

Discovery Islander

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

ISSUE #281
DECEMBER 20TH, 2002
FREE



**Happy Holidays and
All The Best For The New Year!**

More School Concert Photos: www.quadraisland.ca



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Best wishes for a safe and
Happy Holiday and
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New Year!

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On the cover



*K/Gr 1 Class at the Quadra School
Christmas Concert by Philip Stone*



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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 30th

Publishers' Notes

Here it is the last issue of the Discovery Islander for 2002. An opportune time to reflect on our collective good fortune to be part of a warm and supportive community amidst the less cohesive of times that may punctuate our island lives.

A wonderful slice of our blessings could be seen at Quadra Elementary School this past Wednesday as the young children proudly presented their Christmas concert. Humour, sincerity, entertainment and creativity were on hand in abundance. Parents and family can share the children's heralding of the Christmas season online at www.quadraisland.ca/xmas-concert

Technology comes to our assistance in spanning the gap between the islands and our friends and family further afield.

We confess to wishing for a white Christmas for the kids but hope if we are going to have snow that it falls without the accompaniment of other extreme weather events. We've had enough of that to last a while.

Our very sincere thanks to our partners in crime in producing the *Discovery Islander*. Thanks to Tanya Storr who continues her excellent chronicle of life in the Discovery Islands. Thanks to Chris Thompson at Castle Printing for his diligent work and tolerance of late deadlines and power outages! Our hat tips to Bruce Johnstone for his wry eye and cartoon. And a very great thanks to all our enthusiastic readers and supporting advertisers for whom we are proud to undertake the task of publishing a truly independent newspaper.

Philip Stone & Sheahan Wilson

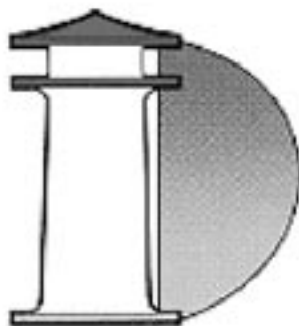
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Island Calendar

- **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 20, Friday

-Carol Sing 8:00pm Homewood

December 23, Monday

-Candle Light Service 7:30pm Community Centre

January 1, Wednesday.

-Sierra Quadra, New Years Day surprise hike 10:30 am Heriot Bay Store

January 4, Saturday

-Peace Vigil Planning Meeting 1pm Inner Garden

January 8, Wednesday

-Soup Kitchen Meeting 1pm Community Centre Room 2

-Quadra Seniors Meeting with Special Guest 10:30 am Quadra Legion

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.

Quadra Seniors

On January 8, 2003 at our meeting we are having, from Merville, Anna Guthrie and her Border Collie Broc to give us a talk and demonstration about sheep herding. Our meeting starts at 10:30am at the Royal Canadian Legion (side door). Tai Chi and carpet bowling will start on January 15th/03, 10am Tai Chi

and 10:30am carpet bowling. All seniors are welcome, young and experienced. Contact people are Ruth Amiable 285-3801, Bob Lasby 285-3501. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Quadra
Crafts**

Dec 1 - 23:
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Christmas Hours

Dec 24: 9:00 - 4:00

Dec 25: CLOSED

Seasons greetings to all!

Dec 26-30: 10:00-5:30

Sun 12:00-5:00

Dec 31: 10:00-4:00

Jan 1: CLOSED

Happy New Year!

Jan 2 : 10:00-5:30

Sun 12:00-5:00

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

Food Bank/Soup Kitchen Meeting

We are planning to serve a hot meal on food bank days. If you would like to help plan, cook, clean, etc. please don't miss this first meeting. It will be held at the Community Centre, Room 2, Wednesday January 8 at 1pm. Winter is here and a hot meal will be appreciated. All donations of time, food and energy are gratefully accepted. For more info please call: Terry at 285 2340

New Years Day Hike.

Join Sierra Quadra members on their 5th annual New Years Day surprise hike. This hike will be low level and flat, and will take about 4 hours, including travel time. Meet at the Heriot Bay store parking lot at 10-30am. Bring a lunch and wet weather boots. For more information contact Richard at 285-2922. Dogs are discouraged.

