# DISCOVERY I S L A N D E R



## Island Group Begins Journey to a Community Retail Food Cooperative

**WHEN THE FOR SALE SIGN** went up at The Island Pantry last fall many loyal customers urged Owner, Deb Banta to consider the idea of a co-op store.

Out of those initial meetings in the fall, two groups emerged. One group focused on a measured, inquiring approach. Their goal is to learn more about cooperatives and how they can benefit the Quadra community. The "Coop Curious" group is actively planning and providing a series of informational events and meetings in February and March.

The other group decided to dive into a plan to establish a retail food member-owned cooperative. Recently, they formed a Steering Committee to initiate the Quadra Island Community Cooperative using the Quadra Island Pantry as a starting point. The Steering committee, consisting of Bruce and Deb Banta, Wendy Porter and Mike Gladish would welcome a few more people to take on organizing roles on the steering committee. The Steering Committee will serve as the Board of Directors for the first year of operation and then elections will be held in subsequent years.

The committee is currently planning a community information session to be held on March 29 at the Community Rec Centre from 10am to 2pm. By that time the steering committee will be able to provide more information regarding membership fees and investment opportunities. They will also solicit feedback regarding products and services that Quadra Islanders would like to see at the store.

The current product line will continue to be offered. A survey will soon be underway to determine the products that would entice islanders to shop locally.

A cooperative should mean that prices and product offerings will make membership attractive. The main goal of the Quadra Island Community Retail Cooperative will continue to focus on 'simply providing affordable wholesome food with environmental integrity'. In addition, the Community Retail Cooperative will work towards food security and

supporting Quadra producers.

Cortes, Sayward and Tofino are three examples of communities with cooperative grocery retail stores with a proven track record.

Meanwhile Quadra Islanders are welcome to drop by the Island Pantry to express support or provide ideas for products and services – or contact the Steering Committee by email at qipantrycoop@gmail.com Mike Gladish, Quadra Island Community Cooperative, Steering Committee (867-333-9442)

## The Co-op Curious Learners Present Session #2

Food Producer Co-ops With Arzeena Hamir February 20 at 7 pm at the HBI (Herons Dining Room)

**COME EARLY** to Munch and Mingle over free refreshments at 6:30pm. What journey does a tiny seed make as it is grown cooperatively? How do agricultural and food production co-ops help build community, secure local food sources, generate food sustainability and increase food security? In changing times, we need local producers and the local producers need each other. How do we build those bridges? Come join the Co-op Curious Learners to find out.

Arzeena Hamir is a Comox Valley organic farmer and food security advocate. She holds a bachelor's degree in crop science and a master's degree in sustainable agriculture. Arzeena was a co-founder of Merville Organics Food Co-op, played an integral role in developing food security initiatives in the Comox Valley, and helped launch the Mid Island Farmers' Institute. She is currently one of four member farms in the Comox Valley Organics Cooperative and has been a leader in changing food production practices on Vancouver Island. For further bio details see: Arzeena.ca

#### Coming Up Next....Session #3

February 25 at 7pm at the HBI pub Co-op Curious Learners and U of Q Present: "We are in this Together" Intentional Community Living: Our 20 year Experience in Co-housing with Bernie Amell



www.QuadralslandRealEstate.com

## Learning to Live Together with Wildlife

**ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8,** Sierra Quadra welcomes Cortes Islander and biologist Sabina Leader-Mense in conversation with any and all interested community members about wildlife coexistence. Sabina founded the Cortes Community Wolf Project, an initiative that provides information about living harmoniously with the wild

wolves that, like us, call these islands home. Sabina will share her stories, knowledge and understanding she's gained from years of studying the Cortes wolf pack. Please bring your own stories and philosophies of wildlife coexistence and join the conversation! Admission is by donation; desserts and hot beverages will be available. Doors (and kitchen) open at 7pm, and Sabina will introduce the conversation at 7:30pm.

### List Your Event in the DI's News & Events Calendar

• Email us at

news@discoveryislands.ca

- **Drop off** your item at *Inspirations* in Quathiaski Cove
- **Bring** it to our office at 701 Cape Mudge Road

### ISLAND CALENDAR

### DAY TO DAY

### Friday, February 7

• Friday Flicks presents: Ghostlight, 7:45 QCC, doors @ 7:30

### Saturday, February 8

• Sierra Quadra presents biologist Sabina Leader-Mense and guests in conversation about Learning to Live with Wildlife. QCC, doors @ 7pm, event 7:30, by donation

### Sunday, February 9

• Appreciation Potluck for Rebecca Young at QCC, 5 to 7pm, see info on pg 7

### Monday, February 10

• QI Garden Club: Medicinal Herbs with Anita Murdoch at QCC, 7 to 9pm, see pg 18

### Tuesday, February 18

• U of Q: Eyewitness Account of Christchurch Earthquake, Greg Ross, 7pm HBI Pub

### Thursday, February 20

• Co-op Curious Learners: Food Producer Co-ops with Arzeena Hamir, 7pm Herons Dining Room at HBI, see pg 2

### Friday, February 21

• Friday Flicks presents: Goodrich, 7:45 QCC, doors @ 7:30, details pg 6

### Sunday, February 23

• Way to Go meeting, QCC Room 3, 3 to 4:30pm, details pg 4

### Tuesday, February 25

• Co-op Curious Learners & U of Q: We Are In This Together, 7pm HBI Pub

### Sunday, March 2

• Death Education Fair, QCC, 1 to 4pm, details pg 6

## **REGULARS**

### Sundays

• Meditation Group: Quadra Children's Centre, 10am

### Mondays

- Pickleball, at Cape Mudge Gym, drop-in fee \$3, 10am-noon
- Badminton at Cape Mudge Gym, drop-in fee \$3,7:30p

### Wednesdays

- Pickleball, at Cape Mudge Gym, drop-in fee \$3, 6-8pm
- Poker Night: Quadra Legion 7:30pm

### **Thursdays**

- Pickleball, at Cape Mudge Gym, drop-in fee \$3, 6–7:30pm.
- Badminton at Cape Mudge Gym, drop-in fee \$3, 7:30pm
- Shakespeare Discussion Group QCC Room 2

### Saturdays

• Meat Draw: Quadra Legion 5 to 6:30pm



## WHAT'S ON AT QCC



Jump into the action at the Quadra Community Centre! Come down, get involved and be part of YOUR community!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING at QCC February 7 to 21, 2025

### **THIS WEEKEND: February 7 to 9**

**FRIDAY:** 8:30 Fitness with Jeannie; 9:30 Men's Fitness; 10:30 Friday Painters; 12 noon Smart Recovery: to join contact Jude: smartrecoveryquadra@gmail.com; 7:45 Friday Flicks Presents: GhostLight

**SATURDAY**: 10 Tai Chi with Nicki; 10 Nature Sketching for Adults with Elke; 10 Microgreens workshop; 7:30 Sierra Quadra presents: Learning to Live with Wildlife with Sabina Leader-Mense

**SUNDAY:** Appreciation Potluck for Rebecca Young 5-7 pm in the hall. Everyone Welcome! Please bring a potluck item to share.

### THIS WEEK: February 10 to 14

MONDAY: 8:30 am Fitness with Jeannie; 10 Parents and Tots; 1 Jewelry Making (Quadra Circle); 1 Sing for Pure JOY; 2:30 Caregivers Support Group; 2:45 Afterschool Yoga with Anita; 5:30 Iyengar Yoga; 7 Garden Club presents Medicinal Gardens with Anita Murdoch

**TUESDAY:** 9 Quadra Quilters Guild; 10:15 Balance, Core Strength and Bone Health; 2:30 Kids Afterschool Sports with Dave (Intro to handball); 5 Circuit Training with Nicki; 5 BRO-ga (Men's yoga) with Sarah; 7:15 International Folk Dancing **WEDNESDAY:** 10 Baby Clinic; 12 noon Community Kitchen Lunch; 1 Mosaics; 3 Ping Pong; 4 Kids Afterschool Sports with Dave (Intermediate basketball); 5:45 Warm Flow Yoga with Elizabeth

**THURSDAY:** 10 Parents and Tots Dance with Kate; 10 Pelvic Floor Training (Quadra Circle); 12 Shakespeare Study Group; 3 Art in Nature with Elke; 5 Core Strength with Nicki; 6 Beginners Dance with Heidi; 6 Drop-in Floor Hockey for Kids (Quadra School Gym); 7 Drop-in Floor Hockey for Adults (Quadra School Gym); 6:30 Quadra Singers

FRIDAY: 8:30 Fitness with Jeannie; 9:30 Men's Fitness; 10:30 Friday Painters; 10 Spinners and Knitters; 12 noon Smart Recovery: to join contact Jude: smartrecoveryquadra@gmail.com

### **NEXT WEEKEND: February 15 to 16**

SATURDAY: 10 Tai Chi with Nicki

### **NEXT WEEK: February 17 to 21**

MONDAY: FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY 8:30 am Fitness with Jeannie; 10 Family Day Yoga

with Anita; 1 Sing for Pure JOY; 5:30 Iyengar Yoga with Dood

**TUESDAY:** 2:30 Kids Afterschool Sports with Dave (Intro to Handball), 5 Circuit Training with Nicki; 5 Hatha Flow Class with Trinity; 7 Tai Chi with Nicki; 7:15 International Folk Dancing

WEDNESDAY: 10 Gentle Yoga with Trinity; 11 Art in Nature for Homeschoolers; 12 noon Community Kitchen Lunch; 1 Mosacis; 3 Ping Pong; 4 Kids Afterschool Sports with Dave (Intermediate basketball); 5:45 Warm Flow Yoga with Elizabeth THURSDAY: 10 Parents and Tots Dance with Kate; 10 Quadra Circle Pelvic Floor Training; 12 noon Shakespeare Study Group; 3 Art in Nature with Elke; 5 Core Strength with Nicki; 6 Beginners Dance with Heidi; 6 Drop-in Floor Hockey for Kids (Quadra School Gym); 7 Drop-in Floor Hockey for Adults (Quadra School Gym); 6:30 Quadra Singers

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For further info phone 250-285-3243. OR go to our website and to our Recreation Guide tab to view the guide there: http://www.quadrarec.bc.ca OR navigate to our new REC DESK calendar to see whats happening each day, (click on each activity in the calendar to expand its details): https://quadrarec.recdesk.com/Community/Calendar



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Publisher Philip Stone Guest Editor Robyn Budd

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**Opinions expressed** in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not the views of the publisher.

