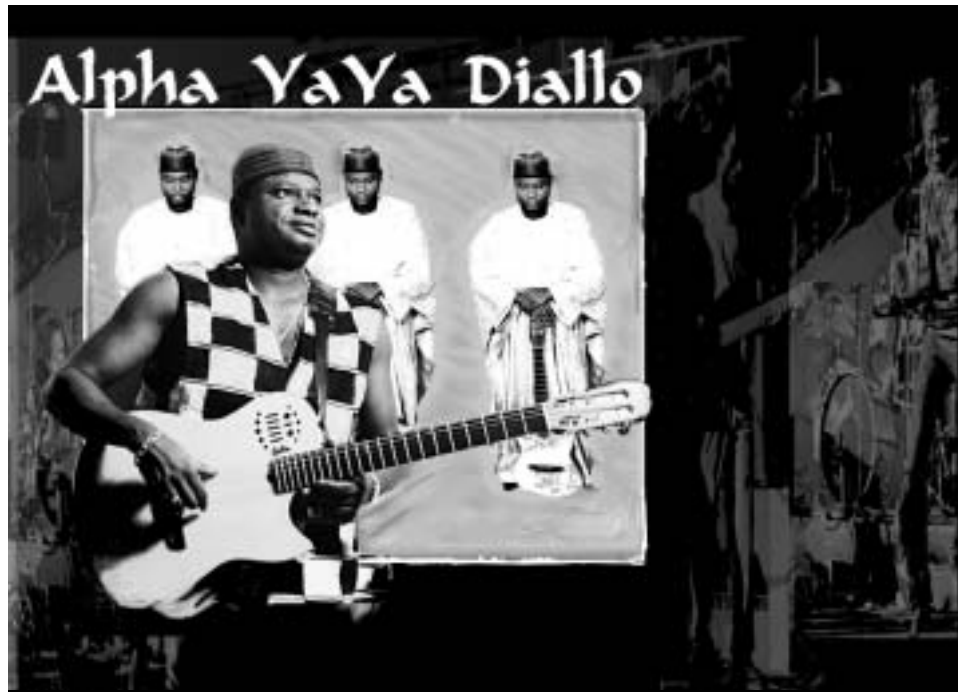
Writing about Diallo's latest album "The Journey," the Toronto Star's Geoff Chapman said that Diallo "achieves with this release what most African musicians have failed to do: he has created a classy Afro-pop synthesis of the continent's musical forms with western technology that won't infuriate the purist."

Hot off the press: Alpha YaYa Diallo just won the 2002 JUNO award for Best Global Recording for his album "The Journey." In 1999 his album "The Message" won both a JUNO Award for Best Global Recording and a West Coast Music Award for Best World Music.

Dance to Alpha YaYa Diallo and his band and dancers at the Quadra Community Centre at 970 West Road on Saturday, May 25th. Doors open at 8:00. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$12 advance from Quadra Crafts and Explore Gallery. Phone 285-3243 for more info.

Then on Sunday the 26th at the Community Centre, Diallo and friends present workshops on drumming and dancing, from 10am to 2pm. Cost will be \$20 for each workshop or \$30 for both. Phone Michelle at 285-2294 to register.

Volunteers are still sought, as is someone to do food for the concession.



When the day is done
it's time for evening fun!
Alpha YaYa Diallo and band Bafing
8 pm at Quadra Community Centre.

UADRA FOODS

SPECIALS THIS WEEK
From Fri, May 10 to Thurs, May 16
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GROCERY

Muir Glen Pasta Sauce
\$3.99 ea. 737ml

Mexi Snax Chips
379g \$2.69 ea.

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Primo Dry Pastas
900g \$1.49 ea.

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Organic Strawberries
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"We will meet any Quadra Island Competitors' Advertised Pricing"

Philippines Letter

Dear Carol and the Community of Quadra Island.

Hello! Thank you for your financial and moral support that you have extended to me and to my community for five years. Our children have gained a lot. We had our closing ceremony last March 14 with 14 graduates ready for grade one out of the 22 daycare children.

Mrs. Petra Durrance was our guest speaker during our closing program.

The children were able to do many activities in the daycare since they were supplied with materials like paper, pencils, notebooks and art supplies through IAT. There were also storytelling books which the children had enjoyed the most. We thank you for all these supplies since without them the children would not have been able to do these activities.

The program has really helped the community because when the children are in higher grades, it is easy for the teachers to teach them because of the special methods and strategies that we have been using in the Montessori daycare. The barangay (community) captain has appreciated our methods and that is why he is improving the grounds of the Daycare Center. You really have been a great help to the people of the community of Mabato, especially the children!

IAT is transferring the support of Mabato to another community but I will still be teaching daycare next school year under the support of the barangay. If you are able to still provide us with school supplies, this would be helpful since our barangay budget cannot afford this.

So now, I am extending my best regards to you, your family and the community of Quadra Island. Please continue writing and keeping in contact with us through IAT.

So long and God Bless

Josefa Maduli, Mabato Daycare Center

Dear Carol and Quadra Island Community,

Happy Holiday! We had our closing yesterday (March 25) and 27 of my children graduated from preschool out of my 29 enrollees. These 27 children are now of age to go to grade one next school year. They are active and love to sing. They can copy and write their names and count and write numbers up to 50. Their teacher for next year is so happy and thankful to be able to teach them since they already have a foundation for elementary school. The community is so appreciative and hoping

this daycare program can continue since it really helped in terms of childcare for the children while the parents work in the fields, as well as teaching the children. Many of the parents are illiterate and do not have time for teaching. They too are extending their thanks to you for support to the program.

It is already our summer vacation for two months and since I will not be teaching, I will be in the fields most of the time. It is so hot here and we're hoping that rain will come soon.

