Issue 465

January 15, 2010

Discovery **DI** .Ca FITNESS **Community New Outer Discovery Islands** CHALLENGE 2010 1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 **V S**.



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#### Business or Volunteer Name:

Reason for Recognition:

Your Contact info:

www.discoveryislander.ca

Issue 465 January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Published bi-weekly and distributed throughout the Discovery Islands

Discovery Islander PO Box 280 Quathiaski Cove, B.C. VOP 1N0

#### Tel.: 250 285-2234 Fax: 250-285-2236

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Office hours: Mon-Thurs 10-4pm 701 Cape Mudge Rd.

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#### Submission Guidelines

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

• Please print handwritten material clearly.

• Items sent by email **do not need to be an attached file** - just send text **in the body of the email**. Please spell check in Canadian English.

 $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$  Please use the title of the item as email subject.

• No MS Publisher, WordPerfect files or graphics in Word files please. Send imported graphics separately.

• Please don't send original irreplaceable material.

• Please remember to caption & credit photos and artwork. Don't write on the back of photos use labels or Postits<sup>TM</sup>.

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 Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

# S Island Forum

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

## **2010 Resolution -**Whistle Blowers Unite

Removing open net fish farms from wild salmon migratory routes in British Columbia is not enough in my opinion. Complete removal to land-based is required to save the multitude of marine species, and complex ecosystems from being continuously impacted. The cost is too great and devastation goes beyond wild salmon species, so nothing less than complete removal should be considered.

This deeply felt conviction comes from the continuous reports I have been given by fish farm whistle blowers and traditional food harvesters. Given all the fisheries violations, deceptive self regulating, self monitoring activities, international decimation of wild fish species, the 85% Norwegian ownership of farms should not be allowed to profit from our waters. We must stop the degradation and destruction of our precious marine resources and species, which fish farms routinely and demonstrably do.

My conviction is reinforced by the following:

1. 'Canada's Fisheries Act: provides for the protection of fish and fish habitat. No one may carry out any work in or near Canadian waters that prevents fish passage, results in fish mortality or results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat without authorization from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.' http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceanshabitat/habitat/watereau/ applyappliquez\_e.asp

2. 'Observe, Record and Report http://www.pac.dfo-mpo. gc.ca/ops/CP/orr\_e.htm British Columbia's fish are a priceless heritage, the common property of all the people of the province. Everyone who uses or enjoys the outdoors has a responsibility to protect and maintain it. But not everyone takes this responsibility seriously. Each year, fishery officers lay charges for illegal fishing, damage to fish habitat, polluting and other violations of the Fisheries Act.' **3.** I am a involved in a whistle blower activated charge against Marine Harvest Canada. Now a second charge pending against Marine Harvest Canada for illegal possession and this time for Pacific Herring, an endangered stock in DFO Statistical Management Area 12.

This testimonial has now brought forward similar reports of observed illegal possession such as tons of herring, juvenile rock fish, eulachon and adult salmon, with subsequent mortalities, and harmful alteration, disruption and destruction of fish/shell fish habitat. All with great courage and potential risk to incomes I record these observations by farm workers. These reports are also being investigated.

The worst part, I am unclear as to whether these fisheries violations are happening with or without Fisheries and Oceans Canada authorization? DFO does not appear interested in laying and proceeding with charges against these foreign owned companies ? Why is it up to the public ? Why are fish farms exempt ?

4. 'New whistle blower protection legislation came into force in Canada on September 15, 2004. Employers who use employment-related intimidation or retaliation against whistle blowers now risk criminal liability as a result of the addition of section 425.1 to the Criminal Code of Canada. (eg. section 425.1 of the Criminal Code "...provides protection to a person whose duties include the enforcement of federal or provincial laws.")

Pass this information onto any one who feels they have seen enough and want to report a violation they have observed. Confidentiality maintained per your request.

Call Leanne – reformed DFO gaurdian @ 250-285-3152 or email westcst1@telus.net

Leanne Hodges Quadra Island

### I T'OUGHT I TAW...

I have little buildings With space underneath. They come and crap there An' foul among the leaves. They spray my motor An' piss on my door. They murder little birds And yowl for more. I don't care for distinctions, Feral or pet, Or spayed or neutered, Or reproductive yet. I don't like 'em. Don't think they're cute. If I had my way I'd give them all the boot! C. Guldemond Quadra Island

### Thank You From The Hospice Society

Once again we had a wonderful turn out at our "Celebrate a Life" Christmas Tree. Also amazing support for the food basket raffle.

Next year we shall have to see if we can print more tickets!! The lucky winner of the basket was Carol MacRae. Congratulations Carol!

Between the two events we made a total of \$845.00. This money will help Hospice be there when you need support. There is no charge for receiving help from Hospice.

A very special thanks to Darcy at Heriot Bay Tru-Value for providing space for us, and the spirit board points we used to fill the basket. Also Darcy very kindly came to our rescue when we found on the first day that our tree was not usable. He provided one for us.

Last but not least a special thank-you and hug to all the volunteers who helped man the tree and sell raffle tickets. Thanks Maru, Sue, Steve. Adriana, Ann, Linda and Jean.

# Regional Director's Report, Area C

## January 15, 2010

ell, the recovery period from surgery seems to be over, since I just looked at my January daytimer and I don't have a single day that is not spoken for! Traditionally, January is a very busy month, after the holidays and all, but this year is ridiculous! I intend to pace myself and keep a positive attitude in spite of the intensity of the work to be done. So, here is a taste of the month's activities.

#### Ouathiaski Cove Village planning process

Now that our consultant, David Rousseau and his team, have been awarded the contract, we have gotten off to a quick start. The past two weeks, we have had two official meetings and I have met with the youth group informally to discuss the project. You will see, elsewhere in this issue, a more complete explanation of the process and the members of the steering committee. The steering committee was set up to try to manage the process, with representatives from as many "interest groups" as we could think of. They will work closely with the consultant and the Regional District. I will be involved, start to finish.

This is going to be one of the more exciting processes that we have participated in for quite awhile. All of the good ideas that were put in policy in our last OCP review will now be able to be implemented on the ground in a tangible manner. We did some of this "visioning" a number of years ago with students and professors from UBC. But that process was just that.. a vision. This process will have a result at the end of it. As I said in my last report, "The end product will be a village that we can all make use of, possibly live in at some stage, and be very proud to show off to the rest of the province. I am not going to pre-empt the actual details of the project but will say that it will provide various housing types for all ages and levels of income, will make use of some of the most innovative ideas out there regarding sustainable living and will make use of whatever "green" technology can be worked into the project. It will create a very walkable

community with the emphasis on green space and clustering of development. I think this will be a very exciting community exercise and will go through until the beginning of June 2010. We have one of the best consultants and his team working for us and they are primarily local residents! We will finally have what you have all been asking for: local professionals that understand the island lifestyle!" I will leave the rest of the explanation to the author of the other article.

I just want to mention that this process will concentrate on the Cove area and that the rest of the island will not be effected as far as the OCP and zoning are concerned. The existing documents still apply and are not part of the scope of this exercise.