Candle Light Service

December 23, 2002, 7:30 PM Quadra Community Centre- Use south entrance, upstairs, Rm 3.

You are invited join Jill Brocklehurst for an evening of celebration in the spirit of the season.

Together, in ceremony, we will:

- Honour the growth, energy, and life force of things and concepts we cannot see, and recognize that they are manifesting even when hidden.

- Honour FAITH in the silence, darkness, and mystery of life, from which new creation emerges.

- Honour the places of dark, silent, safe incubation: the earth, the sea, the human heart, the human mind, the womb...where life, solutions, and inspirations find the nourishment and fertile space in which to begin their journeys.

- Reclaim HOPE in the face of troubles, knowing that the seeds of changes are always present...to honor our own STAYING POWER, collectively and individually...for having the energy to "see" something through until the end, despite the darkness.

- Say, "Thank You" for all the stages of the seasons and of our lives.

For more information call Jill at 285-3224 Merry Christmas, Blessing on the Solstice and a Happy New Year.

Buddhist Meditation

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

Quadra Ladies Auxiliary

Once again, the Quadra Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 154, had a huge success at their Christmas Craft Fair, thanks to our many supporters.

Special thanks to the set up/clean up crew, the vendors, crafters, bakers, and all the volunteers, as well as all who donated towards the raffles.

With out your help it would not have been possible. THANK YOU!!

Gifts that say Quadra...

...for kids, teens and adults, gifts that are available nowhere but on Quadra - inexpensive too! Pick up the unique colouring book COLOUR ME QUADRA for youngsters -it's full of island scenes and fun activities (\$5.00). Adults go for the all-purpose cards depicting Quadra (and Cortes) birds, wild flowers and marine life. Only \$10 per box for 6, with 2 boxes a bargain at \$18. Both at Hummingbird.

Teens and others love the all-cotton T-shirt in white, printed with a map of Quadra Island, three sizes. From Whiskey Point Lodge. Proceeds to Quadra Community Centre. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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.

Quadra Singers **Concert a Success!**



Well, another Quadra Singers concert has come and gone. This one went off without any major hitches: the power didn't go off, the ferries didn't stop running; and can you believe it- there was not a drop of rain in the sky, and no sign of the dreaded fog that has come to plague us. For these things we give thanks.

The music was beautiful, meaningful, and even comical. The Community Centre was full, and music rang out both on and off the stage. Quadra Singers would like to express our gratitude to all the people who came out to listen, sing and have fun with us.

Our appreciation goes out to the people who added their music to ours: Sunday Dennis on percussion; Lorraine Phillipsen on flute; Joyce Baker on cello, with Helen Moats on piano; the Phoenix Flute Trio (Chloe Elias, Jennifer Baldwin, and Marisa Vachon).

We are grateful for the following assistance: Tracy Tomlinson on lights; John Baumfield in front of house; George Murdoch on sound and recording; Leslie Mathews for posters and artwork; and Nanci Cook for the program.

We would also like to thank all the businesses who supported us by advertising in our program: Alder Insurance and Evergreen Savings Credit Union, Baan Thai Restaurant, Café Aroma, Discovery Islands Realty, Fermentations, Headquarters Hair Studio and Day Spa, Heriot Bay Inn and Marina, Hummingbird Office Supply, Isletech Auto Service, Joyce's Music Lessons, Music Plant, Peoples Drug Mart, Quadra Credit Union, Quadra Fitness, Quadra Foods, Quadra Island Recreation Society, Quadra Island Video, Quest Shoes, and Whiskey Point Resort.

If you love to sing to we would love to have you join us. The next season starts on January the 8th at the Quadra Community Centre. We meet every Wednesday. There are no auditions and there is no need to commit for the first three practices, so just come on out. For info contact Nancy @ 285-3800.

