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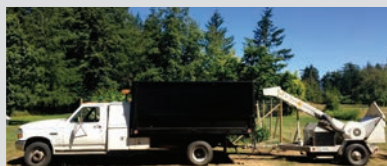
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Blackberry Lane Preschool Open House!

Sunday, October 17, 2021 1-3pm
covid protocols will be in place

By Brittany GuilloSmith

COMMUNITY INFO

THE Blackberry Lane (BBL) Preschool Society has been serving Denman Island for over 30 years! Originally started as a Montessori preschool, BBL has changed throughout the years to suit the needs of our unique island. The beautiful legacy of our old children's centre, created over the years by our amazing staff and often through unheralded volunteer hours and effort, has now been carried with us into our new home.

Three years ago, BBL began searching for solutions to accommodate our growing community. In the fall of 2020, in partnership with Comox Valley School District 71, and with support from the Denman Island Community School, the new early childhood education centre broke ground. The new center opened its doors to some of Denman's littlest residents in April of 2021.

With COVID restrictions lifted, we are finally able to welcome the community into the outstanding new centre that the BBL Preschool Society envisioned and many worked hard to bring to fruition. To all of those who helped us, we are truly grateful!

We are nearly there in offering our families the two programs we intend to run. In order to do this, we need two separate, fenced play spaces, one of which we are still trying to build. Come join us for snacks and non-alcoholic refreshments by donation. Funds raised will help us in completing the back play space!

We look forward to welcoming folks into our center, and hope to share fond BBL memories. See you there! 🍷

Fall Workshop'n'Lop:

*Denman Conservancy
Workshop and Work Bee Series*

By Nick Montgomery

COMMUNITY INFO

DCA Have you ever been curious about the language of birds, how to monitor invasive bullfrogs, or how the Green Cemetery works on Denman? Join us for workshop'n'ops: a series of short talks, followed by invasive removal work parties.

On Friday, Oct 15, 22, and 29, you're invited to come out and help remove invasive species on lands stewarded by the DCA. We'll start at 10am each Friday, and the beginning of each work party will feature a brief (10-15min) talk by various Denmanites on a range of topics, including:

- An introduction to the language of birds with Jenna Rudolph: 10am Oct 15 at the Settlement Lands info Kiosk (Central Rd)
- Native amphibians and invasive bullfrogs w/ Erika Bland: 10am Oct 22 at Winter Wren Wood - Main Entrance
- The Green Cemetery and how it works with Jane Lighthall: 10am Oct 29 at the Green Cemetery

Big thanks in advance to Jenna, Erika, and Jane for sharing your knowledge and experience. Thanks also to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for supporting this work with a grant.

These will be the 8th, 9th, and 10th work bees this year, and the first seven were great opportunities to get to know more about the ecology and meet other islanders. In addition to encouraging folks to come help clear out invasives, these talks are fodder for further conversation as we work together.

Some logistics:

In keeping with current COVID protocols, tools will be sanitized, and we'll be distancing outdoors. If you have any questions, feel free to email the event coordinator, Nick Montgomery, at montgomerynick@gmail.com. You can find the most up-to-date info on all upcoming events on the DCA website:

<https://www.denmanconservancy.org/> 🍷

DICES Community Programs & Employment Opportunity

COMMUNITY INFO

(no basketball on Monday Oct 11 and Oct 25)

Time: 4:00-6:00pm

Location: Denman School Gym

Soccer

Weekly drop-in for all levels players. Contact Angus Hayman 778-677-1159 for details.

Date: Fridays; Oct 8 - Dec 17 (no basketball on Friday Oct 22) **Time:** 4:00-6:00pm **Location:** Denman School Gym

Taoist Tai Chi

Tai Chi returns back to the community school with an ongoing drop-in practice. We are happy to say our esteemed teacher Kathy Tolson will be joining us to teach every other Tuesday.

We are happy to welcome everyone back. Facilitator: Kathy Tolson

Date: Tuesdays, Oct 5 - Dec 14

Time: 4:15pm to 5:15pm

Cost: TBA

Location: Denman School Gym

COVID-19 protocols in effect

Following the provincial directives and school district protocols, a proof of vaccination will be required for all people born in 2009 or earlier (12+) to attend the basketball, soccer and taoist tai chi programs. Our staff will ask to review your BC Vaccine Card (paper or electronic) as well as a piece of photo ID that matches the name on the vaccine card. Masks are mandatory indoors. Please sanitize your hands before entering the school through the back door.

We recognize that the COVID situation is fast changing and may lead to new protocols having to be implemented rapidly. For more information about our programs and updated COVID protocols, please visit our website <https://dices.ca>.

Employment opportunity

Looking for a great winter job opportunity?

DICES invites applications for a winter Program Coordinator position. Starting on November 1st, this position will run until January 14th 2022.

Find a full job description on <https://dices.ca/employment> and submit your resume to dices.director@gmail.com by **October 18th, 11:00pm.**

Phoenix Riting:

xxx

ARTS&LIT

By Phoenix Bee

violence are obvious. But disagreement? Wrong opinions?

I like to use this analogy: a person in North America is arguing on the phone with a counterpart in Australia about what time of day it is. "It's afternoon, obviously!" "You're an idiot, it's the middle of the night!" Both are right, but that is not obvious from either perspective.

And there's the story of the blind men and the elephant. Each man touches a different part and comes to their own conclusion what an elephant is like. "An elephant is like a snake!" one says, touching its trunk. "Nonsense, an elephant is like a tree!" another declares, touching its legs. "You are both wrong! An elephant is like a wall!" the third insists, touching its

New programs for the fall

WE are happy to announce that the following programs have been added to our fall programming:

Basketball

Weekly drop-in for all levels players. Contact Daniel Farrow 250-661-1246 for details.

