

Discovery *Islander*.ca

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



Quadra Legion General Meetings Resume
Wednesday September 20th 8 pm at the Legion

Ferry Schedules

Campbell River - Quadra Island

Crossing Time: 10 minutes

Leave Quadra Island

6:15 am	3:05 pm
†7:05 am	** 4:00 pm
8:00 am	5:00 pm
9:00 am	5:50 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm
11:00 am	8:00 pm
12:00 pm	9:00 pm
1:00 pm	10:00 pm
2:00 pm	*11:00 pm

Leave Campbell River

6:40 am	3:30 pm
†7:30 am	4:30 pm
8:30 am	5:25 pm
9:30 am	6:15 pm
**10:30 am	7:30 pm
11:30 am	8:30 pm
12:30 pm	9:30 pm
1:30 pm	10:30 pm
2:30 pm	*11:30 pm

Quadra Island - Cortes Island

Crossing Time: 45 minutes

Leave Quadra Island	Leave Cortes Island
† 9:05 am	† 7:50 am
**11:05 am	9:50 am
1:05 pm	11:50 am
3:05 pm	**1:50 pm
5:05 pm	3:50 pm
6:45 pm	5:50 pm

* - Fridays and Saturdays only. † - Daily except Sundays.
 ** - Tuesday sailings are for Dangerous Cargo - No passengers.

Avoid Line-Ups

Peak local traffic are during morning and evening commutes. On Monday and Thursday Quadra - CR 9 am sailings, Cortes Island traffic has priority.

For More Information

Pick Up A Copy

of the Guide to the Discovery Islands and the Quadra Island map-brochure



www.quadraisland.ca
www.discoveryislands.ca

Curly Eastland Memorial Bursaries.

Quadra Credit Union is pleased to recognize the following student's efforts and achievements with awards from the **Curly Eastland Memorial Bursary for 2006.** We wish them well in their pursuit of their dreams and ambitions.

These deserving students share \$6,000 in 2006 bursary funding.



Tessa Bingham
Talia Parmio
Kyra Shantih Foort
Alicia Valeri DavenPort
Jamie Clandening
Adrienne Mann
Nuala Sheran
Leonard Lawrence van der Est
Dan Bown
Andree Layne Mellanby

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Island Calendar

Submit your event: eMail: news@discoveryislands.ca • fax: 285-2236 • drop-off: 701 Cape Mudge Rd.

The Regulars

- **Every Day** - Quadra Legion - New Hours! Now Open at 3:30 pm until 1:00 am
- **Every Monday** - Badminton, 7:30 Cape Mudge Hall
- **Every Tuesday** - Kalina Folkdancers -QCC, 7:30 to 9:30 pm, Sept.to Apr.
 - Sketching group at Firesign Studio 10 am-12:00 pm
 - Al-anon meeting, 7.30 pm at the Childrens Centre
- **Every Wednesday** -Yoga 9:30 am and 7:00 pm Community Centre
 - Badminton, 7:30 pm Cape Mudge Hall
 - Prime Rib Night at Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Every Thursday** - Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm at Quadra Island Bible Church
 - Rib Night at Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Every Friday** - Yoga 9:30 am and 4:00 pm Community Centre
 - Seafood Dinner with Rod Hadley Jazz Pianist 5:00 pm – 9:30 pm
- **Every Sunday** - Sunday Service QI United Church 10:30
 - Family Worship Service 10:30am Quadra Island Bible Church
 - Buddhist Meditation 10:00 am Upper Realm
 - Sunday Celebration, Centre for Positive Living - CRCC 10:20 - 11:20 am
- **1st and 3rd Wednesday** - Food Bank 1-2 Community Centre
- **3rd Sunday of Month** - Raw Food Pot Luck 5 - 7pm 285-3827
- **Last Saturday** - Bonus \$50 cash draw or gift certificate. Quadra Legion 6:30 pm

Next Deadline: Monday, September 25th 2006

Day by day

- Friday, September 15 - Sunday, September 17**
 - Remembering My Goddess Connection Retreat
 Register by August 15th 285-2963.
- Sept 18-21**
 - Mentoring the Emerging Artist workshop Firesign Studio
 285-3390
- Sunday, September 24**
 - Quadra/Philippines Connection Giant Garage Sale Q.C.C.
 10-2:00
 - Haig-Brown Festival Haig-Brown House, CR
 Noon to 4 pm
- Wednesday, September 27**
 - Quadra Community Association meeting Cafe Aroma
 7:30 pm
- Saturday, September 30th**
 - Underwater Photographic Essays Q.C.C.
 7:30 pm Sponsored by Sierra Quadra
- Friday, October 6**
 - Free Money/Community Lunch Fundraiser Quadra Legion
 Shirley Locks & Bears 9 pm
- Saturday, October 7**
 - Van Django "Gypsy-jazz" Quartet Q.C.C.
 8 pm
- Tuesday, October 10**
 - Film on Dalai Lama Q.C.C.
 7:30 pm
- Saturday, October 28**
 - Peace Demonstration Comox CFB
 1 pm

Island Calendar online: www.discoveryislands.ca/news

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. Current advertisers welcome to submit events but not-for-profit items will be given priority. Thank you.



Live Music

In the HBI Pub | **Dinner Jazz in Herons**
 Fri Sept. 15 **Tequila Bedspins** | Sun Sept. 17 **Milton Rd. Trio**
 Fri Sept. 22 **Sour Jack** | Sun Sept. 24 **Blue Monks**

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Discovery Islands media & publishing
PO Box 280 Quathiaski Cove,
B.C.V0P 1N0
Tel.: 250 285-2234 Fax: 250 285-2236
701 Cape Mudge Rd.

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 10-4pm
email: news@discoveryislands.ca

Publisher/Editor: Philip Stone

Staff Reporter: Tanya Storr

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Submission Guidelines

Items for publication are welcomed on subjects of interest to the Discovery Islands community. Please help us by following these guidelines:

- Please print handwritten material clearly.
- Electronic items sent by email & must be saved as Word or rtf formats. Please spell check in Canadian English. Sorry no floppies.
- No MS Publisher, WordPerfect files or graphics in Word files please. Send imported graphics separately.
- Please use the title of the item as email subject & send multiple items in separate emails.
- 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 photos use labels or Postits™.

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

7 pm. Monday, September 25th



Say your piece: eMail: news@discoveryislands.ca • fax: 285-2236 • drop-off: 701 Cape Mudge Rd.

Residents Please Be Aware of Prowler

Residents of Milton, Milford, Topcliffe and Barton Roads, this article is to warn you of a suspicious, early morning prowler that was seen in your area on the morning of September 7 at around 5:30am. One of my neighbours, after hearing footsteps outside, went to turn on an outside light to see the cause. Much to her surprise, she saw a man take off down the driveway in a hurry. In writing this letter I hope to inform the general public of this incident; as well, to send a message to the prowler that you were seen and that we are on the lookout so don't come back.

Concerned Neighbour

Dear Editor,

Stephen Halliday is a gift. An intelligent columnist, informed and still-interested-in-the-madness-of-politics, he is a genuine talent applied diligently and responsibly. I appreciate his contributions no end. I think we are lucky to have him.

But I don't always agree with him. He may have this 'War on Terror' thing wrong.

Mr. Halliday, like so many others, believes that the War on Terror is a misconceived exercise doomed to failure. He believes that Bush is wrong, if not certifiably mad. He thinks that the War on Terror is a business error, a political error and a gross ethical error perpetrated on humanity. In that he is wrong.

It was no error.

The War on Terror is simply the latest and most visible part of an amoral marketing plan for the spread of Americanism and Capitalism. It is an exercise in Imperialism. It is just an excuse to aggress on unfavoured (or targeted) foreign states.

Globalization is the term coined for the combination of Americanism and Capitalism. It is really just a 'quiet economic war' inflicted on the unwilling and unready and it began when few of us were looking. It is all but well entrenched now. And America has a head start on 'running' the new globalized, 'we-are-one-economy' world.