Mirror Image

Time is running out to get your tickets for Bossanova's fabulous mirror raffle with a \$150 makeover as the Grand Prize! Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5 and 100% of proceeds go towards buying a new, super-deluxe three-way mirror for Bossanova. Anybody who has seen the current mirror understands the dire need for a new one! The Grand Prize will be drawn at noon sharp on Boxing Day at Bossanova and consists of a "Seasons" consultation a makeover and \$100 of new clothing. Prizes are courtesy of Alli Pulford-Taylor's Makeup Corner and Bossanova. For info 285-2003

Peace Vigil re: Iraq

Peace on Earth is not just a useless Christmas concept. It is an idea to be acted upon. The Quadra School of Philosophy is calling a meeting to organize a peace action on Quadra Island. The goal is to have a local action to co-incide with the nationwide demonstrations across Canada and the United States on January 18, 2003. The peace actions have been called to stop the U.S./British/Canadian bombing and invasion of Iraq. The war planners are shooting for February/March 2003. This is the time to have your voice heard, along with thousands of other North Americans. "Blessed are the Peacemakers."..... for they shall be attending the organizing meeting at 1 p.m. at the Inner Garden on Saturday, January 4, 2003. For further Information, call Steve at 285-3323.

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Breathe!

Darlene Booth RNC

Meditation. Who would have guessed that sometimes in order to move forward one has to learn how to stand still? Meditation. This has not been an easy one for me to grasp! I suspect I am not alone either. Sitting still has to be the hardest thing I have ever had to do and to do **NO-THING?** Absolutely unheard of!

Our society seems to think that the more you do, the more successful you are. I bought into that for many years. Kind of like the "Martha Stewart" syndrome I talked about many articles ago. It's not enough just to collect the eggs; first we have to weave the basket. I equated down time with wasted time. I spent more time running in circles feeling like I was accomplishing great things, when in reality I was just — running in circles! One has to stop every now and then and ask — "What exactly am I running from?" The answer generally runs along the lines of — "Myself"?

So I decided it was high time to stop running and see where that would lead. My first step was to enrol in Carol Foort's weekly integral yoga class. Yoga was a part of my life in high school but I found that 25 years of absence has quite a negative effect on flexibility! Even though yoga is about so much more than just the ability to become a human pretzel, I was feeling just a tad inadequate...

It was in fact, quite excruciating for me just to be there. Carol, who emanates patience and peace, would be guiding us through relaxation and meditation and my mind would wander to what kind of soup to make for dinner! I would no sooner get to class and I would be watching the clock, counting the minutes until I could leave the class. All the time thinking that I wish she could just pick up the pace, you know, really get things moving! "Be still", my little voice would whisper. "Hang in

there", it encouraged. "Give me a break!" I would scream back! Despite my inner conflict, I managed to continue.

I would leave each class with resolve that I would practice every day and I would arrive back to class the following week promising myself that this was the week I would really do it! I am persistent if nothing else. That was two years ago. But like everything else, all changes begin with an awareness. You have to plant the seed before you reap the benefits.

I am pleased to report that my persistence has paid off. Recently I noticed that I am actually enjoying being there! I can make it through the whole class without thinking about soup and I even quit wearing my watch. But the real accomplishment is that Carol no sooner starts guiding us through deep relaxation and then it is time to come out of it. Where did that 15 minutes go? No inner dialogue, no conflict of emotions, no battle of wills, no nagging thoughts.... I was just — *there!* Present and absent at the same time. Amazing.

Meditation is a wonderful tool for reaching deep into ourselves and connecting with life at a cellular level. Finding this peaceful state of just "being" has been a journey into myself. I am just beginning this voyage as I have only taken a few baby steps but the clarity and deep sense of well being that come with it are intriguing. In that perfect moment of quiet solitude the world looks different, smells different and sounds different. Life, like yoga isn't about how much we do well, but how much awareness we bring to what we are doing. How present are you in the moment? How mindful are you of your actions?