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

We welcome items for publication on subjects of interest to the Discovery Islands community.

- 250-300 words is a good length for community announcements.
- Send articles in the body of an email.
- Canadian spelling please: centre, colour, jewellery etc...
- Please use the title of your item in the email subject line.
- Remember to **include credits and captions** for photos & artwork.

WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO INCLUDE ALL ITEMS SUBMITTED, ERRORS AND ACCIDENTAL OMISSIONS MAY OCCUR.

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### **NEXT DEADLINE**

7pm Monday, February 17 for publication on Friday, February 21, 2025

## **COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS**

## What's Wrong with Fire Hall #2 in Heriot Bay?

**AS YOU MAY HAVE READ** in the last issue of the DI, the South Quadra Island Fire Protection District is planning to build a replacement fire hall in Heriot Bay. We will be conducting an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) between February 12th and March 27th, 2025 as we seek to gain approval from property owners in the Fire Protection District to borrow funds to construct a new hall. The window for submitting Owner Response Forms will be February 20th to March 27th. In the meantime we will be communicating with Quadra Islanders in various ways, including regular articles in the DI, in an effort to share valuable information about this project and the AAP process.

Today we would like to take a deeper dive into the reasons why the current fire hall in Heriot Bay needs to be replaced. Several years ago, the staff and trustees completed a full assessment of Hall #2. They found that Hall #2 is very weak in regards to volunteer safety and compliance with WorkSafe BC, BC Building Code, and Fire Code requirements. This is not surprising as it was built in 1970 out of cinder blocks and not only has the building aged, standards for fire halls have changed since then. Specifically, Hall #2 is:

- Not compliant with WorkSafe BC standards
- Not compliant with safety standards for fire halls
- Inadequate space to accommodate current or future equipment and personnel needs
- Without water or septic capabilities (it has no water supply or waste water disposal system nor potential for either in the future)
- Not built to seismic post-disaster standards (would not withstand an earthquake)
- Not energy efficient
- Inadequate space on the lot to store water in the ground
- Constructed on leased land

The trustees considered the option to retrofit and renovate the existing building. This option was voted down due to lack of water and septic on the site, the fact that the site is leased and not owned, the age and size of the building, the size of the lot, and seismic issues.

The option to build a new structure on previously purchased land was voted as the best use of taxpayer funds as it would provide a safe building and address the list of ongoing concerns.

In a future issue of the DI we will share information about the design of the proposed new hall and how it will be safer for firefighters and the community.

Where can I find out more? For more information and to sign up for email updates please go to www.qifirehall2.ca.

We encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions, either by email QIfirehallreplacement@gmail.com or by phone (250) 285-3262 or using the contact form on www.qifirehall2.ca. We will update the FAQ

section of the website as new questions come in.

We will be holding a number of Open Houses and will be publishing information about them in the Discovery Islander and the Bird's Eye, as well as putting the information on our website www.qifirehall2.ca and sending it to our email list. Until next time!

The Trustees of the South Quadra Island Fire Protection District

## Way to Go

JOIN US on Sunday, February 23 (note change of date) from 3 to 4:30 pm, QCC Room 3, for a time of sharing, presentation on MAiD by Dr. Hughes, discussion, and business. Bring \$2 for rental. Info or zoom link at <way2go. ca>, or 285-3298. Upcoming events: Death Education Fair March 2 from 1 to 4 pm, regular meetings March 17 and April 14.

### **THANKS**

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of Quadra Links Limited would like to thank our membership for their generosity this Christmas Season. With their giving spirit, large donations were made to the Quadra Food Bank and the HBI Christmas dinner. Again, thank you Quadra Golf Club Members – you are the best!!!

Find your way around online... Quadralsland.ca





## **A Generation Of Women**

**THE PLAY,** A Generation Of Women, evolved from a single monologue written twenty-five years ago into a saga spanning a century with five different storytelling descendants. As the writer and performer Theatreworks' Kymme Patrick tells humourous and insightful stories of five generations of women who helped shape our community with their dreams, with obstacles overcome and achievements for women in workplaces formerly dominated by men.

Creating *A Generation Of Women* began with an historic look at women on Vancouver Island, incorporating facts about the mining town of Cumberland in 1910, the docks of Comox in the 1920s, the Campbell River logging activities in the 1930s and a variety of local areas with details that depict the changing times and challenges. Whether Maggie is escaping the coal pits of Wales to journey to a better life in Canada, or Lillian is cooking meals for the loggers while dreaming of faraway places that the steamship travels, or Florence is building airplanes during wartime while pining for romance and peace, or Lulu is having a moment of clarity while enjoying free love and pesticide-free farming life, they each add a colourful thread to the tapestry of women's experience throughout the twentieth century.

"In this play I explore how women have struggled during their times with issues of poverty, prejudice and deadly working conditions. I became fascinated by the changing roles of women and of the working class in the Comox Valley and surrounding area."

Kymme Patrick is a well-known actor, director and writer of dozens of plays, winning awards from Theatre BC in all areas of theatre production. After much deliberation she decided to perform the piece as a one-woman show. "I don't leave the stage between characters," she explains, "because I dress in layers to make quick transitions. A new look, a different voice, I'm ready to go!" Although Patrick has performed A Generation Of Women several times any thought of retiring this piece has been met with another request. "Women like to watch it," she says, "with their mothers, daughters, sisters and friends."

So come out to celebrate the sisterhood of women and bring your mothers, daughters, sisters and all those who love them.



## **At The Legion**

**SUNDAY FEB 9, 3pm** We're watching the Super Bowl Game! Food, friends and lots of fun!

**THURSDAY FEB 20, 8pm** Cortes Rocks with guests Vanessa Marshak, The Broadfork Band, Secret Emcky, Hank Pine, J-Bird & Sweet D, Carolyn Mark, Kitty and The Rooster, Ailish D. This is going to be a fabulous night of music! \$15 OBO

**SATURDAY FEB 22 YELLOW ROSE** is bopping across the parking lot to the Legion and cooking dinner and it's going to be amazing! Details coming soon.

**SATURDAY FEB 22 BINGO!** Proceeds this month are going to the Wounded Warriors program! The Vancouver Island group is running from Port Hardy starting Saturday Feb 22 and arriving at the Campbell River Legion on Tuesday Feb 25 at 5pm. If you would like to come support and cheer them on for the last leg of the race that ends in Victoria, come join us.

FRIDAY FEB 28 8pm LIVE MUSIC! Details coming soon.

**SUNDAY MARCH 9 THEATREWORKS** with Kymme Patrick presents *A Generation of Women.* See article at left; ad on Page 17.

## **Photography Club News**

**DID YOU NOTICE** the beautiful photo on the front cover of the 2025 Quadra Phone Book? You know the one! It arrives the first week of January every year in our mail boxes. The photo for 2025 is a beautiful Anna's hummingbird in a winter scene and was taken by club member Rob Johnson. Check it out!

Each year members of the photo club are asked to submit eyecatching, local wildlife photos. The phone book team chooses the one that fits their criteria best. This becomes the photo for the next year's cover. This is one of the ways that club members get to show our creativity. Does this interest you? Come learn and experience our fun and supportive club. Contact us at qphotoclub@gmail.com Don Mottershead, Diane Yusko Fielding



## Death Education Fair March 2, 2025

**FOR MANY,** conversations about death remain uncomfortable, often avoided until we



have no choice but to face them. Yet, understanding the end of life—just as we do birth, growth, and change—can provide clarity, reduce fear, and

help us make informed choices that align with our values.

Join Way To Go for a Death Education Fair on Sunday, March 2nd, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Quadra Community Centre. This event offers a welcoming space to explore topics of aging, death, dying, and grief with openness and curiosity. Our goal is to expand awareness, foster comfort with these important conversations, and highlight local, natural, and community-centered approaches to end-of-life care.

The Fair will feature informational tables covering topics such as estate and personal planning, community-led death care, natural burial, caskets and shrouds, Threshold Choir, hospice, grief and loss, MAiD, and more. Attendees are encouraged to browse at their own pace, ask questions, and engage with knowledgeable members of their own community who can offer guidance and insight.

You are invited to bring a picture or memento to place on the "In Remembrance" table. In this way, you can acknowledge your grief for those you miss, and show your gratitude for how their lives have touched yours.

