

Discovery Islander

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

ISSUE #280
DECEMBER 6TH, 2002
FREE



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On the cover

Speaker addresses public meeting re golf course. by Philip Stone



#280 December 6th, 2002

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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:**

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

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

Next Deadline: 7pm Monday, December 16th



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

(250) 935-6617

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Island Calendar

- **Every Monday**- Positive Living Support Group 7:30 pm 285-3224
- **Every Wednesday**- Jam with Moe, Landing Pub
- **Every Sunday** - Buddhist Meditation Inner Garden 10 am
- **1st Friday each month** - Open stage Yak Shak 7:30-10 pm

December 6, Friday

- Mitlenatch Field Naturalist Society Bible Church 6:00pm
- Friday Flicks: Italian For Beginners Community Centre 7:45pm

December 7, Saturday

- Ladies Christmas Celebration Bible Church 9:30am-noon

December 9, Monday

- Quadra Seniors' Christmas Luncheon Discovery Inn 11:30am

December 13, Tuesday

- Ruth Masters Speaks Community Centre 7:30pm

December 14, Saturday

- Quadra Singers Christmas Concert Community Centre 8:00 P.M.

- Live Music Elmore's Bar & Grill HBI Pub 8:30 pm

December 20, Friday

- Carol Sing Homewood 8:00pm

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

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Annual Carol Sing at Camp Homewood

Friday, December 20th at 8:00pm. Come and enjoy an evening of singing your favourite Christmas Carol then stay for a time of refreshments. Held in the beautifully decorated Lodge at Homewood, this seasonal event is a high light to all who attend. See you there.

Revised Ferry Service

Due to traditionally low demand on Christmas Day and New Years Day, the following sailings are cancelled: Quadra Island - Campbell River 6:15, 6:40, 7:05 and 7:30 am. Service will start with the 8:00 am departure from Quathiaski Cove.

Cortes Island - Quadra Island: 7:50 am and 9:05 am sailings. Service will start with the 9:50 am departure from Whaletown on Cortes Island.

The following Dangerous Cargo sailing dates have been changed, as follows:

Quadra - Campbell River: Tuesday, December 24, Dangerous Cargo run has been moved to Monday, December 23.

The Dangerous Cargo sailing times remain unchanged for December 23.

Cortes - Quadra: There will be no Dangerous Cargo sailings on December 23 or 24, unless there is an emergency.

Please make note of these changes and plan your holiday travels accordingly.

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News & Events

Keep in Shape

Come dance to World Music with Quadra's Kalina Folkdancers at the school gym every Tues. eve 7:30 to 9:30 pm. \$3 for drop-in. \$60 for the year. Info from Marcy at 285-3849.

Xmas Craft & Bake Sale

Dec. 7 from 10am-2pm, Quadra Ladies Auxiliary Branch #154. Santa arrives at 11am - 1pm. Table rentals \$10.00. Phone 285-2661 or 285-2757.

Quadra Seniors

Betty Doak- spoke to our Seniors, and informed them in recognizing, when a trip to the Hospital is necessary. Many of the members signed up to take a Cardio-Pulmonary-Resuscitation (CPR), course at the new FireHall, which will be held in the New Year, this course will be conducted by Betty Doak, any non-members interested please contact Ruth Amiabel-285-3801.

We are all looking forward to having Joyce Shepherd and her Quadra Band, at the Dec. 4th meeting.

Martin Amiabel Pres.B.C. O.A.P.O. and four other Senior Leaders in B.C. met with Colin Hanson Minister of Health, and members of the PharmaCare Board in B.C. and demanded changes in the Govt. plans in Pharmacare cut-backs, and de-listing of medications of the Pharmacare Board list. This meeting was followed by a Grey Power, Senior Demonstration, of approx. 3,000

Seniors from the Mainland and Vancouver Island and small islands. Thirteen Seniors went from Quadra Island, of course the ferry wasn't running, but we took the Water Taxi across to meet the bus waiting at Campbell River. A total of 54 Seniors went from Campbell River, Quadra, and Cumberland. Courtenay had another bus with 54 Seniors.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Luncheon on Dec 9th, at the Discovery Inn, we'll have entertainment, prizes, and a visit by St. Nicholas and Black Peter, (a custom from Holland).

We are wishing all the Seniors on Quadra a very Merry Christmas, and a Joyous and Healthy New Year 2003. Our January meeting will be held Wed. Jan. 8th, 2003, at 10:30 come early and chat, and have a cup of coffee.