We have finished class now and will resume in the New Year. In closing, Carol thanked us and gave a wonderful pep talk. "Remember to keep practicing over the holidays." She said. "Or if you don't practice, at least remember to — *breathe!*" I am happy to report that I can now breathe and practice at the same time! Thank you Carol for all that you do...Namaste.



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Golf Course Information Meeting: Quadra Links Responds



Thank you to all of the approximately 100 people who attended the December 2 information meeting. We were pleased to have all the presentations from Ted Locke (golf course architect and land planner) and Dr. Brian Holl (Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Sciences UBC) that reflect our approach to golf course design and turf maintenance. We were also happy to have Bruce Ingimundson (senior hydrologist with Timber Engineering) discuss local hydrology. These men are experts in their fields. They have been and will continue to assist us in developing a course that practices solid principles of environmental stewardship.

The point was made that Quadra Links Ltd has become a member of 'Audubon International'. This organization has developed strategies for constructing and managing golf courses in an environmentally responsible manner. We agree with their principles and intend to follow their guidelines. A handout which outlined their approach was available to everyone at the meeting.

A commitment was made to answer written questions submitted at the meeting. We received six requests. They are printed below in an abbreviated form, along with our responses.

1) *Can the proponents of the project form a committee that will work to resolve outstanding issues?*-Rory Annett. The answer is yes and work has begun.

2) *Is this project financially viable? If residents are impacted and the course fails, is there any recourse to correct the damage?*-unsigned. The proponents believe that a course can be designed for this property that will provide a great golf experience. There are business risks to any undertaking; however, if managed properly, the golf course will be successful. There will be no damage to residents if the course succeeds

and there will be no damage to residents in the unlikely event of failure.

3) *I am for the course but I am concerned that shallow test wells will reduce the water to our shallow wells. When my neighbour dug a shallow well, ours started to run dry at the end of the summer when it had not done so before-hand. What happens if shallow wells are compromised? If we have to take you to court who will pay the bills?*-unsigned. We cannot comment on whether or not your neighbours well will affect yours. This past summer, for example, virtually every dug well on quadra had problems. We will not develop shallow wells as a water source for the golf course because they are not dependable during the summer months when we need water. In addition, we have made the commitment to design the golf course in a manner that does not disrupt the current flow of water leaving the property. The golf course will not compromise shallow wells. In the unfortunate situation that we end up in court, the court will decide who pays.

4) *The water flowing from bogs that run along the 'back road' in a northerly direction is working its way toward the property of Nigel and Bay Phillips. Standing water has been observed on both sides of Animal Farm Road. The water flows north through the Oldroyd property and on towards the Annett property. Our concern is that any disruption or diversion of this water flow could significantly impact on the health of the downstream water systems both natural in the form of forest wetlands and bogs and man made in the form of ponds and surface wells. Our question is: Have you considered as part of your development plan a way of ensuring that this water flow will continue naturally without interruption?*-Dave Oldroyd and Rory Annett. The answer to the previous question applies to this case as well. In addition, it should be noted that Dave and Rory accompanied Brian Wilson, Doug

Edwards and Bill Pirie on a hike that followed the drainage described. We understand the importance of this issue to our neighbours and we will insure the current flow leaving the proposed golf course property is not disrupted. It also should be noted that this water flow is seasonal and during wet months, the best thing for the golf course is to allow the surface water to move off the property in a natural fashion.

5) *Not long ago we had the owner/director of a golf course on Salt Spring Island give us a talk/slide show about their all organic course. Is it cheaper to operate this way than to use chemicals?*-unsigned. The owner of the Salt Spring Island course does not have information that compares her operating costs with other courses. It is important to note that the management practice for the Quadra course, as outlined with Audubon International, emphasizes preventive management and prescribes the use of chemicals as a last resort. We are confident that if the use of chemicals is required, it can be done in a safe, responsible manner.

6) *I believe that you will only go ahead with this project as long as it doesn't hurt others, and I fully support your endeavour.*- Kami Robb. We appreciate the support.

