

DISCOVERY ISLANDER

Community News and Events from the Discovery Islands

**Issue #139 June 16th, 1997
Complimentary**

***Parents & Tots
Ron Atkinson
Summer Rec. Brochure***

Maritza Jacobs with daughter Wanita at Parents & Tots.

Photo:

Discovery Islander

#139 June 16th, 1997

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Letters, artwork, submissions of any kind welcome. Lengthy items are preferred by e-mail or on 3.5in floppy disk in RTF or MS Word format, **please also supply a printed copy.** *We regret we cannot reprint material from other publications.*

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

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

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Ken Johnson 285-2050

Island Forum

Hand - 'Crazy Quilt Cussion'

In Reply

This is in reply to two excellent letters by Roger Michel and Ray Grigg, that you ran in the June 2nd Discovery Islander. Our congratulations to them both for bringing such strong subjects to our attention.

As Ray Grigg says, it is too late for this years election to look closely at Mr. Duncan's performance as an MP, but let's try to remember for next time.

Roger Michel's belief of why our country is in such terrible financial shape fall right in line with a new political party that is formed but not mentioned by the news media during the election. Consequently, it would appear to us that our four leading political parties are all afraid to speak out against Canada's banking system as it is today. Not being experts on banking, maybe we could have explained to us who or what actually controls the Bank of Canada?

Sincerely,
Kirsten Hollier, Alex Riesterer

Quadra Tennis Update

The tennis court resurfacing project is almost complete. We managed to dodge the showers and the crew from Vancouver painted the two courts and the practice area in two days!

The project did require some volunteer labour and some financial contributions, so we would like to gratefully acknowledge the following people. For financial donations our thanks go to Walcan Seafood, The Quadra Bike-A-Thon, The Nighswander family, the Bird family, Dirk & Linda Van Der Minne, Fred & Rita Vitringa and the Doolittle family for donation of machine time. Thanks also to Quadra Rec. Society for the grant.

There were also lots of people who donated their time to prepare the court for the resurfacing crew. Thanks to Gary Colter, Mitch Hirano, Rod Clark, Mark Nighswander, Mike Griswold, Bill Pirie, Ken Roxborough, Fred & Rita Vitringa and John Fell.

We now have a facility which is the best in the area and we encourage everyone to make use of it. We do ask you however to help us keep it in good shape for years to come! **Keep an eye out for upcoming tournaments!**

Quadra Quilters

Quadra Quilters thank everyone who supported our quilt exhibit. Congratulations to our raffle winners! Sandy McLaren - 'Sae-Life Quilt', Linda

Dear Editor

When I think of Ray, Noel and Judy (the gang of three) tar and feathers come to mind! They have worked behind people's backs for an island-destroying national park, while paying lip service to cooperation and local forestry. Their "we're not against logging" carries little weight when you consider what a national park on most of northern Quadra Island would mean, to quote Wayne Anderson "a park on the north end, and a parking lot on the south".

The forest resources are dwindling on this coast largely because of increased population, and busybodies such as Mr. Grigg who not only wish to "save" old growth, but all the second growth forest also. He lied openly to the Quadra Island loggers, while deceitfully playing his game behind our backs.

Nothing destroys a community like the creation of a national park. Eco-tourism is considered by many the largest threat to wilderness environments - witness the fees and bookings for the West Coast Trail and the closure of some heavily travelled trails to large trees on Vancouver Islands west coast.

A tree farm licence, such as TFL 47 in which Timber West operates, on Quadra Island is the best form of maintaining a semblance of wilderness, so that the area is in the state which the preservationists are

misguidedly trying to "save" today.

These preservationists have played an important role in building public awareness of natural resources and bad logging practices, but consider - it is these same logging practices that have resulted in what they are attempting to "save" for a national park today.

I'm sure Campbell River would love Quadra Island National Park, but any semblance of normal life on the island would be destroyed. It is yet another example of what extremists have always maintained - the end justifies the means!

Plant & Yard Sale



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Reggio Emilia - Exciting Developments for Young Children

The city of Reggio Emilia in Northern Italy, has developed over the last fifty years an early childhood program that Newsweek Magazine called the best in the world. I was fortunate to be a member of the first Canadian delegation in 1993 to visit some of the thirty schools in Reggio Emilia and study their methods. I came back inspired and determined to try out what I had learned from my observations in Reggio Emilia in my work in the field of early childhood in Canada.

Quadra Island is a community with many of the same to offer. The Preschool and Daycare are in many ways similar to the schools in Reggio. They have a high level of parent involvement, a strong base in the community, an aesthetically pleasing environment and a rich and stimulating program for children. Although they are already implementing many aspects of the Reggio Emilia approach, I would like to collaborate with the parents, teachers, staff and children to further develop some of the ideas such as emergent curriculum, documentation and the development of an art atelier in the classroom. **Let us know if there is an artist in the community who**

would be interested in setting up a studio in the classroom. At the same time I would like to record the process and write the story of our experiences in adapting the approach either as a text book or in a series of articles for publication. Collaboration with all concerned is a key principle so we would start slowly and follow the children's lead as we further develop the ideas that we as a group identify as feasible for this particular group of children.