Contact people are Ruth Amiabel- 285-3801-Robert Lasby - 285-3501- Welcome to all Seniors Young and Experienced

Talk by Ruth Masters

Ruth Masters will be suggesting various creative ways of dealing with the current threat to Planet Earth's existence as a result of pollution and plant/animal extinctions. Ruth is a deeply committed and inspiring environmental activist who will be speaking on the topic "Why I am an Environmental Activist." Come to the Quadra Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3. The talk is sponsored by Sierra-Quadra and the Quadra School of Philosophy. Call Steve for more info at 285-3323

Quadra Quilters - November Meeting

The November Meeting was another busy and productive one with discussions on next years' Garden Tour, the Charity Quilt Marathon and the up coming annual Christmas Pot Luck. The afternoon program brought a hands-on demonstration on Christmas decorations made of folded fabric squares to create colourful stars and cones. An example of quilted Christmas cards was displayed and explained. Ideas abound! This years' raffle-quilt (in progress) was on display to admire, a pieced Baltimore beauty.

The weekend of November 23,24 the Community Centre was brimming with enthusiastic and talented quilters, eager to come together in a quilt marathon. After much planning, donations of fabric and funds were magically transformed into more than 30 quilts which will be taken to Randal MacDonald House and the Childrens' Hospital. The event was very well attended not only by guild members, but also other interested people from this generous community as well. A round of applause to all involved as the fun and success of this charity drive comes from more than just the quilters, but also from their families, the supporters of the Yak Shack and Legion fundraisers, and the fabric stores who gave so generously of their fabric and thread.

We wish to thank the following for their donations to our Marathon Quilting Bee:

Royal Canadian Legion, Quadra Island Branch, Yak Shack, Marna Disbrow, Kurt & Susan Kowbel, Quadra Island Builders, Colour Wheel, Family Members of Quadra Quilters, FabricLand, Sew&Sew Fabrics, Huckleberry Fabrics, Quilters Corner, Rainbow's End, Real Good Fabrics, By The Sea, Serge & Sew, Snip & Stitch, Cloth Castles, Satin Moon Quilt Shop, Wineberry's, Thread Bear, The Cloth Shop.

Ladies Christmas Celebration

"Touching Hearts at Christmas". Brunch & Silent Auction Saturday, December 7, 9:30am-noon, Quadra Island Bible Church 1281 - West Road.

Carihi Musical Theatre Production

Carihi Musical Theatre presents Yearbook, The High School Musical, at the Tidemark Theatre. This dramatic comedy will transport you into yesteryear, taking you back with memories of studies, tests and high school relationships. Young and old will enjoy this portrayal of daily high school life. Yearbook will run five shows, 3 evenings, January 10th, 11th and 12th and 2 matinee performances on the 11th and 12th. Tickets are on sale now at the Tidemark Theatre. This production is sponsored by the Tidemark Theatre Society.

Last Flick Of The Season!!!

Italian for Beginners December 6th, 7:45 pm / Q.C.C. Admission \$4.50 - students/seniors \$3.50
***Some harsh language and sexuality.

Don't miss the last of our fall series of films: *Italian for Beginners*, where three romances are bundled into one, none of which take place in Italy or between Italians. The hopeful participants in romance attend the same Copenhagen class: Italian for Beginners.

This story of a group of Danish thirty-something singles is full of the constant collision of events and intentions. Coupled with a "uniformly superb cast," *Italian for Beginners* offers a film so unabashedly hopeful that it actually makes the heart soar. "It's a film of amusing non sequiturs that instinctively make sense."

Andreas, the new pastor, is desperately uncertain of himself. He lives in a hotel while the previous pastor vacates his quarters. Jorgen, the desk manager, who is beginning to despair that he'll ever find a woman who excites him, befriends the minister. Shy, clumsy Olympia works at a baker's shop and lives with a despot of a father. Giulia is an attractive and generous waitress at a local restaurant. The sharp-tongued Halvfinn, who also happens to be Jorgen's best friend, manages the restaurant. Halvfinn is drawn to Karen, who runs a hair-cutting salon. These characters engage in an elaborate courtship dance until, during a vacation they take together in Venice, each relationship is clarified - one way or another.

Review Credits: The Toronto Star, ReelViews, BBC Films, San Francisco Chronicle.