Date: Mondays; Oct 4 - Dec 13

TIDE TABLE

• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove •
• Source: tides.gc.ca •

2021-10-07 (Thursday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
01:01	1.6	5.2
07:11	4.5	14.8
13:05	2.1	6.9
18:59	4.7	15.4

2021-10-08 (Friday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
01:41	1.2	3.9
08:10	4.6	15.1
13:49	2.5	8.2
19:28	4.7	15.4

2021-10-09 (Saturday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
02:22	0.9	3.0
09:11	4.6	15.1
14:37	2.9	9.5
20:01	4.6	15.1

2021-10-10 (Sunday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:06	0.8	2.6
10:15	4.7	15.4
15:33	3.2	10.5
20:37	4.5	14.8

2021-10-11 (Monday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:53	0.7	2.3
11:22	4.7	15.4
16:40	3.5	11.5
21:19	4.3	14.1

2021-10-12 (Tuesday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
04:45	0.8	2.6
12:30	4.8	15.7
18:04	3.5	11.5
22:11	4.0	13.1

2021-10-13 (Wednesday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
05:42	1.0	3.3
13:37	4.8	15.7
19:36	3.4	11.2
23:24	3.8	12.5

2021-10-14 (Thursday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
06:46	1.2	3.9
14:39	4.8	15.7
20:56	3.2	10.5

continued on P.5...



An Unpainted Portrait: Trial By Mud & Wind

ARTS&LIT

By Leo Simmons

WHAT would prove to be an exhausting weekend in North Wales began to move swiftly along in the form of numerous physical, mental and psychological challenges. The first full day started early with jumping up and down in the mud and eating soggy cornflakes although thankfully not both at the same time. Following this, we were corralled into the vehicles and transported a short distance to a misty valley somewhere in Snowdonia where we began a long forced march up several peaks. You know the kind of thing: trudge uphill forever and then, just as you're sure that you've reached the top, another effing ridge appears beyond it, climbing just as precipitously into the mist. As if that wasn't annoying enough, throughout the climb – and especially when we seemed to be at our most tired or dispirited – we would be approached by one of the instructors and asked questions of a personal nature and given mental tasks to perform. It may have been during this process that I began to wonder what the world's preoccupation with homosexuality was all about. Difficult although it was, the overall interviewing-under-duress strategy made a strange kind of sense; I could appreciate the need for stability in times of stress.

As a direct consequence of his particular brand of physical conditioning, our new friend Dicky discovered a little too late that he was simply unable to walk to the top of the very first peak we were instructed to conquer, and duly collapsed with a fit of the vapours around halfway up. It had been many years since the slopes of the welsh peaks had witnessed an attack of the vapours – especially one unencumbered by many layers of Victorian frock material and lacy bonnets – but Dicky managed it. To this day, he remains the last man to be recorded swooning anywhere in Wales. In deference to possible charges of manslaughter and/or torture, the recruiting team allowed Dicky to slide/roll/flap/ooze down the lower tenth of our first hill and sit himself down in the back of one of the strategically parked vans for the rest of the day. I found myself aghast at this turn of events and by the way, I am officially the last man to be recorded being aghast in Wales – it was a big weekend for the principality.

By far the strangest task we had to undergo was the 'forest' test. I've no idea whose brainchild this was, but after many dire warnings during the day of the difficulties of remaining sane during the day's final exercise, we were taken as a group into a strange patch of forest at night. This, by the way, is not the same as being taken into a patch of strange forest, so you can dismiss any thoughts of elves or pixies, werewolves or talking badgers. There, we were abandoned one at a time and instructed to await collection at an unspecified time. Fortunately, over the next few hours, nobody ran screaming from the bushes with the glow of terrified insanity in their eyes.

Even Dicky discovered his niche: he was, it turned out, rather good at sitting in one spot and doing nothing for extended periods. It was, frankly, a bit silly, and perhaps for that reason, was the only 100% successful exercise that we undertook. For my part, I spent the entire time expecting one of the testers to creep up on me or let off a firework next to me. It's what I would have done. I suspect that they were, instead, having dinner somewhere – which is the other thing that I'd have done in their place.

The tests continued to include some team exercises, and probably our greatest triumph of the weekend was another team event that involved several other elements, but which I remember chiefly for the performance around us trying to get ourselves over a twelve-foot-high assault course wall. To make it really interesting, the ropes which people normally use to get up the bloody thing had been removed – or at least, thrown over to the other side. Funny; veeery funny... It may not sound particularly difficult to the energetic human amongst us, but it's surprising how hard it can be to convince some people to climb upwards, even with a great deal of physical assistance. You already know about whom I speak, don't you? Having already witnessed his physical prowess, we decided not to use Dicky as a ladder and it fell to me to provide the initial boost for our first team members to scale the wall. I was then pushed and pulled up onto the top of the structure and as the largest (and by implication the strongest, although I had my doubts about that), was designated

to act as an anchor – lying across the top of the wall itself – for the others to haul themselves up with, and/or to offer a helping hand to pull people upward after a hearty leap.

Somehow, it worked – even for Dicky, who was pushed upwards by two people to grab my outstretched hand. As my internal organs were ground into strawberry jam and my ribs splintered and passed through the rest of my body and out of my back, used me as his human rope ladder to pull his not inconsiderable bulk up the wall. I knew that he'd reached the top when he stopped making little crying kitten noises and started making odd, wet, farting sounds. Stretched out as I was, I couldn't see him folded over the parapet behind me, and I wasn't inclined to try to look, but the range of sounds coming out of both ends of him was moderately entertaining for a couple of minutes while he gathered himself for the descent to mother earth. Gradually, the wheezing, the hissing, the sloppy farting and the whimpering died away, and a plaintive wail reached me. "Can you just help me get down the other side?" he whined in what I took to be his best "Can I have just a lot more cake?" voice.