Call Joanna Annett if you have any further questions **(285-3762)**. We have set up an information evening to discuss the project on **Tuesday, July 3 at the Day Care Centre on West Road at 8 pm.**

Looking forward to meeting anyone who is interested.

Susan Fraser, Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Douglas College, Editor, Canadian Young Children

Skateboard News

Our bottle drive was a very successful event, thank you to everyone who donated to us and our apologies to anyone who left bottles on their porch and we mistakenly took them. This is the second apology I have had to make today. Oh well, I guess I'm not as perfect as I thought I was.

Thanks to all the Moms and Dads who donned rubber gloves and pitched

in sorting all those mouldy oldies. I find it hard to understand why those stubby old beer bottles we were forced to endure are now no longer refundable. Can anyone enlighten me as to this phenomenon? I am old enough to remember when all beer came in long necked bottles and there was an outrage when those stubbies were foisted upon us. Now that the breweries have changed back to long necked bottles, the stubbies are no longer returnable. Oh well as Frank would say "Sail-A-Vee."

To all the skateboarders who helped out either by driving, collecting or sorting a collective pat on the back and I am sure that they are happy with the results: \$995.10 plus \$14.00 in cash donations. We love cash donations, the more the merrier thank you.

We are almost there, our toe is at, not quite over, the finish line and to all of you who have been asking, we will be starting actual construction in the very near future. So everyone who said they will volunteer will be receiving another call to arms.

It has been suggested that we hold another skateboarder dance to top up our account so watch for posters as to time and date.

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Bus will pick up children:
9:00 am Animal Farm Road
9:05 am Rebecca Spit turn off
9:15 am Heriot Bay Fire Hall

8:45 am Quadra Ferry
9:00 am Lighthouse turn off
9:10 am Cape Mudge Village
9:15 am QI Building Supply
9:20 am Quadra School


Children will be returned between
3:30-4:00 pm



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Public Notice

Update of recreation features and Visual Landscape Inventories for the Quadra Island Low Intensity Area- TFL 47 Block 12

RRL Recreation Resources Ltd. has completed the draft update of the recreation features and visual landscape inventories of the public lands in Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 47 Block 12, held by Timberwest Forest Limited, On Quadra Island.

Individuals who have contributed information to this update and who would like to view the draft maps, are encouraged to attend a workshop at the Quadra Island Community Centre on July 5, 1997 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Jeremy Webb and Debbie James from RRL will be there to discuss the inventories and to hear your comments.

An open house will be held at the Community Centre the same afternoon from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Individuals or groups who have not yet seen the inventory or who would like to provide information on trails, recreation features or landscapes within Tree Farm Licence (TFL) 47 Block 12, are encouraged to visit the open house. For more information, contact Jeremy Webb or Debbie James at RRL Recreation Resources Ltd. 3156 Cobble Hill Road, R.R. #1, Cobble Hill, B.C. V0R 1L0. You can also call toll free 1 800 761-5737

Crime Stoppers

Anyone with information concerning the following can contact Quadra Island RCMP directly or call Crime Stoppers at 287-TIPS. You do not have to give your name and you may remain anonymous.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 97 May 15 | Theft of gas from vehicle parked at Quadra Elementary School. |
| 97 May 17 | Stop signs removed from School Rd. Signs recovered in ditch by Bay Rd. B.C. Tel shack. |
| Heriot | |
| 97 May 17 | Occupant of white station wagon observed dumping fuel from gas can into ditch by Petro-Can. |
| 97 May 23 | Costume ring found on Haskin farm trail. Owner may claim at Detachment. |
| 97 May 26 | Theft of 7 foot aluminium punt "Relic Jr" made by Daigle Welding. Vessel stolen from 26 foot work boat that was tied up at Q-Cove Government dock. |
| 97 May 27 | Theft of chainsaw from shed on West Rd. Saw described as "Homelite" value \$250.00 |
| 97 May 27 | Window at Cape Mudge Daycare broken |
| 97 May 31 | Theft of mountain bike from vehicle parked at Q-Cove parking lot. Bike described as make "Giant" black in colour, grip shifters and repainted black handle bars. |
| 97 June 02 | Theft of 1990 black Yamaha Scooter, 50cc. from Q-Cove. |
| 97 June 06 | Suspicious male observed on porch at residence on Barton Rd. Witness only caught glimpse of an individual with blond short hair. |
| 97 June 08 | A "Head" tennis racquet was stolen from Quadra Community Centre. Racquet in black cover with sunscreen inside. |
| 97 June 09 | Summer cottage on Read Island broken into. Items stolen include pop and beer. |
| 97 June 10 | Break, enter and theft from residence on Cramer Rd. A four litre plastic juice container full of change stolen. |

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Island Calendar

At a glance...