Again, my greatest thank-you for what you are doing in giving us an opportunity to help our children here. We pray that God will give you fortune and success in life. So long for this vacation and I will write you again next June.

Take care and God bless,

Magdalena Gumabay, Ipil Daycare Center

Science of Mind

What It Can Do For You

It is not too late to come and join us. Discover your magnificence and how you can make the changes in your life that you desire. For more information, call Jill 285-2804.

Class 1: What it is, May 6, 2002

Class 2: Get a Life, May 13, 2002

Class 3: Make it Happen, May 27

Class 4: The Outcome, June 3

\$7 per class

Quadra Community Centre Room #1 (use south entrance)

In that inner sanctuary of our own nature, hidden perhaps from objective gaze, "nestles the seed, perfection."

-Ernest Holmes, The Science of Mind

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Keep Surge School Open



The heart of the community on Read Island is at Surge Narrows, on the other side of Hoskyn Channel from Surge Narrows Road on Quadra Island. The only way to get to Surge is by boat or float plane and the first man-made construct to greet the visitor is an antiquated but charming government dock on which is built the only post office for the outer islands group and an old store built on pile-ons in the 1920s by the Tipton family, still standing and in almost the same, charming condition. The store is run by Doug and Teresa, the dedicated couple who always have their store open and marine radio on. Up the hill from the store are the Al Murray Hall, (the community centre), Alvina Poitras Art Centre (the old quonset hut), the teacherage and the school, which is the subject of current contention. The Campbell River School District is proposing that Surge Narrows School be closed.

The history of education on Read Island began in 1894 with the opening of the original log cabin school in Burdwood Bay on the other side of Read Island. In 1921 another school was opened towards the south end of the island. Teaching conditions were a challenge and teachers changed frequently. In 1925 a school opened on the north end of Read Island at Surge Narrows. Both schools operated until 1935, when the north school closed until 1945 when it was opened again. The south school closed permanently in 1951 but the Surge Narrows School stayed open until 1964 when it closed for three years only to be re-opened in 1967-70 and



OFFICIAL OPENING

1973. The school has remained open since 1977. In 1952 the first quonset hut school in B.C. was erected at Surge Narrows. This school was equipped with blackboards and a wood stove and was in operation until the late 1980s.

A brand-new 2 room school that is attached to the community centre was opened in 1990. Read Islanders requested a simple building that would provide room for the then growing population of 52 students. This new school has a large generator, cellular phone and photocopier. Al though not as simple as the islanders requested, people are proud of this school. The nineties saw a slow-down in the economy (fisheries and forestry) resulting in a population decline. There are currently 11 children registered but increased economic development in the oyster farm and eco-tourism industries have seen renewed growth on Read Island and the surrounding vicinity. There are currently 9 pre-school age children living in the area and the numbers are growing.

Residents are concerned about their school. It is very difficult for children to commute to another school. Boat travel and even road travel on North Quadra is treacherous. The parents of this community want their children to have a public school education. The educational tax base for this area (Read Island, Maurelle Island, Sonora, Rendezvous and Northeast Quadra Island), according to our regional director, Jim Abrams, is more that \$258,000. The running of Surge School is \$120,000 a year. There are few public amenities such as hydro, telephone, public transportation, garbage pickup, police and fire protection. The school is one of the few services available. The economic growth of this small coastal community depends on this school staying open.

On June 14 the Board of School Trustees plan on coming to Read Island and have a public discussion of this possible closure. Without the school this community will suffer a great hardship. We are asking input from members of the community to save Surge Narrows School.

Quadra Daycare Changes Name

The child care centre formerly called Quadra Daycare, located adjacent to Blenkin Memorial Park on West Main Road, has been re-named and is now known as Quadra Children's Centre. Administrative Director, Dee Conley, says the name was changed, *"To celebrate what we do and to reflect that the children are the heart of it."* It has come to the staff and Board of Directors' attention that the community may not really understand what the Centre offers. The staff and board invite the community to get to know the world of action, wonder and adventure that is Quadra Children's Centre.

There are three programs at the Children's Centre: **A child care and preschool program**, full-time or part-time, Monday to Friday, for children aged 2½ to 5 years of age. *"Some people think children have to be toilet-trained to attend this program,"* Dee says, *"but they don't. We'll help with that process."* The **Quadra Kids Program** is for school-aged kids during the school year, and includes professional development days. *"On professional development days we provide full-day care which includes field trips and other special activities."* Quadra Kids is housed in a separate building from the preschool program. This program is complemented in July and August by the **Quadra Kids' Summer Program**, which is available as a full-time, part-time or occasional drop-in program. All staff members have Early Childhood Education or equivalent training. But there is more to what the Centre has to offer.

"The care given to the children in all three programs is on a different level from basic child-minding," Dee explains. *"In addition to providing a safe and comfortable place where children can spend the day, we offer programs that meet children's social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs."*

Heady goals, and one might ask how they're met. Conley answers. *"We respect the children and put them first. Collaborative relationships are the foundation of our work with the children and their families. We view the children as competent, inventive, and resourceful individuals. They're not vessels for us to fill up with information; they're partners with us in the learning process. We facilitate their learning by being aware of each child's interests and providing them with the necessary support to develop these interests. We are open to the wonder of where the children may take us."*

Currently there are spaces available in all of our programs. For more information call Quadra Children's Centre @ 285-3511 or stop by for a visit.

Dig In!

Please come to Quadra Elementary School to help the new garden grow and develop. Join Mia Frishholz on Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., weather permitting, in the garden just to the south of the school parking lot. If you'd like to help out at another time, please call Mia at 285-3655. Remember to bring your gloves, shovel, fork and special weeding tools.