I'd had enough. I was tired, hungry, and in thirty-six hours I was due back at work in a shitty office with a boss who had once puked on me. This is why I responded in a slightly less than totally supportive manner. "F***. Off." I said, and left it at that. I wasn't sure at the time if any of the instructors heard me, and if they did, I'm not sure if it would be considered a positive or negative display of emotion; Dicky had by this point managed to alienate everyone in the group. There followed a sliding noise, reminiscent of a seal dragging itself over wet concrete, a grunt, and some decidedly Victorian drawing-room whimpering. This was an intriguing development. Next came another grunt, a high-pitched "OH!"; a brief silence and a soft yet profound 'wump' announcing Dicky's arrival – prone – upon the planet's surface once again. It seemed like a suitable metaphor for his weekend.



...continued from P.3 massive sides. "I alone have the correct answer: an elephant is like a rope!" counters the man holding its tail. In some versions of the story, the argument comes to blows.

Around the issue of Covid-19, fear is being whipped into froth on both sides. On one hand, people insist, "This is the deadliest pandemic in history! If you get the Delta variant, you are guaranteed to die! Only everyone getting vaccinated will save us!" On the other hand, with equal fervor, they say, "This vaccine is a bio-weapon! You are all going to die and I won't let you take me down with you!"

People who fear the vaccine are every bit as terrified as those who fear Covid. Their opinions may be based upon false information, but are sincerely held. They are not lies, knowingly or malevolently spread. I believe that most people are sincere. The truth is, right now nearly everyone is passionately afraid of what the opposite polarity believes. If one side feels lethally threatened by the other, middle ground becomes impossible.

Historically, there has been a very slippery slope between "These people are dangerous for believing what they do; they should not be allowed a platform," and "These people are less than human, they should not be allowed to exist."

Fear isn't necessarily wrong--but it shouldn't drive the conversation nor shut it down. I don't have an easy solution to this issue, aside from my tenacious faith that all points of view have the right to be expressed and evaluated publicly.

So how justified is the fear on both sides? I find it helpful to pull back and look at the facts through the lens of my own experience. First, how deadly is Covid? I know personally at least a dozen people who have contracted the Delta variant. Tragically, one of them died. Not to deny the impact and horror of his death, the fact is he suffered many pre-existing serious health conditions. His wife was deathly ill for a month, but is recovering well. Their unvaccinated son drove his sick father to the hospital in

an enclosed vehicle, but tested negative himself. I know one fully vaccinated man who got sick for a few days. His unvaccinated family also got sick for a few days. My unvaccinated adult nephew was diagnosed with the delta variant, but did not exhibit symptoms. The others all got uncomfortable flu symptoms and recovered at home. It appears Covid is serious, and can be deadly if you are vulnerable. I certainly don't want it, but it's far from the "deadliest plague in human history".

On the other side, I believe the vaccine is helpful and highly unlikely to cause harm to those who choose it, other than to make giant pharmaceutical companies orders of magnitude wealthier. The vaccine does not completely prevent sickness or halt the spread of sickness, but it does lower the risks. Of the people I know who are vaccinated—most of the people I know—I have not heard a single report of ill effects as a direct consequence. For those who fear it, I ask, if the vaccine is a bio-weapon designed to depopulate the planet, why is it being withheld from poorer countries and

continued on P.6...



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...continued from P.5 hoarded for the wealthy? It makes no sense.

Some may be operating under false information, but I believe in their right to express their opinions, correct or not. The basic human right to resist until genuinely convinced, even if that means never, must be defended; I believe a free society depends on it. Somehow, public conversations need to evolve, so we can argue and disagree without character slurs and slanderers' motives and morals. It is possible to disagree humanely, and thereby to learn and grow.

It is too simplistic to claim, 'everyone on this side of the line is right, and everyone on that side is wrong.' There is always a full spectrum of possibilities, and weird things do happen--I've seen it over and over. Despite my very real respect for the wonders of science and modern medicine, I am not comfortable with any system of thought, no matter how useful, being turned into a rock-hard dogma. Feelings matter. Individual perceptions deserve respect.

"Just because I am right, doesn't make you wrong," my mother likes to say. I hear

Crazy Clown, in a Bowl of Soup: A Perspective

ARTS&LIT

By Robbie Newton

with most of my nephews and nieces. But Martin was my major focus on that visit; his health in sad disarray along with his self respect and economic needs now out of his reach. When I returned to Canada it was with a determination to find money for him, which I didn't have.

I was in a tired sober mood as I walked towards home until that moment I saw a most extraordinary roof on the community hall; shallow exotic lines that rose up then dipped to cross its width, from end to end of the hall. The front door was open, I went in and met Vic Schulman who I'd known from when he first arrived on Denman, around the beginning of the '80s along with his then partner Willa; woodworkers both with fabulous skills and I lives criss/crossed in our different ways. Vic told me that their grant had run out and they were working on their own time. Impulsively I offered my help and without a thought Vic set me up, high to the right of the stage.

My feet weren't at ease there but it gave me time to think. I remembered that Vic had shown unexpected skills of leadership when taking over the reins of the community club. The first occurred when Turid Olafsson's daughter, a concert pianist, had wanted to travel with her skills, and concert grand piano's don't travel well; so she offered it to the community. Vic was the one who sold us on this opportunity, and he built a heated cabinet to store and protect it in. It wasn't the only acquisition that he was responsible for but it clearly expressed a new ambition for the hall, which made final sense to me when he mentioned the architect Les Baker.

Les had a much more recent arrival on Denman, but for whatever reason our lives soon crossed and with it I recognized a deep connection with Music. It was someone else who while visiting put on a record of an organ concerto by a French musician to listen to; and to say I was overwhelmed was but a tiny measure of my own surprise. Les did play some music for me and I recognized he's intense love of music. yet for me, it was outside in his garden that he truly came to life: the 'outside world' of plants trees insects birds animals, all of which has been an open-ended reason for my just 'being': and Les reflected all of that back to me.