#### **Granite Bay Hydro**

The unbelievable task of getting 11 km's of hydro line out to Granite Bay cleared the last hurdle recently. That was getting the right of way cleared to BC Hydro's specifications so that the line could actually be installed. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Chris Toulmin for the incredible amount of time and energy that he put into keeping the community together on this project and as the "clearing house" for all related matters. He has managed a herculean task and has obtained commitments from so many Ouadra contractors for free work. so that the task could be completed. I would also like to thank all of the local contractors for the amount of donated time and equipment that they put into this project. And last but not least, the community members who contributed, not only financially, but, were out there working on the road as flag people and out there in the worst possible weather clearing trees and brush and doing all of the painful hand work in the wet and cold. You are all to be commended for bringing hydro to the Granite Bay area for your use and for the use of all future residents. You have helped to "green" your community as a result, in the way of far less diesel use in generators.

#### Ferry dock closure - Q. Cove.

by **Jim Abram** 

I received the following from BCFS regarding the actual closure time for the Q. Cove terminal for replacement of the approach and ramp:

"The dates for the berth closure at Q Cove are Tuesday, April 6 - Saturday, April 10, 2010. The terminal will be open by Sunday, April 11. One of the reasons for the timing is we wanted to ensure that passengers are able to travel on the Easter long weekend (Friday, April 2 -Monday, April 5).

We are currently developing a water taxi schedule for this time period and are looking at options for commercial traffic. We will be issuing a service notice next week with the dates of the closure and alternative service options.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Sarah"

Sarah Cotton is the person to contact if you have any questions or concerns about this issue. She is very good about getting back to you with answers. Her contact info follows:

Sarah Cotton: sarah.cotton@bcferries. com Tel: (250) 978-1398 Cel: (250) 516-2263 Fax: (250) 978-1119

Their will be notices in the local media with details as they become available.

#### **Scallops**

By the time that you read this, the Cape Mudge Band's application for an 85 hectare scallop farm off of the east side of Quadra Island at the southern boundary of Rebecca Spit will have gone before the Electoral Areas Services Committee on Wednesday, January 13th. The staff report and the committee minutes will be on the SRD web site at www.strathconard.ca



#### **Green Power forum**

Iwillbeattending.asaparticipant, a forum being sponsored by West Coast Environmental Law, called "Emerging Solutions for Clean Green Power". This is to be held in Vancouver at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue on Monday January 11th. The dialogue will begin with a focus on identifying the high level political, economic, environmental and social factors that must be addressed. There will be three expert presenters and then an open discussion between the 15 panelists. Audience participation will then take place. It is an exciting but intimidating opportunity for me to express our views on this topic and on the stripping of local government's mandated authority over land use planning with regard to independent power projects such as the one proposed in Bute Inlet.

#### California legislation

On January 18th I will be going to Sacramento, California to make a presentation to the Air Resource Board of the California Legislature. I was invited to present on behalf of local governments with regard to Bill 30 and the process (or i should say the lack thereof) that led to the implementation of this archaic legislation in 2006. California is in the process of considering changing its laws to allow them to purchase "less- green" power, which would enable them to buy power from sources such as the proposed Bute Inlet projects. California is under the impression that we, the people, through our local governments, have been consulted on these projects and agree with the less restrictive rules that they are contemplating, due to a very misleading letter written to them by the environment Minister of BC. It will be my job to "enlighten" them on the process that never happened! Another example of how far beyond Area C this job can take your representative, to represent Area C interests! This trip will be paid for by the group that invited me to attend. I'll fill you in when I return.

## And then there was the Lighthouse!

I saved the best for last. I was just informed through the "kelpvine", that the Coast Guard intends to do a major soil remediation at the lighthouse. This is a totally unnecessary exercise. And to top it off, it is only necessary IF the property is to be divested to another party. So.. that says to me that they have already made their decision to destaff Cape Mudge and to turn it over to the Department of Indian Affairs (INAC) or divest it in some other manner. INAC are also involved in this exercise.

Now for the details.. they will remove 1500 cubic metres of "contaminated soil.. that is 150 - 10 cubic yard dump trucks, traveling two directions (300 trips) to go to the ferry to take the soil to victoria to be packed in barrels to be shipped to Swan Hills, Alberta (north central Alberta) for remediation, the 1990/91 cost per barrel was \$850.00 per barrel. That did not include shipping! So, how many barrels are there in 150 dump trucks at many hundreds of dollars per barrel in today's dollars??? Then there will need to be 150 dump trucks of topsoil imported to the station (another 300 trips on the ferry and the roads) to replace the soil that was removed. Do you think that the CG will use local contractors to do the work of hauling? From past experience, it is very unlikely. Some off-island friend of the CCG will get the contract. Sorry for being so cynical, but after 25 years of watching them mismanage their budgets and do stupid things, this is how I see it will be done.

The main point in all of this is that the proposed consultation "prior to considering any destaffing" is an absolute sham! I hope John Duncan's phone will be ringing off the hook. 1-800-667-8404 or email to duncaj2@parl.gc.ca and Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca

Maybe they will read this and see how insane it is and think twice about it. The eternal optimist!

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Abram

Director, Discovery Islands -Mainland Inlets (Area C), SRD

### Get Out & Drum!

Skin on skin hand drumming happens every Wednesday night in the Upper Realm at Q.Cove. Time is 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. from January 6 to February 10. Bring your own drum or drums will be provided. Cost is just \$5 drop in fee to cover rent, advertising, etc. The drum jam is facilitated by Steve Moore, former percussionist with BeatRoot and currently playing drums with Jazz Berry Jam, Castaway & the Hal Douglas Blues Band. Call Steve at 285-3323 for more info or just drop in!

### Quadra vs. Gabriola 2010 Fitness Challenge

For 6 weeks, January 16th -February 26th the residents of Quadra Island have been called out by Gabriola Island to an " anything goes" fitness challenge. The challenge will be co-hosted by Vitalis Gym &Wellness Centre (Quadra Island – Marion Eberlein) and The Gym at Twin Beaches (Gabriola Island – Lou Brooks) with facilitation by John Raven and Terryl Bertagnolli.

Registration forms will be available at Vitalis Gym and Wellness Centre for Quadra residents. All participants must be registered to qualify their contribution. The fitness challenge will be measured in km travelled as per the "Activity Chart" conversion table provided to each participant during registration. (Any thing active counts and gym memberships are not necessary).

The registration fee of \$10/ adult and \$2/student (under 13) will cover the administration and promotional costs. As well 50% of the registration fees from the Island with the least km's travelled will be awarded to a local charity of the winning island's choice.

Participants are asked to submit their personal contributions weekly at Vitalis (285-3825) to be tallied and presented to the opposing island for public release. Individuals can register at any point in the competition, however only those activities engaged in after registration qualify. Participate in the free weekly group activities meeting at Vitalis Gym every Saturday at 1:00pm (Dress for the outdoors) and look for the BIG yellow sign to follow our progress on route to victory. GO TEAM OUADRA!!!