Thank you from Quadra PAC

Quadra PAC Executive would like to express a big heart filled thank you to all those who helped to make our Western Family Dance a huge success: Heriot Bay Store, Quadra Foods, Thrifty Foods, Stan Stewart (Old Dutch), Zellers and Canadian Tire. Your continued support is very much appreciated. A big thank you to the talented Band, Whirlwind and our DJ, Blaine Smith, the administrative staff, Marg Taylor and Kevin Kavanagh. Thanks, as well, to all our students and families for selling tickets for the raffle and coming out and having a great evening.

Working for Quadra students. PAC

Quadra Island Food Bank

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone that generously supported the Quadra Island Food Bank this year. Through your donations of cash, garden produce and non-perishable items we distributed an average of 28 boxes per month to those in need on Quadra Island.

Thank you to Quadra Foods, Lovin Oven, Heriot Bay Store, Quadra Credit Union, The Landing Pub, April Point Resort, Quadra Island Bible Church, Q.I. Farmers Market, Deb Banta, Brownies, Quadra Cultural Society and to all the individuals who generously donated to the Food Bank.

If you would like to donate to the Food Bank, you may do so either by cash donation or by way of a direct food contribution to the collection boxes at Quadra Foods or Heriot Bay Store. Specially items that are always useful include baby food, personal items such as soap & shampoo, as well as paper products such as toilet paper. Cash donations may be made through the Quadra Recreation society, for which a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes will be issued. If you do not require a tax receipt, donations may be made directly to the Quadra Island Food Bank account at the Credit Union.

Distribution days are the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Quadra Island Community Centre.

The Food Bank will extend its hours on December 18th until 4:00 p.m. The first Wednesday of January is New Years Day; therefore, the Food Bank will distribute on Thursday, January 2, 2003.

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TO DEC.12 EXPRESSING YOUR
INTEREST, A BRIEF PARAGRAPH
ABOUT YOURSELF AND ALL
CONTACT INFORMATION.

JIM ABRAM

DIRECTOR, AREA J,

❄️ Christmas Wreath Sale

On Saturday Dec 07, 10:00 to 2:00 at Quadra Foods, Quadra Angels and Sea Cadets will be having a Christmas Wreath Sale for the benefit of Quadra's Food Bank.

Quantity may be limited, but the variety will be bountiful. Thank you to all the Angels who made this possible. May you receive Your Wings for Christmas. Sincerely,

Deb Banta and AC Roberts E

Quadra Singers Bring Christmas Joy

On December 14 Quadra Singers will perform their Annual Christmas Concert with Christmas cheer. The Concert program will include widely varied seasonal music from several different continents. Both classical and modern, songs span the spectrum from the ridiculous to the sublime. Under the charismatic direction of John Montgomery, with accompaniment by Helen Moats, this promises to be an evening of truly inspiring and festive music. Concert begins at 8 PM, admission by donation at the door at the Quadra Community Centre. The doors open at 7:30.

Whether you prefer a Slow Rocking Christmas, spirituals, classics by Vivaldi and Haydn, a bit of jazz, or a good old fashioned sing-along, there is bound to be something to bring a smile to every face. Always a few surprises! Call 285-3800 for more information.

New Fire Hall Opens

On Saturday, November 30th, the Quadra Island Volunteer Fire Department formally opened the new #1 Fire Hall on Heriot



Ribbon cutting to officially open the new hall, following the ceremony and speeches, from left: Jim Evans, Chair, South Quadra Fire Protection District Board of Trustees Dudley Richards, Russell Swanson all 3 are founding members of the QIVFD, Bill Nutting, Murray Johnson, Fire Chief

Bay Road. The Department welcomed members of the public to an open house all day, and a formal ceremony took place at noon complete with bagpipes, speeches, thank-you's, and a ribbon cutting. Some Department history was provided by Russell Swanson, who cut the ribbon along with fellow founding members Dudley Richards and Bill Nutting. Firefighters gave tours of the new building to approximately 250 visitors, lunch was served, and a huge cake with a fire truck on it was gobbled up. The kids scrambled on the fire trucks and answered questions for prizes and hats, door prizes were drawn all day, and a raffle raised \$120 towards the new "jaws of life". The Fire Department would like to thank all those who visited and all those who put so much work into making it a great day for the community.

Quadrathon 2002

To All the Quadrathon 2002 Volunteers & Contributing Businesses.

The Q4 event centres around outdoor recreation, fun, charity and community spirit. On behalf of all the participants, spectators and organizers, I would to applaud and thank you for your support for the 4th Annual Quadrathon. We raised over \$2700 for the Quadra Island Fire Fighters!! The participants ranged from 5 years old to 65 years young!!