His roof design is inherently simple; a series of parallel trusses cross the width of the hall, but without any gaps between each one; they filled the whole length of the hall, a connected light open 'strut' structure; sealed both above and below. Only two people were still working on the trusses, at their still open ends where their roles as 'sonic projectors' were to begin. Both worked up on high trestles; in the nearest was of our high tree specialists, whose name like so many in my dotage, has slipped away, but I still remember that friendly grin he sent down to me. He was fitting cross pieces

this as, "You have your own perspective, which I may not agree with, but I respect that you have good reasons for believing as you do." We need to start with assuming a certain common ground. The current inflammatory political climate is inciting division and hate on all sides. Let's all take a breath and see each other for who we really are, neighbours, community members, friends.

I am interested in learning about you. What do you think? Email phoenixhornby@gmail.com if you would like to discuss your ideas or be interviewed for this column. 🍷

between adjacent trusses to make secure connections which wouldn't impede the projection of sound. Following behind him was Tim Wees who put every one of those acoustic panels in place insuring an un-compromised projection of all the musical offerings.

In my own philosophic journey through evolution, 'Learning to Listen' is the first of three stages which make for 'safe passage' for all species, including us. Here in this transformation of our community hall was a matching gesture. It didn't go unnoticed, the Regional District set up a one million \$ contract with a construction company to 'Rebuild the Hall'; which meant first ripping out the whole floor of the hall, along with any past foundations; before putting in likely the first fully sound foundations the hall had, before restoring a brand new sparkling floor: and outside they did add on an addition for the needy pre-school. Meanwhile up front the Library had its first own dedicated space.

But all of this was only a second initiative, the first was made by Pam Willis who when the New School was first built suggested the notion of a 'Community School', an idea which has been taken up and expanded on over the intervening years for the benefit of 'the many'; and now with our blessed increase of young people into the community has expanded way beyond my own appreciation, with buildings going up on the other side of the school that I've never seen, and others I see without knowing what they are for.

Yes Denman appears to be in good shape in some respects: in many others I have serious doubts about its future; topics which I have yet to address.



Memoir of a Rural Sisyphus-Redux

Introduction

For several years, I kept a diary of my inauguration into the Denman Community. This column, recently

By Bill Engleson

• www.engleson.ca

renamed Memoir of a Rural Sisyphus-Redux, will extract a few of my observations from a dozen or more years ago and share them. Hopefully, they will have some modern times currency.

ARTS&LIT

will extract a few of my observations from a dozen or more years ago and share them. Hopefully, they will have some modern times currency.

Chapter Eleven

“MAYHEM” on Denman

June 3, 2007

I spent a full day yesterday doing something different, a claim that I cannot often make. The bulk of the daylight hours were spent participating in a novel creative activity: “MAYHEM.” Fifteen musicians, islanders for the most part and a couple like me, someone barely approximating a musician-I sing quite well in the shower-were assembled, broken randomly into three groups, and we, in our small groups, created a work of musical art.

In the late afternoon, we reconvened in the back hall and performed. I am not a performer by nature: at best I am occasionally a showboat. Here, courtesy of MAYHEM, I was transformed into a member of a band.

I had never been that.

My group, which we christened Black Dog Rising, gathered for much of the day on a patch of lawn in-between the community hall and the community school.

Our task, the task of each of the three groups, was to create a piece of euphonious work. The five of us nestled, we five and a 7-month-old pooch named Blue in the custody of M..., a barefoot dark haired young woman. Four clutched guitars. I pretended I was in a lovely outdoor shower. It seemed to improve my melodic wanderings

The day progressed with an easy-going, collaborative air. While I wanted to mosey into life story swapping, chatting, exploring, and engaging in tale telling, my composer comrades were more project oriented, melodiously knowledgeable, knowing and sharing their understanding of chords and twanging, subjects that left me in the dust. Only Blue, the pooch, seemed to know less than me about music and the creative process.

I am only guessing at that.

Once our product was shaped, connected, and carried by the guitars, fleshed out by my little jazzy jingle, and M...’s earlier produced powerful ode to a dog’s patience and love, only then did I really get nervous.

In rehearsal, I had no sense of timing, when to come in vocally, when not to.

My throat obviously had two left feet.

But, when we appeared as a band, when we were in the thick of performance, even though I thought I was savagely screwing it up, it did not seem to matter. I was a boxcar on a train, rumbling up and down hills, a team player, a musician, a member of the band.

Would you believe the Fifth Beatle?

A bit of a stretch, I suppose, but a lot of fun. 🍷

You’ve seen my photos right here in the pages of the Grapevine. Now’s your chance to own a full-colour (or b&w) copy of your very own . . .



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This Week in the Garden: A Musical Memory

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

these beds all mulched against the coming frosts.

One crop that did very well, and I am now trying to eat up, is the celery. Usually, home-grown celery is very strong tasting but this year, I cracked the code on how to grow the most gorgeous celery. Celery is quite a hungry plant. I know some organic gardeners say, "Get the soil right and don't fertilize your plants." Well, if you want nice celery, I suggest you develop a really nice loamy soil and fertilize quite heavily as well as watering a great deal.

The celery I grew this year is taller than any I have seen before and a lovely pale green, tender and crisp. I used an organic fertilizer that will not damage the soil. I am trying to get the majority eaten up before the frosts hit as frost badly damages celery. It is a hard plant to mulch sufficiently to keep the frost off.

My next job after writing this essay is to cut up, blanch and freeze some very large heads of cauliflower. There are still a few heads in the garden but I am leaving them to see if I can get a little more growth. I had not grown cauliflower for years and didn't remember how easy it is to grow. One came out of the garden at 7 lbs. I split that one with a couple of friends. Next year, I will pay more attention to plant spacing as the brassica bed is a veritable jungle and I can't go in it without breaking leaves off some plants.

My current favourite way to cook cauliflower is to roast it. Cauliflower once roasted is nothing like the bland vegetable you get under a cheese sauce.

We have picked the apples and pears from the orchard and I have a basin of pears in the kitchen to ripen in the warmth of the house. Once they are ripe,

THE garden has been a great success this year and part of that is the fact that it is now full for the winter. We have beds of leeks, carrots, beets and rutabagas that will keep as if in a giant fridge for winter and spring meals. I just have to get some leaves raked up and

I will cut them up, dip them in lemon water and pop them in the dehydrator. Dried pears are fabulous and pears are excellent canned as well.

