

Discovery Islander

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

www.discoveryislands.ca/news

ISSUE #339
MARCH 18TH, 2005
FREE



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On the cover



Proponents Rob Wood and Jim Abram on the new Surge Narrows road end dock.
photo: Philip Stone

Heriot Bay Inn





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SwitchBack
Fri Mar 25
Blues Report
Sat Mar 26

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Campbell River estuary




photo and ad design by Phillip Stone

is worth saving

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Meeting dates to attend:

Monday, March 21,
 7:30 p.m, City Council meeting at City Hall
 rezoning application for estuary lands.

April 5, 6, and 7th,
 7 pm Wal-Mart Public Hearings at the
 Campbell River Community Hall.

Write Mayor and Council a letter:

c/o District of Campbell River,
 301 St. Anns, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 4C7
 Note that letters to Mayor and council need to be
 signed and mailed to be recieved. Emails will likely
 not count.

Write a letter to the local newspapers:
 Courier Islander at editor@island.net
 The Mirror at
 edit@campbellriver.vinewsgroup.com

Not sure how to write your letter?

Join a letter writing workshop at the Campbell River Community Hall

Wednesday, March 23 from 5:00 - 7:30pm



Island Calendar

Submit your event:

eMail: news@discoveryislands.ca

drop-off: 701 Cape Mudge Rd.

fax: 285-2236

The Regulars

- **1st and 3rd Wednesday** - Food Bank 1-2 Community Centre
- **Every Monday** - Smile Makers Kidz Klub-Quadra Island Bible Church 2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- "Vision" Rev. Jill Brocklehurst on CRTV 9:30 PM
- **Every Tuesday** - Kalina Folkdancers - Community Centre, 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- "Vision" Rev. Jill Brocklehurst on CRTV 11:30 AM and 4:30 PM
- **Every Wednesday** - Community Lunch 12-1:30pm Community Centre
- **Every Thursday** - Parent and Tots 10 am Community Centre
- Motorcycle Club meet 5pm Heriot Bay Inn Pub
- Prayer Meeting, 7:30pm at Quadra Island Bible Church
- Moe's Jam 9 pm Heriot Bay Inn Pub
- **Every Friday** - Live dance music 8:30 pm Heriot Bay Inn Pub
- Youth Group - Quadra Island Bible Church 7:30 pm
- **Every Saturday** - Meat Draw 5-6:30 pm Quadra Legion (members & guests welcome)
- **Last Saturday** - Bonus \$50 cash draw. Quadra Legion 6:30pm (members & guests welcome)
- **Every Sunday** - Sunday School - Quadra Island Bible Church 9:45 am
- Silent prayer and meditation QI United Church (downstairs) 10:00 am
- Sunday Service QI United Church 10:30 am
- Positive Living Celebration, 10:30am Community Centre
- Worship Service 11:00am Quadra Island Bible Church
- Buddhist Meditation Upper Realm, Q.Cove Plaza 10 am.
- Jazz nights in the Heriot Bay Inn Pub every Sunday 6-9 pm 285-3539
- Children's Program - Centre for Positive Living - 10:30 AM
- **2nd Sunday of Every Month** - Praise and Worship Time, Q.I. Bible Church 7:00 pm

Next Deadline: Monday, March 28th 2005



Day by day

March 18, Friday

- Friday Flicks: The Saddest Music in the World QCC
- 7:45 pm

March 19, Saturday

- Spud Gun Shoot 359 Cape Mudge Rd
- 9:30 am - 3:30pm
- Annual Flea & Craft Market Quadra Legion
- 10 am - 2 pm

- Basic Hands on Healing workshop QCC room 3
- 10 am to 3 pm Call Catriona 285 2777

- Celebration of Jean Carefoot's life Rebecca Spit
- 3 pm

- Walking With Grizzlies QCC
- 7:30 pm

March 20, Sunday

- Quadra Vertical climbing wall - Grand Opening QCC
- 1 - 5 pm drop in anytime

March 21, Monday

- Quadra Community Association QCC
- 7:30-9:30pm - Completion of the recommendations to RDSC for Bylaw

March 23, Wednesday

- B.C.F.S. Q-Cove terminal development Open House QCC
- 3:00 to 7:00 pm

March 25th, Friday

- Good Friday Service QI Bible Church
- 7:30 pm

March 27th, Sunday

- Quadra Island Bible Church informal gathering Rebecca Spit
- Sunrise
- Easter Breakfast and fellowship QI Bible Church
- 9:00 am
- Easter Service QI Bible Church
- 11:00 am

April 3, Sunday

- Geshe Yongdong on "Ati Method of Meditation" Upper Realm
- 11 am

April 9, Saturday

- Kids for Kids with Cancer QCC
- 11am

April 16, Saturday

- Quadra Singers Spring Concert QCC
- 8 pm Please note change of date from Rec Calendar

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.

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Discovery Islander

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#339 March 18th, 2005

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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 or on disk must be saved as **Word** or **rtf** formats. Please spell check in Canadian English.
- **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, March 28th

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News & Events

Quadra Singers Spring Concert

APRIL 16, at the Quadra Community Centre we will be performing our Spring Concert. Please note the change in date from the Community Recreation Calendar. 8 pm, tickets at the door. More info to follow.

Kids for Kids with Cancer

Mini Adventure Race for Make-a-Wish Foundation to support kids with cancer.

This race is done in teams of two, that stay together throughout the race. At least one team member should be in grade K-6. Younger kids may want to team up with an adult. There is a 4km trail bike ride, a 2km Run and a mystery event. There will be lots of prizes for racers and volunteers. Also refreshments and FUN! Register at Quadra School with Amanda Annett or Nick Manders. Registration also available from Gabriel Krage 285-2343. For more information or to Volunteer call Katrina Annett 285-3762 or Shelby Mitchel 285-3459. This event is sponsored by Quadra Island Recreation Society with Support of QUICC Quadra Island Cycle Club.

Heriot Bay Regatta

The Quadra Island Harbour Authority and the Heriot Bay Inn are proud to announce the first annual Heriot Bay Regatta to be held on July 31st, 2005 at the Gov't dock in Heriot Bay. Activities will include sail and dinghy races, silly races for all ages, prizes for best costume, concession stand, games and races for kids etc.

We are looking for volunteers to help organize and assist in conducting such an event. If you have ideas for activities or just want to help out, please come to the inaugural meeting at the Heriot Bay Inn dining room on March 30th at 7pm. Any questions please contact Paul Ryan at 285-3622 or 285-3555

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Flea & Craft Market

Sat. March 19th 10am - 2 pm. Annual Flea Market. Do you have old things you haven't used for over a year? It's time to get it out of the house, garage, attic, so call to rent you table for \$5. Lots of tables are left, call 285-2207 or 285-2661. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion Branch #154. Hope to see you there! You never know who wants your treasures!

Quadra Vertical Climbing Wall Opens!

Whether you're an experienced climber or a would be "rock hound", you are invited to set foot on Quadra Vertical - the new climbing wall in the Quadra Community Centre. Not keen to venture far off the ground? Then try some closer to the floor "bouldering". Or watch the activity on the ropes while you enjoy a piece of Quadra Vertical's birthday cake. There will be experienced climbers there to answer questions about climbing and demonstrate proper belaying techniques. Please bring a pair of clean runners if you want to climb. This free, drop in event, is between 1 and 5 pm on Sunday, March 20

Compassionate Friends Meetings

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for parents who have experienced the death of a child, at any age or from any cause, meet the 2nd Thursday of the month (March 10th) at the Black Creek Community Hall @ 7:30 pm. Call Gwen 337-8230 for more information.