June 21, 22

Quadra Garden & Studio Tour Quadra Island 10 am - 4 pm
Q.I. Historic Tour Depart CR Museum 8:45 am

June 26, Thur.

Quadra Singers AGM/Potluck 1376 Hooley Rd. 4:00 pm

June 28, Sat.

Open House Silent Ground 3:00 pm
Carol Yole Farwell 1127 Milton Rd. 4:00pm
Intro to Nature Museum at Campbell River 1 - 4 pm
Book Launch-R. Atkinson Q.I. United Church 7:30 pm

June 29, Sun.

Family Bike-A-Thon Community Centre Start 2 - 4 pm

July 7- 11

West Coast Hoop Fest Cape Mudge Gym 9 am - 3 pm

July 7-Aug.15

Summer Recreation see program

September 14, Sun.

QPC Giant Garage Sale Community Centre 10 am -
2:00 pm.

Sept. 26, 27

Keeping Quadra Healthy Community Centre

Weekly

Farmers' Market - Sat Credit Union 10-1:00
p.m.
Meditation-Sundays Community Hall 10am-12
noon
Hatha Yoga- Saturdays Community Centre 9:00 &
10:45am
Aerobics-Mon,Wed,Fri Community Centre 6:20a.m

Island Tides

For Q-Cove June17 to June 29

Day	Pacific Stand Time	Ht/ft	Ht/m
Tu	0120	13.2	
4.0			
17	0925	3.7	
1.1			
	1550	12.1	
3.7			
	1955	10.3	
3.1			
Wed	0150	13.2	
4.0			
18	1005	2.7	
0.8			
	1630	12.7	
3.9			
	2040	10.6	
3.2			
Th	0225	13.2	
4.0			
19	1040	1.9	
0.6			
	1710	13.2	
4.0			
	2125	10.7	
3.3			
Fri	0310	13.2	
4.0			
20	1110	1.4	
0.4			
	1750	13.6	
4.1			
	2215	10.7	
3.3			
Sat	0350	13.2	
4.0			
21	1145	1.1	
0.3			
	1830	13.9	
4.2			
Sun	0105	10.5	
3.2			
22	0440	13.0	
4.0			
	1215	1.1	
0.3			
	1910	14.2	
4.3			
Mon	0200	10.2	
3.1			
23	0530	12.7	
3.9			
	1255	1.6	
0.5			
	1955	14.3	
4.4			
Tue	0255	9.8	
3.0			

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The Quadra Island Garden Tour

Delightful gardens, fantastic views, a stunning natural environment: To these much-praised aspects of Quadra Island's annual Garden Tour, add a new dimension for 1997! In order to add new variety and interest to the event, several artists have agreed to open their studios to the public for the weekend of **June 21st and 22nd**.

In addition to perennial garden favourites, be prepared to visit the studio of a world-class, award winning creator of dolls. The delicate precision of her handmade porcelain creations must be seen to be properly appreciated. Also a winner of many awards is the carver of wooden decoys, whose charming home setting is enhanced by the presence of some delightful farm animals. Other newcomers to the Tour include an organic vegetable garden, whose hard-working owner is also a much admired landscape artist; a fresh, young garden by the sea, and a pottery studio surrounded by a lovely old orchard. An old favourite is set in a classic estate garden, and displays paintings, sculptures and clay work of the resident artists.

All of this and more awaits your visit, so be sure to mark your calendar for June 21st and 22nd. The \$12 ticket price provides you with a ticket/map including garden and studio descriptions; this year your ticket will be stamped at selected gardens - one visit per ticket per garden. **Gardens will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.** Proceeds from the Garden Tour will go to the Quadra Island Community Centre Additions Project.

The tour can be done in one day or in two, so if you have the time, why not try one of the beautiful resorts or B&B's right here on Quadra, or on neighbouring Cortes Island or in Campbell River? Tickets will be sold from May 1st: In Campbell River, at Page 11 Books on Shoppers' Row, Trappings in Mercroft Village, the Campbell River Garden Centre and Farquharson's in Willow Point; in Courtenay, at The Garden Gate and Laughing Oyster Books; On Quadra Island at Joanne's Country Charm (now located in the Village Square next to the gas station) and Quadra Crafts. In addition, tickets will be available, on the days of the Tour, at the Tourist Information Booth, as you come off the Campbell River Ferry.

If you are coming for just a day, bring a picnic or enjoy one of the fine local eating spots advertised on your ticket/map. Transportation will be available through Forest Bus Tours in Parksville, (250) 248-4525 or, for complete tour arrangements from Victoria, call Island Fever Travel, 1-800-874-7937, or Adventure West Tours,



(250) 923-6113. For further information, call (250) 285-2231.