Today, I hope to get each of the apples wrapped in newspaper and placed in plastic bags that I will leave a little open. These bags will be placed inside a box in the unheated porch where they should keep pretty well.

The persimmons did very well as I have a tree in my polytunnel. The first few years, persimmon trees will drop their fruit and there is nothing to be done about it. Once they are ready, they will set fruit and this year, I had to fruit prune aggressively. The rule for persimmons and apples is the space of a man's hand between each fruit. So they are nice and big and turning yellow-orange from green but the weather is turning cold so early. Persimmons need to ripen red and I don't think they have time. I have cut a few to bring them inside to ripen in a paper bag.

October is the perfect month to increase the size of your garden by laying down sheets of cardboard or newspaper on the new plots to kill off the weeds. That will make your life much easier next spring. 🍷

A Stupa and Renewal at the Hermitage

By Anthony Gregson

SPECIAL INTEREST

Photos by Dreadful Imagery

completing the stupa that is the spiritual heart of the centre, with the communal buildings grouped around it. Peter Boag, an architect and long-time Buddhist practitioner who studied the construction of stupas on numerous trips to India, meeting with Tibetan lamas and learning about such esoteric aspects as sacred geometry, is leading a group of volunteers in the work. For Boag, you might almost say stupa construction is a calling. Only twenty years old at the time, "too young to know I couldn't do it," he built possibly the first Vajrayana stupa to be officially consecrated outside Tibet, thirty-two feet high, at a 400-acre retreat in Kinmount, Ontario, in 1970.

A stupa, Boag says, with its golden spire and crown, is a visually powerful symbol, "a huge question mark", with real impact. Ideally, one is built during a meditation retreat, "so that people are getting their hands dirty and making real in the outer sense what they have been meditating on." That's not always easy to arrange, he notes, and especially in this case. Although volunteers have been periodically fleshing out the skeleton of the stupa for nearly five years, Boag is aiming to complete it in just three weeks.

Enter modern technology. Using CAD (Computer Aided Design), Boag arrived from Ontario with a compact kit of stupa parts cut out of aluminum and steel

THE Hermitage, celebrated birthplace of Greenpeace, and a venerated spiritual focus of Denman Island, is about to undergo renewal. To begin with, work has already begun on



Stupa architect Peter Boag

that can be used, even, he says, by the unskilled, to mould the different components. Not that the work is easy. Precisely for that reason, Boag sees the pre-fabricated kit he has prepared as a gift of the project to the world. A base can be poured from concrete or built with cement blocks without too much difficulty. The Hermitage stupa has a cement base topped by the reliquary filled with relics, and sacred texts. But the spire, crown and ornaments defeat

many who do not have the skills and knowledge.

Once the spire is ready, a wooden Tree of Life will run up the central channel, charging the stupa with spiritual energy. Each stage is accompanied by ritual, every element has meaning.

The stupa is essential to the sanctity of The Hermitage, but it is only the first part of an infrastructure renewal project that will keep the Hermitage closed to residential retreats for some time. Built and repaired by volunteers, who tend to come and go, and run exclusively on donations up until 2014, there is much that needs to be upgraded, beginning with the electrical system. Plans also include a renovation of the barn to host community classes upstairs. There are many other changes under consideration. For that reason, The Hermitage is preparing a major fundraising campaign.



Silent sentient, the Hermitage



Hermitage Director, John de Jardin

John de Jardin, a director and former monk, points out that The Hermitage has a significant international network of support it can rely on for contributions. A retreat in October 2018 that brought a number of high-profile people from the worldwide dharma community to Denman, really helped to get the word out. These people had attended retreats all over North America and all of them recognized

the special qualities of The Hermitage. Many other retreat centres, particularly in the US, take a basically commercial approach, with participants often paying for access to a guru whose authority is unquestioned. "We have a spiritual director in Lama Rodney," de Jardin says, "but he has encouraged a decidedly ecumenical, universalist approach, with The Hermitage hosting programs led by a variety of teachers from different traditions."

Many islanders have contributed as directors over the years but at present Lama Rodney is the only Denman resident on the Board with Janie McGiffin as Site Manager. John de Jardin is hopeful that that will change as the community senses the spirit of renewal and a commitment to local engagement. He believes that the involvement of islanders is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of The Hermitage.



Stupa

When you read the stories of the lamas and yogins whose life work eventually led to the founding of The Hermitage, it can seem almost incomprehensible that such practices could find a home in North America, without the monastic traditions, theocracy, and beliefs. That makes

the resilience of Tibetan Buddhism in North America all the more impressive. But as de Jardin points out, the Tibetans themselves imported Buddhism from India and then, in their isolation, made it their own. For centuries they maintained a powerful independence. Many high lamas, adds Boag, remind us not to mistake the cup for the tea, not to get caught up in the outward garb of traditions. The Hermitage, de Jardin says, practices a pragmatic Buddhism which has brought its sixty acres of peace close to the hearts of islanders and a larger world of the Dharma.



Denman and Hornby Islands are very privileged to have free counseling for women provided by the Comox Valley Transition Society. They have forwarded us the following information about these ongoing services.

"The Comox Valley Transition Society (CVTS) offers Stopping The Violence Women's Counselling, a free counselling service for women in the Comox Valley and surrounding areas who have previously experienced or are currently experiencing violence of any kind, who have been sexually assaulted, or who have experienced childhood abuse or violence."

This service is available on Denman & Hornby Island the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. People are asked to please phone CVTS at 250.897.0511 to book an appointment.

Appointments are offered in person and follow rigid COVID protocols, which require individuals to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and sit at least 2 metres apart. Phone appointments are also available.

For more information, please visit <https://cvts.ca/womens-counselling/>

In case of emergency please call 911 Advice is also available by calling the Lily House crisis line: 250 338 1227

Free transportation from Buckley Bay to the Lily House transitional emergency housing can be prearranged through the crisis line

Destroy the Whistle-Blowers!