The language of international commerce is English. The monetary standard is the US dollar. The US government is the policeman of the world. And US companies are not only spreading

internationally, they are, in many cases, larger and more powerful than some of the countries they are invading under the guise of free trade and capitalism.

Make no mistake, capitalism and Americanism are alive and well and the War on Terror is just another way for some to make more money. For Halliburton (Dick Cheney's company), the War in Terror is just another business opportunity.

And this new global capitalism is an even more powerful tool than ever before thanks to the new sycophants, the media and business forces marketing American culture internationally. It should be successful. Capitalism is extremely efficient. It plays to the primal human characteristics of greed and insecurity and it is more flexible than even the political system that spawned it.

But, sadly, it is also amoral. Capitalism has no values except 'what works'. Capitalism without a conscience is just another psychopath - but psychopaths get results. It is the quintessential manifestation of the theory that only the fittest survive and capitalism works to prove that theory every day and in every way. Unfettered by ethics, morals or human concerns, it thrives on the populace like a virus. Currently the US is the fittest capitalist and it intends to survive and thrive - not unlike a serial killer - by invading countries either by force, media or by economics. Or all three.

And that is the real motivation behind the War on Terror. Not retribution. Not justice seeking. Not self defense. The War on Terror is just new business, amoral and mostly unconscious. And it is just business as usual.

The American public is NOT at fault. They are, like the rest of us, pawns in a game where only Kings and Queens survive. And they, the American elite, will do well from all this. Some already are. All the rest of us are expendable - even the American public (see: daily US soldier body count) - we are all just 'customers' for the capitalistic machine.

And, for those nasty little people who direct their vitriol at Americans - give your head a shake! They are just people whose place of birth was a serendipitous accident. Those who have chosen to visit and/or live up here have been - like the rest of us - largely good citizens doing their best. Some of my best friends are Americans. I like it that way. They are welcome.

Americanism, on the other hand, is a bit scary.

David Cox

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. We reserve the right to edit for space and content.

Next deadline 7pm September 25th

Cortes Geoduck Application Still In Deep Water

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Cortes Island who publicly commented on the Argosy geoduck application, I would like to respond to Eric Gant's letter in your Sept 1st issue.

To start with I find his threat to sue people until they are "wiped out financially several times over" both ugly and undemocratic. This is a public comment period about public land. Individuals have every right to voice their opinions, even if hypocritical or uninformed. Mr. Gant does not own the land in question. He is requesting that the public give him rights to use it for his personal gain. His statements reflect very badly on the geoduck industry he is a leader in.

As background, Mr. Gant was a wild geoduck harvester. He is or has been a co-owner of several companies involved in many aspects of geoduck harvesting and farming. Last year one of his companies applied for 118 geoduck farm sites in Alaska alone. Seattle-PI article about this ends: "Gant entered the business as a diver harvesting geoducks from naturally occurring beds in coastal waters, but decided farming could increase profits." (<http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/242354_geoducks27.html?source=rss>http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/242354_geoducks27.html?source=rss).

Another of his companies, Argosy Sea Farms has applied to farm geoducks on Cortes Island at Squirrel Cove. This area is a naturally-rich wild geoduck zone. Wild geoducks have been harvested from it for years. According to the government, the rate of harvesting has been greater than the rate at which geoducks are naturally re-populating this area.

If tenure is granted a "purge fishery" would occur in which geoduck harvesters would be allowed to remove all wild geoducks they could find. A "clearcut" of wild geoducks with a multi-million dollar value. Then hatchery-raised, genetically-similar, baby geoducks would be brought in and seeded. Finally acres of plastic will be laid down for a number of years to disrupt predator/prey interactions. Argosy could then replant/harvest

this area into the future. They could also apply for other aquaculture uses on this tenure.

Mr. Gant says that concerns over whether the current AQ-1 zoning is appropriate are a "ploy" and in "violation of regulations". However our Regional Director has written: "The only zone that allows Deepwater shellfish aquaculture is AQ-2A. As geoducks are cultured on the bottom of the sea I believe the application area needs to be rezoned to AQ-2A to comply with our zoning bylaws." It is a valid area of discussion.

Mr. Gant further states that the people with concerns are a small minority. I don't know what info he is using for this statement. Consider that the public meeting was full, lasted many hours, and almost every public comment was one of concern and opposition. Also a petition was quickly assembled by a few residents and gathered over 200 signature in two weeks. This is a large number on our island of less than 1000 residents. Your own poll in the Discovery Islander showed something like 95% opposition. Finally our Regional Director stated that she received a many emails about this with only one being in support of the application. There are no equivalent petitions, polls or public comments showing any such a level support that I know of.

Mr. Gant states flatly that Argosy will use "the most environmentally sound aquaculture technology in the world." This is an amazing statement considering there is no scientific studies to support this. Both industry and government admit that there are no peer-review studies on sub-tidal geoduck aquaculture. The one study underway by Dr. Pierce is, in his own words, just beginning. The most authoritative document presented by the DFO is called "Potential Impacts of Subtidal Geoduck Aquaculture on the Conservation of Wild Geoduck Populations and the Harvestable TAC in BC". It states that a "phased-approach" will "allow collection of information on genetic impacts and disease issues...leading to the development of sound procedures". The government's most definitive

document says that they don't even know what "sound procedures" should be yet. The conclusion notes that "Geoducks are long-lived animals and negative impacts on populations may be slow to detect". Further, "there are several ways in which geoduck aquaculture could negatively impact natural stocks...although none have been directly assessed." None!

Finally, Mr. Gant says that Cortesians have made bad ecological decisions on their roads and private lands and so he should be allowed to do what he wants on public land. He points to a lack of motorized bicycles and eco-cars coming off the ferry. While it is true that humans have overtaxed our environment...it does not follow that this is a reason to do it more on the remaining wild public lands. Quite the opposite. My experience of living on Cortes is that most people are working to reduce the ecological damage they cause. It is clear that the number of bicycles, motorized bicycles, eco-cars, organic food, protected lands, bio-fuels, alternative energy installations, recycling and other such environmental efforts have greatly increased on Cortes in the last 10 years. Cortesians are

working hard to reduce their environmental footprint and it is in exactly this spirit that many have concerns about replacing a wild geoduck area with an aquaculture farming experiment.

To conclude, I wrote a public comment opposing this tenure until more studies have been done, and provided 10 reasons I was concerned. These included: zoning; lack of science; toxic pollution from discarded marine plastics; Cortes overwhelmed by number and rate of aquaculture leases; poor industry track record; destruction of wild geoducks; genetic pollution; precedent and anchoring problems. Only one of these, zoning, was touched on by Mr. Gant. My comment can be view at <<http://www.stonebreakerdesigns.com/geoduck-comment.html>>www.stonebreakerdesigns.com/geoduck-comment.html. Other people have put forth many other concerns as well. Mr. Gant would be better served to use his energies to address the specific concerns in the public record, rather than belittling and threatening concerned citizens.

Barry Saxifrage
Cortes Island

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Josee McMorran

Area J Regional Director's Report

September 15, 2006

Jim Abram



Granite Bay Park Opening Picnic Of Recognition

Photo, courtesy of Wendy Abram

I can tell when fall is finally here. Fall is when all of the meetings that didn't happen in the summer start to happen.. with a vengeance! And so another year of meetings begins. But first of all, I will mention the very nice day that was had by all of the Granite Bay community, and a few from other parts of the island and other islands, to thank the volunteers for the work done on the wharf. A couple dozen people came to the event on Saturday, Sept. 9th and the weather even cooperated after two days of showers. It was a very low key, sunny day on the north end of the island. Everyone seemed pleased with the work done, the food served and the lack of speeches. It was just a nice social visit and quiet celebration of our community working together. See the picture provided, of the new sign to mark the entry to the Granite Bay Park.

This will be a very short report. By the time you read it, I will have met with the BC Ferry commissioner along with the members of our Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) and then we will meet as an FAC again on Oct. 20th to discuss all issues for our routes to Quadra and to Cortes. There will be more on this after we have met.