Preschool raffle

Your chance to support our beautiful preschool AND to win one of these fabulous prizes: Family Sightseeing Charter (Sutil Charters), Family Bike Rental (Island Cycle), Fire Extinguisher (Sentinel Fire & Safety Equipment), Caviness Tri-Pack Kayak Paddle (H.B. Consignment), One Night Accommodation at Taku Resort, One of two Island Gift Baskets.

Draw date: May 28, 2002 Tickets \$1.00 each

A BIG thank you to the following local businesses for their donations: Sutil Charters, Sentinel Fire & Safety Equipment, Heriot Bay Consignment, Island Cycle, Taku Resort, Hummingbird, People's Drug Store, Aroma, Village Hair (Karina), Dirt Co., Quadra Crafts, Island Treasures, Java Shack, Just A Touch More

Quadra Bike 'Gang'

A group of enthusiastic Quadra Motorcyclists met at the Heriot Bay Inn on Thursday, April 25. There were about nine people who showed up to discuss forming an informal touring group to do weekend dayrides or possibly longer trips in the future if the interest is there.

Those of you who don't like organized functions don't worry, because we are about as dis-organized as they come but we all share an interest in bike riding. The meet was chaired by Wendy Brereton. There was a door prize draw for those who actually rode their bike to the meeting. This was won by Bruce Young who came on his 1942 Harley Davidson. Tim Campbell offered his hat to put the tickets in and was later roped into driving his truck behind our future rides in case of break downs! He also may come in handy if we ever miss the last ferry and need to catch the Marine Link home??!

Our next meeting will be announced soon but in the mean time contact Wendy Brereton at 285-2452 or Esther Allen 285-2888 or drop by the Heriot Bay Inn pub on any Thursday between 4-6 where there will always be a keen motorcyclist hanging out at the "table of Wisdom" (the long table by the middle wall) they will be the ones in leather! Coming up in June will be the Quinsam Hotel Poker Run watch for info on time and date.

Spud Gun Club

Once again the Spud Gun Club has held a fundraiser that was a lot of fun. It was great to see so many new faces and the weather was perfect. A total of \$2947.10 was raised to pay for the wheelchair ramp, adjoining sidewalk and railing at the Legion Hall. This could not have happened without the generous contributions of some of our local contractors, businesses and private individuals. J. Toelle Construction did the actual building and absorbed much of the cost. Tony Marmol donated the necessary excavation and Roy Dahlnas dropped off a free load of gravel. The railing was built by Paul LeClere.

The donation of prizes is a large and deeply appreciated part of the clubs, ability to help fund some of the sometimes forgotten projects in our community. Doug Peters donated 4 hours of excavator work won by Andy Alsager. Dudley and Howard Richards cut a load of firewood that was won by Lloyd McIlwain, who in turn gave it to another senior. It was delivered by Tom Hughes. Clare Byers made and donated a table won by Don McDonald. Laura Leigh LeClere made and donated a ceramic cookie jar which was won by Helen Fair of Campbell River. Dolly Hansen of Cortes Island, won a case of salmon from Walcan Seafoods. Heriot Bay Store helps out with all events held by the Spud Gun Club with discounts for the refreshments and meat prizes. Shoot winners packed away large hams at the shoot held on April 20th. Several of those who won at B.S. Bingo, Chicken S. Bingo, circle shoots and 50/50 draws turned their winnings back "for the cause". Several cash donations were also made throughout the day. Besides having a good time, they contributed to something that will be appreciated for many years to come.

Contributions of homemade chili and baked beans - accompanied the expertly prepared hamburgers and hot dogs. The men and women on food detail are appreciated more than we can say for their generosity and time. The volunteers who assisted with the shoots helped to make the day run smoothly. >From signing up to loading spuds those little jobs are so important to keep things moving. Ticket sales were extraordinary for this project! To everyone who participated, thank you. The Nutting family appreciates the considerate cooperation shown to everyone involved. Future Spud Shoots are in the planning, both for fundraising and just for fun. More shooting apparatus are needed; anyone who wants to learn how, or help build one, contact Bill Nutting @ 285-3394.

Sincerely, Don McDonald & Bill Nutting
for the Spud Gun Club

Town Hall Meeting Report

April 30th was the most recent meeting of the ratepayers and residents. Gary Leitch and Ann Carpenter from BC Ferry Corporation presented an overview of how the public consultation process is to be implemented for the ferries serving our island. A Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) would be set-up with five members from each of Campbell River, Cortes Island and Quadra Island for a total of fifteen members. Anyone wishing to be involved with the FAC is to forward his or her name to The District Clerk of Campbell River. The District Clerk would then forward these names to our three elected directors from these communities, who would then appoint fifteen members to become our Ferry Advisory Committee.

Several of the audience challenged this process of selection feeling that there should be a public meeting and members should be elected to FAC to ensure fair representation from Quadra. Seniors, Business, Trucking, Ratepayers, Search and Rescue, School, and Daily Commuters, are some of the groups needing representation from Quadra on this FAC. There was no resolution proposed to solve this selection process so it is up to our Regional Director or another organization to call this public meeting and elect our FAC representatives. The committee must be in place by September 1, 2002.

The counter-petition, regarding the Sunnydale Golf Course in Courtenay, and the Regional District's involvement in a lease agreement with the Golf Club was discussed. Counter-petition forms were available for signing. Jim Abram explained that 3,100 petitions were needed to defeat the lease agreement. Concern was expressed about the liability The Regional District might have to absorb if the Golf Club could not meet its obligations.

Bill Pirie gave a summary of the Church House Sea Farm re-zoning application with the result that because of a tied vote among the Regional Directors; the application was in limbo until another meeting in a month's time when the application will be heard again.