By Gwynne Dyer
• OP October 2, 2021

OP/ED

A long time ago now I was asked to do a television series about the world's intelligence services – and I turned it down flat. My main reason was a feeling that there was less to the whole intelligence world than met the eye, and the subsequent thirty years have only served to confirm that judgement.

Today's case in point is the recent revelations about the US Central Intelligence Agency. In 2017, it turns out, the CIA flirted with the idea of kidnapping or killing Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, in his refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Wikipedia profoundly embarrassed the CIA in 2010 by putting a huge trove of secret US records about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the web. Fearing extradition to the United States, Assange (who is Australian), sought asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in

London in 2012.

The pace picked up in early 2017 when Donald Trump became president and made Mike Pompeo head of the CIA. Pompeo quickly convinced himself that the Russians were going to try to spirit Assange out of Britain into their own hands.

So the CIA began planning to preempt the Russians by kidnapping Assange from the embassy and take him to the US – or, if that didn't work, kill him. Contingency plans were also discussed for thwarting a possible Russian attempt to get Assange out by ramming the getaway vehicle, shooting out the tires of the getaway plane – or, once again, killing him.

The Russians picked up on all this chatter, and started putting their own operatives in place around the embassy. "It was beyond comical," said one former senior Trump official. "It got to the point where every human being in a three-block radius (of the embassy) was working for one of the intelligence services — whether they were street sweepers or police officers or security guards."

Comical and far-fetched – but this is also how the plan to kidnap or kill self-exiled Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia's embassy in Istanbul probably got started. The senior officials around Trump were at least grown-up enough to realise it was crazy and dropped the idea, whereas the ones around Muhammad bin Salman weren't.

The Ecuadorian government changed and Assange was expelled from the London embassy in 2019, but he still faced an American demand for extradition. A British court rejected that early this year, but he continues to sit in prison awaiting the outcome of a US appeal to a higher court.

And here's the thing. None of the information Assange released hurt anybody, and a lot of it needed to be revealed: war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan and

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government surveillance of tens of millions of US citizens. The CIA made it all secret because it could, not because it was necessary or justifiable.

It's not just American intelligence agencies, of course, and they don't always think about killing those who spill their precious secrets. Thus Israeli Mordechai Vanunu, who confirmed the existence of Israel's nuclear weapons in 1986, was only kidnapped in Italy and jailed in Israel for 18 years (11 years in solitary).

Vanunu's revelation changed nothing: everybody already knew that Israel has nuclear weapons, even if it will never confirm it publicly. Thirty-five years after he was kidnapped, however, Vanunu is still not allowed to leave Israel. If he speaks to foreigners he is arrested, and sometimes jailed again for a few months.

Then there's Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee who revealed huge amounts of data about the US National Security Agency's global surveillance programmes in 2013. Revealing that the US was hacking the phones of friendly foreign leaders like Germany's Angela Merkel was the right thing to do, but he can never go home again.

The US government trapped him in Moscow by cancelled his passport when he was en route from Hong Kong to Latin America, where he was seeking asylum. He is still stuck in Russia eight years later. His girlfriend joined him in Moscow in 2014, and they are now married with a three-year-old son, but going home would mean a lifetime in prison. The punishment never ends.

These people are not 'helping terrorists' or betraying their countries. The 'intelligence services' (the old term 'secret services' was less misleading) reflexively build bureaucratic empires and ceaselessly expand their reach because that's what bureaucracies do. They can be useful in war, but the vast bulk of what they do in peacetime is pointless.

I only suspected that in 1990, when the Cold War was just ending. By now, it is blindingly obvious. All these cases are victimless 'crimes' where things that should be known about the illegal, counter-productive, and even criminal behaviour of governments are finally revealed – and the intelligence services then relentlessly harass the whistle-blowers to frighten others into silence.



Letter to the Editor

Grapevine

"One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It is simply too painful to acknowledge – even to ourselves – that we've been fooled." Carl Sagan

A call for support

I have recently returned from 16 days outside Canada. I return to Hornby Island to find that, with the advent of vaccine passports, the Apartheid system we had feared is now firmly in place. All the unvaccinated, regardless of legal choice or medical exemption, are excluded from entry to the "Community" Hall, to the New Horizons, to the Free Store, and to a growing number of public places. Apparently, this policy is enforced on Denman Island too, at least with regard to the Denman "Community" Hall.

This is exclusion of healthy people for no logical reason.

The vaccinated should know that if the situation were reversed, we who exercise our legal right not to be injected, or who cannot be injected for medical reasons, would stand up for their rights by boycotting events held in those locations. They should also know that in a system feeding upon repetitive treatments, they are only as

continued on P.12...

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Hornby Island Housing Society

will be holding its

2021 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 20th

at 7:30pm via ZOOM

If you would like to attend,

please email

hornbyislandhousing@gmail.com



...continued from P.11 good and privileged as their last jab.

It is vital that our human right to choose in medical matters be respected, if not by our government, then by our fellow human beings.

Getting jabbed with a synthetic pathogen to protect other people is a nonsense. It is propaganda designed to divide us through fear-mongering. Rather than scapegoating a significant segment of your fellow islanders, how about placing responsibility where it belongs, with a government that is perpetrating a crime against us all?

We would do well to remember the words of German Lutheran pastor, Martin Niemöller, in his poem "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a socialist ..."

You can read the predictable continuation on Wikipedia.

I write, as always, in solidarity with you all,

Amanda Hale 

Denman Island Fire rescue Conducting Wildfire Exercise

PRESS RELEASE

By CVRD

THE Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Denman Island Fire Rescue, with support from Hornby Island Fire Rescue, will be conducting a functional wildfire exercise on October 16 to practice the procedures outlined within the Denman Island Evacuation Guidelines.