Thank you for showing your strong sense of purpose and support for this community event.. Your active citizenship presents a role model for other community members to follow. Often the work is not glamorous or exciting but it is crucial to the ultimate success of the event

A successful community events also depends on a strong contribution from businesses who commit their money, prizes and well wishes for something they believe in. This year we gave away over \$1600 in prizes. Special thanks



Fire Chief, Murray Johnson receiving a cheque for \$2500 from Jack Mar, and Brad Hallam Marine Harvest Canada. Including the concession money the Quadrathon raised over \$2700 for the Quadra Island Fire Fighters.

to Marine Harvest Canada, Quadra Island Recreation Society and Taku Resort for being our major sponsors. Your generosity is critical to the spirit of this event.

Volunteering in the community keeps the community focused, healthy and vital!! Thank you for making our community just a little better!

Sincerely, Jack Mar, Q4 Coordinator

Quadra Island Harbour Authority

Annual General Meeting
Friday December 13, 2002 2pm
Heriot Bay Inn Dining Room

Agenda

- Financial Report
- Election of Directors (Members Only)
- Year In Review
- Five Year Plan for both Harbours
- General Discussion

If the operations of the harbours are of interest to you, you should attend! Memberships will be available to those who qualify.

Contact Paul Ryan @ 285-3622 for more details.



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Regional Director's Report



Dec. 2, 2002

I have a number of important topics to report on, but first of all, I need to correct the very misleading article that appeared in the Nov. 22nd issue of the *Discovery Islander*. It was titled "Done Deals Behind Closed Doors". The title itself is far beyond misleading and is offensive to the members of the APC who are serving as volunteers trying to help their community. A number of the APC members are associated with the ratepayers group and this makes this title and the rest of the article all the more offensive.

The chair of this ad hoc group called me on two occasions to suggest two different dates of his choosing for me to attend a meeting. It just so happened that both of those dates were already booked in my schedule. This is not uncommon when done on short notice. There were not "several" dates proposed as is stated. I make myself available at all times to the public and the nights do fill up along with the weekends and weekdays. I had many other nights available to this group, but not ones to their liking. I cannot help that their times did not line up with mine. As I am sure all of you are aware, this happens occasionally.

The ad that I mentioned, that I would put in the *Discovery Islander* to advertise the APC appointments, normally goes in the *Discovery Islander* the last week in Nov. or the first week in Dec., depending on publication schedules. In this case the ad was planned for the first week in Dec. You will notice in this issue that the ad is here. There seems to be this perception by one or two of the ratepayers exec. that the entire APC changes each year.

The term of the APC is one year. There is no limit on numbers of times that a person can sit as a member. If the APC is working together in a cooperative fashion and none of the members want to step down, then they have the right to resubmit their names along with any other names that might come in. In the past two years I have

added a number of people to the APC (from the ratepayers group). I will be reviewing the names submitted in the next week and make my recommendation to the Board on my APC for 2003.

The article repeats a number of times that issues are "dealt with behind closed doors". This is absolutely incorrect. The APC is a public meeting that is governed by by-law and mandated to be held in the public realm. The author of this article knows that, since the by-law was available to him/her. The By-Law #23 is publicly available for anyone that wants it. It is an extremely detailed document that was put together by the Regional District to insure that the issues dealt with were dealt with in an open and transparent manner. The agendas are public and the minutes are public. To spread the kind of misinformation that appeared in the last issue is a dis-service to the community, the APC and the Regional District.

To say that the DRAFT Quadra Island Zoning By-Law is being "dealt with behind closed doors" is ridiculous at best. This by law review has been ongoing for about four years, through numerous different planners and numerous different APC members and always in the public domain. The DRAFT by-law is being reviewed by the APC as a cross-section of Island residents to try and put together a by-law that at least has some resemblance of an Island lifestyle prior to having the general public have their numerous opportunities to comment and change the draft by-law.

The mention of the public having input right from the beginning of the last process is taken as a compliment, since I was responsible for setting up that process. Keep in mind that the by-law at that time was being looked at as a totally new by law, since it included the shoreline, which was never included prior to that time. This process does and will continue to have just as much public input right up until the community decides that the Regional District finally has it right and it is passed by the Board. There

a lot of public process to go through before that happens and I expect to see all of you attend at least one of the meetings so you can express your views and hear those of the rest of your neighbours.