Following the formal part of the meeting everyone was given five stickers to place on any issue collected during the March 26th meeting so the issues could be prioritized for future Town Hall meetings. Large displays were posted around the hall and people wandered around discussing and indicating their choices by placing stickers on the display.

The next Town Hall meeting of the Ratepayers and Residents will be June 11, 2002. The issue for discussion will be property taxes. Property owners should have their tax information by then.

Quadra Conservancy News

Those of you who were around 12 years ago and contributed to the purchase of the Morte Lake property, you are all members of the Quadra Conservancy. So for those who were not at the A.G.M., we missed you. But things go on and we did have a full annual meeting. Apart from the formalities we discussed the effects of logging around our, that is your property on Morte Lake, by Timber West. How close are they going to come to the property line? How is the planned road into that area going to affect us? We do not have any answers but we are in contact with Timber West so that we can protect our community forest as best we can. We also talked about the windfall from the storm in December. The skid road from the gate up to the lake is blocked by fallen trees. It was decided to leave things alone which is also in the spirit of the Covenant.

Then we heard about the plans Richard Schellinck has for lot 208. There is major storm damage in several areas and he is now creating access to those fallen trees to rescue them before they become unmarketable.

George Barabas reported on his collection of Eagle nest sites, which is an ongoing project. We have hope that with the knowledge gathered, somehow we can prevent destruction of those sites.

Then a motion was passed reading as follows: "That QICSS write a letter of appreciation to our regional director Jim Abram for all his efforts to achieve what are really the objectives of QICSS regarding the Raven Lands" This motion was passed on to Jim by letter.

If you happen to be interested in what we do outside being the guardian for the Morte Lake property in the form of covenanting and other issues that come our way, please contact us.

The "old" executive was returned by acclamation. They are: Stan Paterson, Joyce Johnson, George Barabas, Guy Holmes, George Murdoch, Janis McLean and myself. Any questions? Just phone us.

Lastly: If you arrived on the island after the Morte Lake property was bought and the conservancy was formed and you did not have the opportunity to make a contribution and become a member, you joining us now would be really appreciated. We will send you a receipt for income tax purposes and would value your input, financial and otherwise. Anything over \$25 will do!

Thanks. For the Quadra Island Conservancy & Stewardship Society:

Dirk van der Minne

Quadra Legion Branch #154

Ladies Auxiliary Annual Plant & Bake Sale, Saturday, May 11, 2002. From 11am - 2pm. Start your bedding plants now! Enjoy the tasty homemade baking as well!

April showers, bring May flowers...

Quadra Island RCMP

Quadra Island RCMP would like to remind residence that there is an engine - power limit on Main Lake, Mine Lake and Village Bay Lake.

Under the Canada Shipping Act Boating Restriction Regulations, no person shall operate a power-driven vessel driven by electrical propulsion that has an engine power greater than 10 hp or 7.5 kw in the above noted waters.

The exception to the rule is a person who occupies a waterfront cottage that is only accessible by water and who operates a vessel solely for the purpose of reaching that cottage.

Every person who contravenes these Regulations is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.00

Cst. Lorne Anderson

Quadra Artists in the Tidemark

Quadra Island Arts Alliance is please to announce that it will host an unjuried show in the foyer of the Tidemark Theatre. It will run from June 4th to July 2nd, 2002. The show last year was a resounding success and we anticipate this year's show will equal or surpass that of 2001.

QIAA is a non-profit group working to promote the arts community of Quadra Island. Artists participating will represent a number of different disciplines from pencil drawing and oil painting to sculpture, West Coast aboriginal art and beyond. If you are a Quadra resident and artist and would like to participate in the show, you can find out more by calling Barb at 285-3008 or speak to Lois at Hummingbird Art and Office Supply on Quadra. Submission criteria handouts and entry forms can be picked up at Hummingbird.

The show will be available for viewing during normal business hours of the Tidemark Theatre. Please contact the theatre for info regarding their hours. We invite you to drop by and enjoy the work of the remarkable and talented artists of Quadra Island.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DECONSTRUCTION - RDSCS OFFICE 4795 HEADQUARTERS ROAD

The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona (RDSCS) is seeking Proposals from Proponents for the Deconstruction of the RDSCS offices located at 4795 Headquarters Road as described in this Request for Proposal (RFP), and to carry out all work in accordance with this RFP.

RFP documents may be viewed or obtained at:

Regional District of
Comox-Strathcona
350 17th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1Y4

Proposals must be marked "RFP: 01-02RDSCSDeconstruction", and will be received at the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona no later than **2:00 p.m. Thursday, May 23, 2002**. The Closing Time is according to the Clock at the main reception desk of the RDSCS office. Proposals received after the closing time will be returned unopened to the Bidder.

Enquiries can be made by contacting:

J. Claude Bédard, Manager
of Building Inspection/Project
Manager
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Monday — Friday

285-3511

www.quadraisland.ca/qcc

Tour Cougar Annie's Garden



Years ago on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, a pretty young bride began to create a magical garden in the wild tangled forest. Discover her secret place on Saturday, June 1st when the Museum at Campbell River organizes a public program to visit "Cougar Annie's Garden" on remote Hesquiat Harbour.

Her story is captivating and her tenacity remarkable. Annie raised her children there in remote Hesquiat, outlived husbands, maintained a post-office and operated a mail-order nursery, — all the while working away at her extensive plantings: —colourful glades filled with rhododendrons, flowering bulbs, dahlias, and roses, framed with carefully chosen trees and the rain-forest. Some of her plant varieties are now considered important botanical specimens, worthy of scientific research and development.

Travel in comfort and safety on Ocean Outfitter's new state-of-the-art "Miss B. Haven" out of Tofino and enjoy a guided tour of the garden, and a delightful salmon lunch during the day.