I also just met with the Special Advisor to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. We discussed all issues that the Minister is responsible for that effect us in this Regional District: Fisheries, Coast Guard, Salmon Enhancement, habitat restoration, lightstations, fog horns, etc. He will be helping to arrange a meeting with the Minister which I have had a request in for over the past two months. I will also meet with the staff for the Minister of Communities, Infrastructure and Transportation to deal with rural post offices and remote wharves, in Area J. More to follow on that as it happens.

I am going to stop there for this report. Feel free to call me between the hours of 8:30 am and 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday (not on weekends, folks!) at 285-3355, or you can fax me at 285-3533 or you can email me at anytime at abramfam@oberon.ark.com, or by mail at Box 278 in the Cove, V0P 1N0

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Abram

Director, Discovery Islands - Mainland Inlets (Area J), RDCS

Quadra Seniors —BR.91-B.C.O.A.P.O.

Our members had a great time at our Annual Picnic, on Sept. 6th. Members from Cumberland Br. 51 Club attended, and participated in many games.

Prizes went to:-

FRANKS GAME-

1st—Betty Thompson

2nd-Ann Lawrence

RUBBER CHICKENS-

Women's -1st-Ann Lawrence

Men's—1st- Kurt Hagen

NAIL DRIVING

-Women's—1st-Joan Smith

Men's 1st-Marshall Toeie

MEMORY GAME

1st-Chris Dyson

2nd-Lyn Teneycke

3rd-Lillian- (Cumb.)

4th-Ruby- (Cumb.)

CLOTHESPEGS

Women's 1st—Joan Smith

Men's 1st-Kurt Hagen

WATER BALLOONS

Teams Lyn T & Hanne M

Cumb.- Lil & Krista June L & Etta B

BOCCE

Teams Judy Hagen & Dave McQ.

Chris Dyson & Hanne Moss

CROQUET

June Langman Wayne Langman

A Delicious Pot-Luck Lunch was enjoyed.

Thanks for helping go to -Ann Lawrence, Chris Dyson, Martin Amiabel, Marshall Toeie, Frank & Win Smirfitt and the Byers, and Cumberland Br. # 51

Our next meeting, and Harvest Fall Fair will be held on Oct. 4th/06, Wed at 10:30 a:m at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Wear a Harvest Hat—bring your flowers, Produce, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, baking, and a Unique Display.

Every Wed. at 10:00 a:m -Tai- Chi -& Annie (except 1st) 10:30 a:m- Carpet Bowling-& Chris Walk the spit every Sun. at 11:a:m with

The Greggs & Lloyd McIl.—start at the Launch Ramp or Parking Lot.

Membership welcome to all Experienced Citizens & those who would like to be. Call Ruth- 285-3801 or David-285-2627

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Haig-Brown Festival

Come celebrate the annual Haig-Brown Festival this coming Sunday, September 24 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Games & fly-fishing & food & music & more are all available for free. Bring the family down for a wonderful afternoon down by the riverside. Quadra's own Jazz Berry Jam will be playing from the stage along with a mellow classical music group.

Ladies of Quadra Island

Please join us in celebrating a wedding shower for Christy Gamache (daughter of Ron and Lynn). To be held Monday, September 11th, at 7:pm, at Rivendell Lodge, Camp Homewood.

If you would like to attend, please call Rita (2623) or Susan (2417), for more details!

Royal Canadian Sea Cadets

Invites any interested young person, ages 12 - 18, to join our Corps, in Campbell River. The cadets meet every Thursday evening - Quadra youth can walk over from the 5:50pm ferry, and return on the 9:30pm ferry.

Youth that attend Sea Cadets learn wonderful skills, and have a lot of fun in the process. For more info, call Cheryl (5-3567) or Susan (5-2417) or the Navy League Hall 287-8689.

Buddhist Meditation

Summer break is over. Sunday morning meditation at 10 a.m. in the Upper Realm, Q.C. has started up again. Five minutes of chanting are followed by 30 minutes of meditation. After tea & cookie break, we read the discuss the Dalai Lama's book called "Ethics for The New Millennium" for another 30 minutes. We are done by 11:45 or noon at the latest. Everyone is welcome. No charge. Donations are welcomed for the room rental. Call Steve or Danielle at 285-3323 for more info.



Quadra Community Assoc.

The QCA will be reconvening after a summer hiatus with a meeting at Aroma on September 27th at 7:30 pm. Main topic of discussion will be exploring the concept of a public advisory committee to the regional director, who will be in attendance. All QCA meetings are open to the public.

Goddess Workshop

Saturday, September 16th, 10 am - 8 pm, at Moonlight Shadows B&B. Come explore, embrace and connect with your Goddess through dance, meditation and chant. The cost of the workshop is \$45, bring a bag lunch and a potluck item. To pre-register and for more info call Angela Thurston @ 285-2963. Step into the spiral and join us in raising the vibration of the Goddess.

Golf Tournament

27th Annual Quadra Island Golf Tournament—September 23rd at Storey Creek G.C. Please watch for more information in upcoming editions of the Discovery Islander

Dalai Lama Film

On Tuesday, October 10, the Dalai Lama will be coming to Quadra Island in a feature film called "Compassion in Exile." The Los Angeles Times says the film has "unprecedented intimacy." The film director is Micky Lemle, the maker of "Ram Dass, Fierce Grace" which was shown last year at the community centre.

The film starts at 7:30 p.m. A cover charge of \$5 will enable us to purchase the film for our local Quadra Library if a dozen people come. If your short of funds, come anyway, it's free.

Call Steve for more info at 285-3323.

New Clothing Store at the Upper Realm

The Upper Realm welcomes Natural Fibres Clothing Company. Specializing in natural fibers such as hemp and bamboo jerseys this new store caters to both men and women. There are still one of a kind items made by local designers in linen and cotton fabrics. Most clothes are Canadian made and there will soon be a line of children's clothing produced by Lena Nielsen. Call 285-2626 for more information.

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Free Money/Community Lunch Fundraiser

The Quadra Legion, with the help of community volunteers, is offering a free Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, October 6 at 6 p.m. Later that same evening, Shirley Locks & the Three (or more) Bears will be playing some Rockin Reggae Music on the Legion's big dance floor. It will be a fundraiser to raise money for the Community Lunch & the Food Bank & the Free Money program at the Quadra Community Centre.

The musicians will play for free and we will charge a \$10 cover at the door and donate every cent collected to these valuable Quadra Community Centre programs. If 100 people come, we raise \$1000. The dancing starts at 9 p.m. and goes past Midnight. So come on down to dance and hear Moe, Dave, I-Wah, Matt, Shirley & Steve Reggae up the place. We may not have all the Bears, but we'll have three for sure!

This could be the last good-bye gig for Shirley before heading East and South for the Winter. Whether the Bears will hibernate for the Winter or hold the Reggae banner up high is an open question. Call Steve at 285-3323 for more info.

Sing Messiah This Fall with Quadra Singers!

Quadra Singers began rehearsals for fall season September 13th at 7 pm at the Quadra Community Centre. If you missed the first rehearsal do not despair. You can still come this Wednesday-just call Nancy at 285-3800 to let us know to expect you. No auditions are required.

This session, Quadra Singers will perform selections from Handel's Messiah and other songs in concert with Campbell River Singers. If you love to sing and can come to weekly Wednesday night rehearsals leading to concert performances in December, this is for you. Come to the first couple of rehearsals and check it out, no charge! Then fees are \$80 for the season and may be paid in installments.

We perform December 9th at the Tidemark Theatre in Campbell River and again at the Quadra Community Centre December 16th. It is very exciting to sing in such a large group with so many different voices-under the enthusiastic direction of John Montgomery, along with the inspiring piano accompaniment of Mary-Ellen Wilkins.

We hope to see you Sept. 13th, and if you have any questions call Nancy@ 285-3800.

Friday Flicks Presents: Sabah

September 22nd Doors: 7:30 Showtime: 7:45
\$4.75 - \$3.75 stu/snr

SABAH is a love story and a fable about living in two cultures simultaneously. Arsinee Khanjian assays the title role of a 40-year-old Muslim woman, Sabah, who is both comforted and trapped by her community. She has remained unmarried while taking care of her sick, widowed mother and ministering to her family without protest while her brother Majid supports them and assumes the role of ruling patriarch. When she comes across a picture of herself as a little girl standing beside her father, knee deep in the Mediterranean ocean, something is awakened inside of her. She misses Syria. She misses her Dad. She misses having fun.