## School PAC Bottle Drive

Thank you to all the participants of last Saturday's Bottle Drive. It was another successful fundraiser in our on-going support of the Quadra Elementary School community.

We help to fund field-trips, cultural events and extra-curricular programs that might not take place if it wasn't for some dedicated volunteers and our generous Islanders.

Special thanks go to the staff and management of Heriot Bay Tru-Value for the use of the recycling centre.

### Community Quilts

In the month of January all bottle refund donations at Heriot Bay Tru-Value will go to the Community Quilts.

What are Community Quilts? Quadra Quilters Guild has stepped up our efforts to provide some extra comfort for those who need it, right here on Quadra. We've been making quilts for Childrens' Hospital; and Ronald McDonald House for years and now we've pledged to include people like Quadra Food Bank recipients or local house-fire victims in our endeavours. It all helps to spread a little more warmth and compassion.

Perhaps a quilt will go to someone who is facing a particularly difficult time in their lives... maybe a quilt will help celebrate a momentous achievement?

Fifteen quilts were finished in time for Christmas and you can view some of them on-line at www. quadraquilts.blogspot.com

Your bottle donations are appreciated and will be used to purchase materials needed to support our goal. Thank you for sharing!



Area B Regional Director's Report

#### January 15, 2010 by Noba Anderson **Proposed Regional District Cortes Is. Hall Service**

If we want core community spaces, we need to support them.

Thanks to past efforts, largely volunteer, we are fortunate to have community halls that serve a broad array of uses and benefit us all. Even people who use our halls less frequently gain by living in a healthy and strong society aided by these spaces. Businesses and other services near the halls also benefit from their proximity to a vibrant community core. However, our halls are aging and the deferred maintenance costs must be addressed and planned for. Operation costs are higher than they were a generation ago and there is not currently the volunteer effort to support the existing needs. Although volunteer time will always be the backbone for these halls, real money is also needed.

Right now, we are in acute jeopardy of losing the fully serviced and programmed spaces that we have become accustomed to at Manson's Hall. In light of this, the boards of both the Gorge and Manson's Halls have requested that the Strathcona Regional District establish a taxation service that is broad enough to support both existing spaces. The two boards agreed that both halls are used by the broad community and therefore felt it appropriate that all Cortes tax payers support them both. Only the Southern Cortes Community Association (SCCA) is currently in need of these requested funds, however, the Whaletown Community Club would like the ability to opt in over time as needed.

Work on this concept was started in 2007 by your previous regional director, Jenny Hiebert. In her last Howling Wolf article in November of 2008, she emphasized that this issue needed further attention. In my July 2009 Discover Islander article I again brought up this item, sharing with you that all other community halls in the Comox & Strathcona regions are supported through taxation and that I would soon be asking you to consider the same for Cortes. Here we are. The question has been called, and it is up to you.

#### Do you want your property tax dollars to support your community spaces?

If you do want to support the halls in this way, take no action - your silence will be counted as support. If you do not, fill out an elector response form available at Cortes post offices and on the SRD website before February 15th.

#### ??Questions??

The SCCA is holding an evening meeting to further discuss this option. Manson's Hall, January 20th, 7:30 pm

If this current proposal is rejected, I do not see how Manson's Hall could provide the space and services in 2010 that you have come to expect!!

The choice is yours.

For further financial details on tax requisitions, tax breakdowns and other community hall's funding, see the second page of this letter as posted on the Regional Director page at www.cortesisland.com or in all Cortes mailboxes.

In gratitude, Noba Anderson - 250-935-0320 director@cortesisland.com Box 120, Whaletown, BC, V0P 1Z0

www.discoveryislander.ca

#### **New Year, New Path**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vibeke and Nancy at Discovery Islands Realty for their support over the past four years. I am currently taking a new direction and working with Royal LePage Advance Realty. My area of expertise will remain Quadra Island and the surrounding outer islands. At present I am working from my home office and can be reached by phone at 250-285-3608 / cell 250-203-2243. Within the next 2 weeks I will be opening an office in Quathiaski Cove and look forward to serving your real estate needs.

Regards, Bill Bradshaw

### **Senior Housing** News

GREAT PROGRESS BEING MADE - Thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers who have an ability to get things done ...

John and Bob Toelle and Cathy Lansdall surveyed the property and staked out the building locations last week, and on Jan. 7th QISHS representatives met with John to survey the results and suggest some minor changes. Since then these changes have been incorporated into the building plans and siting plans, and with some more drafting will be ready for presentation to the Regional District at a meeting set up for Jan. 20th.

Thanks also to Val Barr who modified the landscaping plans, and to Board members who approved all of the above to go ahead.

The biggest THANK YOU goes to Red Williams who promptly and efficiently drilled a new water well to replace the existing one which no longer met the new regulations for distance from the community sewer line. The plan is for Red to submit his invoice for the job, we will pay it, and Red will contribute the same amount to the Society in return for a tax receipt. In plain English this means the well is drilled at no cost to the Society.

The new well is flowing nicely and John says it tastes great ..

A new Information Sheet has been prepared by Tucker Dinnes and Riki Vogt, and will be available soon for distribution - updating information about the project. This will also be available soon on the Gumboot in the Senior Housing Department.

It is indeed heartwarming to see the volunteer input by business people on Quadra. We don't have a number yet on the Quadra Builder 10% weekend, but will let you know when received.



"Caring for children for community's sake"

# **Q. Cove Village Concept Planning Begins**

In the last Quadra OCP review a village plan for the Cove was identified as a priority, particularly as a way of providing for unmet needs such as seniors housing and more affordable options for young people and families. The guiding principle is to plan for absorbing change in the clustered areas of Quadra to help preserve the rural and semi-rural areas.

The planning process has just begun, and will be highly community-driven. A Cove Steering Committee has been convened with representatives from many stakeholder groups, and there will be public meetings and a planning workshop this spring. The result will be a vision for the Cove covering the next few decades that has been produced by and for Quadra Islanders.





The Steering Committee was assembled with much thought over Christmas as the consultant planner was anxious to start at the beginning of January. People were chosen on the basis of their prior involvement or strong interest in the project, ability to put much time and energy into it in the next 5 months and track record of community involvement and commitment. A big effort was made to balance the committee so that all age groups and interests would be included. However we had to make difficult choices and could not include all qualified people. The members will act as liaison people with their designated stakeholder group. Please bring your concerns or questions to the appropriate member. The member can keep you informed as to what is happening and carry your concerns to the Steering Committee. Of course you can also talk to any of the members if they happen to be your friends or neighbours. You do not have to wait until the public meetings to make your views known.

#### \*\*(Please see Steering Committee listed below).

This process needs you! What future do you see for the Cove, and what does a village mean to you? Do you want a walk-able, cyclefriendly place on Quadra with shops, services and compact housing nearby? What else would it include? How will it be sustainable? Please come out and participate.

The areas being considered are the two existing commercial hubs and the lots between, the residential area just east and the Toelle property south of the Cove Centre, the Weston Foods waterfront sites (former BC Packers net loft and boat works) plus Green Rd from Noble Rd. to Heriot Bay Rd. Of course some of these areas are already developed, while others are not- so there will be different approaches applied to each. As for the form that changes may take, there may be desired options that current zoning categories don't cover, so new and amended zoning proposals will also be an outcome of the process.