Please pre-register immediately for this trip by visiting the Museum at Campbell River noon to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The Tour costs \$170.00, \$50.00 of which is a tax-deductible lifetime membership in the Boat Basin Society and includes the landing fee. The Boat leaves the dock in Tofino at 11:00 a.m. which allows people the possibility of driving over on the morning of the event. For more information, call 287-3103.



Watery show at gallery

An upcoming exhibition at the Campbell River Art Gallery richly expresses the passion a Victoria artist, Marcia Semenoff, feels for waterscapes — especially lakes, ponds and marshes. Semenoff's mastery of "plein air" painting, working in the natural setting, is impressive.

The exhibition opens on May 17 at 7:00, when the Marcia Semenoff will be joined by a performance artist to celebrate the launch of her exhibition. All are welcome. Marcia will also teach a two part series of weekend workshops. Call the Art Gallery at 287-2261, Tues - Sat for more details.

Intermediate Fly Fishing Course

Haig-Brown House and Island Fly Fishing Adventures Announce an Intermediate Fly Fishing Course at Haig-Brown House

Those folks who have taken Beginner's Fly Fishing courses at Haig-Brown House or in Campbell River over the past years will be pleased to note that there will be an Intermediate Fly Fishing Course, at Haig-Brown House, on May 11th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This course is for Flyfishers who have taken a Beginners Course and would like to further their knowledge, and for Flyfishers in general who would like to improve their skill level.

Emphasis will be on improving casting skills and fly presentation, including the single and double haul, the three most important presentation casts and a number of other techniques and strategies.

Ian Muirhead will be the instructor. Ian is a Vancouver Island Fly Fishing Guide, a Certified Casting Instructor and a member of the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association. Haig-Brown House, the former home of famed fly fisher Roderick Haig-Brown, will be the venue for this course, and casting instruction will take place on the Haig-Brown lawn, the best casting practice green in the Commonwealth!

For information, contact: Haig-Brown House, 250 - 286-6646 or e-mail at: kdbhbh@oberon.ark.com

Island Forum

Keep Surge School Open

Dear Editor,

It was a surprise for me to move to Read Island, but there's the old expression "you can't leave your past behind." My one room school house experience was "mine" until we were bussed off to a big school and ours was closed. I could maintain quite an invisible profile, who knew me? And a sense of anonymousness took over.

Now, the responsibility as a mother finds me with two young boys enjoying school in another one room school at Surge Narrows. I see the flexibility of all ages playing together. The youngest child's interests extend to their older peers and instinctively the children follow the road best travelled. We are blessed to the point I would fear closure due to jealousy, that the larger, more stifling pressures, at bigger schools might lead the individuality of the students to deflate and be more vulnerable and prone to follow easier influences. Self-consciousness can be intense during these determining years and I watch the carefree selection of clothes grabbed and the un-brushed hair of these boys bounding out the door: Lets's go!

Their dynamic interest in the moment, I love. Their teacher, Tina Saunders, captures their attention with the educational proverbial carrot with delight and respect towards this unique situation.

At times there may be discrepancy in

behaviour. A bad egg in the group but with the need of friendship, the rough edges have more of chance to wear thin. With guidance resistance yields to co-operation. I hope I'm colouring the scene of our school.

Children come to the school on Read Island from all channels. The route from Maurelle Island is more challenging by boat. In winter, Beasley Pass is especially an obstacle for Robyn and Frieda in the winter months compared to the more protected waters of Hoskin Channel that the children from Northeast Quadra cross. Yet through gales and storms, children come.

Words sketch the very physical, diverse lives, the harshness of the trips to school due to weather, the loneliness where feelings of why one lives off the grid is odd to describe. People come from afar with curiosities and talents that equip them with this love of place for Read Island. And we have built homes and are concerned with the wholeness of our small community. The school is soulfully our centre. The children's education is so necessary to them. It is the school that educates as well as socializes and prepares them for the world.

Please continue your support of our children and school. I remember when I was 9 years old and the world was good.

Yours, truly Tina McNab mother of Lawren, 9, and Mack, 6.

Dear Editor:

My recent visit to Quadra Island was short but very sweet. It was wonderful to meet with friends again, and I must extend my thanks to those who came on Friday, April 26 to the United Church in Cape Mudge.

It was certainly a wonderful experience, rather like a homecoming. I would especially like to thank Maureen McArdell for arranging the little concert, and for preparing me for the changes on the island.

The warning however did not prevent the shock I had when I saw the devastation of logged sections along the main roads. In fact, the back road was, to me, unrecognizable and I didn't know where I was until I saw signposts. I am sorry this has happened and I feel for those living on Quadra. To say that the island has been logged off three times already in the last 100 years doesn't ease the impact, for those previous log-offs were done before we as humans supposedly became aware of the damage we are doing to the earth.

Thankfully there are still a few sections of road that remain beautiful and forested. So how has this log-off impacted tourism where people come to stay and walk the trails and enjoy the beauty of Quadra Island? I give a slap on the wrist to Raven Lumber for not looking at the bigger picture, and for not considering the other economic strengths of the region, such as tourism.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Phillips

Articles, letters and artwork are all welcome for publication under Island Forum

Opinions & endorsements expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not represent the views of the publishers.

If you would like to see an alternative point of view represented...submit something yourself.

Next deadline 7pm Monday, May 20th 2002



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285-2234

Dear Editor;

The April 26th issue of the Discovery Islander contained a letter to the Editor from Ted Conover of Quadra Island, regarding the South Quadra Fire Protection District (SQFPD). While I truly hesitate to enter into a media debate with Mr. Conover, the letter contains false information and the fact that it was published for the broad readership of both your newspaper and another demands that the record be corrected.