As a birthday gift to herself, she surreptitiously goes to a swimming pool. There she meets and, over successive visits to the pool, falls in love with an attractive Canadian divorcee. She tries to hide the relationship, which would be totally unacceptable to her family, but she knows the day of reckoning is at hand. The obstacles to their romance are both real and imaginary. While Sabah struggles to have a life and simultaneously meet the high expectations of the older members of her family, her teenage niece is on high-rebel mode.

The many engaging moments of SABAH are held together by "the most sustained and varied performance yet offered by Arsinee Khanjian," who is a "hypnotic bundle of nervously-expressed, joyful reclamation." The long distance she travels from stifled house mouse to radiant woman of the world holds the viewer's rapt attention and support. Every time her smile sneaks through, you catch your breath. You want everything to work out for Sabah.

Filmmaker Ruba Nadda intended to avoid Middle Eastern stereotypes in creating Sabah and the movie's "vivid, opinionated Muslim women are one hell of a stereotype buster."

(Review credits: Georgia Straight, Mongrel Media, Toronto Sun, Empire Magazine)

Benefit Concert

There will be an eclectic musical and poetic evening at Joyce Sheppard's house on Sat. Sep 23rd from 7-9pm. Admission is by donation and all the proceeds will go to the MDV Ashram near Haridwar, India. This ashram looks after and educates about 120 crippled children; they are mostly crippled by Polio.

East Indian snacks will be served and East Indian dress is optional.

Please come.

For more information about the concert or about the ashram please phone Eileen at 2434 or Carrie at 2295

Peace Demonstration

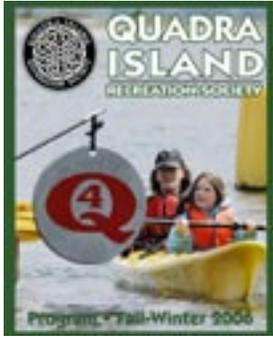
There will be an international peace demonstration on Saturday, October 28th. This October marks the 5th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. According to Human Rights Watch, the new Afghan State, ruled by drug-running warlords, has not been much better than the Taliban when it comes to human rights. Furthermore, the Conservative Government of Canada has committed Canadian troops to supporting the American occupation of Afghanistan and over thirty Canadian soldiers have been killed and hundreds wounded. Five of these deaths and nearly 30 soldiers have been wounded by U.S. so-called "friendly fire."

As a result, the Canadian Peace Alliance and the Canadian Labour Congress are calling for a Canada-wide peace demonstration on October 28th to co-incide with the world-wide peace actions. The Comox Valley Peace Group has invited the Quadra Action for Peace to join them at a peaceful demonstration in front of the Canadian Forces Base in Comox at 1 p.m. on Saturday October 28.

Now is the time to act. Recent public opinion polls show a majority of Canadians want Canadian troops out of Afghanistan. A growing number of Americans want their troops to come home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The demonstration in Comox is important because the Canadian Government is planning on stationing a new 650 member Rapid Reaction Battalion in Comox. The stated purpose, according to the Canadian Government, is to 'engage in combat against the armies of failed and failing states... including counter-insurgency.'

So if you've been reading the papers and been discussed with Harper's insane support of every American foreign policy venture recently, then put your body where your thoughts are & let's car pool to Comox for the demonstration. Call Steve at 285-3323 for more info or a ride.

Quadra Rec. Fall-Winter Program Now Out.



The new Quadra Recreation Society program for fall-winter 2006 is now available. If you don't receive one by mail look out for it on local stores or stop by the community

centre to pick one up.

You can access the entire program online at www.quadraisland.ca or visit www.quadrarec.bc.ca for more information about the society and our events.

Underwater Photographic Essays

Carol Valkenier, an underwater photographer, will present her beautiful award-winning photographs in five short slide essays titled: "Close-up and Personal", "Wet-Versus-Dry Photography", "Caribbean Critters", "The Abstract Sea" and "Friends and Anemones".

Carole considers herself privileged in being able to experience the underwater realm and began underwater photography in 1991. British Columbia, considered the best cold-water diving in the world by Jacques Cousteau, serves as inspiration for Carol's underwater images. Having a deep sensitivity to this hidden wilderness, Carol conveys her personal perceptions of our fragile underwater environment with extraordinary artistry and vibrant colour. She has participated in underwater photography for many marine research projects and her photographs have been shown in exhibitions as well as being published in magazines including *Canadian Camera*, *Oggi*, and others. Carole has also been guest speaker with her slide essays at the national "Canada Camera Conference 2004", at the Fredericton Photographic Society, and at various groups around British Columbia. Her images will be available by way of art cards, enlargements, and a 2007 underwater calendar (great ideas for Christmas!).

This event should appeal to those interested in underwater photography and those wishing to learn more about this beautiful and fragile environment. Join Sierra Quadra at the Community Centre on Saturday, September 30th to enjoy some spectacular photography. Doors will be open and refreshments served starting at 7:00 pm with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission by donation.

www.discoveryislander.ca

Quadra Money

Don't forget to spend your Quadra Money. Also, Quadra Money users can expect a phone call soon to find out how much Quadra money has been taken in and how much has been spent by each of the 30 service providers. If anyone has lost their list of service providers, just call Steve at 285-3323 for a new one. So far, Audrey with organic produce, Brenda and Sunday with massage & Quadra taxi have been taking in lots of Quadra bucks. Carol Foort has taken her Quadra bucks from Yoga and is buying a hand made Irish drum worth \$350 from David Maclean. The tourists are gone. So how about taking a kayaking lesson from Jane West at 285-2571 or a Quadra Bucks kayak rental from J.D. at 285-2121. And remember mushroom picking season is coming up so take a walk with Jason & pick & cook & eat them at 285-3197. Don't forget, school has started & Eve Phillips offers tutoring up to grade nine. After Christmas, we will be adding another 20 service providers to our Quadra Money extended trading list. Bob's hair services is waiting in the wings. If you would like to join call Steve at 285-3323.

Cultural Events Season Opener



Vancouver's "gypsy-jazz" quartet Van Django kicks off the exciting new 2006-2007 Quadra Cultural Committee roster on Saturday, October 7, 8pm, at Quadra Recreation Centre. Inspired by the 1930's jazz group Quintet of the Hot Club Of France, which boasted a membership of both the great Roma guitarist Django Reinhardt and master jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli, Van Django delivers an intense, involving and musically dazzling show.

Van Django's sense of creativity and musical humour is revealed in their willingness to take risks by blending a mix of styles and genres. Contented audiences will find themselves entertained by such inventive combinations as Smoke On The Caravan, drawing from both the Duke Ellington classic Caravan and Deep Purple's rock classic Smoke On The Water, and the whimsical I Found A New Baby In The Hall Of The Mountain King; they'll rediscover the comfort and joy of beautiful renditions of old classics such as Sweet Georgia Brown and I Got Rhythm.

Cost of advance tickets is \$17; they will be sold at Quadra Crafts and Hummingbird Office Supplies on Quadra, and The Music Plant in Campbell River. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20. For information call 285 3245.

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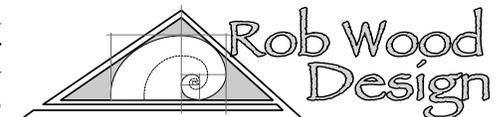
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12th Annual Giant Garage Sale

Come help support Quadra's sponsorship of the Bugnay and Nambaran preschools in the northern Philippines through the Quadra/Philippines Connection's 12th giant garage sale. This extraordinary annual event will be held on Sunday, September 24th at the Quadra Community Centre between 10 am and 2 pm.