In the Green Room, relax in the Death Cafe and engage in guided conversation while enjoying tea and cookies.

In the Yoga Room, we'll have four scheduled 20-minute presentations on: Compassionate Communities, Estate and Personal Planning, Community-Led Death Care, and the Quadra Island Cemetery.

The result of living in a society that is shy to talk about death is that our knowledge about what is possible is often narrow and limited. Hearing words like hospice, palliative, and death can paralyze us. While we still have the capacity to explore and the time to ponder, let us acknowledge our mortality and empower ourselves with knowledge.

The Death Education Fair is an opportunity to learn, expand, reflect, and connect in a relaxed environment. Whether you're planning ahead, supporting a loved one, or simply curious, we look forward to seeing you on March 2nd at the Quadra Community Centre.

Way To Go strives to integrate death as part of life by initiating conversations, providing education, and encouraging people to prepare for end-of-life. We also empower, guide, and support the practice and process of caring for our own dead and dying, in community. Visit our website, way2go.ca to view upcoming events, read previously written articles, and join our email list.

Margaret Verschuur

## Friday Flicks: February 7 and 21

**FEBRUARY 7,** Friday Flicks presents Ghostlight (USA). Doors and concession open at 7:30, showtime 7:45 at Quadra Community Centre.

When Dan (Keith Kupferer), a melancholic middle-aged construction worker, finds himself drifting from his wife and daughter after his son's suicide, he discovers community and purpose in a local theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet. But as the drama on stage starts to mirror his own life, he finds the tragedies of the play too close to his own. Unwilling to confront his grief at home, he begins to confront his loss through the play. Funny and heartwarming, Ghostlight is an exploration of how we feel love and loss through art.

FEBRUARY 21, Goodrich (USA). Andy Goodrich's (Michael Keaton) life is upended when his wife and the mother of their nine-year-old twins enters a 90-day rehab program, leaving him on his own with their young kids. Thrust into the world of modern parenthood, Goodrich leans on his daughter from his first marriage, Grace (Mila Kunis), as he ultimately evolves into the father Grace never had. A bonafide crowd-pleaser about what it really means to be a family.

## Save the Date!

The Quadra Island Foundation presents: Strengthening Community Connections 2025

Theme: Volunteerism: Connect, Belong, Impact!

What motivates people to volunteer? How do we get better at managing and keeping volunteers? How can we work together to support our community and our volunteers?

Let's continue the conversation between all of the volunteer groups on Quadra! Let's include everyone who wants to join in!

Date: Saturday, March 22 at the Quadra Community Centre. Watch for more info in the next DI.

### **New to Quadra?**

The Discovery Islands Chamber of Commerce and local businesses welcome you with a gift bag.

Contact Carol Ann T. at: carolannt@telus.net

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## **Healthcare Update**

**IT IS ALREADY FEBRUARY,** but it still feels like a new – and energetic – year. Quadra Island Health Society's goal for this year is to strengthen healthcare services on the island and work towards the goal of every resident having access to medical care and the support they need.

We are working with the health authority to recruit healthcare practitioners to meet our community's growing needs. We recognize a sense of urgency and regret that people seeking care sometimes take their frustration out on staff at the clinic. However, we hope to bring you positive updates about new medical staff in the coming months.

An option being actively explored for the longer term is a Community Health Centre (CHC) to address the needs of residents of Quadra as well those on the outer islands and Cortes.

Meetings, led by the BC Association of Community Health Centres, were held on Quadra, Cortes and Read last week. People heard how such a Discovery Islands Community Health Centre would assist in filling the gaps which exist in primary care on the islands. It would improve recruitment and support for physicians and nurse practitioners; preserve existing services in their current locations and add new ones; and provide a single administration for all clinics, and programs. if they choose to participate. It wont be a stand alone building but will build on the existing infrastructure.

There is a wide variety of such health centres in rural communities and towns and cities across BC; there are 36 up and running and four more planned for this year. The project's application for a Discovery Islands Community Health Centre will be submitted to BC's Ministry of Health in late March, for approval, but actual funding to start the project may take months.

A CHC provides a team-based care model, making it a more attractive and sustainable option for healthcare practitioners. With additional nurses, mental health workers and others, physicians have more time to spend on patient care and can in fact increase the number of people on their lists. Services may include primary medical care; chronic disease management; mental health and substance use support; preventative care and health promotion; coordinated access to specialists; culturally appropriate care for Indigenous communities

Island Health will not directly operate the CHC but may provide funding and support as part of the provincial healthcare system. The CHC will work in collaboration with Island Health programs.

The CHC is a community-driven project, and your input is essential. We encourage people to participate in the upcoming community survey, soon to be available electronically and by mail, to help shape the proposal. We believe collaboration and community involvement are key to shaping a robust and sustainable healthcare system. *Quadra Island Health Society* 



## **QI Outdoor Club**

**NOW WE HAVE WINTER!** Here are our upcoming events:

10 FEB, MONDAY Paddle to Open Bay and Breton Islands

**12 FEB, WEDNESDAY** Hike to Plumper and Deepwater Bays

**24 FEB, MONDAY** Hike a Shellaligan Loop

**3 MAR, MONDAY** Snowshoeing at Mt Washington

21-24 MARCH, FRIDAY Multi-day hiking from Powell River

There is a very complete selection of activities coming up. Hopefully something for everyone. In March we are planning for multi-day hiking out of Powell River. We haven't had a trip like this since COVID and are looking forward to a return to this social and comfortable hiking from a base. The details about Club outings are available at: https://qioutdoorclub.org/schedule-fall-winter-2024-25/ We also list all of our trip reports with photos at https://qioutdoorclub.org/trips/trip-photos/. For more information about the Outdoor Club visit https://qioutdoorclub.org/ or email to qioutdoorclub@gmail.com

## **Opportunity for Chef/Cook!**

**THE QUADRA ISLAND** Legion Branch 154 is looking for someone to provide happy hour/dinner service. Saturday night events provide a fabulous guaranteed clientele, and lots of room for expansion with flexible hours during the rest of the week. Great lease rate with utilities included. Legion seats maximum 100 people. For more information call Heidi at 250-202-2217 or email HeidiRidgway@Royallepage.ca



## **Montreal Guitar Trio**

**QUADRA CONCERTS IS PRESENTING** the Montreal Guitar Trio on Saturday, March 15 at the QCC starting at 7:30. We are delighted to welcome Sébastien Deshaies, Glenn Lévesque, and Marc Morin to our stage and we hope our Quadra audience will come out to support these wonderful professional musicians who have toured the world. Their performances have taken them from Alaska to Korea, Romania to New Zealand, as well as Los Angeles, London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Tallinn, Brisbane, Christchurch and now they are performing for Quadra Island! This is an opportunity to see and hear great live music right here on our island at remarkably low prices. Advance tickets for \$20 will be available at Inspirations, Copper Coast and online through Tidemark Theatre.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$25. This is truly a concert you don't want to miss.

The Montreal Guitar Trio (MG3) surprises, amazes, exalts, and ignites audiences with their dynamic and breathtaking stage presence. This passionate



trio has been sharing their work with fervor for over 25 years. In addition to their three guitars, these multi-instrumentalists also sing and play the violin, mandolin, bass, accordion and more. Renowned as one of the finest ensembles in the country, the Montreal Guitar Trio (MG3) has been showcasing its virtuosity and captivating stage presence both nationally and internationally for over 25 years. Now, the trio of guitarists is presenting a tribute concert in memory of the great Ennio Morricone. From the beginning of their career, the music of this legendary composer has been a significant part of the trio's repertoire. This special concert dedicated to his memory will also feature special surprises with the unique flair that only the MG3 can offer.



## Finding Climate Solutions Free Workshop

**BOMB CYCLONE? REALLY?!** As extreme storms, droughts, flooding, and forest fires have made climate change deeply personal in BC over the past five years, an increasing number of people are experiencing climate anxiety. The climate crisis can feel too big to stop or even mitigate, but over 200 international scientific researchers say it is possible. Solutions already exist to counter this crisis, based on the work of Project Drawdown and Project Regeneration. Hope lies in implementing these actions.

Did you know that two of the most powerful climate solutions happen in our kitchens rather than in the cars we drive? Would changing cooking methods in a distant country actually make a difference? Do we really need to talk about this?

Finding Climate Solutions is a fast-paced, interactive one and a half hour workshop where these and other key questions will be explored. ICAN and the newly formed Quadra Island Land Trust Society are jointly hosting this workshop on February 19, 1–2:30pm in Room #3 at the Quadra Island Community Centre (following the Community Lunch). The workshop is presented by RegenerateBC, a registered nonprofit society dedicated to climate change education.

A more in-depth five-week course will be available (for those chronologically eligible) through Campbell River Elder College in March 2025.

Visiting artist Teresa
Smith came to
Quadra from her
home on San Juan
Island, to hike, to
paint, to write. See her
story and more of her
paintings on page 17.
(Right: Cathedral
Grove, by
Teresa Smith)





## Quadra Island Fire Rescue 2024 Year In Review

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We would like to share with you some statistics from 2024 and remind everyone how they can continue to partner with us to help keep our community safe in 2025.