Reminder - Quadra Community Association Public Meeting

7:30PM to 9:30PM, Monday, March 21 at the Community Centre there will be another opportunity for you to participate in the drafting of a list of recommendations for the update of Quadra's Zoning Bylaws. The first draft of the last four General Provision Recommendations will be presented along with the second draft of those recommendations voted to be "returned for further consideration" at our last two public meetings. Second draft items will be presented by our Agriculture, Home Business, Industrial, Silviculture, Tourism and Utility representatives. So, COME OUT, LISTEN, BE HEARD & VOTE. Every Quadra Islander's input is important and welcome.



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Chess Club

Meets every Tuesday Evening from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Bring your set and clock. All ages welcome. Adm: \$2. Thank you to the Yak Shak for generously providing the locale.

For more info call John 285-2290.

New Date for Yoga Workshop with Elizabeth Burr

Elizabeth is a devoted yoga practitioner and teacher whose practice has its roots in meditation, breath, movement and spiritual inquiry. She is an intuitive and gentle teacher who brings compassion and clarity to her teachings.

Where: Quadra Island Community Center Room 3. When: Sunday April 10, 2005 (was previously Mar.12). Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Cost: \$30.00 per person. To register please phone Bridget Walshe at 285-2954. .

Thanks For All The Help With Quadra's Trails

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked with the Quadra Island Trails Committee over the past year. Because of their dedication improvements have been made to numerous trails, such as the Kay Dubois trail. During the next few weeks, committee members will be conducting their annual spring trail inspections. Work parties will then be organized to prepare the trails for summer use by islanders and visitors.

Volunteers are needed for both weekdays and weekends. If you would like to help, please call 285-2922 to get on our volunteer list. Not only will your efforts help to keep our trails safe and enjoyable but it's also a great way to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people and get some exercise.

Temperate Rainforests: What We Should Know About Them

A map of the world shows all the planet's temperate rainforests as a few thin strips and sprinkled dots on the west coasts of just a few continents. Unlike tropical rainforests that cover about one-third of Earth's landmass, temperate rainforests cover only 0.2%. In the great biological scheme of things, they are rare and valuable ecological treasures.

Pat Rasmussen of the World Temperate Rainforest Network illustrated this with images and information at Sierra Quadra's February presentation at the Q.C. Centre.

It would seem strange that she should be telling us about the forests where we live. But, as is often the case, while we have rich experience with our own local temperate rainforests, we know little about the context in which they exist. She corrected some of these shortcomings by presenting us with a world-wide perspective of these rich and dwindling ecologies.

Temperate Rainforests are geographically restricted to just five regions on the planet: the Pacific Northwest, Chile, New Zealand, Australia (Tasmania) and Western Europe. Although these forests vary in detail from each other, they look remarkably similar due to comparable mosses, ferns, rainfall and mild winters. Indeed, they only exist because of a delicate balance of geo-physical conditions:

- Coastal distribution (less than 150 km from coasts).
- High annual precipitation (more than 80 inches or 2,000 mm).
- Precipitation spread over 100 days seasonally with 10% during the summer.
- Cool overcast summers, relatively snow free winters (low elevation).
- Latitudinally restricted from 38 to 56 degrees south and 38 to 61 degrees north.
- Few fires allow stand-replacement of at least 100 years (with the exception of the coastal redwoods of Northern California where fire occurs more frequently).

Only a few of these rare temperate rainforests have watersheds that are still intact and remain unfragmented by logging or road building. Sections of British Columbia's coastal forests (north of Vancouver Island) and portions of southern Alaska collectively make up the world's "Amazonia" of temperate rainforests, where 50% of this rare ecology still exists.

Of the planet's 0.2% cover of temperate rainforest, 45% is still intact and 17% is protected. BC has 26% of the planet's total with 43% intact and 5% protected. Alaska has 24% of the total, has 89% intact with 36% protected. Chile has 20%, 40% and 7%. New Zealand has 14% of the planet's total, with 28% intact and 28% protected. Western Europe, that once had 8%, now has less than 1% intact and 0% protected.

Europe has lost virtually all its original temperate rainforest. New Zealand decided to end all logging and disturbance in the 28% of its intact forests, making the protected percent the same as the percent that remains. The 5% of BC's protected rainforests could almost double depending on the portion of the Great Bear Rainforest that is finally protected. However, should the 5% become 10%, the amount is still small considering BC's rainforests, together with Alaska's, constitutes the largest, intact, temperate rainforest left on the planet. The role of salmon in this rich ecology gives particular importance to BC's place in the global scheme of things.

Beyond the stunning beauty of the world's temperate rainforests, one of the most important insight Pat Rasmussen provided for her Quadra audience was the rarity and richness of these forests. From our parochial perspective within BC, we tend to forget that we are custodians of a biological wonder, a special treasure that requires special treatment. Should we squander or abuse it, we will diminish ourselves and the entire planet.

Sierra Quadra's next event will be "Walking With Grizzlies", a slide show with the amazing photographs and personal commentaries of Michael Felber, an award-winning illustrator. This will be at the Q.C. Centre on Saturday, March 19th at 7:30 pm.

Please mark it on your calendar.

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A Community Experience

The Campbell River Children's Choir is pleased to present a concert featuring: Nick Page!

Nick Page is internationally known and recognized as a composer, conductor, author and a song leader. He has an impressive list of accomplishments. Some familiar names he has worked with include; Joseph Shambalala, from the group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Bobby McFerrin and Richard Greene from, The Bobs. One of the many people he has been inspired by is Ysaye Maria Barnwell of the woman's singing group, Sweet Honey in the Rock.

He founded The Mystic Choral in 1990. This is a two hundred-member chorus who present concert/sing-a-longs where the audience is an equal partner in creating the music.

Nick Page is coming from Boston to work directly with our choir. The choir is very pleased to have the opportunity to present beautiful music with Nick Page directing! This is a concert for the community. Mr. Page will play some of his music. The Choir will perform. The audience will have a chance to participate in the experience.

Nick Page always includes a few surprises in his concerts. He has been asked to compose a song especially for our choir and he accepted! It is unknown if he will play it, our choir will sing it or both? This is truly a privilege for our choir and community.

He has worked with choirs of children and adults through Europe and North America. "He liberates the old model of the sing-along, bringing choral groups and audiences together singing powerful songs from many cultures."

Come and be part of a Community Experience! April 24th/05, 3 pm @ The Quadra Island Community Centre. (Tickets available at the door only.) \$5 person, \$20 family (2 adults, 4 children)

Note: The choir will be recording this concert. We ask that all cell phones, pagers and watch alarms be turned off.



CR Children's Choir

Island Voices Perform

Island Voices Chamber Choir and director, Frances Keen, present the songs of British Columbia Composers at 8 pm on Fri. Apr. 8 at the Maritime Heritage Centre in Campbell River, and on Sat. Apr. 9 at the Old Church Theatre in Courtenay. Special guests will be the Jim Creighton Trio.

Tickets at CR Visitor Centre, Appleseed Cottage Gifts, Laughing Oyster and Blue Heron Books, or call Anne at 287-4236.

QUADRA SENIORS- BR.91, B.C.O.A.P.O.

On Sun. Mar. 13th/05—We received a sad call from Victoria, that a former member of the Executive and our club Jean Carefoot, had passed away. She will be missed by her many friends, she made on Quadra Island, in the Quadra Seniors, and many other Seniors in the North Island O.A.P.O. Jean always participated, in all our activities, local, regional and provincial. Whether it was bocce, carpet bowling, computers, woodcutting, mushroom picking, theatre, and many boat-trips we arranged. Up to a few years ago she always had her Jilly dog along as our mascot. Jean will always be remembered by her happy laugh, her carving and her artistic ability. Jean always loved a challenge. And the gang who walk the spit on Sundays, will surely miss their strolls with Jean & her little Jilly. Good-Bye to you both.'