In his letter, Mr. Conover claims that the SQFPD is about to impose a tax increase on District landowners, of 26.57%. Some very creative math must have gone into the development of this figure, because, as he is well aware, the Trustees of the SQFPD deliberately reduced taxes this year. The below figures are from the duly-filed financial statements and tax collection bylaws.

The only figure that Mr. Conover has correct is the total amount of taxes to be collected for the year 2002, at \$157,653. As can be seen in the figures above, this represents a decrease of 11% from the previous year. The Department's operational budget has been frozen at the 2001 level, while taxes for capital expenditures have been reduced significantly. There's no fancy government-style accounting tricks here, folks, the SQFPD keeps a very straightforward set of books, administered by honest, dedicated individuals. The SQFPD tax rate is the lowest of almost any Fire Department located within the Comox-Strathcona Regional District, and District taxes are currently at their lowest level since 1994.

Taxes collected by South Quadra Fire Protection District:

Year:	1999	2000	2001	2002
For Operating Expenses:	\$121,610	\$125,121	\$127,653	\$127,653
For Capital Expenditures:	\$ 52,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 49,500	\$ 30,000
Total taxes collected:	\$173,610	\$177,121	\$177,153	\$157,653
Change from previous year:	-9%	+2%	0%	-11%
Residential tax rate per \$1000	0.86	0.88	0.87	0.77 (est.)

Mr. Conover has of late been crusading publicly against the level of taxes levied by government. Fine, more power to him, and I'm a strong defender of his right to free speech. He goes too far, though, when he begins to make up numbers to try to get attention, to the detriment of other peoples' reputations. Mr. Conover knows better; he has an accounting background and had the correct figures in his possession. It appears that he is so certain that he'll be overly taxed that he can't see when an organization is doing a good job, efficiently and at a good bargain to the taxpayer.

I would to thank all those District landowners that were interested enough in the operation of the South Quadra Fire Protection District to attend the AGM last Wednesday May 01. They were able to pick up copies of the financial statements and other documents and judge for themselves the quality of the representation they have been getting from the Trustees.

At the end of his letter, Mr. Conover offers to send anyone who asks for it information on the finances of the SQFPD. The SQFPD itself is a much better source for such information, without any personal agendas and complying completely with the requirements imposed on Improvement Districts by the provincial government. The information is a matter of public record.

Yours truly; Murray Johnson

Figure Correction

My recent letter to the Editor contained an error of understatement. In an effort to give the South Quadra Fire Protection District Trustees the benefit of the doubt for what may be "one-time" interest earned on their term deposit investments, and being in haste in preparing the letter to the Editor and submitting it before the publishing deadline, I inadvertently transposed numbers and understated the percentage of tax increase. My letter contained the error that "an increase of \$41,903 or 26.57% should have read "an increase of \$41,093 or 35.25%".

I do apologize. Respectfully,
Ted Conover.

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Money Matter\$

Corporate Colossus

Steven Halliday

For many years now I have harboured an intense dislike for the large, multinational retail corporations that were spawned in the 1970's and early 80's, now known collectively as "big box" stores. Costco, Home Depot, Staples, you name it, I abhor them all. Notwithstanding the fact that they are of real benefit to those who need to watch their budgets, such as the families of my own grandkids, I have been steadfast in my belief that the negative aspects of such stores far outweigh the benefit of a mind-boggling assortment of goods at deeply discounted prices. But I really reserve my ultimate distaste for the big "W" – Wal-Mart.

While there is no shortage of like-minded people, the media has been very reluctant to opine on the subject. Why? Consider the fact that Wal-Mart spends billions (yes, billions!) of dollars a year on advertising, and now that the mass media here and in the USA is controlled by a handful of giants it's easy to see that no-one would risk offending one of the largest media buyers in the world. But a fellow named Jim Hightower has written a piece entitled "How Wal-Mart is Remaking our World" (Alternet.org – April 26/02) that exposes some of the seedier practises of Sam Walton's retailing behemoth. It is my pleasure to share some of the juicier bits.

In case you didn't know, Wal-Mart is now the largest corporation in the world (based on sales), having dethroned ExxonMobil last year. Global sales exceed \$220 billion, which is larger than most nations entire Gross Domestic Product. But their PR and marketing people would have us believe "*aw shucks, we're-just-folks-from-Arkansas, neighbourly small town shopkeepers trying to sell stuff cheaply to you and yours.*" Meanwhile, they rake in upwards of \$7 billion a year in net profit. And by the way, 5 of the 10 richest people on earth are named Walton. Says Hightower "*Wal-Mart and the Waltons got to*

the top the old-fashioned way – by roughing people up. The corporate ethos emanating from Bentonville (Arkansas) headquarters dictates two guiding principles for all managers: extract the very last penny possible from human toil, and to squeeze the last dime from every supplier." I'm quite sure that the new Wal-Mart in Courtenay is providing lots of new jobs in the area, but at what cost? It is estimated that for every 2 jobs at Wal-Mart, 3 existing retail positions at competitors will be eliminated. Wal-Mart employs more than a million people, and its personnel policies are positively draconian. So draconian in fact that the average employee turnover per store is over 50%, and has been recorded as high as 300%. Who would want to quit a job where full time work yields you a princely \$1,500 per month, sans benefits (it takes two years to qualify, and the employee pays the bulk of the premiums)? Where you get to start every workday pleading allegiance to your munificent employer by singing the company song? And god forbid if you even mutter the word "union". The company line – "*While unions might be appropriate for other companies, they have no place at Wal-Mart.*" Oh, and by the way, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the USA has filed more suits against Wal-Mart (where 70% of employees are female) than any other corporation.