The rezoning process is intended to determine appropriate land use. The committee members of Quadra Links Ltd. (Doug Edwards, Sharon Fisher, Lawrence Lewis, Bill Pirie, Keith Remfert and Brian Wilson) have put in countless hour of research and planning in an effort to develop a golf course plan that will be an asset to Quadra Island. Compared to other development alternatives available for this site, we strongly believe that a golf course and the green space it provides will be the most beneficial for our community.

Submitted by Bill Pirie
Quadra Links Ltd.

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Regional Director's Report

DEC. 16, 2002

Hello everyone! This report is being done by candlelight due to the storm and will be a brief report this month. First of all I had an unexpected stint in the hospital starting on Dec. 4th with surgery on Dec. 5th. I have been home since the 10th and am on the mend. It sure puts a damper on daily plans when one needs to drop everything and tend to their health. A great wake up call as to what is really important in life.

I am always amazed at what a small world this is when I run into people around the province that in some way have a connection to Quadra island or area. I am also realizing how little time we get here (the older I get) and how important it is to make good use of that time.

Next I would like to mention that I did get back on my feet just in time to attend the Regional District Board Inaugural Meeting on December 12th in Courtenay. This is the annual meeting where all of the new and returning directors are sworn in and elect their Chairperson. I ran against Bill Matthews of Campbell River for the Chairperson position and was successful. So, I am now the Chair of the Board and will have a few additional responsibilities beyond those of Area J. Director.

Area J will always come first. I hope to do what I can to help our Board function more smoothly and cooperatively and I hope to have the business of the Board publicized more actively so that all constituents of the Regional District will understand local government more fully. This is totally achievable.

The provincial downloading of services will also be top on my list of priorities. Last but not least, I want to wish each and every one of you the very best during this holiday season. I hope that you get the opportunity to spend quality time with your family and loved ones. That is what I will be doing, and I will be back to work right after New Year's Day.

Cheers, to one and all!
Jim Abram
Director, Area J, CSRD



Island Forum

Quadra's Best Kept Secret

It's a dark damp stormy night, a beckoning light burns. Two cozy armchairs by the fire await. A glass of wine, warm crisp rolls from the oven, a friendly face to greet you and a wonderful "home cooked" meal all ready The beginning of a Victorian novel? no, it's Saturday night at the Inn. Yes, the Heriot Bay Inn Restaurant. It has been open for dinner every Saturday throughout the fall and the food is excellent, the service first rate and the price? Perfect! We have enjoyed the treat of a dinner out on Quadra for the last few months and we want to encourage you to check it out. We also want to congratulate the HBI management for taking the chance on an idea for the winter, when Quadra Islanders are traditionally reclusive. They've done a great job! Give it a try and perhaps we'll see you there!

Barry and Sharron Hatelt

Greetings from across the Pacific

...from this QI Gypsy Gramma: Six plus months of being acclimatized hasn't assimilated me into the Philippine culture but I'm having fun learning! "Pinos" (as the Filipinos fondly call themselves) have a terrific sense of humor- often self-directed. In my counseling training job here in Iligan City in the island of Mindanao, I'm preparing a workshop on communication. Always aware of the policy of 'cultural sensitivity', I asked my colleagues what was different or unique about the Pino body language. They heartily filled me in!

Raising the eyebrow(s)-one or two- as a query or an answer (could be yes, could be no) pointing by twitching the nose or tossing the head to one side in a directing motion gesturing with the hands to indicate "bugsad" (come here). Sneering and twitching the lips and nose in a derogatory manner, pulling down an eyelid and sticking out the tongue to the side at a foul person or behind the back of one. Shaking a finger at someone in warning- "halaka" (watch out!). Winking, shrugging- for whatever reason rearranging underwear or (..) in public (males) making a pathway between people by walking hunched over, arms pointing out as if in a swan dive. Smelling armpits in public (males and females do this) banging on the table in place of clapping hands. High pitched tone of voice at the close of a sentence or when shouting "ballot" (selling fertilized duck eggs) in the wee hours of the morning Needless to say, this body language session was a hoot!!