Total Fire Rescue Calls 2024: 241 Total Fire Rescue Calls 2023: 261 Total Fire Rescue Calls 2022: 240

Here is a breakdown of calls for service in

2024:

First Responder: 156

Duty Officer Investigation: 26

Hydro Trouble: 19 Alarm Activation: 9

Structure Fire/Smoke in Building: 9

Rescue: 5

Motor Vehicle Incident: 4 Assist Other Agency: 3 Chimney Fire: 3 Propane leak: 2 Public Service: 2 Marine: 1

Marine Fire: 1 Brush Fire: 1

As shown above, First Responder calls continue to make up a significant portion of our total calls. Despite the ambulance station transitioning to being staffed 24 hours a day 365 days a year, we continue to respond to many FR calls to assist paramedics or conduct patient care prior to the arrival of paramedics, especially on the Heriot Bay side of the island.

2024 saw a decrease in brush fires compared to 2023. This was largely due to a cooler summer with more rainfall than in 2023. We encourage everyone to look at www. firesmartbc.ca for ideas on how to best prepare their properties prior to the warmer, drier months.

With a few more months of winter storms ahead, we would like to remind everyone to stay at least 10 metres (30 feet) away from ANY

## At the HBI Pub: U of Q Presents...

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18:** An Eyewitness Account of the Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake on February 22, 2011, with Greg Ross, 7pm.

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25:** We Are In This Together – Intentional Community Living: Our 20 years of experience in co-housing, with Bernie Amell, 7pm.

downed power lines and call 911 to report. If a downed power line is arching, sparking, glowing, hissing, or smoking, stay 32 metres (100 feet) away to be safe.

In the event of power outages, please ensure that generators are a safe distance away from buildings and candles are used responsibly to reduce the risk of fire.

Please consider cleaning your chimney regularly to reduce the risk of a chimney fire. The best practice is to have chimneys swept twice a year - once halfway through the season and once at the end of the season so it is ready to go for the upcoming season.

If you do have a chimney fire, call 911. Then, put a small amount of water (1 to 2 cups) on the fire, close the door, and dampen the stove all the way down. The water creates steam which will travel up the chimney and help cool the burning creosote. Closing the damper reduces the amount of oxygen available to the fire.

Lastly, please help us help you by ensuring that your driveway has a visible address sign! This means that it is reflective for night calls and visible from both directions or the direction of travel of an approaching emergency vehicle. Also, if the property has multiple units please ensure that they are properly signed Unit A, Unit B, etc. This is absolutely critical to ensuring that we can provide assistance as quickly as possible in an emergency.

### **POETRY**

### Whispers of the Weary Flesh

My legs are sore, I cannot lie, From lunges that made me nearly cry.

Yesterday's squats with weights galore,

Now my muscles just scream for no more.

I thought I'd rise, strong and tall, But now I can barely stand at all! Those squats? They didn't do a thing,

Except make my thighs feel like they're in a sling.

So here I sit, in pain and woe, Regretting every rep, every low. But hey, tomorrow, I'll try again— Maybe I'll just crawl again to the gym, my friend.

But time moves on, the ache remains,

A quiet pulse beneath the strain. And though the body wears and bends,

It knows that even this will end.

Lydia Newman









## THE QUADRA PROJECT

## **Uninhabitable - Part 1**

**A GLOBAL TEMPERATURE** review of 2024 confirms the trend that has been so concerning to climatologists. The last 10 years have been the warmest on record, and 2024 has been the warmest yet. The European Copernicus calculation measured 2024 as 1.6°C above the pre-industrial temperature, with most days being above the 1.5°C aspirational target set by the Paris Agreement (COP21) in 2015. Other organizations measured a slightly different temperature for 2024: NASA at 1.47°C, NOAA at 1.46°C, and Berkley Earth at 1.62°C. The differences are technical but the trend is the same. Global temperatures are rising in concert with our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels in 2024 were 37.4 billion tonnes, up 0.8% from 2023—coal consumption increased 1.6%, oil 2.0%, and natural gas 2.5%. So called "land use" contributions from factors such as deforestation contributed another 4.2 billion tonnes, bringing the total to 41.6 billion tonnes in 2024, the second time since 2023 that it exceeded 40 billion tonnes. Electricity from renewable energy sources increased by 13% in 2023, but the statistics indicate that it was added to the global energy supply rather than replacing fossil fuels. The optimistic expectation is that anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions will peak in 2025, a symbolic but ineffectual accomplishment since any CO2 emissions above net zero will still continue to heat the planet and exacerbate climate change.

In reality, however, we are already experiencing climate change, and it will continue regardless of what we do now. The weather anomalies we are presently experiencing will now continue indefinitely. Like it or not, the new abnormal will become the new normal. It's too late to be changed. We have set the climate dial at the highest temperature in at least 800,000 years, and the temperature will continue to rise until our emissions reach net zero. But even then, the processes that we have initiated will have to complete themselves, providing us with uncomfortable surprises.

In actual terms, the aspirational target of 1.5°C has been breached—by the United Nations' rather unhelpful standard, the 1.5°C breach has to take place over an unspecified number of consecutive years. But temperatures are on their way up, and if the past is prologue to the future, the likelihood of reducing greenhouse gas emissions quickly enough and significantly enough to avoid even breaching the UN's impractical target now seems unlikely. To confirm this, according to a study by the United Nations Environment Programme (New Scientist, November 2, 2024), the current pledges by all nations, even given the unlikely prospect that they will be met, will increase temperatures between 2.6°C and 2.8°C. Someone who has attempted to explore the dire prospects that await us in this hotter world is David Wallace-Wells in his book, The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming.

Wallace-Well's book was published in 2019 when the temperature increase was 1.1°C. In a rapidly changing world, five years could have rendered this book obsolete. However, he avoids this problem by exploring the ramifications of temperature increases of 1.5°C and 2.0°C, of 2.5°C and 3.0°C, and even of temperatures of 4.0°C and above to 6.0°C. This is not an unreasonable assumption given our poor record of reducing emissions, and our scant knowledge about the climate effects of positive feedback loops such as methane from a melting tundra and the unusual weather resulting from changing ocean currents.

These are temperatures that are entirely foreign to human experience as a species. Other life has existed during previous times of a warmer planet with higher concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide, but we do not know how we and our civilizations will adapt, manage or even survive at such temperatures. In the geological history that predated us, four of the previous five major extinction events were caused by elevated CO2 concentrations—the one exception was the asteroid strike of 66 million years ago that killed the dinosaurs and about three quarters of other animal and plant life, too.

So, as we measure the continual rise of atmospheric concentrations as a result of our burning of fossil fuels, we cannot claim innocence of what the eventual outcome will be if this activity persists. Not all the details are clear, but the generalities are predictable. David Wallace-Wells attempts to give us an idea of our future in The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming.

Part 2 to follow in the next edition.

Ray Grigg, for Sierra Quadra

### **Next DI Deadline**

Monday February 17, at 7pm for DI Issue 850, in mailboxes Friday February 21

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Hello,

Here in the grip of winter, the lengthening daylight reminds me that spring is around the corner.

THE PROSPECT OF AREA C PROPERTY OWNERS being tapped to pay tax in support of Strathcona Gardens is understandably causing alarm among many. Along with receiving a steady stream of emails in opposition, I'm also receiving questions about the possible costs and when we'll know more, and the why of it all. I've been reporting as this has slowly unrolled over the last couple of years, and realize it may be helpful to provide a comprehensive snapshot of how we got to where we are and when we may know more: that's what this Report attempts.

#### STEPS ALONG THE STRATHCONA GARDENS STORYLINE

Strathcona Gardens Service is a shared Service: the City of Campbell River and Electoral Area D (Oyster Bay–Buttle Lake) are its participants. In shared Services only the Directors from these jurisdictions vote and make decisions for the service and its operations.

**JANUARY 2023** - At a special meeting of the Strathcona Gardens Commission, the participants considered three options for advancing the long-considered REC-CREATE project to the construction phase. The Commission selected Option C, identified in the staff report as 'the most expensive option but providing the full realization of community input received'. The report stated the project's estimated cost, including the arena scope of work, at \$73 million.

**APRIL 2023** - The Board amends Bylaw 342 to include a loan authorization amount of \$64,670,000 for redevelopment of Strathcona Gardens, and authorizes that approval of the electors (in Area D and City of Campbell River) for Bylaw 342 be sought through an Alternative Approval Process.

**JUNE 2023** - The Board supports Area D Director Rice's motion for staff to prepare a report exploring participation of Electoral Areas A, B, C & the Village of Sayward in the Strathcona Gardens Service.

**AUGUST 2024** - The Board receives the 'Regional Recreation Feasibility Study', a study commissioned April 2021 by the previous Board. At direction of staff, the study's scope had been expanded to include the June 2023 motion regarding expanded participation in Strathcona Gardens. As I reported in September, the feasibility study was received, no follow up actions were taken by the Board. (Read this report here: bit.ly/42Fz5Aw)

**OCTOBER 2024** - The Municipal Services Committee (MSC) supports a motion that the 'additional recreation participation report' include the Kelsey Centre, Electoral Area A & the Village of Sayward. This was my first clue that an additional report looking at expanding Strathcona Gardens to include Area C was underway, which I was surprised to learn as the Board had not asked for an additional report.

**NOVEMBER 2024** - The above mentioned MSC motion came to the Board, discussion ensued, and there were three related outcomes:

- 1: The Board supported Area A Director Whalley's motion to establish a committee of four Directors to explore the Kelsey Centre and the Village of Sayward's aspirations for its future operation;
- 2: As I previously reported, the Board defeated my motion for an Area C referendum if the upcoming 'additional recreation participation report' identifies Area C for inclusion in Strathcona Gardens (this doesn't necessarily mean the idea is defeated forever);
- 3: The Board moved that the 'additional recreation participation report' include submissions from the new Kelsey Centre Committee.