There is a mention in the article about the regional District "muzzling" the APC. This is a total distortion, misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the written words on the page. The Regional District, through this APC by-law is insuring that there will be no representation by any one member of the APC that is not necessarily the opinion of the entire APC. This ensures that there can be no unauthorized exercise of "power" on the part of any member of the APC and it came out of a situation in the Comox Valley where this was taking place. Personal opinions were being misrepresented as group decisions. This is for the public's protection and the author has tried to make it look devious on the part of the Board. Quite the contrary.

CSRD Budget

On to the Budget discussions. The Regional District is required to put together a PROVISIONAL budget by the end of the year. This is a preliminary document that is totally basic in nature and is expected to be extensively amended from the beginning of the year right up until March 31st, which is the deadline for passing the budget. So, once again, you have been given absolutely false information on the budgeting process and a member of the executive is well aware of this process, yet chose to rile up the public as if they are not going to get an opportunity to comment on the budget process. I have better things to do than hold meetings (like I said I would do in January) on the budget if the meeting is going to be meaningless. Meaningful and substantive change can and does happen every year in the budgeting process after Jan. 1st. This year will be no different. Does this mean that you will decide the budget? No, it does not. It means that you will have input to the elected officials

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is that have to deal with the fiscal realities of running our electoral area and all of the other realities of contributing to the overall functioning of the Regional District.

I would advise and invite all of the well meaning people that attend the ratepayers meetings, that if they really want to find out any information on any of the topics that are mentioned here or any other topics that are related to local government, that they contact me personally and I will fill you in on the topic to the best of my ability or I will get you the information that you require or refer you to the expert in that field. In this manner, all of the speculation and personal, uninformed opinion is removed from the equation and you will be accurately informed. The other option is, if a significant number of people want to know about any topic, I will arrange a true "Town Hall Meeting" on the subject or a number of topics (such as I am doing with the budget). In this manner, everyone gets the most up to date information all at the same time, presented by the people that are the leaders in the field and you get to have your say openly and publicly.

I hope this addresses the misinformation and clears up how things really work, in a totally open door atmosphere. There are people on this Island and throughout the Regional District that will do anything to discredit local government. I am only involved in local government because I don't like to have other people from outside our area making our decisions for us and I feel that I can be of service to our area by putting forward our views with integrity and tenacity. You should all know by now that I am no great fan of government in general and I have spent a lot of years working on the inside of government for positive change. You have elected me to do this job and I enjoy being your representative. I hate to see misinformation spread throughout the community because all it does is make us less effective as a voice at the Regional table. That is not productive. It is only through working together that we will achieve our common goals.

Speaking of which.... I had a very productive meeting with the Mayor elect of Campell River on the issue of coordination

of bus service with ferry service on the Campbell River side. Lynn Nash and I have worked very cooperatively for many years on issues such as the fight to roll back the BC Ferry fares in 1997. We have served on the Coastal Council to BC Ferries for a number of years and we have discussed the problems with Transit many times while he was a Councilor. He is very willing to work with me and the effected community members to try and make the bus service work for us at little or no extra cost. This is quite the achievement and I thank the members of our community for doggedly pursuing the issue for the past many months so that I can finally deal with this at the political level.

Golf Course

As many of you already know, there is a proposal by a group of islanders, to put in a golf course in the area to the north of Smith Rd. They have met with the APC and have filed their application for rezoning with the Regional District and have received 1st and 2nd reading of the by law (this means that the application is in stream and there will be public processes to follow prior to any further readings) As part of the public process, there was a public information meeting on Dec. 2nd at the Community Centre. This will give them the opportunity to explain their proposal and an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly to the proponents. There will still be a Public Hearing required in the new year prior to any further decisions being made. I hope that all of you will have attended.

I think I have pushed my luck with using up space in the Discovery Islander for this month, so will call it quits for now...

Contact me in my home office between the hours of 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday at 285-3355. I am not available to take calls on the weekends, so leave a message and I will get back to you. My email address is abramfam@oberon.ark.com (open 24 hrs a day!)

Jim Abram, Director, Area J, CSRD

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Island Forum

The Editor

Discovery Islander

Re: Done Deal Behind Closed Doors in the last Discovery Islander.

I would ask that the Quadra Island Residents & Ratepayers sign their letters to the editor.

I would also ask them to please drop the phrase "your Ratepayers and Resident's executive" when writing open letters to all islanders. You are **not** my executive. Yours is not a publicly elected body. You do not represent all readers or all residents and ratepayers. You only represent the members of your group.

Joan Sell

Re Issue 279, Nov. 22

As someone who has been a member of the Area J Advisory Planning Committee for about 30 years, I wish to respond to the misinformation in issue 279 Nov. 22, 2000 "Done Deals Behind Closed Doors".