Can Jerry Dymally at 285-2447 for more information. Adult course, beginner and advanced, are available to groups of six or more.

Cycle Your Way into the Summer Holidays

Third annual Quadra Island Family Bike-A-Thon will be held on **Sunday, June 29th, 1997 from 2 to 4pm**, beginning and ending at the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to join in this fun, family, outdoor event. Riders of all ages are encouraged to enjoy one of several bike routes around the island. Choose from a 5 km, 10 km, and 15 km route, or a special circuit for mountain bike riders! Come and enjoy the great scenery and companionship of other riders. **This is not a race**, but a pleasant outdoor adventure. PLEASE NOTE: there is no preregistration; please register on site: \$5 for individual riders, \$15 for families of 3 or more. All proceeds this year will be donated to the Blenkin Park Tennis Association. Come early (between 1 and 2 pm) for a complimentary bicycle safety check! For further information, please call Karen Holmes (2781), or Pauline Falk (3682).

Q.I. Recreation Society

Is sponsoring a wholistic event called "**Keeping Quadra Healthy**". **September 26th** will feature a major keynote speaker and a presentation of Quadra culture. We are planning an array of exhibits, mini-demonstrations and networking tables on physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health on **September 27th**. We are inviting all interested participants to call Diane at **285-3859**

Kids CAN-BIKE

With the cycling season starting in earnest parents may want to have their children professionally trained in safe bicycle skills, by a nationally certified C-Bike instructor. **The kids CAN-BIKE course** involves discussion about the rules of the road, the bicycle's place in traffic, safe equipment, practice of bike handling skills, and on-road training is to develop good road position and lawful bike operation, good planning skills and good decision making skills. The course is for children 9 to 13 years of age.

Course dates are **Aug. 11th & 18th**
Classes - 9:00 a.m. - 3 pm. \$45 per pupil.

Items For Island Calendar
Welcome, Brevity Appreciated.
No Business Related
Material Please
Deadline for the next issue is
3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25

Open House at Silent Ground

Come join our annual celebration at our Learning Centre on Read Island. Recital expresses the Tao in Voice and Movement. Experience the living, breathing flow of the arts. Followed by a Pot Luck Dinner. **Sat., June 28, 3:00 pm.** For a boat charter to Read Island, please make a reservation with Ed Jordan, 285-3689, or give us a call. Pick up is at

2:15 pm, Government Wharf, Heriot Bay. Cost for the charter, per person, \$10.00 return, and we will subsidize the rest. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Preschool Celebration!

The Quadra Island Child Care Society invites you to a barbecue and celebration in honour of Carol Yole who is leaving our preschool after many years of dedicated work. We encourage all past graduates and their families to join the festivities and fun.

Please come: **Saturday, June 28th at 4:00 p.m. 1127 Milton Rd.** For more information on what to bring call Colleen 285-2520, Cheryl 285-2773, Tucker 285-2166, Susan 285-2417, Katherine 285-2374.

Farmers Market & Bazaar

Our Farmer's Market is held rain or shine, from the beginning of **May to the end of September, every Saturday from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm** behind the Credit Union. Vendors must be from Quadra or the outer islands. Setup charge is \$3 for adults and \$1 for kids. Bring your own table. Dancers, drummers, jugglers, musicians, etc. are very welcome - this is our village green! Please come join us to make the Market the best it can be. For more information phone Dalcyce **285-3180**.

Mitlenatch Field Naturalists Society.

21st June (Midsummer Day), Bike-Hike to explore Maud Island and watch the Whirlpools. **Postponed**

Museum at Campbell River

The Museum at Campbell River offers an all-day historic tour of Quadra Island with resident historian Jeanette Taylor on Saturday, June 21st.

In Detail...

Using a lively storytelling format, and drawing upon over twenty years of research, Jeanette brings to life the characters and events which have shaped the island community.

This tour is ideal for local residents who want to learn more about the colourful history and magnificent scenery of the region, and will also appeal to visitors hoping to gain a deeper understanding of their host community.

The emphasis is placed upon heritage sites which are not readily accessible and might otherwise be missed. However, Jeanette does point out the easy-to-find places, such as the Kwagiulth Museum, to encourage participants to return on their own.

Participants should be prepared for some walking, as several sites are off the beaten track. The tour costs **\$35.00 for adults and \$33.00 for students/seniors**, with a discount for Museum Society members. This price includes ferry fare, transportation, treats, and a Quadra history booklet. Each person should bring a packed lunch. **The van leaves the Campbell River Museum at 8:45, returning on the 4:00 Quadra ferry.**

Spaces on the tour are limited, so please register in advance at the Museum Shop, located at 470 Island Highway. Shop hours are 10:00 am. to 5:00 pm. Monday to Saturday, and from noon until 5:00 Sunday. For more information on summer events, call **287-3103**.