#### WHEN WILL WE KNOW MORE?

Many people are wondering when there will be more information on what is happening. Based on the November 2024 motions, it will likely be several months before the Board and community receive the 'additional recreation participation report' with info and options for the Board to consider.

I say several months because the new Kelsey Centre Committee will meet February 19th for the first time (I'm one of four Directors appointed to this committee). This Committee may require several meetings to conclude its investigations, and the information gathered is directed for inclusion in the 'additional recreation participation report.'

#### WHAT ABOUT THE COST?

To date there has not been Board consideration of amending the Strathcona Gardens Service Bylaw to include any electoral areas, nor have potential taxation levels been considered by the Board. The charts which have been shared in the DI & elsewhere are using publicly available budget data and calculating potential impacts, based on current & planned taxation levels of Campbell River & Area D ratepayers, if these rates were extended to Area C properties.

#### LETTERS TO THE BOARD

The January Board agenda included more than sixty pieces of correspondence regarding Strathcona Gardens. These letters were from folks working to raise families on the island, Outer Discovery Islanders, seniors, and everyday folks. I read that people choose to live in Area C's rural community for easy access to outdoor recreation, a low-tax, low-service lifestyle, and appreciation for the QCC and recreation we already pay for: a significant tax increase is distressing for folks on fixed incomes and in the affordability crunch we are currently experiencing.

For your email or letter to be shared with all Directors, it needs to be addressed to 'the Chair and Board' or include within it a request for it to be included as correspondence. The SRD email address to send to is administration@srd.ca; you're welcome to 'cc' me.

### CONNECT

If you'd like to chat in person, you can book an in-person meeting at calendly.com/robynmawhinney... my next office day is February 12! You're welcome to connect with questions or concerns: you can emailRMawhinney@srd.ca, or call 250.203.2468. Did you know you can subscribe to receive these Director Reports direct to your inbox? RobynMawhinney.ca is home to previous reports and a subscribe button. *Until next time*,

Respectfully, Director Robyn Mawhinney



### ISLAND FORUM

Many Quadra Islanders are

getting increasingly pissed-off that

TimberWest continues to ignore

that recommended strategy and,

at the same time, claim that it does

not cut old trees on Quadra Island.

Logging everything between the

old trees destroys the ecological

function that has been recovered by

the forest in the 99 years since the

1925 fire.

## **Amending Mosaic's Forest Stewardship Plan**

TO: JIMMIE HODGSON, RPF JANUARY 24, 2024
ACTING VP SUSTAINABILITY & CHIEF FORESTER
MOSAIC FOREST MANAGEMENT
CC: CHIEF RONNIE CHICKITE, WE WAI KAI FIRST NATION

Dear Jimmie,

The Forest Practices Board recently provided me with your Dec. 4 letter to the Board on behalf of TimberWest regarding the Board's recommendation regarding logging on Quadra Island (FPB IRC/252).

I am writing on behalf of the Discovery Islands Forest Conservation Project. We made the complaint to the Board in April 2023 that led to the investigation report.

We appreciate that TimberWest has committed to amend its FSP to include "a measurable or verifiable strategy to recruit the full target amount of old forest in the shortest possible timeframe..."

You go on to write: "Mosaic acknowledges that a non-spatial strategy to achieving the full target amount of old forest in the Quadra LU is an interim approach until such time that landscape-level planning can be completed."

It would appear that TimberWest intends to amend its FSP by including a "non-spatial strategy."

This is exactly what TimberWest has now and it has used this non-strategy since 2004 to evade planning for old growth management areas.

Putting off writing a spatially explicit strategy that identifies suitable areas for old-growth recruitment on the basis that it can be done some time in the future under the auspices of "landscape level planning" is unacceptable.

Since 2003 TimberWest has declined to share with the Ministry of Forests—or make public—explicit mapping of the timber harvesting land base in TFL 47, and that, as you know, is a prerequisite for landscape level planning.

Little if any landscape level planning has occurred in BC in the past 10 years and the Ministry of Forests has since moved on to promise "Forest Landscape Planning". No such planning has been announced for Quadra Island and is not likely to occur for several years, if ever. In any case there has been no indication such planning would establish old growth management areas.

Here's why a "non-spatial strategy" to meet TimberWest's legal obligations under the Order Establishing Provincial Non-Spatial Old Growth Objectives (PNOGO) would be pointless:

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Under PNOGO, TimberWest is legally required to ensure that 9 percent of the Crown forested land base becomes old forest.

At the same time, under the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan Order (HLPO), TimberWest is legally required to ensure that "between one quarter to one third of the forested area" of Special Management Zone 19 becomes "mature seral forest" (defined as "forest stands with trees between 80 and 120 years old, depending on species, site conditions, and biogeoclimatic zone" in the 2008 Ministry of Forests and Range Glossary of Forestry Terms).

These two legal requirements are exclusive of each other.

We believe that TimberWest—as a responsible forest steward—should commit to the high end of the HLPO range with 33 percent ("one third") of the forest in mature seral stage.

After all, Quadra Island has very high non-timber values and is a biodiversity hot spot with over 2800 species currently identified through iNaturalist citizen-scientist observations. The potential for non-timber forest-related employment here is high. With TimberWest exporting all of what it cuts on Quadra Island as raw logs, there's little doubt that more

jobs can be provided through non-destructive uses of the forested area. So TimberWest should be planning for the high end of the HLPO range.

With seral stage targets of 9 percent for old forest and 33 percent for mature forest, TimberWest should plan for 42 percent of the Crown forest cover in the Special Management Zone 19 (SMZ 19) portion of TFL 47 to be mature or old forest.

By TimberWest's own 2022 estimate, however, only 43.2 percent of the Crown forested area in the SMZ 19 portion of TFL 47 was mature or old (communication from Jennifer Peschke in response to our FSP public comment).

In other words, if TimberWest intends to be a responsible forest steward in the SMZ 19 portion of TFL 47 on Quadra Island, it is already very close to running up against the limits of the mature and old forest seral targets set by the VILUP HLPO and the PNOGO respectively.

In effect, TimberWest has already identified the area in SMZ 19 that needs to be conserved to meets its legal obligations: almost everything that's left.

The portion of TFL 47 on Quadra Island that is not in SMZ 19 (~2638 hectares) is subject to the PNOGO target for old forest but not the VILUP HLPO for mature forest. But that area has already been heavily logged by TimberWest. Attempting to use non-spatial targets for old forest there would appear to us to be avoiding facing the problems created by over-cutting in the past.

Our own mapping and estimate of remaining old forest on the non-SMZ 19 part of TFL 47 on Quadra Island is 86 hectares spread over 41 different patches. That works out to about 2.8 percent of that area. Rather than taking a "non-spatial" approach there, we believe it would make more sense for TimberWest to use existing areas of old forest greater than 1 hectare in size as anchors for meeting the 9 percent target, which in total would amount to ~240 hectares. In fact, the Board's report suggested that this was the strategy TimberWest had in mind (see page 16 of its report) when the two of you talked. And that is the strategy recommended under the Vancouver Island Summary Land Use Plan (VISLUP).

Exactly the same strategy—using existing patches of old forest and concentrations of veteran trees as anchors for future old forest

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 13** 

### ISLAND FORUM

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

recruitment—is what was recommended by the VISLUP for the SMZ 19 portion of Quadra Island as well. TimberWest has already mapped those areas. See the map at the bottom of this page.

We would note that a 9 percent target for old seral stage forest is the current legally required target. As you know, that target has been criticized as been far too little, and our project is fighting for a higher legally required area of old forest on the Discovery Islands.

TimberWest needs to commit in writing in its amended FSP on how it plans to accomplish the PNOGO and VILUP HLPO legal requirements at the same time.

Instead of doing such planning, TimberWest is—right now—bringing in road-building machinery preparatory to logging cutblocks 12-651, 12-652 and 12-653 in the Granite Bay area.

Residents who live near to planned cutblock 12-651 have appealed to TimberWest not to cut this block because it is primary forest. It was burned in the past, likely in 1925, but never logged. TimberWest's own site plan shows that it contains an unusual concentration of Douglas fir vets. The residents' research shows that it is frequented by wolf, cougar, fishers, deer, raccoons, northern pygmy owls, peregrine falcons and many migratory birds. The VISLUP recommended strategy for such concentrations of veteran trees on Quadra is to conserve these areas.

In short, many Quadra Islanders are getting increasingly pissed-off that TimberWest continues to ignore that recommended strategy and, at the same time, claim that it does not cut old trees on Quadra Island. Logging everything between the old trees destroys the ecological function that has been recovered by the forest in the 99 years since the 1925 fire.

We write to you in the hope that TimberWest will take more seriously its legal and stewardship obligations on Quadra Island.

We fully support the We Wai Kai First Nation's ownership of what is currently Crown land on Quadra Island and encourage TimberWest to fully divest its harvesting rights to the We Wai Kai. At the same time, since all of us depend on the forest for our physical, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, we must work together to protect it.