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The Steering Committee is just now setting out a schedule of events and information bulletins, so watch this paper. You can expect newsletters, public discussion, contact with steering committee members and a two day workshop this spring, with two public open house periods. Your committee members also have a Cove questionnaire that you are invited to reply to- look for announcements of where to get one.

David Rousseau (Cortes Island) is leading the process with the design assistance of three associates, including Rob Wood (Maurelle Island).

And please remember that this is not a development proposal. It is a vision to shape the future-- a way of guiding change to capture the qualities Quadra Islanders would like to have. Actual changes will only come when property owners participate, apply for rezoning where needed, and make investment.

#### \*\*Steering Committee:

Stakeholder group liaison person Phone. **Regional District** Jim Abram-3355 **Commercial/tourism** Lois Taylor -2880 **Commercial** Kim Zapshala & Ed Fisher -3138

Young people Kirstie Stewart-3927 Benedict Leonard -2422 Lauren Miller-2787 Elderly, OAPs Marcia Wolter-3849 (alternate)Hilda Van Orden-3458 Affordable housing Riki Vogt -2640 Young families Schleeah Schevers-2498 Families/people needing to downsize Rob McKerracher-3129 **Rental/seasonal workers** Carol Woolsey-3737 **Q Cove residents** Ken Dinnes -2166 Property owners John Toelle -3065 Tina Oswald -3630 Sustainability Judy Leicester-2663 Co-Chair Seniors & end of life care

Sue Beattie -2948 Co-chair Senior/disabled care, medical Mary McIntosh -3084 Cape Mudge Village TBA Harbour, Authority TBA

Harbour Authority TBA Weston Foods TBA

Submitted by David Rousseau: drouss@twincomm.ca 250 935-6878 And Kirstie Stewart: info@vivr.ca 250.285.3559



## 2010 Studio Tour

Artists register now for the 2010 Quadra Island Studio Tour. Registration closes January 15, 2010. Tour is June 5 and 6 and/or for year. Artists can show at their studio or at the Community Centre. Check mail for registration forms or pick up from Hummingbird Office Supply. Questions 285-2647

## Craft n' Chat

Have a project on the go? Haven't had the time to work on it? Bring it to the Quadra Island Bible Church on Wednesday 13 from 3 pm - 9 pm. Just want to chat? Join us, coffee is on! Bring a main dish or dessert to share for dinner at 6 pm. Call Susan Swanson at 285-3795 for more information.

## Quadra Literacy Now

Join us for the second annual Quadra Literacy Festival at the Community Centre, Sunday Feb. 7 from 1:00 to 3:00. Sing for Literacy is the theme. Don't miss the opening, as there will be special performances and sing-alongs led by some of our local talent and dedicated emergency services personnel. There will activities for children, families and the youngat-heart including a team Scrabble tournament.

# The Spirit of the **Himalaya**

#### Monday 25th January 7pm

Admission by donation to Umbrella Orphanage, Kathmandu

Mick Bromley has been leading treks and expeditions throughout the great mountain ranges of the world for over 20 years. Now a resident of Quadra Island with his wife Cynthia, Mick has recently returned from his 27th visit to Nepal, organizing a remote and challenging trek for residents of Victoria and Vancouver Island. Through his own company, Wilderness Trekking, Mick works to improve the working conditions for local staff and has recently taken over as Canadian representative for the Umbrella Project orphanage in Kathmandu. Come and see some beautiful photographs, hear stories and ask questions about recent Himalayan adventures. Suitable for armchair travelers and climbers alike! www.discoveryislander.ca

# **News and Events**

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

## **Pilates**

Re-connect with dormant core muscles. Align your spine and correct your posture. Simple, Effective mat based Pilates classes starting from 12 Jan.

Tuesdays & Saturdays 9:30-10:30am, Thursdays 5-6pm at Q.C.C. \$100/10 classes.

Visit www.practicalpilates.ca or call Natasha on 285-2930.

## **Moms Group**

Let the kids play while enjoying the company of other moms. Kids in school? Come, join us too! All are welcome. We meet in the Quadra Island Bible Church basement.

Wednesday 13 and 27 from 10am -noon, babysitting available! Please bring a snack to share. Coffee and tea provided.

For more info call Lana Schanzenbach at 285-3434

## **Legion Meeting**

Next Legion general meeting Wednesday January 20th 8:00pm.

## **Youth Group**

Happy New Year from the Youth Group, a brand new program sponsered by the Quadra Recreational Society, Youth Group is a program designed for youth between the ages of 11 and 15. The Youth Group creates activities that provide a comfortable atmosphere for teens, that are interest related and ultimately fun. Youth Group meets every Saturday at the Community Center at 1pm. Keep an eye open for the posted bulletins or email Lisa Murphy for more information. You can reach Lisa at: lisa\_rec\_society@yahoo.ca

## Magic for Marigold

The Farmhouse Children who brought you "A Beatles Story" invite you to attend their 2010 performance of "Magic for Marigold" at the Quadra Community Centre. People of all ages will enjoy this production, a musical adaptation of the novel by Lucy Maude Montgomery.

Performances are Friday, January 15 & Saturday 16th beginning at 7 pm, and a matinee on Sunday, January 17th beginning at 4 pm. Tickets are \$5/seat or \$15/family. Get your tickets at Hummingbird, Vitalis, and at the door.



## **The Polio** Ashram, India

Last November I went to India again to visit the Polio Ashram in Uttar Pradesh. Thanks to so many of you on Quadra and Cortes who contributed money, plants, jewellery, precious artifacts and so many other things for me to sell -I had raised \$9,501.18 .

This was enough to build a toilet and shower block for the boys (the photo looks better in colour), 2 large water tanks, cement floors for 21/2 classrooms, and enough fruit for 11 months of 2010. I also distributed Indian candies to the children that a friend had donated money for -there were enough candies for some of the staff too (see enclosed photo).

This year I would like to raise money for cement floors for 41/2more classrooms. Having cement rather than clay floors makes it much easier for the 12 children who crawl around (polio in both legs) to keep themselves and their clothes clean. They would also like to have a Grade 12 classroom (\$6-7000), and chairs and desks for Grade 11 -the students work sitting on the floor at present.

Thank you all so much for your generosity -the children are very grateful that people on the other side of the world care about them

I have lots more cards and bookmarks-please contact me if you would like to buy some-and also if you would like to see more photos.

Eileen Sowerby 285 2434.

#### "I Love Books" Valentine's Dav **Coffee House**

Join Heather Kellerhals & Rena Patrick & Gabriel Lessard-Kagen & Paul Puddy & Steve Moore & Eileen Sowerby & Ray Grigg & Jeanette Taylor & Maureen Fox & many others, including you, reading JUST ONE PAGE from one of their (& your?) most beloved books.

Plus LIVE MUSIC by Castaway, Quadra's new music group playing danceable reggae & funk.