Intro to Nature

Baby barnacles, frondy ferns, crabby crabs - meet them all with Heather Robinson, as she introduces children to nature at **The Museum at Campbell River on Saturday afternoon, June 28th, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.**

This summer events program, *Connecting Children with Nature*, at The Museum at Campbell River presents a chance for children and adults to expand their appreciation and awareness of our wonderful west coast environment.

A naturalist with B.C. Parks, Heather escorts participants on a nature awareness afternoon, exploring the forest and the nearby seashore. Her enthusiasm for the topic, and friendly approach make this outdoor event a great way to spend a pleasant time with children. Through a series of outdoor games and activities, the group are formally introduced to many organisms and their interrelationships in the different ecosystems. Heather will also supply a list of useful field guides and resources for future reference, enabling one to more fully appreciate nature on the

Northwest Coast.

As well as being useful information for families in general, this program would also appeal to visitors or new residents of the area who would like to discover some of the wonders right at their doorstep.

The tour begins at 1:00 pm. and lasts until 4:00 pm. Please dress for the weather, planning to spend time both in a forested area and on the beach.

As enrolment is limited, **please preregister** at the Museum Shop at 470 Island Highway. Shop hours are 10:00 am. to 5:00 pm. Monday to Saturday, and from noon until 5:00 Sunday. Cost is \$10.00 Adult/ \$5.00 student (6yrs.+), with a museum membership discount of 10%.

Attention Quadra Singers!

Mark your calendars for our **June 28th AGM and Potluck**. 4:00 pm. at Tracy's home, 1376 Hooley Rd. Families welcome. For further information call Judy **285-3007** or Tracy **285-2946**

Poet Launches New Book!

Poet Ron Atkinson will be launching his new book, "To Hold a While", at the **Quadra Island United Church on Sat., June 28, 1997 at 7:30 p.m.**

Ron will speak and read from his newly published book, and then be available to sign copies which will be sold downstairs in the church.

Giant Garage Sale

Start saving now for the **Quadra Philippines Connection 3rd Annual Giant Garage Sale** to be held at the Community Centre, **September 14th**. All reusable items in good condition will be accepted and appreciated!

Legion News

I made a mistake, I don't make many but this time I did. In the last Legion report I stated that the lovely new green carpeting for the stage and hallway was donated by Carol Anne Terreberry; I should have stated that it was donated by **Ultimate Ostrich Products** and the **Ladies Auxiliary** and the Legion is very grateful to them. We also want to thank Lance for installing it.

Another large thanks goes to the good Heriot Bay Pixies who magically mowed the lawn in front of the Legion, what a difference a mowing makes.

Attention all Legion Members. The Legion will be holding a large initiation on

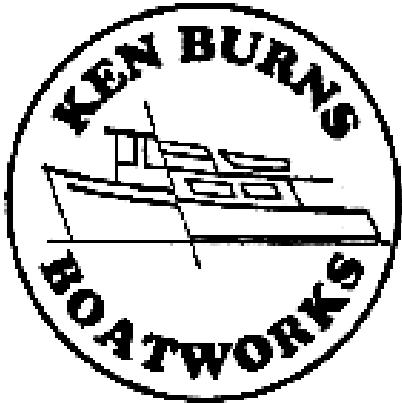
Wednesday night June 18th at 8:00 pm. All persons who have received a membership since 1991 should attend to be initiated at that time. A general meeting will also be held at this time. There will also be snacks and stuff after the meeting.

Get ready for **Lindsay's third annual Legion chili cook off**. The date to be announced. This is a non professional event so start practising to get your recipes ready for competition. AS a past judge of the competition I can vouch that some wonderful taste treats will be served up. So watch this column for a future date.

There is an upcoming dance to be held at the Legion Hall, the date has not yet been confirmed as of publishing time so watch this column again.

Don't forget that there is **free pool** on Friday nights at the Legion and the **meat draw** every Saturday. Legion members visiting on Quadra are welcome to come in and enjoy the facility. Deck evenings are lovely there.

toelle



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Money Matters

By Steven Halliday

Working in a financial institution, the question most commonly encountered is "Why are interest rates so low?". Obviously, we receive this question from depositing customers, as borrowing clients are not generally likely to query their good fortunes in the present low rate environment,

Well, I'm afraid there is no easy answer to this question? Banking, while not a monopoly, is somewhat analogous to trading in a commodity, in this case being money. Similar to commodities such as foodstuff and metals, prices are not set by the local marketplace, but rather the global marketplace. The rates paid or charged by a financial institution are not set by the local demand for the product, but are established at a variety of levels, ranging from the rates being paid for

Canadian long-term debt in the global markets, to the present mood at the Bank of Canada, whose interest rate policies are generally dictated by two primary goals.

Firstly, the Federal Government has been operating for several years under a general principle of repatriating Canadian debt held by overseas investors, primarily Japanese and European corporate bodies. The present low rate environment does not make Canadian debt particularly attractive, allowing our Treasury department to repurchase millions, if not billions of dollars of foreign held debt.