Of course it is much easier to complain than to spend hundreds of volunteer hours going over by-laws line by line. When the Planning Department puts them together there will be, as always, a public meeting before they are approved. Copies will be available around the island before any meeting.

I'm wondering just who the Ratepayers represent since they don't sign their material? They certainly don't represent me.

Olivia Rousseau

Dear Islanders

As Christmas approaches I'd like you to think local. Last year I purchased all my Christmas presents right on Quadra. We have an amazing array of gifts and gift certificates to choose from.

Instead of going to town and going on a huge spending spree (including lunch and snacks for the kids) try to support as many of the shops on Quadra as you possible can. If we want our shops to be here when we need them it would be good to support them now.

Lesley Mathews

Dear Editor

On behalf of all of us at the Heriot Bay Store we would like to extend our warmest thanks to all who helped make our second annual customer appreciation night such a great community event. Many people deserve a big thank-you, but we won't list them here for fear of missing someone. Without the teamwork of our suppliers and reps, our great staff, and our spouses, as well as all of you who came and were part of it, such an evening could never have happened.

We know we are speaking for all of us here when I say it was a great pleasure seeing you all together and thanks so much for coming.

Nick & Sheri

Dear Editor,

This is a reply to Michael McIvor letter concerning Quadra Island Women's Action Network (WAN).

We are a specialized group of Amnesty International dealing with women's human rights issues. Over the past decade we have worked to have female genital mutilation, bride burning, the use of rape and sexual torture in war, "honour" killings and other issues included in Amnesty's mandate - which they now are.

We welcome new members - men and women. Due to a mistake, on our part, WAN was advertised in *Discovery Islander* as being open only to women.

If any person would like to be involved please phone one of us, or visit us outside Quadra Foods on Human Rights Day (Dec 10th, 3-7pm).

Also, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported us at the Quadra Island Xmas Craft Fair. We raised \$240 which was sent to Amnesty International to continue their work.

Sincerely,

Erika Kellerhalls, Sylvie Loiseau, Sue Rose, Eileen Sowerby, Barbara Turner, Susan Westren, Carol Woolsey

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Next deadline 7pm Monday, December 16th 2002



Blue Chip Blues

by Steven Halliday

A reader recently provided me a column from the National Post which postulated an imminent recession in the United States, based upon the double threat of a shrinking savings rate and over-inflated asset values. Somebody should give the author of the piece a gold medal for stating the obvious, although, like most economists, he hedges his bet by ignoring any speculation about timing. The American economy is the largest in the world, and has for several years been operating on the razor's edge of fiscal stability, and does indeed seem ready for a fall. In Canada, we have been following a very similar path to our US cousins, though we have been much more conservative and therefore are not as vulnerable to a recession. In addition to the macroeconomic factors being reported on a daily basis there are some microeconomic items that I have been watching, and these paint an even more ominous picture.

In investing parlance, the term "blue chip" is used to describe corporate stocks that are considered relatively safe from risk, and have in the past been referred to as "widows and orphans stocks" because they were touted as virtually risk free, and provided a steady stream of dividend income. Names such as Coca-Cola, General Electric, Ford and GM are companies that are typically called blue chip, or have been until recently. People are learning that nothing is sacred, and the blue chips can deliver a nasty wallop to one's portfolio in much the same manner as high flying tech stock. They are falling, however, for much different reasons than their un-pedigreed Dow Jones and NASDAQ colleagues. In this article I will focus primarily upon GM to illustrate what may be the tip of an iceberg for many companies.

Ford and GM share a common problem – shrinking market share due to foreign competition. Both have responded in the same manner, by throwing money at the consumer in the form of interest free financing on new car purchases. One might think that this is simply foregone revenue, but in fact it is a cost that each manufacturer must pay. It presently costs GM about US\$2,600 for each vehicle it sells to pay for these incentives, and it is safe to assume a similar number for Ford. Both companies have seen some recent success in terms of increased sales volume, but many auto analysts believe that many people are buying now only because of these incentives, and that sales in the next year or two will plummet. In other words, people know the 0% financing will not be around forever, they still have their job today, so why not buy that 2002 model? Unfortunately, neither company can afford this situation.