The cost is by donation. The time is 8 p.m. The date is Saturday, February 13. Place: Quadra Community Centre.

The purpose of the "I Love Books" Valentine's Day Coffee House is to raise \$1500 to purchase books for the new book shelves in room #1 at the Quadra Community Centre. A dozen copies of CBC's Best Canadian Fiction Book of 2008 (The Book of Negroes) and Eckhart Tolle's The New Earth & other books are currently available.

Soon we will add Jeanette Taylor's book on Quadra Island, cause we "Love" this island.

Come join us for a relaxing & entertaining community event. If your loved ones are book lovers & you want a night out on the town, what could be better than this?

And it's for a good cause! Call Steve Moore at 285-3323 for more info or if you have something you would like to read.





## **Campbell River Art Gallery Puts a** "Fresh Face" on the New Year

Celebrate the art of portraiture and the stories woven into its creation. Join the Campbell River Art Gallery in an opening night reception for Telling Stories. a group portraiture exhibit, January 22nd (7-9pm). Work by B.C. artists Nora Curiston, Bill Edmonds, John Eckstein, Tatjana Mirkov-Popovicki, Karen Martin Sampson, Shawn Shepherd, and Perrin Sparks will reveal a remarkable range of style and expression available to the portrait artist.

Curator Kristen Schofield-Sweet of Cortes Island describes our fascination with faces.

"Every picture tells a story, and viewers of art and life are especially fascinated with stories in faces. How do we understand the stories in a face? In life the smallest of details, gesture and expression, convey messages that engage or repel. In art it is the artist's choices-of color, surface, media and pose-that tell the story of the sitter, and of the artist.'

Tatjana Mirkov-Popovicki candidly describes her work as a portrait artist. "Your face ... is a

masterpiece of beauty, function and spirit. As I touch its lines and shapes with my brush, I entice those timeless features to come out and be captured. I promise those eyes a peak into all their past lives. I promise those lips an opportunity to tell their stories... I give that body all the life I can extract from earthy pigments and the skill of my hand.'

"Let art tell you stories of how we show ourselves to others, and how we choose to see ourselves," savs Schofield-Sweet.

Michael J. Neufeld exhibits concurrently in the Discovery Gallery. Alone and Present is a collection of images exploring the themes of separation and solitude in the natural world. Neufeld makes photography an opportunity to see beyond factual recording with a click of the shutter. His collection of work asks "How does separation and solitude in the natural world come to bear on us as observers and participants in these surroundings?" He brings life to his own "thoughts, ideas and emotions through the images he creates."





## **Standing Wave**

Standing Wave was formed in 1991 as an ensemble-in-residence at the University of British Columbia's School of Music. Dedicated to commissioning and performing works by new composers, especially Canadian ones, Standing Wave will bring a galvanizing performance to the Quadra Island Community Centre on Saturday, January 23rd at 8 PM.

The centrepiece of their Quadra concert will be Vox Balaenae, or Voice of the Whale, a rarely performed composition by American composer George Crumb. Stunning in its aural and visual beauty, Vox Balaenae was inspired by the singing of the humpback whale. Written for three masked musicians playing electric flute, electric cello and amplified piano, it is performed on a stage bathed in deep-blue light to create an underwater atmosphere.

To catch this wave, get your advance tickets for \$17 at the Music Plant in Campbell River and at Quadra Crafts or Hummingbird Office and Art Supply on Quadra Island. Students 16 and under are welcomed free with an adult. For more information, call 250-285-2580 or visit the group's website at www. standingwave.ca

# Friday Flicks Presents The Hurt Locker

#### January 22nd, Q.C.C.

Doors 7:30 - Showtime 7:45

#### \*Warning \*violence and language.

Kathryn Bigelow likes to pitch her films in "heightened emotional states". For her latest, and best, adventure in extremis, her "heightened emotional state" is the earthbound world of bomb-disposal experts plying their knife-edge trade in the inferno of the Iraq war.

Unlike the tirade of recently failed Iraqthemed efforts, the impenetrable geopolitics of the Middle East are not on Bigelow's mind, nor are the straightforward slings and arrows of the modern combat flick. She's all about visceral participation. The result is a spare, unyielding masterclass in the racking-up of tension. For every threat, the ground is surveyed, the dynamics assessed, putting you into the epicentre of the crisis.

Bigelow stalks the ragged ruins of Baghdad, where everyone — be they child, adult, oldtimer or goat — is a potential trigger. Every flicker of movement, every friendly advance could be a threat.

Iraq is merely context. Screenwriter Mark Boal, a journalist who has specialized in the human truths of the Iraqi conflict, writes in strafes of agitation and desperation. The result is a vivid study of the existential: facing death as a daily routine. Life as "normal" becomes listless and out-of-kilter when fumbling with wife and child and the real (?) world. The Hurt Locker is a picture of men defined by conflict.

## **Chamber Corner**

The Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce was active and busy in 2009! Our mission is to promote and improve commerce and the economic, civic and social welfare of our district. In order to keep you a breast of our accomplishments and to provide insight into our projects for 2010 we have prepared this update.

#### **2009 Accomplishments**

- Dine around luncheon meetings the 3rd
- Thursday of every month except July & August Special guest speakers at luncheon
- meetings
- Development of Notes & Benefits to recap membership benefits
- Up-to-date web site with member listings
- Graduation from the Community Tourism Development Program
- Initiation of the Community Tourism Opportunities Program
- Development of new web pages
- Development of packages for new web pages
- Development of a Business Plan for the
- establishment of the Additional Hotel Room - Tax on Quadra Island in order to continue to
- promote future economic development on Island.
- Development of new online media centre
- Development of new lure brochure
  Expanded brochure racking on the ferry
- Expanded brochure facking on the ferry - Enhanced membership communication
- Enhanced membership communication
- Promoted the community garden for the Community Capacity Building Award

#### 2010 Projects

- New Volunteer Recognition Program
- New Business Recognition Program
- Publish (advertise) Escape  $\,\sim\,$  Discover  $\,\sim\,$
- Connect web packages
- Sponsor Canada Day
- Sponsor Newcomers Welcome
- Develop Regular Chamber Column with a "spotlight" on our members
- Execute the Business Plan for the establishment of the Additional Hotel Room Tax
- New and expanded brochure racking for Heriot Bay Store within the same footprint

To become a member or to view our websites please visit www.quadraislandtourism.ca and www.quadraisland.ca/chamber. Feel free to contact us at anytime by email chamber@ discoveryislands.ca.

Happy New Year!



# **Kidz Klub**

Kidz Klub is back at Quadra Island Bible Church. We will meet on Tuesdays this year, from 3:00 - 4;30 pm. Children in grades one to six are invited to join us at 1281 West Rd. for snacks, games, Bible lessons, crafts and singing. Everyone welcome! For more information call 250-285-2020.

## Friends of Bute Inlet Called to Action

February 27-28 Friends of Bute Inlet is hosting the Called to Action creative weekend at QCC. We're looking for people with videotechnical skills – also aspiring actors and anyone with with energy and enthusiasm! This is an opportunity to work with David Chantler, talented director of Calgary's Trickster Theatre. It's a time to be creative and have fun – as well as a serious attempt to present community views about Bute Inlet through simple physical theatre and social media. To find out more or to join us: please contact FOBI at 250-285-2846 or buteinlet@gmail.com .