Our next Senior meeting will be an Easter Party on April 6th/05-meeting starts at 10:30 am Come at 10:00 am to book browse, and chat. On Wed. except the 1st-in the month we have Tai-Chi at 10:00 & Carpet Bowling 10:30 am.

Friday Flicks Tonight!

The Saddest Music in the World
March 18th, QCC.

Doors 7:30 – Showtime 7:45

Adm: \$4.50 - \$3.50 stu/snr

Isabella Rossellini oozes sinister charm as a double amputee beer baroness who launches a competition to find the saddest music in the world during the Great Depression. The year is 1933 and it is a chilly winter in Winnipeg "the world capital of sorrow." Whilst charting the progress of the competition, the movie plays out its various love triangles, Oedipal conflicts, and sibling rivalries.

Next at Friday Flicks:

Small Voices (Philippines)

April 1st – same time, place, price.

Young and vibrant Melinda, graduates from Teacher College and, instead of taking her mother's advice to emigrate to a better life in America, travels to the provinces to teach at a remote, rural school. Immediately she comes face to face with all the challenges inherent in village life. Extreme poverty, rebel warfare and apathy have each taken their toll.

She tries to unite the community and bring hope into their lives through music, and encourages a group of singers to enter a choral contest. Her modest project becomes a momentous task of fighting parents and scraping together resources for costumes and travel.

At the first screening of the film, director Gil Portes spoke with passion about his love for writing and telling stories. His own experience as a child in a rural school, as well as his daughter's experiences as a rural teacher gave him a lot of material to work with. He wrote Small Voices four years ago, but had difficulty was finding funding. The Dept of Education in the Philippines did not want to see their school system in a bad light. When he finally persuaded a non-gov't educational organization to fund it, it was all systems go. Small Voices became the Philippines official Oscar submission from the Philippines.

(Review references: Georgia Straight, Talking Pictures, Jam! Movies.)



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Spud Gun Shoot

The daffodils are in bloom, the frogs are courting and the spring Spud Gun shoot is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. Once again the Nuttings are generously supporting the Quadra Quilters by hosting the shoot on their farm at 359 Cape Mudge Road. There will be a concession stand offering hot dogs, etc and plenty of delicious home baked goods. Hams are awarded as prizes for the best shots. If you have never attempted to shoot a potato at a target, this is your chance to try. Although not a recognised Olympic sport yet, it is fun and entertaining. No experience necessary. Come and enjoy some family fun in a delightful rural setting.

Are We Complete?

by Rev. Jill Brocklehurst

Life as we know it begins with birth and ends with death. Within that phase are many smaller journeys in the form of relationships, education, jobs, prosperity, home, travel, physical achievements and other personal goals. How we deal with these journeys speaks volumes about the quality of our life.

Reflect and review the personal achievements attained. Each accomplishment began with an intention, was set in motion with commitment and ended with the feeling of completion. Simple! My question is, how many areas of our life are incomplete? Where have intentions been made and the commitment to follow through been weak?

Let's begin with a common example, the desire to begin an exercise program. The intention is clear and the plan is to incorporate one hour of aerobic activity 3 times a week. Day one arrives and with enthusiasm and completion. Day two, it is pouring rain, maybe tomorrow. Day three, only 30 minutes but that is ok because a walk with a friend is scheduled for tomorrow. Day four, the friend cancels and really, there is other work at home to do, and on and on it goes. Next the mind becomes occupied with self disappointment and we ruminate.

The time and effort put into rehearsing where we went wrong and how we could do it differently is astronomical. If we could harness the energy put into self degradation, we would have all this extra time and space to live a more fulfilling life and complete our desires. There is an answer to this problem and it begins with consciousness.

Ask yourself: "What would bring me fulfillment?" "What would I need to do to experience that fulfillment? Am I willing to commit to my decision?" "By what date will I achieve this task?"

At the end of each day, "Am I fulfilled? Am I complete? What are my new intentions for tomorrow?" "What values do I have attached to this situation that are holding me back from completion?"

What areas of your life are taking energy because they remain incomplete unnecessarily? I invite you to reflect on these incompleteness and commit to a more fulfilling experience. I support you in your journey.

Quadra Quilters Guild.

Oops. We missed out two important "thank yous" in connection with the quilt Marathon in November 2004. Included in our list of people who donated goods or money for the event should have been The Lovin' Oven and Marna Disbrow. Please accept these late thank yous and our apologies.

Easter Services at QI Bible Church

Easter is a time to reflect on the death and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! And Quadra Island Bible Church has several opportunities for you to do just that. Join us on Friday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m. for our Good Friday Service at the church. An opportunity for meditation, contemplation and Scripture. Easter Sunday begins with our sunrise informal gathering at Rebecca Spit followed by our Easter Breakfast and fellowship at 9:00 a.m. and our Easter Morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. We would love to have you join us!



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Jean Carefoot 1935-2005

Remembering Jean Carefoot is to recall a beautiful woman with personality, and with many interests and skills. She was loved by so many people and involved in a variety of activities. Sadly Jean passed away, in hospital in Victoria, on March 13th, after a long struggle with cancer.

Full of life, Jean had many interests and abilities. You may have seen her on Quadra's lakes, paddling the cedar-strip canoe she built herself (with Sam Hooley's guidance), with her little dog 'Jilly' happily seated in the stern.

Jean added spirit to the OAP executive and monthly meetings, and she took on organizing games and activities for the summer picnics. She was part of the weekly Tai Chi group which, in summer, often carried out the practice on her lawn which overlooked the sea, Grouse Island and the mountains. Jean also instigated the Seniors' Sunday morning walks at Rebecca Spit.

Adept with computers, Jean was involved with the computer club; she also loved the visual arts and was a competent and creative watercolourist, attending weekly classes to enhance her abilities.

A thoughtful and cheerful person, Jean always had compassion for those who suffered, and did what she could to help. With her passing, Quadra has lost a valuable and long time resident of the island.

On March 18, at 3pm, there will be a gathering to remember the bright light we knew as Jean Carefoot at Rebecca Spit at the west side of the parking lot.

Let's UNWIND for spring break!

If you liked or missed Catriona's first workshop, come on Saturday March 19th at the Quadra Community Centre, 10-3pm.

We'll have more fun practicing (or just getting practiced on!) basic hands on healing techniques such as joint UNWINDING and direction of energy. This is an ideal opportunity to form on going study/support groups. Bring lunch, a towel, and possibly a massage table. Call me at 285-2776 to register. Cost is \$25 or Trade.

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Campbell River Art Gallery

Do you imagine the placid halls of your local art gallery to be a place of awed hush? Think again. Starting on March 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 aspiring artists of all ages will be up to their elbows in paint, scissors, brushes and paper, enjoying the launch of Campbell River Art Gallery's new Super Saturdays program. The casual art activity, available on a drop-in basis, continues through the summer every other Saturday from 1:00 – 4:00.

After the celebratory launch this weekend (which takes place in the Gallery lobby) Super Saturdays will be held right in the exhibition halls, where the surrounding art will stimulate and challenge new ideas.

"Super Saturdays," says gallery assistant Krista Lawrence, is available on a donation basis with no prior registration needed. People can just come and go as they please, sampling some art techniques and practices used by our exhibiting artists. We'll have a team of staff and volunteers on hand to give some guidance." She adds that you don't have to be a practiced artist or even artistically inclined to enjoy Super Saturdays. "You can just dabble in some sculpting or painting, whatever it is we have on offer that day, or really delve into a full afternoon of art making," says Lawrence.