As my friends here say in farewell, "Ayo-Ayo" (take care!) Namiste & Blessings for a peaceful 2003. - Mimi Otway

Is the Government Spending Your Life?

Given that money is 'stored-in-paper' energy and given that the money comes from us, isn't it fair to say that the government is spending our energy, our life essence? Isn't the government spending my life? Isn't the government the organizational equivalent of a leech? If I have to work half the time for the government, aren't I a half-time slave to a big giant leech?

Perhaps not, if the government worked for me or I benefited from their programs, but lately (most of my lifetime) that has not been the case. Billions of dollars are first stolen (gas taxes, income taxes, GST) and simply not returned (they go to Eastern Canada and Quebec). And those that are 'spent on us' are spent largely on the bureaucracy and are wasted on ineffective programs (Aircare, Photo Radar, Trade and Convention Centres, Olympics, Mirabelle airport, Fast Ferries, HRDC, DFO and the Gun Registry - just to name a few).

And the things we actually want? "Well, we don't have the money for health care or education. You folks demand too much of your government!"

Given also that the government 'never dies' and the people on which they survive do, haven't we created a new and immortal Leech species in the never-ending institution? I think so.

If you think that you are part of the 'top of the food chain', you are kidding yourself. We have created a 'virtual' monster and it will live off of us, live forever and dominate our lives. We are the cows they milk.

And our normal, conventional politicians? They are coopted by the milk. The farmhouse is more comfortable than the corral. It's hard to see outside the system. It's bigger than us. It's bigger than them. These are big giant Leeches (corporations, government, institutions) after all.

It may be time to vote 'outside the box'. If you can't bring yourself to vote Green (and they have yet to see outside their own box, it seems) then at least consider voting for someone who has not pledged allegiance to their party at the cost of their own integrity and the welfare of their constituents. Think, act and vote free and independent or else we will continue in our enslavement. Worse, we will pass it on to our kids!

J. David Cox

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Murphy's View

by Steven Halliday

For the last few days I have been thinking hard about the topic of this week's column, and current events have provided fodder aplenty. There has truly never been a more disturbing period in my life, and this is a time where I honestly feel that certain events are unfolding that could affect us all...dramatically...yet nobody is capable of altering the outcome beyond a handful of men and women in Washington, DC. And then I went to myself, hang on, it's Christmas! What am I doing contemplating gloomy thoughts, and worse yet, sharing them, during Christmas?! Actually, my change of heart occurred courtesy of one of Canada's greatest national treasures, Rex Murphy.

For those of you unfamiliar with Rex, he is a son of Newfoundland...very proudly, one might add...who happens to be an Oxford scholar...in fact, attended at the same time as William Jefferson Clinton. He is a master wordsmith, both written and oral, and I regard him with the awe one associates an architect might have for Frank Lloyd Wright, or a classical musician with Mozart.

Very few social commentators can keep me seeking them out regularly, whereas Murphy never escapes my attention. A rapier wit, a smooth and confident manner of delivery...again, both written and oral...and an uncanny sense of what is right and what is wrong, these are the qualities he delivers in his privileged capacity. I'm quite confident that he takes that privilege very seriously, and agonises over each and every comment he prepares. Trust Rex to shake me out of the doldrums at Christmas in about 700 words.

Mind you, I've not converted to a major celebrant. Oh, no, I still regard some elements of the Christmas season as very irritating. Take bubble packs, for instance. You know, those extruded plastic clear domey kind of things that most toys come in? I hate 'em. Styrofoam is another one of my peeves, and at Christmas, my house is generally overflowing with plenty of both kinds of this garbage.

And garbage it is indeed, as neither are recyclable. Oh, yeah, they're toxic as well, so please try to avoid burning them. It is simply a crime that these items are allowed to still be used as packaging when there are already plenty of recyclable and/or biodegradable substitutes available. And newspaper inserts...colour newspaper inserts...they drive me up the wall at the best of times, but at Christmas I'm practically apoplectic after opening my mailbox and struggling to retrieve the small amount of mail being crushed by the newspaper's inserts. At least they are recyclable, but they extract an awful amount of precious resources in the process.