We are happy to share local information with you at any time. We look forward to seeing a fulsome, explicit plan for how TimberWest will—in the short term—meet both its PNOGO and VILUP HLPO legal obligations. *Sincerely*,

David Broadland for the Discovery Islands Forest Conservation Project

## **Mosaic Moratorium**

#### **DEAR QUADRA ISLANDERS.**

The time has come to call a "Mosaic Moratorium" on Quadra Island until TimberWest can fulfill their agreement to revise its Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) after 20 years of evasion. David Broadland from the Discovery Island Conservation Project says, "I just learned that TimberWest (TW) has agreed to amend its Forest Stewardship Plan in response to our complaint to the Forest Practices Board. They are now required to include a strategy in their FSP for recruitment of old forest. They will need to seek public comment."

As a local in Granite Bay, we have given public commented, to protect the wildlife corridor between an ancient bog and Two Mile Lake (#12-651), and the mature forest, never logged, around a stand of Veteran Douglas Fir and old growth Cedar. Mosaic plans to log right up to and around these giants and have not changed their plan since meeting with them and our ongoing public outcry over this callous cut a year ago.

Although 12-651 has been approved, we were duped in the process of commenting as it went to a "new" online portal called a "Forestry Operations Map" (FOM) that was already closed for comment just as we saw the orange logging tape go up. This small cut block, 12-651, could be part of the retention plan to meet conservation objectives of Forest Planning and Practices Regulation as outlined

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 14** 

## **Ferry Schedule**

Leave Quathiaski Cove	Leave Campbell River	
6:05 am	6:30 am	
†7:00 am	†7:30 am	
††7:30 am	<sup>††</sup> 8:00 am	
8:00 am	8:30 am	
8:30 am	9:00 am	
9:00 am	**9:30 am	
9:30 am	10:00 am	
10:00 am	10:30 am	
10:30 am	11:00 am	
11:00 am	11:30 am	
11:30 am	12:40 pm	
12:40 pm	1:05 pm	
1:05 pm	1:30 pm	
1:30 pm	2:00 pm	
2:00 pm	2:30 pm	
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	
3:00 pm	3:30 pm	
3:30 pm	4:00 pm	
4:00 pm	4:30 pm	
** 4:30 pm	5:00 pm	
5:00 pm	5:25 pm	
5:25 pm	5:50 pm	
5:50 pm	6:15 pm	
6:15 pm	6:45 pm	
7:10 pm	8:10 pm	
8:40 pm	9:05 pm	
9:30 pm	9:55 pm	
10:20 pm	10:40 pm	
* 11:05 pm	* 11:30 pm	

Schedule in effect September 3, 2024 to March 31, 2025 - last updated here 25 Sept, 2024

\* Fridays & Saturdays only

† Daily Except Saturdays and Sundays

\* Tuesdays: Dangerous Cargo, no passengers or cars

† Daily Except Saturdays and Sundays

Schedule may be subject to change check BCFerries.com for Service Notices



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#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

by the Forest Practice Board and recently agreed upon with Mosaic. TimberWest says they will retain mature forest in the future so why not start with number12-651 that the public has commented on is imploring them not to cut! Mosaic will begin road building this February.

Quadra Island needs to protect these few intact, biologically diverse ecosystems and watersheds we have left. The mature forest, anchored around these giant, burn-scarred Vets, need to be retained by Mosaic so they too can become old forest as outlined by the Forest Practice Board to meet the 9% "Old Forest Target (currently less than 2 % is old forest on Quadra). Cut #12-65 is not only a wildlife corridor, a watershed with our wells, but also a special natural place of old growth forest, trout filled lakes, migratory bird routes and ancient bogs that means so much to our Quadra Community. Saving a scattering of old trees is NOT saving a forest and its flora and fauna's connected wellbeing.

Please, help get a moratorium on Mosaic's logging until there has been comment on retention of mature forest on Quadra Island in perpetuity by signing a petition located at both Quadra Island food store's bulletin boards. Or go to this link https://chng.it/5QR682fyDx to sign online

TimberWest should not have carte blanche to continue cutting without a firm recruitment plan of forested areas on Quadra Island, anchored to old growth trees, to become old forests. I say, "Suspension until Retention." Let's start with 12-651. Businesses that effect the health of our island 's watersheds and climate mitigation, should not be able to act without direction or plan haphazardly when our island's intact ecosystems are at stake.

Sincerely,

Jolie Shea, Granite Bay, Quadra Island

## Re TFL 47, 12-651: "Jolie's Forest"

### OPEN LETTER TO PAULA MACKAY, ACTING DISTRICT MANAGER, FORESTRY, CAMPBELL RIVER:

Yesterday I was on Saxon Main, Quadra Island and noticed Road Allowance tapes about 3km leading in to an ecologically complex never previously logged area of forest (12-651).

- (1) As you know, Mosaic's TFL 47 occupies 40% of Quadra island.
- (2) There is less than 3% of old growth/primary forests left on our
- (3) We are suffering from climate change and our best carbon technology is trees - the older the better.
- (4) Many people on Quadra are very concerned with Mosaic's ongoing clearcut logging on Quadra, and Mosaic's lack of integrity (eg Hyacinthe Creek logging, Copper Bluffs logging).
- (5) In 2004 Mosaic agreed to put 9% of their TFL 47 into recruitment for old growth forests. Twenty-one years later they have still not done this.
- (6) Mosaic have still not replied adequately to their 2024 FPB summons.
- (7) We need 30% of Quadra saved by 2030.

Please stop this imminent logging and declare a moratorium on 12-651. Thank you,

Eileen Sowerby M.B. Ch.B. M.A. Co-founder of Friends of Hyacinthe Creek One of the Peaceful Grannies

### ISLAND FORUM

## **Strathcona Gardens - Escalating Project Costs & Debt!**

**SEVERAL FOLKS IN AREA C** are closely watching the 'activities' related to Strathcona Gardens (SG) Recreation Centre. As the accountant on the team, I've reviewed the SRD's Draft 2025–2029 Financial Plan, which contained a few surprises – even for folks paying attention! Here are some highlights and comments:

### \$58 Million Increase in Project Costs for Recreate Project - Phase 2

Phase 2 project costs relate to major (capital) upgrades to the Rod Brind' Amour (Ice) Arena. Approved funding sources include: \$4 Million in Reserves and Additional Borrowing of \$54 Million!

### \$54 Million Increase in DEBT (for above)

Based on the video of SG's Commission Meeting in December 2024, it appears the SRD intends to – once again - use the infamous Alternate Approval Process (AAP) to seek loan authorization for this new debt.

### Total Debt rising to >\$118 Million! (if AAP passes)

If AAP passes, SRD would be authorized to increase SG's Total Debt up to \$118.67 Million to fund both Phases of the Recreate Project. SRD states the initial debt of \$64.67 Million, authorized in November 2023, now solely relates to Phase 1: Aquatics & Wellness Centres – rather than both phases as stated elsewhere. The new debt of \$54 Million would now fund Phase 2: Ice Arena. For 2026 onward, SG's Total Debt would represent >93% of SRD's overall regional debt.

### Total Project Costs now ~\$130 Million!

Maximum project costs for Recreate are hard to confirm as information differs in SRD documents. The April 2023 SRD Staff Report supporting the first AAP, estimated total project costs for both Recreate phases as \$73 Million, while the Phase 2 Business Case provides a \$58 Million increase. These figures combined equal \$131 Million, while other combined figures (e.g. Draft Financial Plan, p. 220) total \$128.6 Million.

### \$3.25 Million for Phase 2 Added in 2025, then split over 2 years

The Phase 2 business case decision added \$3.25 Million to property tax bills for SG, creating a 2025 Total Property Tax bill of \$12.4M (\$9.7M Residential component). In January 2025, the SRD Board decided to delay half of Phase 2's tax impacts by one year – revising 2025's total property tax bill to \$10.78M (\$8.4M Residential), while 2026's total property tax remains at \$13.19M (est. \$10.3M for Residential).

### SG Debt Servicing (Interest & Principal) rising to >\$7 Million/Year

Interest Costs to service SG's debt are set to rise from \$1.34M in 2025 to \$4.92M in 2026 – when \$0.37 of every \$1 of SG property tax will go to paying debt interest. Principal repayments are set to rise from \$626k in 2025 to ~\$2.3M in 2026. These payments continue for life of debt, which SRD states as 30 years @ 4.2% interest. But, \$2.3M won't repay debt of \$118M in 30 years, so repayments will likely increase.

What's the problem with the Recreate Project? I could go crazy here with comments on governance, accountability and other things, but I'll control myself and provide the following:

**High Costs Borne by Small Tax Base:** SG costs are shared based on assessed property values within the SG service area – currently across <16,500 residential households. Even if other communities (like us, in Area C) were forced into the service, it would still be a small tax base. So, SG is very costly per Avg. Household for a Non-Essential service! With the one-year tax holiday, the "average" household property tax for SG service participants dropped to \$521 in CR and \$527 in Area D for 2025, but will rise back to \$600+ Avg. in 2026. And remember, this means half the households pay more than this Average, while half pay less...

Estimated Tax impacts to Area C (if forced into SG Service): Also dropped in 2025 to \$428 per Avg. Household, based on one-year tax holiday and using 2025 assessment data; this Avg. is projected to rise to ~\$520 per Avg. Household in 2026.