The Super Saturdays program is available on a donation basis thanks to the initiative of Gallery member Marna Disbrow of Quadra Island. "We were so excited to learn that Marna wanted to sponsor this," says Gallery director Jeanette Taylor. "Marna, who is an accomplished artist herself, was keen to share her passion for art and make it more accessible."

"This is the weekend to bring your family to the Gallery to explore your artistic side," says Gallery director, Jeanette Taylor. "You'll take home lots of neat ideas and maybe even a project or two."

For more information on the Super Saturdays program call 287-2261. The Gallery, in the same building as the Visitor Info Center (across from the Tidemark), is open Tuesday – Saturday from 12:00 to 5:00.

"Imago Dei" group to start on Quadra

by John Walton

For many people, religion has become a dirty word, and understandably. But if you examine your own experience, I think you'll agree that faith does not cause the offence so much as its misinterpretation, abuse and manipulation by us mere mortals. Especially by those who think they're not quite as mere as others. Disillusionment with what we have seen historically, and in the present, often leads to the baby getting thrown out with the bath water, or at least, abandoned in the tub whilst we search for answers to so many questions that life inevitably deals us. Or perhaps worse, we give up the search, to pursue distractions, in an attempt to give life a sense of purpose. No matter how we try to stimulate or dull our senses, the fact is that life is sometimes extremely good, sometimes extremely painful, and most of the time somewhere between the two.

In the mid-nineties, before I moved to Quadra, after many years of dabbling in different philosophies, including a significant brush with fundamental Christians, I came to a conclusion. I knew I did not want to be a Christian, but I felt the bible was my best choice for a guide to live by, and set out to learn the "rules". A friend recommended a church that he thought would interest me, and one Sunday morning, I plucked up courage and attended a service. Entering with some trepidation and ready to fend off any enthusiastic "name taggers", I was surprised to feel welcomed with casual warmth and interest. The service was intellectually stimulating and the contemporary worship, moving. After the service I explained to the pastor that I did not want to be a Christian but asked if he could recommend someone to teach me the rules.

The following Thursday, I attended a "seekers group", the first of what was to be many evenings, of thought provoking discussion over coffee and cookies with a melting pot of individuals who have become good friends. I never felt pressure, or that I was a "project to be fixed." I always felt welcome and frankly, a sincere love I had not experienced before. My questions and comments were always handled with respect and patience. The answers, and the example set by our hosts, gave me much more than I had bargained for. They helped make God a real presence in my life. Rather than a book

of rules, I gained access anywhere, anytime to the Ultimate Counselor.

The bible says, "He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps 37:4). That is, He will give you the desires, which means some of your present desires may change to ones that are more life affirming, leading to joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Patience? I argued, sometimes vehemently, every Thursday evening for two years before I was able to move beyond my intellect, and what I perceived as the rule book, to a much deeper understanding, and ultimately, a sincere commitment to faith in Christ. An inner transformation that starts the process of outer transformation.

I know I will continue to do some things right and some things I'll goof up. Sometimes I will bless people and sometimes I'll offend them, but with that commitment, I chose to change or, to use one of the most misunderstood and misused words in our faith, repent. To repent is rooted in the Greek word, "metanoia", which means to change direction. The alternative to change in the words of Brian Tracey, a motivational speaker, is this, "if you keep doing what you are doing, you'll get more of what you've got."

Two and a half years ago, the host/facilitators of the group I attended, founded "Imago Dei", a community drawn to Christ. Its purpose is to encourage a deeper spirituality in your life, to help you recognize and welcome God's transforming work in your life, and to encourage a growing faith towards the life God is calling you to live in this world. I feel inspired to start an associate group here. For more information, you can leave your name and telephone number at 285-2958. We will meet once a week on Sunday afternoons to discuss the dynamics of spiritual life from a Christian perspective in a home environment where seekers can feel accepted and free to express their present spiritual beliefs and even their difficulties with accepting the dogmas of Christianity. We will include time for prayer and worship and discuss topical issues of everyday life to see how we can apply faith to our own circumstances. For those of you with existing faith commitments, you may want to consider this as a complimentary group for mutual inspiration and encouragement.



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Write On Walmart

Within days of celebrating the birth of The City of Campbell River, its residents will be participating in one of the most contentious public hearing meetings to hit City Hall. This meeting will allow residents to officially voice their opinion on whether to amend the Official Community Plan and rezone land adjacent to the Campbell River Estuary to allow for construction of a large big box store.

On Wednesday, March 23 from 5-7:30 at the Campbell River Community Hall, a Letter Writing Session will be held to help residents participate in this political process. Organized by local resident Sandra Milligan, this event will facilitate participation in the political process, so that everyone who wants to be heard will be heard.

To be officially "heard" by the Mayor and Council, a resident has two options. First, residents may attend the public hearing meetings that have been tentatively scheduled for April 5-7. These meetings will be recessed and rescheduled until everyone who wants to speak has an opportunity to do so.

Letters can be faxed (286-5760) or mailed to Campbell River City Hall, 301 St. Ann's Rd, Campbell River, V9W 4C7. Emails can be sent to Bill.Halstead@dcr.ca; however, District staff could not confirm that emails will be acceptable due to the requirement for a signature.

Will your letter count? Definitely. Estimates of the effect of public opinion on the political process suggest that one personal letter is worth 500 signatures on a petition. Each voice, directed to the Mayor and Councillors using this official process, will affect this vote. Each voice will ultimately shape how our new City of Campbell River will look on its birthday, and for many birthdays to come.

Sandra Milligan

Walking With Grizzlies – The Brown Bears of Alaska's Katmai National Park

For the past four years, Michael Felber and his wife Karen Hackenberg have spent a week in a wilderness camp in a remote part of Alaska's Katmai National Park, watching, photographing, and drawing brown bears. Katmai has one of the highest concentrations of the largest grizzly bears in Alaska, and the bears have lived in this location for thousands of years. They thrive in a natural environment that is relatively undisturbed by man. "The only trails in this area are bear trails, so by walking them, it doesn't take long to find the bears," Michael explains. "There are some trails where the bears have been walking in each other's footsteps for hundreds of years, leaving regular deep impressions in the ground. It was thrilling to walk in the footprints of many generations of grizzly bears."

This show will focus on brown bear behaviour in a natural environment, so if you want to see close up images of wild grizzly bears, this is the slide show for you.

Michael Felber is an award-winning illustrator who lives part time on Quadra. Some of his illustrations will be displayed at the show on **Saturday, March 19th, starting at 7:30 pm at the Q.I. Community Centre.**

Sponsored by Sierra Quadra.

Ooops

Last issue we has two incorect photo captions. The first was the wonderful cover shot of Victoria and Warden Peaks plastered with snow. The photo should have been credited to Tanya Storr.

And further in that issue a photo of the climbing wall on page 18 should have been attributed to Murray Johnson. Our apologies for the errors.



The new Surge Narrows Road-end dock is already bustling with islanders coming and going. More details see page 12. photo: Philip Stone

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Open House

Quathiaski Cove Terminal Concept Plan

Wednesday, March 23, 2005
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Quadra Island Community Centre
Formal Presentation 6:00 pm

You are invited to attend a public information open house to learn details of the proposed Quathiaski Cove Terminal Concept Plan and provide your feedback.

BC Ferries representatives will be on hand to answer your questions regarding the project.

Drop in for a coffee and take a look at the plans. Everyone is welcome.

www.bcferrries.com

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Area J Regional Director's Report

As I look out the window, I find it hard to believe that it is mid March and not mid July. What an incredibly beautiful spring we are having. I would like to update you on two items that I mentioned in my last article, before I get tied up in Regional District (RD) meetings all day. This spring has been busier in local government than I have ever seen it.