"For much of the year, wildfire is the biggest single risk to Denman and Hornby Islands," explains CVRD Electoral Area A Director Daniel Arbour. "As we have seen this past summer, climate change, increases in available dry materials, and increases in population density continues to grow the risk within our communities."

Wildfires are a real threat within communities. Practicing FireSmart principles around your home, property and neighbourhood will help reduce risk. The exercise will take place on Denman Island and include a small neighborhood evacuation. Residents within the neighborhood have been

notified of the activity. As the evacuation guidelines are very similar for Hornby Island this exercise will provide a learning opportunity that will benefit both communities.

Residents on Denman Island may notice increased sirens, emergency personnel, and emergency vehicles participating in the exercise. Testing of the local emergency notification system will occur around noon on October 15 as part of the exercise. Residents can sign up for local emergency notifications at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/getnotified>).

The CVRD would like to thank participating agencies within this exercise, including: Denman Island Fire Rescue, Hornby Island Fire Rescue, Oyster River Fire Rescue, Union Bay Fire Rescue, the Fanny Bay Fire Department, the RCMP, BC Wildfire Service, Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue, Comox Valley Emergency Radio Communications, Denman Island Emergency Support Services, The Salvation Army and the Comox Valley Emergency Program.

Residents are encouraged to practice FireSmart principles on their properties. For more information on the exercise visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandexercise (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandexercise>) and to learn more about FireSmart visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart>) The Comox Valley Regional District is a federation of three electoral areas and three municipalities providing sustainable services for residents and visitors to the area. The members of the regional district work collaboratively on services for the benefit of the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.

Media Contact:

Don Luckett, Fire Chief Denman Island 250-334-6562

• rluckett@telus.net (<mailto:rluckett@telus.net>) 

Active Transportation Plan Approved

PRESS RELEASE

By CVRD

to advance Goals 4 (transportation), 7 (public health and safety) and 8 (climate change). The final plan included feedback collected from the public and identified key areas of interest in the region. Seven pedestrian projects, six cycling projects and 11 multi-use projects were identified as priorities in the development of a connected, safe, and accessible network in the Comox Valley.

The project was supported, in part, by grant funding provided by the Ministry

THE Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board approved the final Regional Active Transportation Network Plan. The Regional ATNP initiative was undertaken through the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) service in order

the provision of active transportation facilities within the Island Corridor Foundation E&N Corridor (extending from Union Bay to the City of Courtenay's Rotary Rail Trail.

To learn more about the Active Transportation Plan visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/activetransportation (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/activetransportation>)

The Comox Valley Regional District is a federation of three electoral areas and three municipalities providing sustainable services for residents and visitors to the area. The members of the regional district work collaboratively on services for the benefit of the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.



of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). Completion of a regional ATNP puts the CVRD and the member municipalities in a favourable position to pursue implementation grant funding as well as to coordinate local government funding.

“Seeing this plan come to fruition and have both the community and CVRD board support brings us one step closer to realizing safe, efficient and effective transportation options within the region,” explains CVRD Board Chair Jesse Ketler. “Now more than ever we need to look at our available options and increase both accessibility and connectedness throughout the community in order to reach our climate and community goals.”

CVRD staff will now develop implementation agreements which would include project design, approval processes and detailed costing to fund the projects. Examples of some of the priority projects include:

Paulsen Road – 600 m connection to Miracle Beach Elementary School with bicycle accessible and walkable shoulder
Island Highway 19A (Black Creek) – 300 m connecting community and commercial amenities through a buffered pedestrian lane
Bates Road – 3.8km from Coleman Road to Waveland Road with bicycle accessible and walkable shoulder
Anderton Road – 1.4 km between Ellenor Road and Ryan Road with bicycle accessible and walkable shoulder
Idiens Way – 800 m from Anderton to the City of Courtenay boundary with bicycle accessible and walkable shoulder
Lake Trail Road – 600 m to extend to a planned City of Courtenay facility and connection to Arden Elementary School with roadside separated multi-use path.
Cumberland Road – 1.2 km between the Village of Cumberland boundary and the City of Courtenay boundary with a painted buffer bicycle lane.
Island Highway 19A – 6.8km between Union Bay and Buckley Bay with bicycle accessible and walkable shoulder

One key future project identified repeatedly through engagement sessions was

Media Contact:

Alana Mullaly, General Manager of Planning and Development Services
250-334-6051 🍷

Opinions

by Thomas Provençal

*Opinions form from information
heard and sometimes seen.*

*We compile stories
with the tidbits that we glean.*

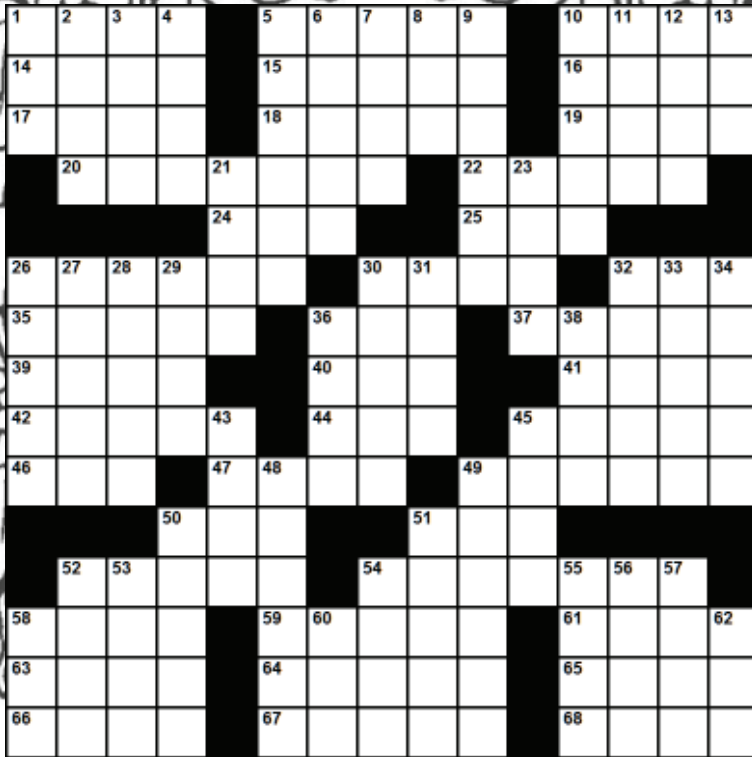
*We ponder on the pieces
and then make up our mind
to form a firm opinion
in a book we virtually bind
where all foregone conclusions
down indelibly in ink
form a stoney basis,
defending what we think.*