## The Path to Happiness

The key to happiness is in our own hands. Everyone wants to be happy--no one wants to suffer. However, very few people fully understand the real causes of happiness or suffering. We all tend to look for happiness outside ourselves, and spend almost all of our time adjusting to the external world.

Geshe YongDong will share the Tibetan Buddist view that happiness is a state of mind, and the true source lies within the mind not in external conditions. Happiness is not something that comes to you; it is something that you can create today.

True happiness can be achieved through the systematic training of our hearts and minds, through reshaping our attitudes and outlooks. Geshe YongDong will explain nine methods to help us get on the path to happiness.

Place: Quadra Community Centre. Date: Sunday, January 17. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: by donaton.

Call Steve or Danielle at 285-3323 for more info.



# 3 Goals for a Successful Walking Routine

Maintaining a regular walking program can be difficult after the initial novelty wears off. Here are three goals to help maintain your walking regime.

**Set a Distance Goal:** Challenge yourself to walk a certain distance each day or a given distance in a week. If you're just beginning keep your goal modest. Let's begin with a mile. The first day you walked around the block, which might be a quarter mile. The next day you walked around the block and down to the corner and back. Maybe that's a third of a mile. Each day increase the distance a little more.

**Ways to Measure Distance:** The above method of measurement is okay in the beginning but inadequate for longer distances. There are several methods for more accurately measuring distance: use a track, get a pedometer or use a treadmill.

**Walking Faster & Longer:** Once you have reached a comfortable walking distance for yourself, attempt to cover that distance more quickly. If your goal is to increase your walking time and not speed, you can walk almost anywhere.

Distance, time and location can all be used as motivators to maintain a walking routine. Try to find a shorter route to work or cover a measured distance more quickly. The important thing is to set the goals and keep walking. Marion Eberlein, Vitalis Gym

## Three Cups Of Tea

Have you read Three Cups of Tea yet? The first book by Greg Mortenson, begins with a mountain climber's failed attempt to conquer K2 and turns into an astonishing tale of one person's powerful love for an impoverished people.

His journey back to raise funds for a school is only the beginning of a life dedicated to the education of mostly girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan. One hundred and fifty schools later his second book, released in Oct., 2009, Stones into Schools, will change your ideas about what is possible when love is in charge.

**Greg Mortenson will be speaking in Vancouver on January 14, 15 and 16th**. Only the 16th has tickets left and can be ordered online at kidsbooks.ca or call 604-738-5335. I will be driving down and have space or I can take donations personally to Greg. All proceeds from the events will be donated to the Central Asia Institute to build another school in Afghanistan. Check out at least, the website www.ikat.org.

I have rarely been moved by yet another request for donations but this story will inspire and just plain cheer you up in this challenging time in which we live.

Judith Tait 285-3896

# fun every weekend



## Quadra Island Seniors Branch 91- B.C.O.A.P.O.

Our January meeting was very informative, regarding, Fire Prevention and Life saving techniques. Thank-you' and a big hug goes to Sharon Clandenning and Colleen Swanson for their hard work assisting the Island Seniors in times of need.

Another one of our dear members, Joan Chenier, passed away on December 29/09.

Joan will always be remembered for her kind attitude, towards others and her great love of animals, Joan supported the B.C.S.P.C.A. and always made different kinds of knitwear for children and animals. Joan loved her garden, and working on her gallery with the potted plants, with her doggies close by. In the past, Joan was a Lawn Bowler, a Foster Parent and a loving wife and Mother. Our Thanks and Sympathies go out to Peter, Daphne & Dennis, on Quadra who gave care, love and understanding, to Joan when needed. Also to Evergreen Seniors Care Home, where she stayed in Campbell River.

In March our Branch will host the North Island Regional meeting where seven North Island branches will gather for entertainment and lunch, the theme will be St. Patricks Day.

On February 4th/09 our branch are having a St. Valentines Party with a Pot-Luck Luncheon for all, come at 10:00 a:m for a chat and a coffee and a Bookbrowse.

Every Wed. we are exercising with Ann at 10:00 a:m, Carpet Bowling with Christine at 10:30 a:m, after snacks and Coffee, Sing with Lilliane and our Glee Club at 1:00 p:m. On Sundays walk the Rebecca Spit with Peter Gregg and Lloyd Mcllwain, meet at the Launch Ramp at 11:00 a:m or catch up at the big park lot.

Memberships are due for 2010 contact Muriel at 285-3216



## Restaurant News and NEW Name Contest

Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge is pleased to announce that it has purchased the Restaurant formerly known as the "Island Grill" located near the entrance to Rebecca Spit.

The Lodge intends to operate the Restaurant from mid May to mid September with new faces and the same great consistent quality food you have come to expect from the Lodge. We will have some of your favorite items on the menu along with some new items for you to experience.

The Lodge would like to give the restaurant a NEW name and we are looking for your help by initiating a name contest. The names will be judged by the Lodge's management team with the winner to receive a \$100 Gift Card redeemable at the new restaurant or in the main lodge for dining or gift shop purchases.

Send your restaurant entry name to cat@capemudgeresort. bc.ca by January 15th, 2010 and be sure to include your name and telephone number. Thank you for your help!

**ACUPUNCTURE** 

## **Capricorn Party**

They rocked Surge Narrows, now they rock Heriot Bay! Flying Debris from the Comox Valley are bringing their Classic Rock and Blues to the Quadra Legion on Saturday, January 16th. Music starts at 9:00 p.m. - the cover charge is a donation for the band and potluck snacks or finger food. Everyone welcome - Capricorns, friends of Capricorns, or even if you just wish you were a Capricorn, be there!

# Crime Stoppers & the RCMP

are looking for the person or persons responsible for the following B&E on Ouadra Island.

January 13, 2010 – B&E occurred on Hyacinthe Bay Road on Quadra Island between November 30th and December 6th. A washer/dryer combination, television and other electronics, as well as bedding were taken.

If you are aware of this crime call the Crime Stoppers TIP line at 1-800-222-TIPS or call Cst. Peter Gaiger at 250-285-3631 of the local Quadra RCMP. You can also report a tip through the Crime Stoppers website at: http://campbellriver. crimestoppersweb.com/. Cash rewards are available to people who call the Crime Stoppers program and their information leads to an arrest.

Paint Ladu



## **Garden Tour**

There will be a Quilt and Garden Tour in 2010! Mark June 26th and 27th on your calendars now. Be sure to let your family and friends know that this is the weekend to be on Quadra. The Quadra Island Quilters' Guild is hard at work producing a multitude of beautiful quilts for display in the gardens. We have several gardeners who have already volunteered to host the hordes (we hope!). This upcoming tour includes gardens at Granite Bay as well as at the South End which have never before been on the tour. We are currently looking for more gardens and would like this to be the best tour yet.