Wal-Mart is equally repressive of its suppliers – they are so insistent on getting cheaper costs that they actually reserve the right to peruse supplier's books, and insist upon cuts of "unnecessary costs". And in their drive to achieve the lowest costs, much of their inventory now comes from overseas, where of course they are exempted from all those pesky North American rules and regulations. You know, unimportant stuff such as human rights, workplace safety, minimum wages and environmental standards. Wal-Mart is

now the single largest importer of goods made in China, at some \$10 billion per year. According to Hightower – "*this company is the world's most powerful private force for lowering labour standards and stifling the middle-class aspirations of workers everywhere.*" Or even better – "*This outfit operates with an avarice, arrogance and ambition that would make Enron blush.*" Wal-Mart protests that their suppliers must comply with it's "code of conduct", but refuses to disclose the name or address of any of the factories supposedly following the code. The National Labor Commission in the US has investigated Wal-Mart's suppliers in China, and was shocked by what it found in terms of working conditions, pay and workplace environments, which in many cases fell below minimal Chinese standards and regulations.

When I heard that Wal-Mart was coming to the north Island, I shuddered. It is a well-known fact that when Wal-Mart comes to town, competing merchants duck and cover. I share the same view as Hightower: "*It hits a town or city neighbourhood like a retailing neutron bomb, sucking out the economic vitality and local character.*" When the company opened in Germany, the laws had to be-written to allow local merchants to compete, as it had previously been illegal to have a "sale". Wal-Marts incredibly low costs allowed it to devastate the German retailing industry in very short order, much as they are achieving in Canada. I think fondly of 3 names in retailing; Army & Navy, Hudson's Bay Company, and Woodward's. One is gone, one is ailing, and the third is thriving – Army & Navy. But Woodward's was special. It catered to everybody, did a great job, and provided good secure employment. Many, many people had full working careers at Woodward's, and retired relatively comfortably thinking fondly of their employer. Both my mother and myself worked for "The Bay". But I can assure you, had I been forced to wear a blue bib and sing each and every bloody morning, whilst earning little better than minimum wage, I don't think I would be a happy camper. Perhaps that is why the pregnant young lady who collapsed in the Nanaimo Wal-Mart last week was ignored by the employees (sorry, Associates). They were all too busy dreaming of the day when they wouldn't be working for Wal-Mart. I'm sure every staff member feels absolutely awful over the incident, but under the circumstances the blame must be pointed at the employer, which has mutated into an economic monster without a heart.



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Give Me a Break!

Darlene Booth RNC

I keep waiting for that patch of blue sky to peak through the clouds, and every so often it will, but then, before you know it there is another dark cloud on the horizon. Sure we all experience the ups and downs of life, the give and take so to speak, but lately it seems to me that we are evolving into more of a "take-take" society. Everywhere you turn these days there are cut backs, tax grabs, job actions, scale downs, budget cuts, service cuts and on it goes. Is the quest for some sort of security just a fleeting illusion?

To say that we live in challenging times is almost an understatement. I used to hold a childish optimistic view of what adult life was supposed to be like. You graduated, landed a job, got married, bought a home, raised your kids, retired, spoiled your grandkids, got old and died peacefully in your sleep! This was the wheel of life as I saw it. The unspoken words were all the stuff that filled in the gaps! Like the government had our best intentions in mind, that our taxes actually contributed to our well-being, that our children were entitled to a broad-spectrum education and that our health care was a priority. You can see where I am going here now can't you!

I look around and see fellow citizens of our planet having to peddle their bikes harder and harder just trying to stay ahead of the game. It takes so much energy to keep afloat in this world we live in. One can't afford to slow down for fear of falling behind. The majority of our families are dual income. This has become the norm. I don't know why there aren't more tax incentives for stay at home parents. Here is a fantasy of mine. One income split two ways. Why can't the stay at home parent claim half of the annual earnings?

Invest in our children. They are the future. We keep hearing this yet our standards are falling. Not only are there fewer parents at home to raise the kids, now our schools are struggling for funds to educate them. Budget

cuts are reducing the number of teachers in the system and minimising exposure to arts and leisure programs. Teachers have to volunteer their time in order for our kids to learn a sport or grab a culture fix. Parents have to support these programs with fundraising, transportation and so on. Personally, I can't stomach the thought of another box of chocolate covered almonds! I am all for involved parenting but give me a break. There is going to come a point in time when only those kids who can afford it will be able to do it. Life is so much more than just academics and our children deserve to sample all of it. The world I want to live in is rich in all the colours of the rainbow, not just a chosen few.

Over the past months we have been dealt blow after blow to our health and social services. Can we put any more strain on an already overburdened ox? Maybe it is because I believe in preventive health care. Maybe it is because I am still so very naïve but I just don't understand how this is supposed to "help" our society. It seems to me that for each step forward we take two steps back. The problem is not just the fact that we need more staff in the hospitals; it is that we need fewer patients. This can be achieved through preventative health care. This can be achieved using the support of alternative therapies. I say it is time to put the "health" back in health care. Prevention is the key to good health.

My naïve little world view made sense when I was a kid and deep down, I have to say it actually still makes more sense to me than the one we seem to be living in. I have been a contributing member of the adult world for about 25 years and for the life of me I often wonder why those in power can't quite grasp the general simplicity of real life? Invest in the people! Sow the seeds of contentment; cultivate healthy minds and strong bodies and reap the rewards of a cohesive society.

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Island Report

Sparks Learn Values of Sharing and Friendship

by Tanya Storr

Despite somewhat inclement weather, an enthusiastic group of Sparks and their leaders, Karen Abercrombie and Cheryl Jordan, were busy helping Mia Frishholz in the Quadra School and Community Garden last Saturday. Sparks are five to seven-year-old members of the Girl Guides organization, the age level before Brownies.

"We want to get the Sparks involved in helping the community, in order to introduce the principle of service in their daily lives. Working in the garden seemed a good way to do that," said Cheryl.