In the seventies GM negotiated some very cushy deals with the UAW to deal with excess capacity, and these contracts carry long term iron clad guarantees for workers that were retired. Today it costs GM \$900 per vehicle sold to fund these pension/benefit costs. It is expected this will rise to \$1,300 by 2004. GM presently has a pension and benefit obligation of \$76 billion, and they have 460,000 retirees. Problem is, the pension/benefit fund asset base is about \$9 billion short today, and some think it may be as much as \$16 billion short at years end due to the falling value of fund assets, including GM stock. In an effort to head off the problem GM has contributed \$2.2 billion this year, but they can't do that for long if they are losing money, and their earnings are off 15% in the last 5 years. The number at Ford is a shortfall of about \$6 billion today, which is appropriate as their market share is about 20% less than GM. However, Ford is actually losing money right now, unlike GM.

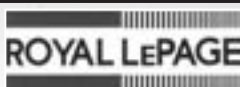
GM is borrowing billions of dollars through GMAC (General Motors Acceptance – the financing arm of GM) to fund these no interest loans. They have a shrinking market, shrinking margins and a growing pension/benefit obligation. And right now they are re-tooling like mad to make more

and bigger SUV's, the hot seller. However, how long will gas-guzzlers be popular? Granted, US foreign policy of late seems geared to secure an infinite supply of oil to fuel these big rigs, but it seems like it is becoming politically incorrect to own one. A consumer backlash could leave GM and the other US auto manufacturers in a lurch quite similar to that of the early 70's, when everyone wanted fuel-efficient vehicles – NOW! That led to the rise of Honda, Toyota and company. How soon we forget. GM and Ford indeed face a big and growing problem, and it is likely to get a lot worse before it gets any better. One has to wonder how other industries are faring, as a lot of unions used UAW contracts as a template for their own when times were good and companies could not claim poverty as a negotiating tool. GM and Ford are surely not on their own.

None of the stocks mentioned earlier would have offered ironclad protection against the "irrationally exuberant" markets of the 1990's, but none have lost their blue chip status. Dividend returns on all are down, and all have had their share of gyrations in share value. But in terms of a solid long-term investment, are they worthy of the blue chip label? In these days of cooked books, greedy executives and hidden liabilities, any company can be viewed with a healthy dose of scepticism. Enron was no blue chip company and the antics of their executives can be viewed as a rare event, but if 5 years ago anyone had suggested to me that Arthur Anderson/Anderson Consulting (surely one of the bluest of the blue) would be out of business today, I would have cracked a rib laughing. Citigroup, one of the largest financial institutions in the world, may be fined in the hundreds of millions of dollars for their part in "helping" Enron cook the books. Do you really think the problem stops with them? Sorry, folks, I believe that the coming US recession will expose a lot of hidden problems, and there is no safe haven in blue chips. But this shakeout is long overdue, and one day such stocks will again be safe for all those widows, widowers and orphans.



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Island Report

Golf Course Design & Management Discussed at Meetings



by Tanya Storr

The design and management of golf courses has been the subject of two recent public meetings on Quadra. The first meeting featured Delia von Schilling, owner and superintendent of Blackburn Meadows Golf Club, an organic golf course on Salt Spring Island.

The second meeting was to inform the public about plans for building a golf course on a 155-acre property across from Pine Tree Road. Speakers included a geologist, agricultural scientist, and landscape

architect/golf course designer.

For the golf course development to go ahead, the regional district would need to create a new zoning bylaw to give the property Recreational Commercial 1 status.

According to Area J director Jim Abram, the golf course rezoning application received first and second reading at the November regional district board meeting. A public hearing is slated for early in the New

Year, date to be announced. Depending on the outcome of the hearing, the next step would be the third reading.

Golfing Organically

Sierra Quadra sponsored Delia von Schilling's presentation, an overview of what it takes to successfully manage a golf course organically. Approximately 75 Quadra residents attended the November 18 meeting held at QCC.

Named a finalist in Golfweek News Magazine's Golf Superintendent of the Year Competition, Delia von Schilling developed her 9-hole, 32-acre golf course on her family's Salt Spring farm. Together with her husband Ernie, she manages the course without the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, or chemical fertilizers.

"Going organic is strictly voluntary on my part," she said.

The von Schillings have operated Blackburn Meadows Golf Club for eight years. For most of that time theirs was the only organic golf course in Canada. Now a similar course exists in Nova Scotia.

Since developing the course, the von Schillings have learned many techniques by trial and error. They manage their course much like the established courses in Scotland and England, practicing careful management of the land to produce a healthy crop through natural practices.

"There is a much greater expectation in North America for lush green turf than in the UK and Europe. The Scots, who invented

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the game, do not manicure their courses in North American style," Delia remarked.