Secondly, the Bank of Canada's weekly setting of the Bank Rate (the rate paid by the Bank for statutory, or required deposits, by major Canadian financial institutions) is strongly influenced by the Government's inflation policy. In a nutshell, a low rate of inflation is being

maintained by careful management of the economy, the most important component of which is interest rates. For several years, inflation has been kept at a low level (presently around 2%) by the Bank's policy of keeping rates low a pleasant by-product of the previously mentioned repatriation policy.

So if you are concerned about low rates on your savings and term deposits, remember the trade off. If rates rise again to a level at which you as a depositor are happy, it is a safe bet that inflation will, be rising right along behind, likely negating any net benefit you may have. Of course, you can place your savings into other



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Island Report

To Hold A While: A New Book by Ron Atkinson by Tanya Storr

Ron Atkinson, who was minister of Quadra Island United Church in the 1970's and early 1980's, is just coming out with his second book, entitled To Hold A While. Ron and his wife Donna now live in Qualicum Beach, but Quadra is frequently in their thoughts and they visit the island often. Memories of the time they spent living in Cape Mudge Village fill many pages in To Hold A While, and Ron will hold the official launch of his new book at Quadra Island United Church on Saturday June 28 at 7:30 pm. I met with Ron in Campbell River on June 4 to talk about his new book.

After going over To Hold A While with great thought, master printer Jim Bennett at Morris Printing said to Ron, "This is a very positive book." The comment pleased Ron greatly, he said. "I try to ask myself what may I affirm and celebrate, despite the tragic sense of life that I think we all have." Ron describes To Hold A While as a book of prose poems that find "the uncommon in the commonplace" and explore "island as metaphor for this brief, bounded life."

When Ron handed me his manuscript, at that point just a few days away from printing, I was immediately drawn into the image on the front cover. A mixed-media on silver print by Ron's friend Ken Flett, it is entitled 'Dancing in the Shadows', and depicts someone's room, empty of the person who inhabited it yet still filled with memories.

"I chose that image for the cover because it captures the empty shell of a person's life after they're gone, the feeling of a presence that has lived, died, and is still lingering. The theme of To Hold A While is the same—we're not here long, but we may take the face of a loved one in our hands to hold a while. It's about the fragility and swiftness of life. The moments become very precious because of that sense of mortality—we're on the edge of dying so therefore full of living."

Ron's first book, a cycle of lyrical essays entitled A Fire in the Rain, covers a period from October to October. This latest book follows a life from birth to death, and a sense of the author's aging runs through the writing, reinforced by a series of pen and ink self-portraits of Ron, who is now 64, at different stages of his life. However, he points out that To Hold A While is also about other people and other things.

Ron is self-publishing To Hold A While under his newly-formed company, Limen Books. 'Limen', he explained, is an Italian



Ron Atkinson

Photo: Tanya

word meaning 'threshold'. More than one prose poem in the book recalls a moment that took place at twilight, "a liminal time of day." Ron's piece, 'A Twilight Faith', reveals his faith in evenings: "Treasuring the quieter energies of evensong, I fear morning meditations may presume too much. By evening the striving ego permits a more tender resilience. Hopefully, by the end of the day a darker wisdom is possible."

A Fire in the Rain was published by Oolichan Books in 1991 and has been through a second printing. "A Native friend taught me how to make a fire in the rain. The title also comes from the Book of Acts, when Paul is shipwrecked and welcomed by the Natives, who made a fire although it was raining." The launch for A Fire in the Rain was held at Quadra Island United Church on September 14, 1991.

Ron explained that some publishers also expressed an interest in To Hold A While, but it sat there and the years

went by while they waited for funding. He decided recently to set up his own publishing company and publish the book himself. "Hopefully I will be able to publish other things too," he said. Ron is now working on his third book, a collection of poems "to do with the freedom to transcend family, society, and religion by being completely personal and radically open to others."

One of the people Ron writes about in his beautifully crafted prose poems in To Hold A While is the late Sandy Billy, a man Ron described as "truly an elder of the village." He said of Sandy, "He was a fisherman, with a wonderful genial quality. He had a great respect for everyone and was highly respected by all. He was a singer and very devout—he understood both nature and man. The faith of the church and his Native heritage were one for him."

In 'A Carol at Midnight', Ron writes about Sandy's gift of song: "... Sound and silence meet well in him. Especially when his silence becomes song. On Christmas Eve, just before midnight, Sandy sings Silent Night in Kwakwala. He stands as still as a cedar tree, waiting for the fullness of the moment, gathering us in the meeting-point of sound and silence. When the song is over, he remains rooted in the hush, then seals his lips and nods his head by way of confirmation. When he suddenly grins like a proud boy it is surely Christmas morning."