If you wish to volunteer your own garden or you know of a garden that should be on this tour, please give Eileen Mackay a call at 285-3194. We are very discreet and we promise to protect all sources!



The Quadra Vertical Climbing wall will be opening in the new year. Whether your new to climbing or are an old pro the wall is a great place to get in some winter exercise or start training for the real thing come spring. Open dates will be January through April every Sunday from 2 - 4 pm, with the exception of January 2/17/31 and February 7 /28.

The fee is \$5 for drop in or \$25 for a Quadra Vertical annual membership, both of which gets you a rental harness, belay instruction and lots of encouragement! If you are interested in volunteering or otherwise becoming involved (or donating used climbing shoes!)

Contact Matthew at 285-2543 for more info.



# Show Jeneece and the sick children of BC that Quadra Island cares!

'Passages' the day program part of Community Living Campbell River, where I work, has been , fior the last two years, collecting pennies and small change for Jeneece and her charity 'VanCity and the Children's Hospital'.

In 2007 we collected \$263.00, in 2008 our total was \$649.00. We are hoping to beat this number this year.

If you would like to help us in our fund raising you can drop your pennies at Fun Knits in the Cove Plaza and at Heriot Bay Tru-Value. Pennies will be collected up in February to be rolled and counted, then sent to Jeneece.

Thank you for your support Patricia Casquet Day Programmer, Community Living Campbell River

# An Opportunity To Be Had!

This forty year old building caould be someione's lovely new home. We are talking about the old existing building on Hyacionthe Bay Rd, which is on the shortcut to the library. The building is about 1500 square feet in size and is still in good condition. The deal is that we sell the building for a dollar to whoever wants it. The person or persons, who own the building, will be responsible for moving the building off the current site.

This old building has some historical value to it. There are many fond memories for all the families that went to this preschool. It was originally a school at Granite Bay. Then in 1978, the Quadra Island Childcare Society purchased the building for a dollar from the School District 72 and moved it to where it is sitting now. For many years it was an operating preschool and many generations of children and families experienced this lovely place and building.

If anyone is interested in this building and needs more information, please call Leah at 250-285-3030

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250-285-3695

#### **Community Centre Update**

The recreation programs are starting at the Community Centre. Don't miss out by delaying your registration, as your favourite activity could run the risk of cancelling due to slow enrollment. Someone toss out the household recreation brochure? Come and pick one up at the QCC or check out our website at www. quadrarec.bc.ca

Dance class with Elsa Das Neves has a new start date: Wednesday, January 27. This is a fabulous opportunity to have your child experience a new art form taught by a professional. 5-6 year olds are 3:00-3:45; 7-10 years are 4:00-4:55; and 11-16 years are 5-6:00. Cost is \$50/8 classes, which, compared to prices in the city, is a steal! If these times are inconvenient, please phone and let's arrange a time you like.

ABC's of First Aid for older elementary children will discuss and demonstrate what can be done when faced with a difficult emergency situation, whilst babysitting. Colleen Swanson is presenting this class, free of charge, Friday, February 12 at the # 1 Firehall on Heriot Bay Rd. at 3:00-5:00. Take the school bus which goes by the Firehall. Phone QCC at 285 3243 to register.

Chess with Philippe Desquieux is Mondays at 3:00 starting January 11. There are still 3 spots left. The cost is \$60/9 classes and phone 285 3243 to register your child who is 6 or older.

New resident, Lisa Murphy is our youth leader who is planning activities for youth 10-15 years. Skate Bmx Stunt video will be shown Saturday, January 16th at 1:00 in room 3. A cooking class is planned for January 23 and a Pizza Cook-off for January 31. Contact Lisa at: lisa\_rec\_society@yahoo.ca or phone 285 3243 for more info.Please spread the word so this program can achieve lift-off.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the amazing volunteers who were responsible for the Community Kitchen Christmas Dinner last month, especially Camp Homewood for cooking the turkeys! To name everyone would fill the page, but you know who you are, and please know, we deeply appreciate your generous gift of caring for community.

Happy 2010 and happy new decade everyone!

Sandy Spearing QCC 8am-2 pm Mon-Fri.



## Lively Heriot Bay Inn History & Dinner with Jeanette Taylor

The history of the Heriot Bay Inn like you've never heard before! Enjoy a four course dinner in Herons at the Heriot Bay Inn and listen to Island historian and author Jeanette Taylor as she shares a wealth of stories about the Inn's lively past and its many exceptional characters. The talk is illustrated by a slide show of archival photos of the hotel and its various owners and customers.

Jeanette Taylor's talk delves into the escapades of the hotel's first owner Hosea Arminius Bull and his second wife Helen, who fled her native New Zealand after her business partner attempted to shoot her over an unpaid debt. Helen met her match in Hosea Bull, a licentious character with a winning personality and the nerve and determination to build Heriot Bay into the major community for the region from 1900 until a major forest fire depleted the logging industry on the island in 1925. The Bulls were followed by a well-to-do English couple who travelled the globe in search of their ideal home. They thought they'd found it in Heriot Bay, but soon found that serving the sometimes wild clientele at the hotel's bar were more than they bargained for. Among the more notorious of these men were Lord Hughie Horatious Nelson Baron Bacon -- 'the only Lord in America' -- and Skookum Tom Leask, who had a double set of teeth.

Taylor hopes people with memories about the hotel from its earliest years to the present will attend and share their stories too. "We have a fair bit of information about the hotel from its earliest decades," says Taylor, "but not much has been written down or recorded from the 1940s on, when the hotel was reopened as a public house after being closed for over a decade."

Taylor's slide show is based on her recently released book, The Quadra Story, A History of Quadra Island. The book is a companion piece to a book released last year, Tidal Passages, A History of the Discovery Islands, chronicling the stories and characters of the islands. This is her fourth book on regional history, based upon her many years of work on the curatorial staff at the Campbell River Museum.

Enjoy the four course dinner and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the Heriot Bay Inn for only \$29 a person. Reservations for this entertaining evening are recommended; please call the Heriot Bay Inn at 250.285.3322.



14 Discovery Islander #465 January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010



## **Rogue PM Prorogues Again**

Dolitical correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end." So reads the winning entry of Texas A&M University's annual contest for the most appropriate definition of the selected contemporary term as penned by Lt. Col. R.J. Wiedemann, USMC (Ret.)\*. While a tad crude, the good Colonel has it nailed, and it also struck me how well his proposition could be used to describe Stephen Harper's behaviour in proroguing Parliament yet once again; this time evading serious questioning on several fronts by the Loyal Opposition besides bringing all pending legislation to a grinding halt.

The last time Harper pulled a stunt like this one it was a bald political strategy to avoid a non-confidence vote in the House - no matter how much as he might obfuscate on his motives - and to his credit it worked wonderfully for him and his party. This time we are informed that the ostensible purpose of this 63-day "break" is to allow MP's time to visit their ridings

and consult with their constituents, and also to use the time to support and enjoy the Olympics. What utter hogwash. Harper's actions warranted editorial comment by the Economist magazine in what is clearly a skeptical tone. "Never mind what

his spin doctors say: Mr. Harper's move looks like naked self-interest. His officials faced grilling by parliamentary committees over whether they misled the House of Commons in denying knowledge that detainees handed over to the local authorities by Canadian troops in Afghanistan were being tortured. The government would also have come under fire for its lack of policies to curb Canada's abundant carbon emissions. Prorogation means that such committees-which carry out the essential democratic task of scrutinising government—will have to be formed anew in March. That will also allow Mr. Harper to gain immediate control of committees in the appointed Senate, where his Conservatives are poised to become the biggest party."