Recycling bin area

Last Discovery Islander article I talked about the recycling bins at the Cove and the poor condition of the area. I mentioned that I had been trying to get it cleaned up and tuned up for some time. With the help of our Chief Administrative Officer, staff have been motivated to do the job immediately.

I have had discussions with Quadra Foods and with Breton Holdings (Murray Johnson) about the area and the access. Both have been extremely cooperative and have agreed to the much needed improvements to the drop-off area. The RD has done the survey and will be starting work soon on the improvements and should be finished by mid April. Local workers will be used wherever possible. So, I do hope that this improves the service and the aesthetics of the area for all of us to make use of in our efforts to reduce the volume of waste going into the landfill. The Solid Waste Management function of the RD has been so successful in doing what it was supposed to that we were not only able to eliminate the need to tax for it, but we have also been able to pay for all of the recycling efforts in the RD and all of the education programs. In this fiscal year we were also able to return money to the taxpayers from this function. This does not happen often! Our RD staff have done an incredible job of managing this function and we still have the lowest tipping fee by far of anywhere on Vancouver Island.

Zoning bylaw revision process

In my last article, I also mentioned the process to revisit the zoning bylaw revisions and the inability of the RD to dedicate much time to this effort this year (2005). For those who did not see that article, I will repeat what I said then, in the paragraph below:

"I know there has been discussion about having our zoning by-law rewrite start up again in 2005. Due to a number of limiting factors, only some aspects of the by-law may be looked at this year. The Planning department is going through a major reorganization so that we get better service at the community level and we are also in a major reorganization of the entire senior management, once again, for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness. There are

also other electoral areas that have major projects slated for this year and they have been waiting for years to get them done. We do not have the resources to do a complete review at this time.

I will certainly lobby for a review to take place in 2006 once things have settled into place in the area of planning. We may, at that time, want to also look at our Official Community Plan (OCP), as it will be approximately 10 years since it has been done and that would be a reasonable time to look at it (10 years is the normal "life expectancy" of an OCP)."

The Planning Department received a request from the Quadra Community Association asking if the bylaw would receive attention in 2005. Deborah Sargent, Manager of Planning Operations (responsible for assigning the work of the planners) answered the request with the following letter (unedited):

"The Community Planning Services spent considerable time in 2003 making proposed changes to the Quadra Island zoning bylaw. These changes were largely to bring the zoning bylaw into conformity with changes to legislation and to bring the bylaw into a format that was similar to other RD electoral area bylaws. Unfortunately these changes were not well understood at the community level and the end result was a clear message to the Community Planning Services that the bylaw was not responsive to local needs. I must advise you that a zoning bylaw is a regulatory document unlike an Official Community Plan (OCP) which is a community vision for a community and is a policy document. Given the nature of zoning bylaws they are both a technical and professional tool to ensure that the vision as laid out in the OCP is realized on the ground.

Although I appreciate that a community group has drafted changes to the proposed Quadra Zoning bylaw, it is not a simple matter to insert these into the existing bylaw. Considerable staff time is required to ensure that these changes are advisable given current legislation and current legal opinion. Current work loads are very high and as you are aware, the Community Planning Services section provides services to eight different Electoral areas. Although no specific funds have been set aside for changes to bylaw 1213, throughout the year, we will be working on issues as they arise within all of the Electoral Areas. We will endeavour to provide the same levels of service that we have provided to Quadra in previous years while dealing with an increased work load of planning applications.

Once we receive the proposed changes that you refer to in your request, staff will review these. Given the projects that we are already committed to this year, I anticipate that we will review your submission, by the fall and determine the best approach from there.

Deborah"

That is the text of the letter in its entirety for your information. I think this explains the situation we are faced with at the RD pretty well. I will continue to insure that we get the time that we need for day to day operations and also continue to lobby for our fair share of time to review the bylaw next year. In the meantime we will certainly see amendments come forward as needed, as they always have. The work of the community association will be considered along with all of the comments from all islanders regarding what is needed in our bylaw. No one will be left out.

Also, just as an information item, I have been told that the Sharpe proposal to subdivide on Schooner Rd. has been withdrawn and he now proposes to just subdivide into five, ten acre lots. I have no other details at this time, but will keep you informed as I find out more.

Surge Narrows Road-end wharf

Last but not least, the dock at the Surge Narrows road-end has been completed!. This is a major accomplishment by the people of the Surge Narrows area, in conjunction with the RD and brings to fruition one of the policies of our OCP to keep the road-end public for the use and enjoyment of the public and the safe transit of the outer islanders. I am very proud of this development and congratulate all of the many volunteers who so generously gave of their time and also donated much of the materials list. The RD provided the lease with the Province and the funds for the ramp (built at Cape Mudge Boat Works) and much staff time in making this work. Area J as a whole will truly benefit from this community effort. The photo below was taken shortly after the completion.

As a post script to the above comments, I have just returned (after returning from Vancouver in the same day) from a very wonderful celebration of the successful completion of this wharf, which was held at Surge Narrows on Read Island. There were about 35 people present from the outer islands and from Quadra. A very nice potluck meal was served in the "bunk house" and a few congratulatory words were said. This was truly a community effort. As your director, I had insisted on two things during

the OCP review of 1995. Those were that the road ends at Granite Bay and at Surge Narrows must remain as public access in perpetuity, for the health and safety of the people that live and work in the outlying areas and for the use and enjoyment of the general public. Today's celebration acknowledged that goal and also the hard work of all of the people that worked in the howling Bute winds to pour the concrete and erect the pilings for the wharf and for pulling the whole thing together. Thanks to everyone who made today's gathering so successful. We need to celebrate our successes if we hope to be a close knit community into the future.



So, that is it for now. Please feel free to contact me Monday through Friday (not on weekends, please) between the hours of 8:30 am and 7:00 pm at 285-3355, or by fax at 285-3533 or email me anytime at abramfam@oberon.ark.com

Happy gardening!

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Abram, Director
Discovery Islands - Mainland Inlets (Area J), RDCS



Island Forum

Dear Islanders,

B C Ferry Services is planning major changes at Q. Cove, including construction of a passenger terminal and an additional holding lane on the hill. On Wednesday, March 23rd BCFS is holding an Open House at the Community Centre from 3:00 to 7:00. A formal presentation of the proposed plan will be made at 6:00. All Islanders are encouraged to attend.

The plan is divided into two phases; phase 1 includes terminal construction, the additional lane and ancillary work like realigning the power lines, drilling a well, and connecting to the sewer system. Phase 2 is so far out in the future that it doesn't warrant too much discussion except to say that it is part of a plan. Phase two includes replacing, realigning and widening the trestle. The current trestle is good for another eight years and the Powell River Queen isn't scheduled to be replaced until 2017 – so phase 2 is not of immediate concern.

Please Note: Though the trestle won't be replaced for years it is going to be resurfaced later this month. Watch for notices.

At the Open House BC Ferry Services will present an artist's rendering and a general floor plan of a very attractive building. The actual terminal may not look at all like the drawing. The drawing and floor plan are a starting point from which Islanders are asked to make recommendations and present ideas so that the actual terminal is the one we want. From the outset of discussions with the Corporation the Ferry Advisory Committee emphasized that a project this important to our community must come from the community. One of the comments made by BCFS is that people on Quadra Island don't attend public meetings (they really don't know us very well). We Islanders don't want something imposed upon us so the Open House is our opportunity to tell BCFS what we want.