Ron speaks highly of the friendships he made at Cape Mudge. "Native friends have a hold on my heart. Even when I see a stranger to me who is Native, I feel I

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Island Report

Continued From Previous Page

should introduce myself because I believe I belong in that gift they gave me." One piece in *To Hold A While* delves into the author's thoughts while visiting the museum at Cape Mudge; others speak of past conversations and memories of life in the village.

Ron explained that his writing arises out of a communal energy and that a great many people have inspired him. "When I'm with people, I feel their energy coming towards me. In other words, I'm still in an oral tradition and then I record it later. I can't leave Quadra in my writing it seems—our years on the island seem to have been the formative years for me."

Ron, Donna, and their two sons moved to Quadra in the early 1970's when the boys were young. "I was working as a consultant to the United Church of Canada as a whole, and I said I would consider a congregation if it was small and on the sea. The next thing I knew I had a telegram from the United Church on Quadra Island asking, 'Will you be our minister?' I didn't answer right away, as we had to decide if it was the right thing to do for our young boys. Then another one came: 'Are you coming or not?' We said yes, and it was the best thing we ever did."

The Atkinsons lived in Toronto previously, and Ron designed and headed up an event called Day Spring, a festival of ecology and the arts, for the United Church just before coming to B.C. Ron's first career was teaching music, and he has also been the director of the International Student Centre at the University of Toronto and a teacher at a theological college. He became a minister in 1956. "On the whole I don't think of myself as having a need to express any professional status, but when pressed I say I was a bellhop at Emerald Lake Chalet for four years and I think of myself as a very gifted bellhop."

The move to Quadra Island seemed like the fulfilment of a dream for Ron, a dream that began when he took a book out of the library as a child. "It was called *Tall White Sails*, and it was about a family from Ontario going to live with Kwakiutl Indians. I got it out again a few years ago—it must have filled my unconscious. I think we do tend to do what we wish to do, following our intuition."

Ron spent five years as minister of the United Church, during which time the Atkinsons lived in the village. Later, Ron was called back in July of 1979 as minister of the church for another three years. Upon his return, the church was renamed Quadra Island United Church from Walker Memorial United Church.

"My wife and I felt Quadra was home and we were assured it was. We never thought we'd leave, but it wasn't feasible to stay—the boys needed a different experience. We always think we might move back and we visit quite often. I'm grateful not only to the community of Cape Mudge, but to the whole of Quadra Island. To coin a Greek phrase, I'm a Quadraphiliac. In the ruggedness of the Discovery Islands, there is a certain energy of the wild."

Throughout *To Hold A While*, Ron employs the image of an island as a metaphor for life. "It's a liminal thing, meaning on the threshold, because islands are always near the edge. All persons are islands—we live within islands that are within islands." In 'Finding A Home for Ourselves', Ron writes: "Nourished by the outermost and the innermost, the potential of self emerges like an island in the sea, our personal island bounded by the shores of our mortality."

Natural imagery is prevalent in the book, many pieces bringing to mind scenes of Quadra. The Spit and the beach in front of the village are recurring images, and many of the island's wild creatures grace the pages. "I think we can only be human animals if we are part of all the other animals," said Ron. In 'Hunter Envy', he writes about the kingfisher: "I envy the proud, so very blue and blazing Kingfisher. I have glimpsed that keen eye, heard the confident cry and admired the accurate arc of that dazzling dive. How beautiful is the clarity of the swift and sure! No kingfisher begs for the beyond or confuses error with mystery . . ."

Ron makes a conscious effort to use language that is accessible and open to as many people as possible. "I'm trying to find an alternative to religious language for those who don't want to speak of God, but still hunger to speak of the sacred and the holy." He defines the soul as "the unity of body, mind, and imagination" and said "there are no souls not in a body—when the body passes on, the soul becomes part of the body of great belonging."

Since retiring as a minister seven years ago, Ron has been writing, teaching music history, and acting. In November '96, Ron acted in a play called "My Father, My Son" that he co-wrote with Ken Flett. "He played himself and I played his friend in his 70's. It went over very well—we were amazed because it was a very daring presentation." The other Atkinson family members also work in the arts: Donna

teaches music, one of their sons is a writer, and the other is a musician.

Recently, Ron has been spending some time travelling to Greece and Mexico. "Greece has become pivotal to my understanding of everything. I'm going back to Greece with Donna for our fortieth wedding anniversary next May. One thing I hope to do with my publishing company is find a way of making available modern Greek poets, who are very good and very neglected."

Ron said he is really looking forward to the launch of *To Hold A While* at the Quadra Island United Church. At the launch, Ron will speak, read from the book, and sign copies. *To Hold A While* costs \$12.95 and will be on sale at the launch, or you can order it by writing to Limen Books, Box 21, Qualicum Beach, B.C., V9K 1S7. There is no GST applied if you buy the book directly from the author.