Due to the success of last year's sale and everyone's great generosity, we will once again offer all of our items to participants by donation! This is definitely the mother of all garage sales and you are advised to come early in order to experience first choice selections. Last year a line up outside the doors began at 9:30 am. When the sale began at 10:00 over 90 eager shoppers made their way into the building to take advantage of the wide assortment of furniture, appliances, toys, tools, books, household goods, clothing and other paraphernalia that covered the entire expanse of the community centre floor.

You can drop off your CLEAN, SALEABLE donations in good working order directly to the community centre on Saturday, September 23rd between 10 and 3 pm. If this is not convenient, feel free to deliver your goods in advance to the drop-off locations listed in the last Discover Islander.

This year we are asking that you please refrain from sending national geographic magazines, encyclopedias, skis and microwave ovens. There is still time to volunteer to sort through goods on the 23rd and gain a sneak preview into treasures to be had.

Also needed are those willing to bake for our concession and helpers for the day of the sale. Especially invaluable will be volunteers to take left-over items to thrift stores during the week following the sale.

If you wish to offer your truck, volunteer in any way, or require any further information, call Carol at 285-3035. HAPPY SHOPPING!

One Year Later: The Recycling Depot on Quadra -- Is it working?

Next month is the one-year anniversary of the recycling depot on Quadra Island.

How did recycling go over the past year? Looking back it's apparent that the community has made good use of the facility. Over 110 tonnes of recyclables were removed from the island over the past 11 months.

During the summer the depot was almost too successful: on certain days there was overflow from the cardboard and plastic bins. The Comox Strathcona Regional District is looking at ways to handle this overflow. Islanders can also help the depot run smoothly by following these tips:

- * Most glass is fully recyclable: make sure it is clean and free of contaminants, remove lids
- * Recyclable plastics are identified by a numbering system ranging between one and seven. These numbers are usually displayed on the bottom of the container inside a triangle
- * Don't drop off commercial items: the bins are for household recycling and are not built to carry the recycling load from businesses
- * If the bins are full take recyclables home: leaving them on or beside the bins attracts wildlife and vermin
- * Don't leave garbage: depots aren't designed to handle garbage; any refuse left at the site will sit and rot or blow into neighboring areas

The regional district is proud of the Quadra depot and considers it a model site. If residents and visitors can keep it this way it won't meet the fate of other depots (such as in Nanaimo) where businesses dumping their cardboard resulted in cameras being installed. That's not the way to go here on Quadra. Following the tips above will ensure that Quadra's recyclables continue to flow efficiently off the island.

Operational Services

Comox Strathcona Regional District

Tanya Storr

B.A. English

Freelance Writing
& Editing



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Quadra Island Volunteer Fire Department

by Murray Johnson, Fire Chief

Burning Ban !

Backyard burning has been banned on Quadra since June 30. In spite of a bit of recent rain, and probably a bit more between when I write this and you read it, conditions are still such that wildfire is a hazard. We had a long hot dry spell that resulted in extreme drying of the forest fuels; it will take more than a couple of days of rain to change that. The burning ban is in place until you hear that it is lifted and the sign comes down - you DO NOT have freedom to decide for yourself on this issue. I write this because we have experienced some problems in the past week or so with people deciding on their own that it's OK to burn now, after a little rain. It's not OK! And PLEASE do not give fire department people a hard time when they are called because you are burning! They are volunteers doing their job, and they are backed by the law in this. Repeat offenders may face prosecution.

At this time, campfires are still allowed. To be considered a campfire, the fire must be less than 1 metre in size (the flames, not the wood!), MUST be for cooking, warmth, or ceremonial purposes (NOT debris disposal) and it must be in a safe area, kept away from trees and other combustibles and on mineral soil or rock only. You must ensure the fire is contained; be in attendance, have fire fighting tools/water; carry out fire control action if the fire spreads, and ensure that the fire is FULLY extinguished before leaving the area.

Woodstoves

As the weather cools off and the days shorten, people will be starting to use their woodstoves again. PLEASE ensure that your woodstove and chimney is in good condition, and the chimney cleaned, before you do so. Quadra has had a half-dozen structure fires this year, much more than normal, and almost every one was caused by faulty woodstoves or chimneys or careless use of the woodstove. If you are not sure of the condition of your stove and chimney, please get it inspected by a professional. It's a much smaller price to pay than losing everything you have and endangering the lives of yourself and others. While the brush fire hazard remains, please take particular care to ensure that the fire you are burning does not send sparks or embers out of the chimney. This can spark a fire in the bush that will probably spread back to your house!

Thanks for your cooperation!

For Fire Department information, write or call: QIVFD, Box 80, Q-Cove, BC, V0P 1N0, Attn: Fire Chief, Phone 285-3262 Fax 285-3273. You are also welcome to contact me at murray@island.net



Cortes News & Events

Art Gallery Opening Printmaking 2006

The second annual Printmaking show will be at the OLD SCHOOL HOUSE GALLERY, Whaletown, Cortes Island, September 15-24. "PRINTMAKING 2006" will exhibit hand pulled original prints of Cortes Island artist. Many of the prints were produced on the large etching press at Eagle Wind Press (www.eaglewindpress.com) There will be one of a kind monotype prints as well as etching, lino, mixed media and chin-colle prints. Touch Drawing TM another form of hand pulled prints will be on display.

Cortes Island is establishing a printmaking community with the availability of the large etching press at Eagle Wind Press. There are other artist from as far as Vancouver whose work will be included in the show who worked on the press this summer. Eagle Wind Press is a fully equipped printing facility offering artist the opportunity to explore the medium of printmaking in an environmental friendly nontoxic well supplied studio with the aid of a professionally trained printer to assist in the printing process.

There are many artist who are discovering the printmaking medium as a means to express their creativity. It allows for spontaneity and fast results for their efforts of expression. There are a variety of materials used in the creation of their prints which allow for a variety of textures, colors and technique. It is an endless exploration in manipulating the medium to achieve exciting results. Come see this show and be inspired. If you are planning on coming to Cortes: Gallery Hours: Friday-Sunday: 2-7pm; Call 250-935-6311 or for appointment to view.



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Cortes Island Museum

Kayaking is one of the fastest growing recreational activities on the Discovery Islands. And with good reason. The scenery, wildlife and many historic sites to be found there are unsurpassed. On September 23 the Cortes Island Museum offers a day tour by kayak through the protected waterways along the west coast of Cortes Island.



"Whale Picto" - A sea mammal or fish carved on a large boulder on the beach on Cortes Island is said to have been made by a young man on a year-long spirit quest.

Misty Isles Adventures of Cortes Island will provide all the equipment and training for the trip. "This is the perfect way to try out sea kayaking," says Mike Moore of Misty Isles. "We follow a sheltered coastline in shallow water and enjoy some easy paddling." Moore, who has a strong background in natural history and marine biology, will also provide fascinating details about the seals, birds and shellfish seen along the island's shores.

Local historian, Jeanette Taylor, will join Moore for this final trip in the Cortes Island Museum's summer tour season. Taylor will point out fascinating heritage sites on the route, like the pictographs (paintings on stone) on the sheer rock escarpment at the entrance to Gorge Harbour. This remarkably beautiful spot, says Taylor, is only accessible by water. A bit further south is a petroglyph (a carving in stone) said to have been created by a young man who gained tremendous new skills while on a spirit quest. Taylor will also provide background information on several long-abandoned First Nations village sites and early homesteads.

Participants will drive onto the 8:30 a.m. ferry from Campbell River to Quadra Island and walk on to the Cortes Island ferry, to depart from Whaletown. The cost for this day tour is \$100 per person (including GST). Participants should bring a bag lunch, two sets of clothes, binoculars, sunscreen, water and water shoes or gumboots. Call the Cortes Island Museum to register at 250-935-6340 or cimas@island.net.

www.discoveryislander.ca

Area I Regional Director's Report

September 15, 2006

Jenny Hiebert

The long awaited rains heralded the end of summer. I'm sure most islanders welcomed the little bit of precipitation we've had the past few days. It has washed summer dust off most everything and lowered daytime temperatures lessening forest fire concerns. My gardens heaved a collected sigh of "thank-you" as I have been rather remiss with watering this year. The cover crop is waiting to be sown and the garlic bed awaits preparation.