Hopefully the Internet will soon take over as the delivery method of choice for sale flyers, at least in the local papers we all receive, as the national papers fortunately carry very little in the way of glossy inserts.

So, you can see that Rex didn't completely snap me out of my usual Christmas funk, but he certainly lessened it. He spoke recently, in his usual spot on *The National*, about the absurdities emerging, regarding Christmas, at least the *Christ* part of it, and with his usual skill lampooned the Royal Canadian Mint. It seems they have

taken to using the term "12 days of giving" rather than "Christmas" in marketing a set of coins, for political sensitivity reasons. In defending Christmas for Christmas' sake, he said, *"The essence of Christmas is its sentiment. However thinly or fervently we approach the season, those who celebrate it, distinguish it from all other holidays or party days or long weekends, by a sentiment of trying to be cheerful in a bleak world, wishing their fellow beings good will, helping when possible those less fortunate - if Christmas did not exist except for the Salvation Army, it would be worth keeping on the calendar."* A very long sentence, but a great one.

So Rex managed to steer me onto this train of thought rather than continuing the column I had started that opens with a quote from a convicted war criminal. I've decided to save that until after Christmas, and will in the meantime hope (and quietly pray) that some sense of sanity will return to the world on which we live during this Christmas season. With luck I'll not feel the need to write that column, but that's asking for a lot of luck.

So with proper thanks and accreditation I will borrow again from Mr. Murphy a closing thought... *"Christmas is at least as much a Canadian tradition as any other Canadian tradition. From the trenches of the First World War where fighting stopped for Christmas to the latest damn GAP ad, Christmas is, in all its diverse and benign and mixed manifestations, one of the kindest, longest, richest, most benevolent traditions we have"*.

Right on, Rex. Merry Christmas everyone, and a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year to all.

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Island Report

Quadra Couple Prepare to Volunteer in Vietnam

by Tanya Storr

An interest in international development work has led to an exciting opportunity for a Quadra couple. In a few short weeks Sehleeah and John Schevers are setting off for Vietnam, where they will volunteer for two years with the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation/Centre Canadien d'étude et de Coopération Internationale (CECI).

"John and I have always talked about doing international development work and being immersed in another culture. This summer when cruising the Internet one day I saw the job with CECI and applied," Sehleeah told me, as we talked in her office located a short distance from their house.

The online application took a mere ten minutes to fill out and Sehleeah didn't expect anything to come of it. She was very surprised when she received a phone call from CECI some weeks later, letting her know they were considering her for a position in Vietnam.

"I ran outside calling, 'John! John! I just got a phone call about that volunteer job in Vietnam!'" Sehleeah remembered.

Following a formal phone interview, a weekend of training/selection in Montreal, and a more detailed written application process, Sehleeah was thrilled to learn that she had landed the position.

A self-employed consultant in forestry for the past five years, Sehleeah, who is 30, has a degree in biology and a certificate in community economic development. She will be the technical assistant for the Capacity-building for Adaptation to Climate Change (CACC) Project in Hue, a city on the coast of central Vietnam.

The project's mandate is to reduce economic hardships as well as the number of lives lost due to natural disasters that periodically affect the region. Floods and typhoons leave local communities destitute every year. In 1999

more than 700 people died as a result of flooding.

"The biggest problems the project addresses are flooding and soil erosion. As technical assistant, I'll help the team leader and project partners to identify and plan projects such as land-use plans and relocation of vulnerable populations," Sehleeah explained.

CECI was interested to hear about Sehleeah's background in working with First Nations organizations on forestry issues, as the project in Hue partners with local groups.

"It's a community-based project



Sehleeah & John Schevers, off to Vietnam in the New Year.

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on the needs of the Vietnamese people. They invited CECI to come and work with them on disaster preparedness and risk mitigation. It's very bottom up as opposed to top down," Sehleeah noted.