## IT'S ALL RELATIVE...COMPARING 2025 PROPERTY TAX FOR SG VS. OTHER SRD SERVICES (IN AREAS D & C):

### Area D's Most-Expensive SRD Services per Avg. Household:

- Fire Protection: \$535
- Strathcona Gardens: \$527 (would drop by <\$35, if Area C in SG svc)
- Water: \$413Library: \$119Parks: \$116Transit: \$106

### Area C's Most-Expensive SRD Services per Avg. Household:

- Estimated New Tax Strathcona Gardens: \$428 (if Area C in SG svc)
- Quadra Community Hall (only Quadra pays): \$180
- Parks: \$120Library: \$103
- 911 & Emergency Program (combined): \$42

I'm infuriated by the possibility that the SRD Board may attempt to force Area C into the service area for this non-essential service! We've never had input into any decisions on design or funding. In the December 2024 meeting, the SG commissioners seemed excited to design the ice rink to gold level standard to meet requirements from local hockey associations, etc. And that's great, if they want to build a solid gold hummer of a Rec Centre – fill your boots. BUT, Keep Your Paws Off the pocketbooks of Area C taxpayers, unless we are formally asked through a referendum, restricted to Area C only, and the SRD Board respects the decision made by our community! We are not your personal piggy bank to raid and pillage! We have few basic services here, and we'd like to use our property taxes to fund those aspirations and not your solid gold hummer.

Let's keep watching this folks... Once we're in, we may be in forever....

Since rely,

Deb Rasnick, MA, CPA, CGA Accounting Troll for Friends of Area C

## Let's Be Reasonable...

## PLEASE PUT THIS LETTER ON THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED PART OF THE NEXT SRD BOARD AGENDA.

... IT SEEMS THAT, with the Strathcona Gardens (SG) project, you have obviously bitten off more than you can chew. Sympathies. You want and need help.

Phase One and Phase Two are projected to cost much more than you can afford and, if history is anything to go by, your planned schedule and budgeting will be off as well. The costs will be higher and the project will take longer by at least 20%.

Please remember: providing dumpster service twice a year was deemed too hard to manage by the SRD's years-long study of the problem. And a small 20 meter dock is over a year late. Even longer for the Surge Narrows Renovation project. Not a good track record. Bodes ill for your SG project. Rock and hard place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## The 51st State, eh?

**BOB AND DOUG MCKENZIE** were a pair of fictional Canadian brothers who hosted a comedy program in the 1980's called the Great White North. They used the word 'eh' in their skits as a noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.

I wonder what they would say about the latest comments emanating from the neanderthal south of the border.

Trump is such a knob he couldn't find Canada on a map but he wants America to take over Canada. His first step – implementing punishing tariffs to soften us up.

His statements and actions are both disturbing and problematic. For example, if Trump believes it's challenging to control America's north/south borders now, what will it be like when he has to defend the entire Canadian perimeter from sea to sea ... to shining sea? It's three times the length of the current Canada US border.

Where is this anti-Canada sentiment coming from? My instincts tell me it's Elon Musk – the richest person in the world who should be overseeing the companies he created (or stole) or be at home helping his ex-wives raise their 12 children. Who's the insufferable tool now? The guy who enjoys giving the Nazi salute? What a creep.

Rather than being taken over by the USA, maybe the United States should join Canada. Many Americans would appreciate our benefits like universal free medicare, a multiparty political system, free education and subsidized post secondary education, secularism, gun control, a place where multiculturalism is celebrated and a truth and reconciliation process for minorities.

The only positive outcome of all this turmoil is Canadians have closed ranks with almost every politician supporting Canadian sovereignty.



## Your voice matters!

Help shape the future of engagement with BC Ferries.

We're creating a new engagement framework, and want input from coastal communities like yours:

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- Share your ideas and help us build a strong engagement framework

engagement@bcferries.com 1-888-BC FERRY (1-888-223-3779) bcferries.com





Guess who broke ranks first? Albertistan's Danialle Smith. Thought she could cut a deal by slipping over the border with Mr. Wonderful (aka Kevin O'Leary) in tow.

On behalf of Bob and Doug, my message from the Great White North to Trump, Musk and all of those Make America White Again hose heads. "TAKE OFF, EH! Now excuse me while I flip my bacon and take a pull from my beer. And Good Day!" Claire Heffernan

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

And so, with AAP tyranny and not just a little belligerence, you intend to spread the pain. Understandable. Expected, actually.

So, I propose we in area C help you out. In fact, I propose you draw a 3-hour (travel time) ring around SG and tax everyone equally who lives within that commuting circle. That will get 'tax support' from as far south as Langford, as far north as Alert Bay and as far east as where I live.

I've done the math. Almost one million people then paying the projected \$5M annual servicing costs spreads the load and increases taxes only \$5 per year. Oops... plus 20%... to \$6 more per year. *J. David Cox* 

## CONSIDER A SUPPORTING SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DI:

Local Voluntary Subscriptions are welcome to help support the magazine you're reading!

Suggested amount: \$30 per calendar year. Find more details online at www.DiscoveryIslander.ca

## New Exhibit Opens in CR February 8

**DINOSAURS OF BC,** a travelling exhibit produced by the Royal BC Museum, runs February 8 to June 2 at the Museum at Campbell River.

Dig into prehistoric British Columbia and get up close and personal with "Buster", the Iron Lizard of the Sustut River, and the other dinosaurs that once roamed the province's highest peaks, densest forests and most remote river basins. Through research done by the Royal BC Museum's palaeontology team, we're learning just how many ancient creatures once called these lands home.

Follow the footsteps of tyrannosaurs and ankylosaurs, see beautifully preserved marine fossils and meet the BC-born and bred Buster, our reigning resident ferrisaurus.



Dinosaurs of BC initially debuted at the Royal BC Museum in 2023 and was met with an overwhelmingly positive public response.

A variety of educational programming will be available around Dinosaurs of BC, including school programs and public lectures. Details to be announced soon!

Have an opinion to share?
Submit your letter to the DI by email:
news@discoveryislands.ca

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, not the publisher.

### **STORYLINES**



## **Gathering**

I GO NORTH to gather. A gathering of new inspiration and a fresh look at wild places.

It isn't easy for me to leave my nest on San Juan Island, but it helps me to grow as an artist and as a person. I am travelling alone. Not exactly alone but with no other human. Just my collie, Finn. He is a good travel companion other than his occasional whining.

Traveling with myself is interesting. I have more time to

think, contemplate, muse, and meet the locals. When I travel with a friend we get to know each other better. When I travel alone, I get to know myself better. There is no, "what do you want to do?" "I don't know, what do you want to do?" It is just me and my considering my very own wants and desires. I don't have to take care of anyone or their feelings. It's just me and my feelings. This requires knowing what I want. Sounds simple enough. As it turns out, this trip is a going deep into learning more about who I am.

Here is what I found out so far. I like wild places more than cities. I like walking through dense forest more than vistas with beautiful views. I like lakes more than the ocean. I like winter as much as I like summer. I'd rather be on land looking at the water than on the water looking at the land. I would rather paint in my studio than on location. Some folks want to talk about themselves, and some want to know about me. But one thing is for sure. People who live on Quadra Island are about as friendly as people get.

Other things I learned. Trails and roads on the Quadra Island trail map are subjections only. A moderate hike is a lot harder than I thought. Hiking in the deep woods where there are no people but there are cougars, wolves and bears is a little spooky.

This place, north of where I live, feeds my soul. It nourishes and inspires me. I hike, I paint on the beach, I write in a little coffee shop.





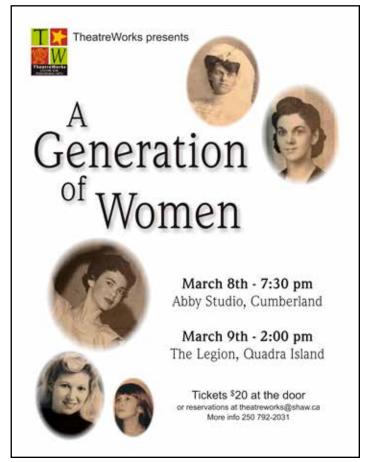
When it stops raining, I will go to the farmers market and hopefully meet some artists. Then a hike through the woods and along the coast. After that, with a tuckered-out dog, I will paint.

I think through the things that captivate me about this place. I wonder why it is so inspiring. I think about what is important. If I turn this entire experience into paintings, how will they be different?

Up here in Canada, a ways north of where I live, I feel at home. The lovely people, the beautiful trees and beaches and this special time with my best friend, Finn. One thing is for sure. I will be back. Teresa Smith

Images
Top: Teresa
and Finn;
Lower left:
Open Bay;
Right:
Evening Walk





## **Quadra Island Foundation Hires Their First Executive Director**

**THE IMPACT** of the Quadra Island Foundation has been growing over the last few years. The volunteer Board has been working hard to develop Quadra Island's first Vital Signs questionnaire, allocate dozens of Neighbourhood Small Grants and larger community enhancing and even island employment enabling grants, as well as organizing large community building events. With an ever increasing scope, and to best serve our community, the Board has recently endeavoured to hire an Executive Director.

The Quadra Island Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Barbara Neff as our first Executive Director. A recent addition to the Quadra community, Barbara brings a wealth of experience to our island's Foundation. Backed by a Ph.D in Geosciences and a history of team building and collaboration, we look forward to having her bring the experience she has garnered in a wide variety of institution building and leadership positions to help make Quadra Island an even better place to live. Barbara's unique talents, honed most recently by leading a team who brought national and award winning museum exhibitions to life in Switzerland, will serve the Foundation and Quadra Island extremely well.