*A human spins identity
by dreaming up a truth
that's partially digested,
shot in a photo booth.*

*When a revelation
sheds light on a mistake,
we rectify our reasoning
to record another take.*

*Ephemeral by nature,
opinions oft depend
on emotional connection.
to ideas considered friend.*

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• ACROSS •

1. Indistinct
5. Fall birthstone
10. Caesar's eggs
14. American canal
15. Cover story
16. Barely cooked
17. Actress Foch
18. Home of La Scala
19. Essence
20. Attain
22. African antelope
24. A Canadian export
25. Atom fragment
26. Criminal second marriage
30. Autocrat of yore
32. Hindu Mr.
35. Extempore
36. Angry state
37. ATM button
39. Coasted
40. Before mouse
41. As a result
42. Annual feast
44. A rival of ABC
45. Pun response
46. Bauxite bonanza
47. Analgesia target

49. Like some tissues
50. Ace, when not eleven
51. Just short
52. Jousts
54. Intent
58. Lincoln in-law
59. Figurative phrase
61. County carnival
63. Jamaican fruit
64. Ill deserved
65. Basketball team
66. British withholding tax
67. Sends

68. Original Big Bang matter

• DOWN •

1. Brooding individual
2. A Met score
3. Galvanization stuff
4. Informal assent
5. Docilely
6. An oil source
7. Dock support
8. Arab robe
9. Summer flower
10. Cathedral instrument
11. Colorado resort
12. Bear of stars
13. Assembled
21. Metric foot
23. Days of old
26. Ezio Pinza, e.g.
27. Ambitionless one
28. Coast along
29. Assistant
30. Native group
31. Becomes inflexible
32. Barbershop aid
33. Adjective for purple
34. Ferric
36. Craving
38. Caligula's nephew
43. Carry on about
45. Actress Nell
48. 55th element
49. London's river
50. Any Elvis recording
51. Korean city
52. Agrippa's apparel
53. Without much effort
54. French region
55. Dubious
56. Brad or spike
57. Contribute
58. Ovine male, Brit.
60. Chromosome letters
62. Dreamer's letters



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• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

TO THOSE WHO have fought the power and are not on Facebook, I wish to tell you that I, Jarrah Kirk, have started a Kickstarter for my business, The Crooked Warden Cider. If you wish to give one of "THOSE" Denman islanders some support, my Kickstarter is <http://kck.st/3hJfqrC>. It's all or nothing. Thank you all who have supported me, it is much appreciated. Jarrah

HIRRA Zoom meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30pm. Agenda: MOTION to approve all Management Committee 2022 5-year budgets. Check hirra.ca to review draft budgets. E-mail office@hirra.ca to register. New members welcome!

COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM DENMAN WORKS Projector and screen: Book with Abraxas Books and Gifts 250-335-2731 abraxas9@telus.net Zoom meetings (unlimited time and free recording): See denmanworks.wordpress.com/contact/

• SEEKING WORK •

SEEKING WORK of a physical nature. Splitting and stacking firewood are specialties, gardening also. Will try any labouring job. 250-334-0675 evenings, Stephen Cooke. \$15/hr.

• EMPLOYMENT •

THE GENERAL STORE is once again looking for a person to work both as a cashier and receiver. We need someone who is self-directed, can lift up to 50 lbs, has work experience and wants at least 3 shifts per week. Call 250 335-2293 and ask for Jennifer.

LOVE PLAY? Work with local youth & adults with diverse learning needs. Internships, work experience & volunteer opportunities, PT year-round positions on Hornby Island. Training provided. Apply at www.hiplay.ca

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The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Publisher.

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

• (H) Hornby • (D) Denman • (UB) Union Bay •
• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

- Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
- Denman Community Hall Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
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• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

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- Cloutier Matthews LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants 338-7367 (All)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)
- Sylvie Schroeder • Royal LePage Denman Island 335-2551 (D/U)
- Katarina Meglic • Pemberton Holmes Realty 778-557-7429 (D/H)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoepfner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation 335-3145 (D/H)
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• John Isbister 335-2565 (D)
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- Tandem gravel truck & transfer trailer • Grant Morrison 335-0702 (D/H)
- Water Tanks & Cisterns • Steve Isaak 335-1853 (All)

• SERVICES •

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- Acupuncturist, Herbalist, Physiotherapist • Carmen B-G, RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Denman Works! • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Physiotherapy • Christopher Mainella • 236-255-3354 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Trueview Treecare, seniors' discount • Wildbill 898-7246 (D/H)
- Music Lessons & Piano Tuning • Scott Knight 604-779-9335 (D/H)
- Landscaping & Home Services • Beech&Cedar Home Maintenance
(Kane) • 335-0745 (D/H)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 7

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm

FRIDAY 8

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm
- HI LTC Business meeting 10am

SATURDAY 9

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9am-2pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30am

SUNDAY 10

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

MONDAY 11

TUESDAY 12

- CAP SITE 11-2pm

WEDNESDAY 13

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm

THURSDAY 14

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 3-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm

FRIDAY 15

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 16

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9am-2pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30am

SUNDAY 17

MONDAY 18

TUESDAY 19

- CAP SITE 11-2pm

WEDNESDAY 20

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm



THURSDAY 21

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 3-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm

*The Monthly Calendar is on
hold for now.*

Instead we offer a 2 week summary of
upcoming events on the Back Page.
Email us with your event to be listed
in "Fortnight Events".
theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