It is not my intention to tell people how to comment, but some folks would like

to know what kind of comments they can make. The following are recommendations and comments made by the Ferry Advisory Committee in our discussions with BCFS. We believe that the new terminal is more than a passenger holding facility. It is the gateway to Quadra and the other Discovery Islands and is socially and economically important for us. In keeping with the fishing fleet, the atmosphere of the Cove and the history of the area we have recommended a Maritime Heritage theme. We've suggested lots of windows, skylights, a deck and benches out in front, and an area for Dockers. The Ferry Advisory Committee believes that the terminal and associated work should be done by local contractors and tradespeople. BCFS is listening, they also want exciting terminals. Please attend and present your comments and ideas.

The second change is the addition of a holding lane up the hill. The lane is to add twenty-three automobile equivalent spaces, so it will go most of the way to Green Road. Apparently the lane can be constructed without destructing the hill.

The third change in phase one and the first one to be completed – soon – is a shelter on the sidewalk that will allow as many as twenty people to get out of the weather. Captain Jock Palmer is responsible for getting this for us and deserves our thanks.

The Ferry Advisory Committee is comprised of five people from Quadra, three from Cortes and two from Campbell River. Please feel free to contact any of us about Ferry related issues. All FAC/BCFS meetings are open to the public. Our next meeting is on April 7th at the Community Centre.

Jim Abram. Ralph Nursall - Cortes, Bob Brown, George Sirk - Cortes, Terry Hooper, John Sprungman - Cortes, Noel Lax, Les Lengyel - Campbell River, Michael Stahnke, Lynn Nash - Campbell River

March 23rd – 3:00-7:00 at the Community Centre, see ya there.

Michael Stahnke

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Island Forum

Dear Editor,

In response to Jim Abram's comments:

1. When the skate park lights were being completed I called the RD office and understood there was no "night sky" policy which you referred to as a "Dark Skies Policy".

There is an "Exterior Lighting Policy" which in its completion states:

THAT all future exterior lighting under the jurisdiction of the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona be required to focus only on specific lighting targets; AND FURTHER THAT every effort be made to minimize light spillage in all lighting jurisdictions of the Regional District.

The enclosed lamps which were no taller than required for their purpose were installed to the requirements of the policy "focusing only on specific lighting targets". They were directed downward on the concrete park carefully dispensing with shadows for safety under a team's direction. You (at whose cost?) had the lights adjusted for "spillage in to the night sky (and the surrounding neighborhood)". I assume this referred to spillage into the lit parking lot and surrounding forest and for this purpose was our youth's safety compromised?

2. Your comment, "...Regional rep denying a request (for what, I am not sure)... I have never denied nor even seen the petition nor any request. I just want that to be clear." Your actions, as I see it, to call a member of the board demanding the lights be shut down at 10:00pm, denied the request to have summertime after dark usage of the lights. Since there is no bylaw or policy for this on Quadra Island what position were you acting upon as an "operating arm of the RD" to enforce the QIRS to have this done?

3. Your comment, "I support the Skate Park... that has a cut off time like all other parks in the RD". Prior to the installation of the lights the RD told us that Blenkin Park (where the skate park is located) is not included in the 10:00pm cut off time like other parks and this rule has not been changed.

4. Your comments, "I have never been approached by the writer of the letter, her husband who installed the lights, nor her daughter who runs the skate shop on this issue". My husband was not the only volunteer electrician who donated many hours on this project and my daughter (who started this as a school project 4 years ago) not the only shop keeper or business

who donated many goods and services to this project who had concerns about this issue. A copy of the petition with 125 names is available. I believe this issue was also well known by all those who attended the publicized work parties, demos, fashion show and QICC board meetings which I assume you did not attend. Yet you were in communication with the QICC board, who were well aware of this issue, to make the call to have the lights shut down.

In response to John Frishholz on behalf of the Board of the QIRS:

I appreciate your comments and hope they permeate through all board members and staff for future users of all the facilities.

These issues still remain:

1. The skate park lights still go out at 9:00pm without the safety warning system.
2. The adjustment of the skate park lights may compromise safety.
3. Like the 2004 summer season, there is still no change in sight for use of the lights after dark for 2005.
5. Will future users have the respect and recognition of the QIRS and community no matter what their sport?

Mary Turner

Dear Editor,

Re: Paul Ryan's response to Mary Turner's concern with the skate park.

As a skateboarder for almost twenty years I must give my two cents worth in this matter. First I think Mr Ryan should be made aware that skateboarding is a sport with attitude. Just like football, hockey, golf or beach volleyball. Mr. Ryan made a statement that the lights go out early so people (Users of the park) will not use it as a hang out. What is the park suppose to be for? Are spectators not permitted to watch skateboarding like they watch softball? Many skate parks are a place for kids to hang out, skate and socialize. So I must say that you are misinformed about what skateboarding is! Under age drinking is a very good point made by Mr Ryan. I would have to ask when was the last complaint made about drinking at a softball game or a Mayday dance. Skaters are not innocent except for all the kids who do follow the rules and because a few kids are rebellious, Mr. Ryan feels justified in holding all skaters responsible. Mr. Ryan talks about the garbage at the park. Another good point made and I, too, don't

like the garbage at the park but I don't walk by it either I pick it up. My last observation is really a big one.

We have an awesome park and most kids from Quadra are very proud of it. Let's take a breather and remember back in the day when we were young and if you can say that you never did anything wrong then I will call you a Saint. Of course we all know that we did things that were wrong. I like knowing where the kids are and even more seeing them get the same activities that other communities get.

In closing I have a son who skateboards and I guess I too have a vested interest in the skate park. Amanda Turner runs the skateboard shop and her mom, Mary Turner, is a typical proud and concerned parent like the rest of us. Let us not forget that. So cheers Mr. Ryan glad to see you have concerns for the kids using the park but your energy would be best put to better use, like helping the users of the park to enjoy a safe environment in which to skateboard.

Not every skater is a kid!

Aldo Green

Dear Editor:

Thanks Everyone!

I would like to thank all the people who prayed, sent cards and phone calls while I was under the weather.

I would like to thank Pete Duffy for looking after my boat, my neighbour Bob Binnersley for looking after my chores. And a big thanks to Dian York for cutting my wood and packing into the house. And a big thanks to my family for all their love and care. Thanks Betty, you're the best. I'll love you forever.

Thanks Dr. March for getting me in so fast. Thanks Homewood for all the prayers. This is the greatest island to live on in the world.

Your friend,
Wayne Anderson

Dear Editor:

Today representatives from Walmart are in the North Island to present their vision for their store in Campbell River. This is the perfect opportunity for us, as North Islanders, to take control of our collective economic future by demanding that Walmart adhere to our vision of the North Island.

As many readers will know I am running for the Green Party in the coming provincial

election. One of the main reasons I was attracted to the Greens was their position on consensus decision making and grassroots democracy, which basically means listening to the people. I have a strong belief that it is not too late to retrieve control of our land and communities. So to find out what North Islanders outside of Campbell River are thinking, and to talk about how we might go about reshaping our future together, I have been busy traveling around the region. I would like to share some of the things I have heard from our neighbours, in communities as different as Port Hardy and Alert Bay, on Walmart, other corporate control of our resources and our collective values and vision.

Contrary to the rhetoric touting Campbell River as a shopping centre for the North Island, many North Islanders I spoke with think the idea of Walmart in Campbell River is repugnant and certain to compound the already depressed economies of the small towns who are part of our regional 'heartland'. Looking up the bustling high streets of Port McNeill, Port Hardy and Sointula I saw many independent businesses in an eclectic mixture of grocers, gift shops, art supplies, galleries, home electronic vendors, hardware stores and much, much more.

When I talked to the staff, managers and owners of scores of small retailers they told me a cautionary story. They struggle to keep their doors open, they say, fewer and fewer locals have disposable income to spare, and they watch with dismay as some do travel south to Campbell River, Courtenay and Nanaimo to shop. These North Islanders believe a diversity of business is important to a healthy economy. An unsustainable Walmart presence threatens not just local Campbell River small businesses, they believe, but regional ones as well.

