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NEWS RELEASE

November 19, 2013

Northern Vancouver Island artists display their unique impressions of coastal living at the Comox Valley Airport

Fourteen talented local artists will put their work on display this week at the Comox Valley Airport. YQQ's Art and Culture Program will open its 2013/14 exhibition *Coastal Explorations – Celebrating Island Living* on November 21. Twenty exceptional pieces of work representing the artists' views of the unique way of life on Northern Vancouver Island will be available to the public until May 1, 2014.

"All work presented in this year's display celebrates island living through representations of the people, places, employment opportunities and natural environment of this region," said Jen Alton of the Comox Valley Community Arts Council. "We were absolutely thrilled with the high caliber of submissions we received for this exhibition. We have a really interesting variety of work on display this year."

The exhibition will feature photography, sculpture, painting and textiles by artists Brian Argyle, Bert Badey, Lisa Cross, Bill Kerr, Sandra Lamb, Brian Latta, Marsha Mackinnon, Hans Peter Meyer, Uli Ostermann, Marilyn Peeters, Heimke Webb and Grace Wolff. For the first time, the YQQ Art and Culture Program is pleased to feature a unique fabric art installation by Althea White, as well as a soapstone carving by Ron Moffat.

"This exhibition is an excellent way to connect our passengers with the northern Vancouver Island cultural community and provide a truly enhanced experience at our airport," explained YQQ CEO, Fred Bigelow. "We are proud to work with the Comox Valley Community Arts Council on this highly successful public art program, which is now entering into its third year."

The Comox Valley Airport Art and Culture Program, a partnership between YQQ and the Comox Valley Community Arts Council, is intended to showcase the rich artistic tradition of northern Vancouver Island by presenting an annual public art exhibition for YQQ passengers and the community. A call for submissions is issued each spring and artwork is selected by a jury made up of representatives from the airport and the Arts Council.

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More information about this program, the featured artists and their work on display at the Comox Valley Airport can be found on www.comoxairport.com under *Airport Services/Art and Culture Program* following the program launch on November 21. For information about how to get involved in YQQ's Art and Culture program and other community arts projects, visit www.comoxvalleyarts.com.

Attention Assignment Editors:

The Comox Valley Community Arts Council will provide a tour of the 2013/2014 YQQ Art and Culture Program exhibition for media at 3:00 p.m. on November 21, 2013. Several artists, along with representatives of YQQ and the Arts Council will be available for interviews and photos in the terminal building.

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