The January 8th edition of the Toronto Star contained this opening to their editorial reaction – "The highest duty of a Prime Minister of Parliament is to uphold the Constitution of Canada, which includes the rights and privileges of the House of Commons and the duties owed to the Queen's representative in his duties on both counts as evidenced by the second prorogation of Parliament on Dec. 30." Sentiment across the country is pretty clearly negative regarding Harper's action, with most anger being prompted by the obvious avoidance strategy or the perception that we are paying our MP's to do nothing, the latter of which being untrue in any event. But what really gets my goat is the fact that the government has at present some 36 pieces of legislation before it, some of which matter a great deal to Canadians, many of which will now need to be re-introduced in the House. This is truly an unforgiveable, colossal waste of taxpayer money and previous legislative effort, and will result in additional hardships for many Canadians awaiting pending EI reforms.

Prorogue became a word of interest for Canadians only after Harper invoked it in December 2008, at which time it generated nowhere near as much negative reaction as at present. In fact, proroguing is a regular procedure in most Commonwealth nations and is used to, in effect, stop any new business from coming before government for a fixed period of

#### "It opened the door for other abuses of the rights and privileges of the majority of Members of Parliament elected by Canadians. Harper has gone through that door once again."

time. Generally the government has finished with pending business before proroguing, and as such it is a matter of routine. Harper's actions, however, are anything but routine.

As the Toronto Star noted, "Before we get to the present prorogation, it is relevant to recall what led up to the original undemocratic prorogation. Having done everything possible to hide from a vote of confidence, the Prime Minister requested that Parliament be shut down on Dec. 4, 2008. The Governor General had little option but to grant the request to avoid a political crisis in Canada. It had put her into an untenable position. Apart from the doomed attempts of Charles I to prorogue the British parliament in the 17th century, there was no precedent in any parliamentary democracy anywhere in the world where a democratic parliament was shut down to hide from a vote of confidence.

"It opened the door for other abuses of the rights and privileges of the majority of Members of Parliament elected by Canadians. Harper has gone through that door once again. This time, the insult to Canadian democracy, while less

Canada. Stephen Harper keeps on failing in his duties on both counts as evidenced by the second prorogation of Parliament on Dec. 30." Sentiment across the country is pretty clearly negative regarding Harper's action, with most anger being prompted by the obvious avoidance strategy or the perception that we are paying our MP's to do nothing, the latter of which being untrue in any event. But what really

> I'll admit a certain bias in that I have regarded Stephen Harper with considerable distaste since way back in his Reform days, and in his tenure to date as either head of opposition or government he has done nothing to improve that view. His behaviour, most particularly in the past 13 months, could lead one to believe he has forgotten that he heads a constitutional democracy and instead has assumed the mantle of benevolent dictator. The Economist is inclined to agree - "Mr. Harper is a competent tactician with a ruthless streak. He bars most ministers from talking to the media; he has axed some independent watchdogs: he has binned campaign promises to make government more open and accountable. Now he is subjecting Parliament to prime-ministerial whim."

Synonyms for whim include caprice, conceit and craze – its antonym is plan.

The Toronto Star is much more blunt than their Fleet Street counterpart – "Some Canadians may not pay much attention to archaic constitutional terms such as

prorogation of Parliament or even to the fate of Afghan detainees transferred to torture. Other Canadians will care greatly about both these issues. But all Canadians must care about a minority government that undermines the fundamental democratic institutions of this country while also manipulating quasi-judicial tribunals and intimidating the public service from speaking truth to power. This abuse of executive power is tilting toward totalitarian government and away from the foundations of democracy and the rule of law on which this country was founded. "

Michael Ignatieff read the situation correctly after the last prorogation in that Canadians did not want to face the expense and bother of another federal election. This time it's different and he will likely reap significant benefit as more and more Canadians tire of the Prime Minister's antics and demand a federal election, sooner rather than later, in order to throw Harper and his cronies out of office.

\*Quotation provided by one of my intrepid field researchers, Anglophile specialist Ian Sentence.

# <u>Classifieds</u>

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BLUES!

Steam, Jacuzzi, Essential Oils,

Color Therapy - only \$20!

CALL LORI TODAY 203-2248

PILATES

Group Pilates mat classes at the

Tuesdays & Saturdays 9:30-

10:30am, Thursdays 5-6pm.

Visit www.practicalpilates.ca or

QCC starting 12 Jan 2010.

call Natasha on 285-2930.

\$100/10 classes.

Monday evenings 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Any 5 classes prepaid \$50

Drop-In \$12 Sue 285-2948

Starts Jan. 25

welcome

New Year Session starts

Monday January 4, 2010

6 pass \$60 for any 6 classes

Drop-In's \$12 Ann 285-3065

vahoo.com

Longtime island resident

#### FOR SALE:

Double kayak, large storage compartments, Neckie Manitou II, comes with paddle, storage bag and pump. Has keel. Large sit down bucket area.

\$750.00. Call Ken at 923-8291.

#### **STORES**

AMPED ON NUTRITION - Quadra Island's Health Food Store and Deli. We carry vitamins, supplements, alternative groceries and more. Energize yourself with our delicious, organic vegetarian deli delights. Combining what you need with what you want. Open 10:00 am - 6 pm every

day except closed Sundays and Mondays **250-285-3142** 

#### ACCOMMODAION FIRESIGN ART & DESIGN STUDIO AND B&B:

Enjoy quiet privacy in our delightful 3-bedroom B&B with kitchenette, includes multi-course breakfasts specialising in wheat-free baking. Tourism BC Approved, BC B&B Innkeepers. Art studio, gallery, amber jewellery, workshops. **250-285-3390**,

www.firesignartanddesign.com

#### WINTER GETAWAY

Consider Tsa-Kwa-Luten's two bedroom deluxe beachfront house by the wharf for your next retreat, romantic getaway, girl's weekend or visiting friends and family. Self contained and fully furnished with living room, gas fireplace, floor to ceiling windows, wrap around covered deck with BBQ, full kitchen with dishwasher, 2 bedrooms with queen beds, 2 bathrooms; one with oversize jetted tub and one with oversize shower. Special winter rate \$179.95 plus taxes. Call 250-285-2042 or book on-line and save 10%.

#### FOR RENT

FOR RENT - nice four bedroom home with many features on acreage available for rent February.1, 2010,must have references, terms of rental agreement will be documented. \$800.00 per month. Call 250-285-3717

### HERIOT BAY TIDES

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Date	PST	m	ft
15	07:00	4.9	16.
<b>15</b> Friday	12:34	$\frac{4.9}{3.6}$	10.
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