Cheryl decided to start up a Sparks group on Quadra last fall, as she really enjoyed being a Brownie when she was growing up. Her daughter, Raya, is one of the Sparks. Karen, who was a Brownie leader on the island in the past, was happy to get involved.

The Sparks gather every Monday from 2:45-3:45 p.m. for a structured meeting. During the meetings they play games and sing songs, work on a project such as a craft, and begin and end the meetings sitting in a friendship circle.

As well, the Sparks sometimes meet on the weekend for events such as hikes. In February they went on a hike in Paddy's Lagoon to collect items from nature for a craft project.

"Sparks is about fun and friendship,"



Leader Karen Abercrombie weeding and fertilizing in the Quadra School and Community Garden with the help of several Sparks
Photo: Tanya Storr

Cheryl explained. "The Sparks Guider's Manual emphasizes developing personal values and respect for others and self."

According to the manual, Guiding "offers a unique opportunity for young girls. It provides a place for fun, friendship, creativity, outdoor experiences, and community awareness."

The manual also highlights goals for Sparks, including developing a sense of

well being, being challenged through new experiences, learning to work cooperatively with others, and achieving a sense of pride in accomplishment.

As the girls helped weed and mulch in the garden at Quadra School, their sense of achievement and cooperation was very evident. Taking directions from Mia, Karen, and Cheryl, they worked together as a team to beautify the garden.

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Dick Whittington

Last Saturday was not the first time the Sparks have worked in the garden. Two weeks ago they assisted with the planting of two Dogwood trees, one in memory of Karen Taylor.

"I'd like to see these girls continue to be involved in the community garden throughout their school years," said Karen.

On Saturday some of the girls sported their pink Sparks t-shirts, which are emblazoned with the Sparks promise: "I promise to share and be a friend." Sparks begin every meeting by reciting this promise.

"We emphasize sharing and taking turns to help the girls learn to cooperate with others," Cheryl explained. "We also help the girls learn how to be friends with others and how to make new friends."

When asked what they like most about being in Sparks, the girls were quick to provide answers.

"My favourite part of Sparks is making crafts," declared Alannah LeClere.

"I like playing games the best," chimed in Jessica Nutting, adding that her favourite game involves a teddy bear who also wears a Sparks t-shirt.

Cheryl and Karen have been introducing the Sparks to Girl Guides internationally, by looking at girls their age in different countries. One of their weekly meetings had a Mexican fiesta theme.

"We ate Mexican food, made maracas (a type of percussion instrument) out of paper plates, and danced a Mexican hat dance—all in one hour!" recalled Karen.

Next Monday the Sparks meeting will have an English tea party theme. The girls will have tea, make a craft, and talk about what Sparks in England do. Karen noted that they are planning to have more theme meetings in the fall.

Cheryl and Karen said they have been grateful for assistance from parents and other community members in organizing activities for the girls.

As part of their Community Studies, the Sparks enjoyed visits from a policewoman and a female firefighter. Now they are learning gardening techniques from Mia.

"Part of the Sparks program is to provide role models for the girls," observed Karen, adding that they are very interested in having guests from the community attend meetings to share their skills with the Sparks.

There are 12 Sparks in the group and half are ready and eager to move on to Brownies. However, there is no Brownies group currently meeting on the island and there hasn't been one for many years. Brownies are seven-nine year old girls (grades 2-4).

Cheryl and Karen would like to encourage any women who are interested in leading a Brownies group to call them for more information. Girl Guides Canada stipulates that its leaders must be women 19 years of age or over, but otherwise it is open to anyone.

"You don't have to have children of that age to become involved. My girls are 24 years old now, and I have really enjoyed becoming involved with the Sparks group," Karen stated.

Two or three leaders are needed in order to make a Brownies group a reality. According to the Guider's manual, Brownies is "an active program in which girls can have fun while learning new things and developing habits of service and stewardship." In Brownies the girls start working towards service and skills badges. They also do lots of outdoor activities.

Sparks will run until mid-June, and then take a summer break before starting up again in September. If leaders are found, Brownies will begin in September.

For more information about becoming a leader or the Girl Guide movement in general, call Cheryl Jordan at 285-3689 or Karen Abercrombie at 285-3167.

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12 SU	0345 1105 1805 2225	12.8 3.9 12.8 10.5	3.9 1.2 3.9 3.2
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14 TU	1430 1205 1940 2350	13.1 3.0 13.1 11.5	4.0 0.9 4.0 3.5
15 WE	0050 1240 2025	12.8 2.6 13.5	3.9 0.8 4.1
16 TH	0130 0535 1320 2120	11.5 12.5 2.6 13.5	3.5 3.8 0.8 4.1
17 FR	0310 0615 1405 2210	11.5 12.1 3.0 13.5	3.5 3.7 0.9 4.1
18 SA	0520 0710 1455 2305	11.2 11.5 3.3 13.8	3.4 3.5 1.0 4.2
19 SU	0645 0835 1555 2150	10.5 10.5 3.9 13.8	3.2 3.2 1.2 4.2
20 MO	0735 1030 1655	9.2 10.2 4.9	2.8 3.1 1.5
21 TU	0035 0820 1215 1750	13.8 8.2 10.2 5.9	4.2 2.5 3.1 1.8
22 WE	0110 0900 1340 1845	14.1 6.6 10.8 6.9	4.3 2.0 3.3 2.1
23 TH	0145 0940 1450 1930	14.1 5.2 11.5 8.2	4.3 1.6 3.5 2.5
24 FR	0220 1020 1550 2015	14.1 3.9 12.1 9.2	4.3 1.2 3.7 2.8
25 SA	0250 1055 1650 2105	14.1 2.6 12.8 10.2	4.3 0.8 3.9 3.1
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