Only organic materials and registered index organic fertilizers (listing all ingredients) are used on the Blackburn course. They recycle all their waste products, including grass and other clippings.

The von Schillings constructed their golf course so that any runoff or residue from the maintained areas does not drain towards natural waterways. Although they are managing organically, future owners may not, so they wanted to ensure the surrounding waterways will remain uncontaminated.

Water to maintain the golf course comes from nearby Blackburn Lake. The golf course requires approximately one acre foot of water per year (1,235,911 litres or 271,868 imperial gallons).

During this year's very dry summer, they decided not to water the fairways but to concentrate their efforts on the greens and tees.

"Our greens and tees still played extremely well, and our fairways were a little faster. Most players were happy with that," Delia stated.

Blackburn Meadows' greens and tees add up to approximately three acres of land. Large areas of the course have been left in their natural state.

The von Schillings employ one full-time and three part-time people to maintain the greens nine months of the year. Crew members are trained to note and record turf conditions and to spot diseases. The use of beneficial insects and constant weeding helps to maintain the health of the turf.

According to von Schilling, the total costs of running her golf course are lower than the costs of running the same size course non-organically.

Quadra Golf Course Info Meeting

Quadra Links Ltd., the company planning the golf course initiative, organized the December 2 public information meeting attended by approximately 140 islanders. Company president Keith Remfert provided background on the group's search for a suitable property and the status of the rezoning application.

The golf course plans include a clubhouse, driving range, putting green, maintenance shed, parking lot, and one dwelling for the use of the golf course or maintenance manager.

The meeting featured three consultants who are working with Quadra Links. Bruce Ingimundson, a professional geologist and experienced groundwater consultant, spoke first.

Ingimundson has been retained by Quadra Links to do a 'desktop study' to gather information about the geology, water flows, wells, etc. in the area. He said the target source of water for the golf course will be drilled wells, with the first one likely sited at the south end of the property.

"We will probably need more than one well to achieve the amount of water we are looking for," he said.

Ingimundson's recommendations include maintaining the widest possible separation from existing neighbourhood wells, applying a seal of clay to ensure surface water does not seep down to the aquifer, and measuring neighbours' wells (with permission) during a test pumping phase to assess for impacts.

Dr. Brian Holl is a professor emeritus in the department of agricultural sciences at UBC and an expert in the turf grass industry.

He stated that the main challenges in golf course management are water source, water quality, and how turf is maintained.

Holl advocates the integrated cultural management (ICM) approach, or maintaining turf for plant and ecosystem health. The primary focus, he explained, is healthy, functional turf.

"ICM is consistent with a maintenance strategy that is targeted on independence from pesticide and chemical fertilizer use," he noted.

Many maintenance issues can be dealt with at the design stage, Holl said. Installing an effective irrigation system and selecting appropriate grass species are some of the key components of a well-designed course.

Holl cautions against over-fertilizing. He favours organic products, and noted that large areas of golf courses typically remain unfertilized.

Identifying potential pest problems and working out a monitoring strategy is important, although Holl stated there are few pests on Quadra that would have a negative impact on the course.

Landscape architect and golf course designer Ted Locke discussed design concepts for the Quadra course. He said the chosen site has a lot to offer, including large trees, ocean views, and natural wetlands.

Locke said the stands of alder on the property offer opportunities to create open spaces, while larger trees could be retained in natural areas.

The entrance to the golf course would be opposite Pine Tree Road, with the clubhouse southeast of the entry point. Although Quadra Links propose to build a 9-hole course initially, Locke's design shows how the course could expand to 18 holes.

Due to a time shortage, question period was not as long as planned. Several residents said they supported the concept of a golf course, but expressed concerns about the impacts on water quality and quantity in neighbouring wells, as well as the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Ingimundson responded to concerns about the potential effects on shallow well water levels on surrounding properties. He said there doesn't appear to be a connection between the deep 'Quadra Sands' water and the water in the marine sand, clay, and gravel surface layer, due to an impervious layer between the two.

In response to a question about test pumping, Ingimundson said if neighbouring wells were affected, the next step would be to reduce pumping to minimize the effects.

Suggestions from the floor included setting up a committee with local knowledge to discuss key issues, and managing the golf course with a commitment to use organic methods.

When asked if Quadra Links is planning to use pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the course, Keith Remfert replied that their intent is to eliminate any need to use them.

"Whether we'll achieve it in a year or two I don't know, but that is our goal," he said.



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