Beach Access Trails Update

Beth Rees, Manager of Parks Planning, continues to work toward the necessary approvals needed for the Hayes Road (Smelt Bay), Gnat Road (Squirrel Cove), and Seascape and Moon Roads (between Hollyhock and Hank's Beach) trails can be built. Cove Road (in Whaletown) needs further assessment because of possible on site contamination from abandoned, rusty fuel drums. Therefore, this access site will require more assessment before entering into the approval process. It is proposed that trail construction will be carried out in a partnership between the Regional District and the Friends of Cortes Island. The goal for the fall is to complete the Hayes and Seascape beach access trails.

At the onset of the project a number of folks indicated they would be willing to donate their time, energy, machines or materials toward trail building. John Sprungman has contacted individuals that have expressed interest over the past months. If you are just learning of this exciting initiative and are interested in participating please contact John. He is generating a list of volunteers and will notify everyone when the various projects can commence. I am hopeful trail building will start toward the end of the month. Thanks for the continued patience of those waiting to build and utilize the proposed beach accesses.

Water Tanker Truck

The Cortes Island Volunteer Fire Department will soon take possession of a new (to us)

water tanker truck. This demonstration vehicle meets the unique geographic conditions of Cortes Island and will provide the Volunteer Fire Department with the equipment needed to fight fires as the island continues to grow and develop. It is currently undergoing a few necessary modifications in Lantzville and should arrive on island sometime in October. This truck will be a welcome addition to the fire fighting capabilities of our volunteer fire fighters.

Going Camping!

While most people love to holiday during the summer Brian and I prefer to travel when parks, campgrounds, roads, and ferries are not so busy. We will be leaving for a three-week camping trip September 20. We have yet to decide in which direction to travel but ideally, our path will take us to a location of glorious autumn colour. John Sprungman, my alternate director, will attend Board and Committee of the Whole meetings in Courtenay the end of the month. I will return in time to attend Community Service Committee meetings mid-October, followed by the UBCM Convention one week later. My laptop and cell phone will remain at home and I won't be able to respond to your queries until I return home. If you could hold off with your communication until mid-October you won't be faced with the frustration of beeping answering machines and filled email and cell-phone services. Should you require any RD information while I am away, please call 1-800-331-6007 where you will receive help from Regional District Staff. Until then feel free to contact me at 935-6488 Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4 pm. If you get the answering machine try my cell phone -- 202-6488. You can also email me at brijen@oberon.ark.com anytime.

Respectfully submitted by
Jenny Hiebert
—Regional Director Area I (Cortes)

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Proposed Bylaw No. 2894: “Quadra Island Zoning Bylaw, 1990, Amendment No. 83”

Bylaw No. 2894

Bylaw No. 2894 was given first and second readings on August 28, 2006. In accordance with Section 893 of the *Local Government Act*, notice is given that the regional board is waiving the public hearing for proposed Bylaw No. 2894 and will be giving further consideration to the bylaw at the regional board’s regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2006.

The intent and purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 2894 is to rezone Granite Bay Park and Hoskyn Channel Landing from Access Two (AC-2) to Access One (AC-1) to permit private and public boat ramps and wharves, and to amend the general provisions section of the bylaw to permit park use in all foreshore and land covered by water zones. The areas in question are shown on the adjacent maps.

A copy of the proposed bylaw may be viewed on the regional district web page at www.comoxstrathcona.ca or at the regional district offices, 600 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, September 11 to 22, 2006.

Enquiries should be directed to:

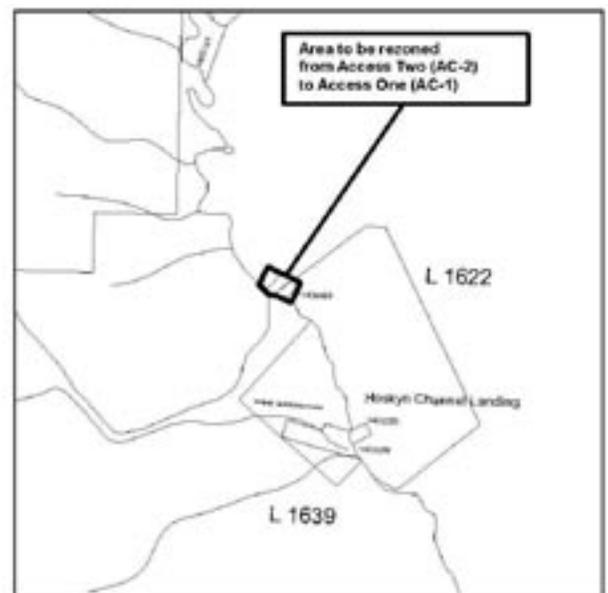
Lisa Gallo, Planner
Community Planning Services
Comox Strathcona Regional District
600 Comox Road
Courtenay BC V9N 3P6

Telephone: 250-334-6000

Toll Free: 1-800-331-6007

Fax: 250-334-8156

Email: planning@rdcs.bc.ca



The CSRD is a partnership of nine electoral areas and eight municipalities providing nearly 100,000 residents with over 145 services - from parks to full-service sports facilities to regional solid waste systems.

CR Art Gallery's Fall Program

Children and young adults in our region have lots of great options when it comes to the arts. Campbell River Art Gallery's fall program of classes was released this week. It is offering a choice of 11 classes which run the gamut from painting and drawing to clay sculpture and calendar making. Two classes for teens introduce the forms and sketching techniques of cartooning.

Two new children's art instructors have joined the Gallery this season. Roberta Thompson, who will teach children aged 4 to 7, holds a BA in arts and science. She is a published illustrator and has had several years of experience teaching young children. Katherine Douglas, who joined the Gallery's contract staff this summer, creates an encouraging and a collaborative class environment.

The first class of the season is 'Animal Antics' in which children aged 4 ^ 7 will take inspiration from jungle creatures and household pets as they learn to paint and draw with Roberta Thompson. The class runs Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 for four sessions, at a cost of \$45 for members or \$55 for non-members, with supplies included.

Two classes for 7 to 12 year olds start in late September with Katherine Douglas. On Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00, starting September 27, children will learn to draw cartoon forms inspired by Japanese Anime and Manga. Starting September 28 Katherine will teach 7 to 12 year olds hand building techniques with clay to create sculptures in autumn themes. Both classes run for four weeks and cost \$45 for members or \$55 for non-members, which includes art materials.

The first of two in-depth classes in Japanese Manga and Anime cartooning, for youth aged 12 to 18, starts on September 27. Katherine Douglas will introduce the basics of cartooning. In her lively, cooperative sessions Katherine teaches youth to hone their skills in drawing proportion, perspective, facial expression and movement. History and storytelling will also be explored. This evening class runs from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for six weeks. The cost is \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members, with supplies included. This class will be followed by pencil sketching for Manga cartooning, starting on November 8.

There are many more classes to follow including a choice of eight classes for adults, led by special instructors. Call Campbell River Art Gallery, in Tye Plaza, at 287-2261 for more details. Class brochures are available at the Gallery's gift shop, which is open from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday

Quadra Legion Donates to CR Hospital



Anne Young, Past Chairman of the Campbell River Hospital Foundation is accepting a cheque in the amount of \$5,200 from Frank Schwagli, President of the Quadra Island Legion and Bruce Thomson, Poppy Fund Chairman. Looking on are Lois Corrado, Acting Clinical Coordinator; Pennie Frejd, Sandi White and Marion Kinsman, Endoscopy Staff of the Hospital. This donation will be directed to the Scope Program.

Public Shut Out of Consultations on Private Lodges in Cape Scott Provincial Park

VICTORIA—North Island MLA Claire Trevena is questioning Environment Minister Barry Penner's priorities after it was revealed that the government plans to fly in potential bidders via helicopter to view proposed sites for private lodges in B.C.'s public parks.

"Instead of consulting the public about lodges in our provincial parks, the B.C. Liberals have decided it is more important to give helicopter tours of the area to potential bidders," said Trevena. "This raises the question: in whose interest are these private lodges being built?"