Barbara has stated, "My focus, besides promoting culture, was on building communities and establishing professional networks. I developed exhibitions with artists, craftspeople, and scientists. With my teams, I selected controversial contemporary topics ranging from the ageing of the society, increasing obesity in society, and utilization of renewable raw materials as a solution to sustainability. I contrasted the entrenched opinions on these topics with a variety of possible causes and novel solutions. I was able to build new perspectives for a common future on the basis of these findings. This is where I can bring in my expertise and knowledge at the Quadra Island Foundation and its core values: community wellbeing, collaboration, inclusiveness and integrity."

Barbara is inspired by the quote: "We believe it often takes bold and innovative thinking and action to find the imaginative solutions that spark lasting change." Barbara indicates that this guiding principle also guides her in her life at home, which she shares with her husband, surrounded by the magnificence of nature and the wonderful people living here on Quadra Island.

We, the Board of Directors of the Quadra Island Foundation, are excited to welcome Barbara and look forward to our work together to Make Island Life Better! Watch for an upcoming Quadra Island Foundation event focusing on volunteers for your chance to meet her. To contact her today, she is available at ed@quadraislandfoundation.ca

## **Peak Saver**

**HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY** to save money while helping the environment. Reducing the peak power demand on the electrical system reduces the power capacity that is needed in BC, which in turn reduces the amount of energy production facilities that BC Hydro needs to construct or contract.

Check out this link for how to help reduce peak capacity power needs in BC, while saving you money:

https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates-programs/peak-saver.html

ICAN Energy Self-sufficiency Team

## The Quadra Island Garden Club Presents: 10 Medicinal Herbs to Plant for a Healing Garden

with Anita Murdoch of Two to Twelve Herbals Monday, February 10, 7 to 9pm at the Quadra Community Centre

**PLANTING A HERB GARDEN** is not only a delight for the senses, but provides food and medicine, fostering sustainability, independence, and a feeling of empowerment. In this presentation, we will discuss some favourite herbs that can be planted to create a healing garden. These plants are easy to grow, versatile, and offer many therapeutic benefits.

You will learn: • 10 easy-to-grow herbs • Their medicinal properties • Edibility and other uses • Optimal harvest times for each plant • Proper drying and storage techniques • BONUS: wild and weedy friends you may want to keep around

### **ABOUT ANITA**

Anita Murdoch is a Quadra-based community herbalist who has been studying, playing and creating with plants for over 20 years. Her first intensive training was immersive, from forest, field, and garden to the apothecary kitchen. Since then, she has continued her education through workshops, herbal conferences, hands-on practice, self-study, and formal training, most recently completing a Practical Herbalist Diploma.

Under her business name Two to Twelve Herbals, Anita makes and sells herbal products using wildcrafted and homegrown plants. She also leads plant walks and teaches various herbal workshops with the goal of inspiring others to build an appreciation for plant life and become more self-sufficient. You can find Anita on Facebook and instagram @ two to twelve herbals.

## Teen Drawing Contest Supports Literacy-Themed Colouring Book for Kids

**SHARPEN THOSE PENCILS, TEENS!** Vancouver Island Regional Library's Teen Drawing Contest is back. The Teen Drawing Contest kicked off January 14 to seek art for a new colouring book for kids and celebrate libraries and literacy. It's the second drawing contest the library has held since 2022.

Teens ages 12-18 years old are invited to submit their original line art showcasing libraries or literacy before 11 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21 for the chance to be featured in the colouring book and win art prizes.

There will be prizes from Nanaimo's Iron Oxide Art Supplies for the first, second and third place winners, along with any other artists featured in the colouring book. The work of the first-place winner will also be showcased on the cover of the colouring book.

Artists can submit more than one entry and digital art is welcome. All art must be vertical and fit on an 8.5 by 11 page. Digital art, or art that's been scanned, can be submitted to contests@virl.bc.ca or submitted to a local Vancouver Island Regional Library branch. All entries must include the artist's full name, age, location, contact and VIRL library number.

For full contest rules and criteria, and for more information on prizes, please visit the contest website here and at https://virl.bc.ca/teen-drawing-contest-2/.collection in BC, featuring downloadable e-books, audiobooks, digital news, streaming services, children's materials, and much more.

## A New Energy Justice Program for Islanders

## HOME ENERGY WORKSHOPS COMING FEBRUARY 17 & 18

Affordable housing and the rapidly rising costs of living are two of the most pressing issues in B.C. When housing does appear to be "affordable" it often has high energy costs, rendering it again unaffordable. Inefficient heating systems, old windows, poor air sealing, and inadequate insulation, to list a few,

are culprits for high energy bills in many coastal homes. But there are solutions coming to Quadra and Cortes.

Ecotrust Canada is a registered charity that works with rural and remote communities. We are now offering our free Home Energy Savings Program to Quadra and Cortes residents. The program removes some of the barriers that many rural residents face when making energy-saving home renovations. We give personalized, one-on-one support for households to qualify for provincial rebates and find contractors, so that rural households can save on their energy bills and improve the comfort of their home.

One in seven Canadian households report needing to cut back on basic necessities, such as food and medicine, for at least one month per year just to pay energy bills. Rural communities often face especially high energy costs compared to cities. Households living with energy insecurity - a lack of access to affordable energy - also experience worse health and well-being. This is because of factors like overheating and underheating, excessive humidity, mould, polluted or smoky outdoor air quality coming inside, and dirty indoor air from cooking and fossil fuel heating. These increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses, anxiety, depression, and poor sleep.

With the rise in forest fires, extreme heat events, and power outages, we need to improve our homes to be better prepared. Switching a heating system from a fossil fuel like oil or propane to a heat pump allows a household to no longer be dependent on a very long energy supply chain and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Heat pumps are also much less expensive to operate, often 40-60% cheaper, and provide cooling during extreme heat events.

"But what about power outages, heat pumps require electricity?" This is correct, and fossil fuel heating systems also require electricity. A home's energy cost and comfort are not solely determined by the heating or cooling system. Air sealing, more insulation, and new windows create a better buffer against outdoor temperature, whether that's heat or cold. In case of an outage, this means less wood burned per day, more generator time for refrigerators rather than space heating. Lowering the amount of air that leaks in and out of a home also means less forest fire smoke and pollution seeping in.

CleanBC offers households up to \$44,900 towards energy-saving renovations depending on income. A lower-income household can often get a nearly-free heat pump and up to \$5,500 towards upgrading insulation. A household of two with a combined income of less than \$58,522 or a household of four with an income of less than \$87,350 would both qualify for the highest level of support. This money is paid by the province directly to contractors, so the household does not need to pay up front. Tenants are also eligible for these rebates if they have a BC Hydro account. Of course there are other eligibility requirements, and caveats, and paperwork. The process can be overwhelming for some and knowing what to choose is a challenge for many. This is why Ecotrust Canada is offering free, one-on-one support to get you through the process and help you make the best-informed decision for your home.



Over the past year, Ecotrust Canada's Home Energy Savings Program has been providing our service in the Mount Waddington and Prince Rupert areas. In February 2025, the program is expanding to Quadra and Cortes, Denman and Hornby, and the qathet region. You can sign up online, in person at our workshops, or over the phone if emails are a challenge. Please join us at one of our upcoming workshops that cover this free service, an intro to building science, and the CleanBC rebates: February 17, 2pm and 6:30pm, Quadra Community Centre February 18, 2pm and 6:30pm, Cortes Mansons Hall Learn more about Ecotrust Canada and our Home Energy Savings Program at www.HomeEnergySavingsProgram.ca *Michael-Anthony, Regional Program Manager, Ecotrust Canada* 

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## **Heriot Bay Tides**

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DATE	TIME PST	M.	FT.
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## THE DI CLASSIFIEDS

## **Job Posting**

QUADRA FOOD BANK seeks a person at \$30/hr, 10/hr week for 12 weeks to produce policies and procedures to meet new Food Banks Canada standards. Administrative skills required. Send resume by Feb 7 to qifoodbank2@gmail.com

### **Services**

### **NOTARY PUBLIC**

Notary Public on Quadra located inside Sacred Pulse at Quathiaski Cove shops, we offer notarial services, personal planning documents (wills, powers of attorney, representation agreements). Call 1.855.204.6277 (toll-free) email info@quadranotary.ca

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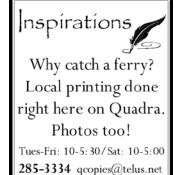


## **Help Wanted**

## EXPERIENCED ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL

or CGA 2nd or 3rd year student 30+ hours/week Busy accounts department Please send résumé to: Accounts Position c/o Box 520, Quathiaski Cove BC VOP 1H0







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# SKILLED PRUNING OF SHRUBS AND TREES, Fall garden and property care, winter preparation. Trained & experienced Horticulturist. Reserve now a spot for skilled Fruit Tree pruning, starting in January.

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### **DI CLASSIFIEDS**

**Up to 35 words**: \$25 (including gst) - one time

**36 to 70 words**: \$45 (including gst) - one time

**Email** your ad & pay online at discoveryislander.ca

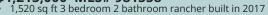
**Questions**? Email news discoveryislands.ca

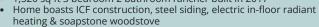
NEXT DEADLINE 7pm Monday, February 17

ROYAL LIPAGE

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- 384 sq ft tool shed/chicken coop/goat house, 3 storage sheds, another goat house & duck house all included in sale
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