I think my well-televised list of suggested Walmart requirements, proposed at the Campbell River estuary and listed in the North Islander February XX, would address these concerns. Since bringing these ideas forward I have distilled them into a charter of sorts and am offering this to the community for closer review and action. The charter addresses all the well-documented issues with Walmart's presence in small towns across North America, covering everything from secure tax revenue to mitigating the increased crime Walmart can bring with it.

I will be presenting this charter to Campbell River mayor and council, Walmart's representatives at the coming

public meeting, to the residents at large at the regular rally and through my web site: www.northislandgreenparty.ca

If we want our region to prosper in the future we must chart a course that creates a climate where small community oriented businesses, independent retailers and service providers in the North Island thrive. The economic, social and environmental health of all our communities hinges on this. Walmart's current plans in the Campbell River estuary do not even come on the radar of this course but I believe I am offering some ideas to get them on track with our vision.

Philip Stone
green candidate North Island riding

Dear Editor,

Last weekend my wife, kids and I traveled to Courtenay to visit the Walmart store. We were looking for some everyday items like coffee, soap and juice.

While we shopped, we looked at prices and realized that they were somewhat lower than the prices we are used to paying. The staff was helpful, but I found the aisles hard to maneuver because of the eager shoppers that filled the store. I had to remind myself Christmas had already passed. It occurred to me that many of these people were like my family and I, trying to stretch our hard earned dollars to make ends meet

After leaving the store I glanced back to see why everyone is calling Walmart a "big box store". Well, the inside was a big box but the outside was more like a well-dressed rectangle. I also noticed that there were several other stores in the immediate area that made the shopping experience like visiting one of those direct clothing factories at the south end of Las Vegas where the buildings look like giant warehouses.

What I immediately noticed, being a past resident from the old neighborhood, was that this gathering of buildings or "boxes" was in a location where you wouldn't expect growth of business. I came to realize that these box stores could be located outside of town, hence leaving the powers that be to make the right decision and relocate the Proposed Campbell river site away from the estuary location.

Through all this process I started to think about what people are commenting on about the Wei-Wai-Kum First Nation. Well, its true that Reserve land is under Federal jurisdiction and cannot be governed by local or Provincial Government. Its true that Walmart will not have to pay municipal

taxes but will only pay taxes to the Wei-Wai-Kum First Nation or the Department of Indian and Northern affairs. Each band member will benefit from the profits through improved social programs. Its also true that the Wei-Wai-Kum First Nation will have the right as Native people of Canada to do what they have been told not to do for the last 200 years, and that is to control their own destiny.

Now, I hope that the leaders and ones in control see that the idea for a Walmart built in a environmentally sensitive location is a bad idea, but in the same breath I fully support all First Nations communities in their fight to become independent and self-sufficient. Don't forget that there are other First Nations communities that are thinking of doing the same as Wei-Wai-Kum First Nation especially if the present deal falls through. I can see Homalco First Nation stepping up to the fill the void.

What I find rampant with public opinion, when a First Nation begins to make a positive economic future for themselves, are the lack of compassion or understanding of cultural and social ways of life. As First Nations we are starting to reverse the devastating effects of the governments residential school "experiment". I applaud the development of First Nations Lands as long as it benefits the people it serves and does what it can for its neighbors.

As for the small business owner I hope you can find a way to be competitive. As a small business owner, I had to watch my multimedia company fade because of bigger companies with more money. I am a First Nation person as well, and I truly believe that my relatives have really been given the short end of the stick and we are now slowly regaining our dignity.

I hope a solution can be found, but in the meantime the "big box", experience will continue to be part of my family's shopping routine.

Sincerely,
James Delorme
Box 43, Squirrel Cove, B.C.V0P 1K0
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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 Monday, March 28th 2005



by Steven Halliday

Canada and the USA share the world's longest undefended border. We've been good neighbours to each other for almost 200 years. We are the USA's largest customer, as are they for our products. Many families (including my own) have relatives on both sides of the border. Many Canadians travel frequently to the USA, with some wintering in the warmer spots such as Southern California and Florida, while many Americans travel to Canada for their vacations. We speak the same language (mostly), seem to like similar music and films, and share a great many values. That being said, however, we also have differences in opinion on a multitude of subjects, and probably never more so than today. Our respective attitudes towards capital punishment, foreign policy, drug laws, same-sex marriage and the social safety net are polar opposites – or are they?

During the 2000 election campaign G.W. Bush promised America that he was “a uniter, not a divider”, but has since proven the opposite is true. The USA is more divided now than at any other time in history, excluding the Civil War. And many Americans are starting to feel that their country is theirs no longer, that the country is been taken in a direction that they cannot support. The most common elements quoted in this context are eroding civil liberties, pre-emptive warfare, alienation of the rest of the planet and the growing influence of the religious right on domestic policies. In contrast Canada seems a haven of freedom and common sense policies, particularly our respect for human rights both domestic and foreign.

Recently commentators have been describing the US as divided between the blue states and the red states. The blue states, so-called because they tend to be more liberal and largely support Democratic candidates, are roughly delineated by the West Coast (excluding Alaska) including Idaho and Montana, and the East Coast (excluding Florida) and most New England states. The red states are made up of the prairie and southern states, the “heartland” of America. It is residents of the blue states that are most vocal in their opposition to current administration policies, while red states tend to be supportive of Bush's policies. Jeremy Rifkin wrote a piece for the March 2005 issue of *The Walrus* entitled “Continentalism of A Different Stripe” in which he opines “Are

Border Buddies

Canadian provinces and the blue states in the US forming a radical new North American union? This American says “yes”. He notes that many states and provinces have formed working groups on trade, border security and the environment, such as the Conference of New England Governors and Canadian Premiers; Ontario and Quebec and the Council of Great Lakes Governors; and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. Rifkin notes, “Like many Canadians, blue-state citizens are also beginning to worry about being absorbed into a larger American agenda orchestrated from the red heartland of the country”.

I seriously doubt we will see a change in the map, but it is almost certain that we will see a huge shift in cross-border relations. Few Canadians realize how much power rests in the hands of US state governments, and many of these governments are looking north rather than to Washington, DC. At the same time, Canadians are becoming more nervous about our southern neighbour and are looking east – to the European Union. *Der Spiegel*, a German paper, recently ran a piece on Spiegel Online stating boldly “It's Time For Canada to Join the EU”. It points out “Canadians believe they view the world in a more “international” way – they believe they are more European when it comes to their views of “social values”. It also quotes a poll where 33% of Canadians believe faith plays an important role in their daily lives, compared to 60% of Americans. Economically it makes sense for Canada to look east...and west. Reducing our dependence on the USA as a market is now official policy for our federal and provincial governments – in 1996 we signed a wide-ranging agreement entitled 1996 Joint Political Declaration on EU-Canada Relations, which touches on economic and trade relations, foreign security and other transnational issues. The EU represents a larger market than the USA, and of course China is viewed as the “motherlode” as a marketplace for Canadian goods and services. The US has in recent years alienated Canadians with regressive trade policies (see softwood lumber agreement as Exhibit “A”) in spite of our supposed trade agreements enshrined in NAFTA. Prudence dictates that we look farther afield to find new customers.

Rifkin alludes to the EU relationship in his article – “During my recent travels in Canada I was struck how Canadian values resemble those of Europe. Indeed, the European Dream could just as easily be called the Canadian Dream. While the American version emphasizes unrestrained economic growth, personal wealth

and the pursuit of individual self-interest, the European Dream focuses more on sustainable development, quality of life and nurturing of communities.” Further, “The more global dream that many Canadians and Americans in the blue states share with Europeans is likely going to propel Canada and the blue states closer together in the decades to come”. I view this development as a very good thing.