The Ministry of Environment recently announced its intention to build private lodges and resorts in 12 provincial parks, including Cape Scott Provincial Park on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Some of the lodges will include facilities with 100 or more beds and will allow for other amenities such as tennis courts and swimming pools.

Companies interested in bidding on the Cape Scott Park project were invited to a 'Proponents Meeting' to be held September 6th at 10:30 a.m. in Cape Scott Park. Interested proponents were to be helicoptered in at their own expense to view the remote site.

"It's outrageous that this government is trying to profit from our provincial parks, in hasty deals. The further irony of building lodges in the wilderness of Cape Scott is that the government wants to link them to the North Coast Trail - a trail the Minister of Environment has refused to invest in," said Trevena

MLA Report

Another wonderful summer is wrapping up: I hope that people have had a chance to rest; that businesses have done well; and that not too many homes have run out of water.

There have been a number of issues which have continued to simmer through the last few months, as well as new ones which have come up.

We are still waiting on decisions from the Province on the applications for geoduck farms off Quadra and off Cortes. After discussions with myself, Jim Abram and Jenny Hiebert the time given for public input was extended. The government's Integrated Land Management Branch is continuing its consultation with First Nations. It has not given any indication of when the decisions will be announced.

The Special Legislative Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture - of which I am a member - is not looking at shellfish aquaculture although representatives from that industry have given input at our hearings.

The Committee will be back on the road in October. We will return to Campbell River (October 11th) in order to hear from the rest of the overwhelming number of people who wanted to present to us last time round. The deadline for written submissions to the Committee has been extended, to 31st October.

One of the issues the NDP official opposition has been confronting and will continue to oppose is the Government's latest moves to commercialise our provincial parks. A few years ago they brought in parking meters; now they want to allow privately-owned, commercial lodges to be constructed inside our parks.

A few parks have been selected for the first round of this land grab of public property - including Cape Scott. The tenures the Liberals plan to grant to private owners could last for many years. I will continue to challenge the Environment Minister on this and other Liberal initiatives that jeopardize continuing public ownership and our rights of access to our provincial parks and other crown lands.

I've also had a number of people get in touch about logging on Maurelle Island; the proposal was not advertised in the D.I. I am in touch with the Ministry of Forests about this and hopefully the consultative period will be extended and people's concerns will be fully addressed.

As well as being proud to represent North Island, I have a new role in the shadow cabinet, following a shuffle announced at the beginning of the summer by Carole James, the leader of the Official Opposition. I am now the critic of the government's childcare policies as well as taking responsibility for women's issues.

For any issues or concerns I can always be contacted at my Campbell River office on 287 5100, at home on 285 2167, or by email at claire.trevena.mla@leg.bc.ca.

- Claire Trevena MLA



Halliday's Viewpoint

by Steven Halliday

The Party's Over

I've just returned from a conference where I was informed, among other things, that the current Alberta economic boom was sustainable, this opinion coming from a senior Edmonton banking executive. The reason, he confidently explained, was that Alberta's oil revenues would continue to support housing prices and job growth for the foreseeable future, even in an environment that has seen average residential real estate prices increase by 32.5% since July 2005 according to a report by the Canadian Real Estate Association. Alberta, as I'm sure everyone has suspected, is certainly in the mature stage of an economic boom, with demand outstripping supply for almost everything, together with the usual effect on domestic inflation. Everyone is making lots of money, and they are spending it copiously and conspicuously. Consequently, I am forever hearing stories about Albertan investment dollars funding real estate development in BC, as well as providing a significant number of end purchasers. The Southeastern portion of the province is a strong magnet for oil money, but the South Coast is also attracting a large and growing proportion of this geyser of petrobucks. The bad news, though, is that this fresh flood of dollars may be masking a looming slowdown in our local property market; cushioning us somewhat - for now - from what may be a more obvious and pronounced cooling off period than might have been the case otherwise. However, market indices indicate we are indeed slowing, in spite of this new source of demand.

On the Discovery Islands there has been a distinct supply advantage to the market for some years now, as anyone trying to purchase real estate is well aware. The market has also shifted to a point where there is a dearth of properties available for purchase that one might acquire with what, for most, is an affordable down payment; recent newspaper ads that highlight Quadra or Cortes homes indicate prices well in excess of \$1 million. A Quadra realtor's website offers 3 vacant waterfront properties for prices ranging from \$349,000 to \$649,000. Inland properties range from \$199,000 for 5 acres to \$499,000 for 21 acres. Four waterfront homes are listed at prices ranging from \$619,000 to \$1.8 million, while inland housing was limited to one listing of 2.6 acres with a nice home at \$394,000. A quick check of the MLS web-listings revealed nothing to indicate otherwise - this is a seller's market by definition. And in a market which has seen prices increase on the order of 20-25% per annum for the past two or three

years one has to consider whether or not our market is sustainable. After all, we don't have billions of petrodollars under our feet. Nobody can argue that our local real estate market's upward momentum has been fuelled with a significant amount of "offshore" capital - what happens when that capital no longer seeks a home here?

Recent articles in leading business publications and websites all trumpet the latest indications that the boom for western real estate is cooling - "Central bank warns over house prices" says the Globe and Mail of September 7th. Canadian Business Online asks "Canadian housing market under pressure?" in an August 31st opinion. CBC.ca reported August 31 of "Warning signs in Western housing market" and goes on to cite the TD Financial Group's deputy chief economist, who noted that while eastern and Atlantic Canadian prices have seen more moderate gains and a longer cooling off period, the western markets are "flashing warning signs". In red-hot Greater Vancouver housing sales dipped almost 18% in August 2006 when compared to 2005, though prices climbed 19% to an average price of \$649,052 in Vancouver and \$483,752 in the Fraser Valley. Condo prices dropped 2.3% in the same period, and a more ominously negative indicator was a steep increase in the supply of houses for sale for the fourth month in a row.

On the Island, the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board advises we are continuing to see increases in sales volume and average price, though a slowing trend is evident. "We've been projecting things would start to settle into a more normal market. That means to we'll start to see 5 to 10 percent increases per year, rather than 25%" says VIREB President Darrell Payson on their website. Victoria has seen unit sales drop from 753 to 694 in August 2006 versus 2005, and a very alarming statistic in my view is that the inventory of homes for sale increased from 2,379 to 3,345 in that same period, an increase of 41%. To me this is indeed the most disturbing statistic I encountered; if real estate in Victoria is losing its allure - a city with a strong diversified economy and tremendous international appeal - what is the prognosis for the rest of the province, or more importantly, the Discovery Islands?

If one accepts that the Canadian economy is largely dependant upon the economic health of our trading partners, there appears to be troubling news emerging on that front as well. As regards our largest partner (as well as significant contributor to local real estate demand) the USA, the news is not so good. The relatively buoyant

US economy of the last decade or more has largely been driven by an expansion of debt in a real estate boom of unprecedented proportion, with a good percentage of the population withdrawing supposed equity to fund their consumer purchases, and home buyers upgrading (or flipping) into larger and ever more expensive homes in an environment of ridiculously low interest rates. In the last 24 months, the US Federal Reserve "federal funds rate" has gone from 1.43% to 5.25%. For many homeowners in the US, this means they potentially face a tripling of their mortgage payment in the near future. According to Freddie Mac (the acronym for a non governmental US equivalent to CMHC) some \$400 billion of residential mortgages are subject to upwards repricing in 2006 alone. The toll of huge US government expenditures (with deficit financing) is starting to show up in forms other than higher interest rates as well - a significant drop in consumer confidence, now coupled with higher rates, is leading to a steep drop in new home purchases, something that bodes poorly for BC exports. Unsold US home inventories are at a 10 year high, while sales fell 22% in July 2006 from the prior year, according to a August 27th Observer analysis. The previously hot real estate market created an estimated 30% of all new jobs since 2001, and a real estate slowdown could halve US GDP growth, putting the economy into recessionary status according to Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley, in the same article. The Economist of August 26th asks of US house prices - "Now that the party is over, how bad will the hangover be?" Unfortunately, as we all know, a weakened US economy is a reliable predictor of a weaker Canadian economy.