She went on to say that she is looking forward to learning more about climate change during the project, and bringing new skills back to BC to address similar issues here.

"A lot of the things that are happening in Vietnam will happen here, including flooding, warmer ocean temperatures, higher ocean levels, more severe storms, droughts, and longer rainy seasons," Sehleeah stated.

John, who is 39 and comes from Holland, is a self-employed artist, builder, painter, and landscaper with a degree in graphic design. In Vietnam he will volunteer on small local projects and immerse himself in indigenous art production.

"Vietnam is really unexploited in terms of local handicrafts. I'm looking forward to learning some new techniques like bronze casting and lacquer work," he said.

CECI pays for the couple's airfare and rent in Vietnam, as well as providing a stipend for living expenses. Sehleeah and John will spend the first six weeks in Hanoi doing intensive Vietnamese language training and learning about the culture.

"It's going to be great to learn the language. It's the only way to become part of the culture," John enthused.

From there they will go to Hue, their posting for the two-year contract. Sehleeah and John will live like their Vietnamese neighbours in a house with only basic amenities.

"It rains a lot there, so we'll feel right at home!" laughed Sehleeah.

Hue is Vietnam's most well known ancient capital, with an intact monarchic complex consisting of old stone walls, palaces, and royal tombs. Despite damage from flooding and wars, the city is considered a national treasure.

One of the requirements of volunteering for CECI is to go through a week of pre-departure training in Montreal, where the organization is based. CECI flew Sehleeah and John there in October, where they took part in interactive group exercises designed to prepare them for some of the issues and challenges they will face abroad.

"We discussed all the players in international development and their roles, intercultural communication, human

rights, and gender and development," Sehleeah said.

While there, John and Sehleeah met with an ex-volunteer who was posted in Northern Vietnam and a Vietnamese immigrant to Canada.

"He told us how Vietnamese families work--the father is the leader of the household and the mother is what he called 'Minister of the Interior'," Sehleeah recounted.

CECI gave the trainees water filters and first aid kits to take with them, and they learned useful tips on how to take care of their health overseas.

The organization is largely funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with the \$9 million CACC project in Hue also receiving funding from the Canadian Centre for Climate Change.

Sehleeah and John are doing some fund raising for the project before they leave. CECI volunteers are encouraged to raise funds for their own projects, but it isn't required. They sold bracelets from Guatemala by donation at the QCC Christmas Craft Fair and the Upper Realm, and are sending letters to friends and family describing the project and inviting donations.

"CECI is a pretty neat organization with divisions in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. It's decentralized, with head offices in each division and just a small administrative office in Canada. That keeps costs down, so that more of the donor's dollar goes directly to the projects," Sehleeah observed.

John and Sehleeah are busy completing a major renovation project on their home, as well as visiting family, before they leave. Once their work visas are secured, they anticipate leaving for Vietnam in mid to late January.

"We're looking forward to it very much. It's an excellent opportunity and we'll really appreciate what we have here when we come back, after seeing the challenges others face trying to meet their basic needs," said Sehleeah.

Individuals or organizations who would like to support Sehleeah and John in this humanitarian project may do so by making a donation to:

CECI - Fundraising, 3185 Rachel Street East, Montreal, Québec, H1W 1A3. Make cheques payable to Sehleeah Schevers' Project - Vietnam. Any donation over \$10 will result in a tax receipt.

For more information about the CACC project or CECI, e-mail Sehleeah and John at: sjschevers@yahoo.ca

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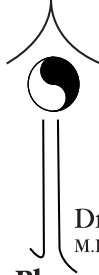
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22 SU	0005 0750 1235 1655	2.3 14.4 12.5 13.1	0.7 4.4 3.8 4.0
23 MO	0040 0830 1505 1750	2.6 14.4 11.8 12.5	0.8 4.4 3.6 3.8
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28 SA	0425 1145 2000	8.2 14.8 5.6	2.5 4.5 1.7
29 SU	0135 0520 1220 2040	11.2 9.8 14.8 3.9	3.4 3.0 4.5 1.2
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