The Discovery Islands are fast becoming home to a growing number of expatriate Americans. This fact of life is due to the dearth of availability (and subsequent inflationary effect) of homes and building sites to our south. The ambience of the Discovery Islands can only be found in some form in the southern Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands, but with a much higher price tag attached. I correspond with many Americans who profess a huge admiration for our region, and am confident we will develop a much larger base of year round residents who hail from the south. The thesis put forth by Rifkin is one we should welcome – if the natural evolution of things see the societal map of North America become substantially more bi-polar (heck, make it tri-polar; I loved my trip to Mexico) this can only improve things. If we and our proximate neighbours share a set of values that contrast with those more distant, so be it. Borders have been fluid for millennia, not that they represent much anymore. The globe evolves, and the lines drawn it upon it are meaningless outside of our individual lifetimes. I'd welcome a relationship that is North American-centric and a stronger partnership with Europe is long overdue. Improving trade ties with Asia obviously benefits us, and having the strength of willing partners in the mix can only be a plus.

So I'm all for it. Mr. Bush set out to redraw the maps, and he has accomplished far more than he could have anticipated. The USA will never look the same after he retires to the ranch. Sometimes it takes more than one marriage to find your perfect mate – at least it did in my case. As Rifkin put it – “The American people are deeply and irreconcilably polarized – like partners in a marriage who have drifted apart over the years and now find they have little in common. Meanwhile, people of the blue states and Canada are beginning to pursue the makings of a new romance, born of shared values and mutual interests. Is it possible that a new North American union might be in the making in the not-so-distant future?” Let's hope so, because the old version is wearing thin fast.



Island Report

Quadra's Philip Stone Runs for North Island Greens

by Tanya Storr

Two Quadra Island residents have been chosen to represent their parties as North Island riding candidates in the upcoming provincial election. Philip Stone is running for the Green Party and Claire Trevena for the NDP. Congratulations to both of them for taking on this mammoth task, and for putting Quadra on the political map!

In *Discovery Islander* #327 I interviewed Claire Trevena about her thoughts and goals for the North Island. This issue I put the same questions to Philip Stone.

A North Island resident for the past 17 years, Philip is a publisher (of the *Discovery Islander* as well as other publications), author, photographer, family man, and accomplished mountaineer. Philip feels his small business background in the media industry places him in a good position for political involvement.

"As an MLA, I would be well equipped to provide two-way communication between the North Island and Victoria. I've always been interested in politics and I'm passionate about the riding," he said.

Philip's involvement with the North Island Greens began after he wrote two letters published in local newspapers regarding Walmart's proposed development in the Campbell River estuary.

"To me, this development summarized everything that is wrong with our present social, economic, and environmental paths. My stance rang a chord with the local Greens and one phone call later I was in the nomination selection process."

Since the North Island Greens announced Philip's candidacy at the beginning of February, he has been busy travelling to various North Island communities to meet voters and listen to their concerns. Philip has also spent many hours reading government commission reports on issues such as forestry, health care, and aboriginal claims and grievances.

During his travels, Philip has asked constituents to complete the North Island Green Party's Election 2005 Survey. Responses from the 2,500 people surveyed



North Island Green Party candidate Philip Stone welcomes constituents to the campaign office's open house, Shoppers Row, Campbell River. Photo by Tanya Storr.

to date have indicated that residents are looking for a more balanced government.

"Key issues for North Islanders include forest tenure reform, First Nations land claims, health, education, aquaculture, and more. The challenge of being an MLA is to deal with a huge range of people and issues, and find solutions that are acceptable to as many residents as possible," Philip summarized.

Asked how he would work towards achieving a balance between environmental sustainability and the need for forestry jobs on the North Island, Philip replied that the foundation of sustainability is accepting that growth has ecological limits.

"Put simply, the North Island and the world as a whole is only so big and can only provide a finite amount of resources."

The first step, he went on to say, is to reform the current forest tenure system. The Green Party proposes a 50-50 allocation between TFL (Timber Forest License) Timber Supply Area-style tenure and woodlot-style operations.

"A balance needs to be struck between the need for some high volume harvesting by large industry with the capital to invest in heavy machinery, and the high employment and long-term community stability offered by an expanded woodlot program and other local initiatives like community woodlots."

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Philip added that B.C. needs to end raw log exports and establish an open log market.

"This will encourage investment in value added processing, as the timber supply is made accessible to BC industry instead of disappearing over the border and overseas at bargain basement prices," he said.

Regarding future economic development in the North Island, Philip believes we need to look at long-term strategies.

"Forestry is a great example: we have to slow the rate of harvest and realize more money for what we cut. In aquaculture the smart money needs to move into closed containment systems, with more investment eventually going into onshore facilities as the technology improves."

Philip added that agriculture is an overlooked sector.

"Our climate is ideally suited to growing, and with renewable energy sources the potential for year round greenhouse cultivation is enormous. If there was a natural disaster, fuel shortage, or other unforeseen circumstance, BC has two-three days of fresh food in stock. Food security is a fundamental need that is currently overlooked in favour of the demands of large scale agri-business" he said.

When it comes to attracting young families to the North Island area, Philip feels we need to create more sustainable economic opportunities, as well as improve and maintain a high quality of life through sound social and environmental management.

Responding to a question about First Nations issues, Philip said claims and grievances must be addressed and reconciled expediently.

"The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples provides a framework for recognizing First Nations as the original inhabitants of Canada. The current political situation has multi-national corporations exercising control over our land base, shutting everyone else out. All British Columbians should be concerned about regaining control of the land." Philip said

when British Columbians do regain control and are on track to a sustainable future, it will be clear no one has anything to fear about sharing.

"There's plenty to go around—we just have to get it away from the playground bully first."

The most important aspect of the Green platform, Philip stated, is seeking balance and consensus on social, economic, and environmental matters with a view to creating a sustainable society.

"By looking for strengths on both sides of the political spectrum and working with them through our own balanced policies, Green MLAs will be a catalyst for the BC Legislature to get on with the job of running the province."

When asked where on the political spectrum he fits, Philip replied that on the social and environmental fronts he leans to the left, and economically he is more centrist.

Electoral reform, or the Single Transferable Vote, is a key issue on the Green agenda. This election, voters will be asked if they support a system of proportional representation for BC. If this system were instituted, proponents argue it would result in fairer representation in the legislature.

Philip views this election as an opportunity for BC to move away from polarized politics.

"We have urgent issues across the board. The only real long term solution is to elect politicians who make sustainability a priority, because the myriad of other political issues can only be solved with sustainability as a foundation."

For more information on the North Island Greens, contact Philip Stone at 285-2234, cell 203-8827, or e-mail: Philip.Stone@greenparty.bc.ca

The North Island Green Party campaign office is located at 944 Shoppers Row in Campbell River, across from the Foreshore Park (next door to A Shot in the Dark Coffee Shop) the office can be reached at 286-6886.

Quadra Island Conservancy A.G.M.
Thursday, April 14, 2005 at 7.30 pm
In the Community Hall, room 3, upstairs, back door.

On the Agenda

Annual report, Financial report, Chairman's report, Elections.
Special mention of new Agreement with Timber West, the Beavers,
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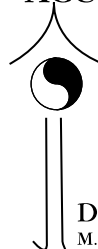
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The successful applicant must have attended school full time in the preceding year and intend to return to school full time in the next year. Experience in dealing with the public, some knowledge of boats and docks, some degree of physical fitness, experience in dealing with cash transactions and computer literacy will be qualities considered. Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 30, Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Preference will be given to Quadra Island residents. Candidates must have their own transportation.

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