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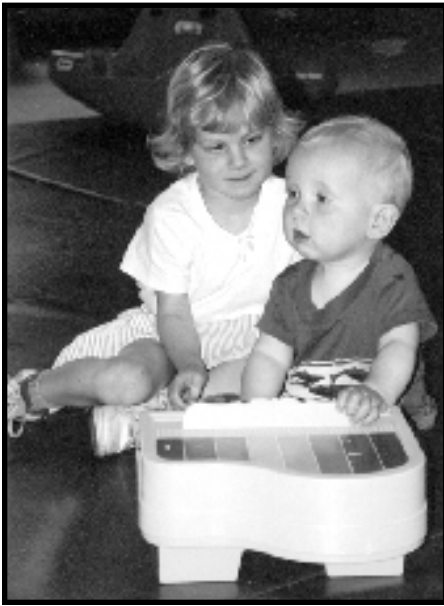
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Taylor & Braden McPhee at Parents & Tots
Photo: Tanya Storr

Island Report

Parents and Tots by Tanya Storr

Quadra Island's Parents and Tots are about to wrap up another successful season, and when I visited a session on Thursday June 5, I immediately understood why the group is known for having fun. Bigger tots zoomed around in toy cars and smaller tots played with toy instruments, while parents looked on and conversed together. The tots made colourful crafts out of egg cartons, and some danced to background music. At snack time, the children ate finger food and their parents drank coffee or tea. In short, everyone seemed to be having an excellent time.

"Parents and Tots is very social," said Sheri Benner, who has been the Parents and Tots coordinator on and off for three years. "We talk a lot about parental issues and give each other advice. Lots of new parents come with their babies for the social aspect, even though their babies are too young to take part in some of the activities. It's a bunch of parents and kids coming together."

Community Recreation coordinator Sandy Spearing said Parents and Tots has been meeting for over 12 years now, since around the time QCC was built. "It's neat to see kids as toddlers and know that on grade 12 graduation night a lot of the same kids and parents are going to be sitting together. Many times Parents and Tots is the first introduction to the community for parents and kids—a lot of parents feel very isolated. It's also great for newcomers to the island because it provides good access to the community."

Benner explained that Parents and Tots takes place on Thursdays from 10 until noon on a drop-in basis. The fee is \$3 per family, which includes a snack, craft, tea, and coffee. "There's no big commitment—people can come if they want to. Our numbers vary from month to month. In winter we do really well, but the numbers dwindle in spring when everybody gets busy in their gardens. We usually run throughout the school year, and we're winding down now. In the summer if people want to stay connected we meet at the Spit on Thursdays at the same time."

Sometimes it can be a challenge to keep funding levels up, Benner said, so Parents and Tots does some fund-raising. "We've sold stuff at the Connections Fair, done the concession at a Quadra Singers concert, and had a garage sale and bake sale. We received two grants from the

regional district, and the preschool has been very generous in giving us donations too. We really need the support of parents and tots on the island to keep us going. Parent participation is very important."

Parents and Tots has a three person steering committee, and this year's committee is made up of Sheri Benner, Nancy Barker, and Joanna Annett. "I definitely get a lot of help from the other people on the committee," Benner said. As her son Nicholas will be going to kindergarten this September, she will no longer be involved next season. "A new steering committee will be formed for next September. Parents, this could be your chance to get involved!"

Benner added that Parents and Tots is really looking forward to the community centre addition. "I've started a research library for parents in the community centre, but right now it's in the ticket booth. It'll be nice when we have more space."

Parent Sue Graham said she started going to Parents and Tots three-and-a-half years ago, when her son Reid was two years old and her daughter Allie two weeks old. Although she doesn't go as often now that her kids are older, she said they still really enjoy going. "The kids have a lot of fun, and I like going and having a cup of coffee and meeting new people. It's so nice to have a place to go in the winter. Sheri's done some fun crafts with the kids, and they have playdough and a snack. I think it's a really important program to have on the island for parents to get out and socialize. I know I really appreciated it when the kids were younger."

Maritza Jacobs was at Parents and Tots with her 15 month old girl, Wanita, the day I visited. She said Parents and Tots has helped her overcome her shyness about meeting others. "I like it a lot—it's great. Wanita likes meeting new kids and I like meeting new people. Before I was shy and afraid to meet new people, but now I've got Wanita I'm not afraid anymore because I've got someone to go with. Parents and Tots helped a lot—it's great for both of us."

Parents and Tots won first prize for their Peter Pan float at May Day this year, and Benner said the prize money will be spent on an end-of-season party on June 19, to be held at the Spit weather permitting. The last Parents and Tots session before summer will take place on June 26, and the group will meet again in September. For more information on Parents and Tots, call Sheri Benner at

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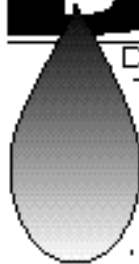
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