My colleague in Edmonton may be right - maybe Alberta's situation is different and they will continue to see prices advance and employment expand. Owning a bunch of oil changes the normal equations. But here in BC, a slowdown in the US real estate market will surely affect us directly. As the real estate market slows, so will their overall economy and demand for BC exports. If the overall North American economy contracts, lower demand for oil typically follows, which may deflate Alberta's economic balloon somewhat. But one thing is for certain; US pressure on coastal real estate prices is likely ending for now. This is good news for future homebuyers as prices moderate, but deep pockets will still be required. Tight supply will be a continuing factor in the Discovery Islands, with accompanying economic stratification and gentrification...but that's a subject for a whole



Island Report

by Tanya Storr

Stuart Island Residents Work to Improve Local Services

The sale of Big Bay Resort and Marina to private interests in May 2005 was keenly felt by residents in the Stuart Island area. The resort's closure resulted in the loss of many of the basic services that enabled them to live and work in the community.

"We lost everything—our grocery store, post office, liquor store, restaurant, lounge, public laundry and showers, and fuel dock," said Cathy Minor over the phone from Stuart Island.

Cathy has lived on Stuart Island for 20 years. Her husband, Roger, is a 30-year resident of the area. They, and many others, had relied on the services at Big Bay for decades.

Fortunately, the resilient spirit and determination of area residents saved the day. The Stuart Island Community Association, founded in 1964 to represent the people of the area, stepped in to build new infrastructure.

With 18 full time residents on Stuart, Sonora, and Dent Islands and the surrounding mainland, and a significantly higher population in the summer, the need for a grocery store was paramount.

The association rebuilt the original community hall that dates back to 1967, transforming it into both a store and a meeting place. The work included installing an industrial floor, coolers, shelving, an ice machine, and cash registers.

Cathy, who is the store clerk and Stuart Island Community Association secretary, explained that the building still functions as a community hall. A new roof makes the deck ideal for summer meetings, and store shelving can be



Looking down the refurbished dock at Big Bay, Stuart Island.

Photo by Cathy Minor

moved aside to make room for gatherings during inclement weather.

The store stocks groceries including meat and dairy products, as well as local arts and food products (handmade knives by Ross Milne of Cortes Island, canned pickles and shell ornaments by Rose Stephenson, smoked scallops from Quadra's Butterfly Brand Seafoods, and art cards by local artist and fishing guide Steve Woodley).

A public shower and laundry facilities have been installed, and one of the community's next goals is to purchase a water filter to supply potable water. They have also applied for a liquor store license. Due to the expense

of putting in a fuel dock, Cathy said it may be quite some time before the community can meet that goal.

The association had already been working on refurbishing the government dock since 2004 as part of the federal divestiture process. Community members continued working on that project, completing most of the work by early last month.

Thanks to the new docks boasting 1,100 lineal feet of top quality moorage, boaters have been tying up and enjoying the facilities. This has kept Cathy and store volunteer Marianne Kronenberg on the go.

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"People are coming just to check it out. Word is getting around that we're open," Cathy said.

In addition to patronizing the store, boaters have been seeking the services of the area's fishing guides and tour operators. Cathy noted that it has been a busy fishing season.

"There were several days this year when we were looking for guides for visiting boaters. It's so important for the guides to have the facility here, so they can generate business from people mooring at the docks."

Tyee Marine supplied the store with fishing gear on a consignment basis.

"That was very helpful as we didn't have to buy the inventory. The guides love it—they can just pop in here to buy bait or a clip for their downrigger," Cathy commented.

The Stuart Island Community Association is operating the store and docks as a non-profit enterprise. Any excess funds generated go back into the infrastructure or are donated to salmon enhancement or the Georgia Strait Alliance.

Local guides are actively involved in the area's salmon enhancement efforts. In the coming weeks they will capture broodstock on the Phillips River.

On August 5 the association hosted an auction to raise funds for salmon enhancement. Roughly 75

people were expected to attend, but the number swelled to 145. The event raised close to \$75,000.

Dave Ritchie, owner of a worldwide heavy equipment auction company, owns property on Stuart Island and donated an auctioneer for the event. Ritchie also supplied a generator and paid for the installation of the new public shower.

Other local businesses and residents have donated to the community building efforts. Sonora Island Resort donated \$30,000 towards the new docks. The owners of Goose Landing private estate supplied labourers for three days to erect the roof over the deck of the store/community hall.

Jim Abram, Area J Director, secured a grant-in-aid to help pay for the new roof. He affirmed that the regional district has directed other grants to the Stuart Island Community Association over the years.

"The association is really trying to re-establish the community there. It's good to be able to do things for them."

Postal services are once again available on Stuart Island at the new store, however the federal government is only supplying remuneration at their retail outlet rates. Cathy said this is the same compensation allotted to an urban 7-Eleven, with nowhere near the volume.

"We can't afford to pay someone with

the remuneration they give us and stay open three days a week," she observed.

What Cathy and other local residents would like to see is a return to the rural post office they used to have, like the ones in Surge Narrows, Blind Channel, and other small BC communities. These post offices are served by plane and have paid staff a few days per week.

"We should be able to have the same level of service as before with the amount of taxes we pay," said Cathy.

Jim Abram agreed, stating that regular postal services are the right of every resident of Canada. He has been lobbying the federal government on behalf of Stuart Island residents, and hopes to have a meeting with the staff responsible for postal services in the near future.

Jim fears that the postal situation on Stuart Island may be just the tip of the iceberg. He is concerned that other rural post offices may also be under threat.

"Canada Post is basically asking volunteers to run their post office. I think it is important to be pre-emptive and hopefully work something out for the people running the service."

Postal services are an essential component of community life, Jim asserted. Katie Tribe a young year round resident of Stuart Island who works at the store and her brother use the postal service for school up here. Another reason why a corporate outlet is necessary up on Stuart Island.

"What we're trying to do locally is make smaller, more isolated communities feasible and hopefully attractive to live in. It's very difficult for people who live in those communities to travel long distances for basic services like a post office."

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15	06:36	1.2	3.9
Friday	14:36	3.9	12.8
	20:46	3.5	11.5
	22:50	3.5	11.5
16	07:43	1.3	4.3
Saturday	15:24	4.0	13.1
	22:14	3.3	10.8
17	00:36	3.4	11.2
Sunday	08:43	1.3	4.3
	15:58	4.0	13.1
	23:01	3.2	10.5
18	02:02	3.4	11.2
Monday	09:36	1.4	4.6
	16:24	4.0	13.1
	23:38	3.0	9.8
19	03:05	3.5	11.5
Tuesday	10:22	1.5	4.9
	16:46	4.0	13.1
20	00:10	2.9	9.5
Wednesday	03:55	3.6	11.8
	10:59	1.6	5.2
	17:08	3.9	12.8
21	00:37	2.7	8.9
Thursday	04:39	3.6	11.8
	11:26	1.8	5.9
	17:32	3.9	12.8
	23:08	2.5	8.2
22	01:00	2.5	8.2
Friday	05:22	3.7	12.1
	11:30	2.0	6.6
	17:55	3.9	12.8
	23:49	2.2	7.2
23	00:33	2.2	7.2
Saturday	01:11	2.2	7.2
	06:06	3.7	12.1
	11:44	2.3	7.5
	18:15	3.9	12.8
24	00:30	2.0	6.6
Sunday	06:53	3.7	12.1
	12:06	2.5	8.2
	18:29	3.9	12.8
25	01:08	1.7	5.6
Monday	07:46	3.7	12.1
	12:30	2.8	9.2
	18:41	3.9	12.8
26	01:46	1.5	4.9
Tuesday	08:45	3.7	12.1
	12:55	3.1	10.2
	18:58	3.9	12.8
27	02:24	1.4	4.6
Wednesday	09:50	3.7	12.1
	13:23	3.3	10.8
	19:20	3.9	12.8
28	03:06	1.3	4.3
Thursday	11:00	3.7	12.1
	14:02	3.5	11.5
	19:47	3.8	12.5



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