



"It's as much to scare as to be scared." • Vincent Price



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Photo by Remy Skolney



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

DCA Walk & Talk

COMMUNITY INFO • *Pesticide Free Committee*

By DCA

WE live in a beautiful and truly unique place – one that is globally rare! Denman Island is at the northern end of the Coast Douglas Fir (CDF) ecological zone that covers only 0.3% of BC's total area; it is by far smallest and rarest of the 16 ecological zones in BC. The CDF contains more species at risk than any other ecological zone in BC (>225 species that are provincially rare), yet only 8% of the CDF is protected, making it the least-protected ecological zone in BC. We are losing the forest to human land use such as development (CDF has the highest road density of any ecological zone in BC), and logging (1% of old-growth forest remains). The forest is also having a hard time regenerating because of the presence of invasive species, overabundant deer and the effects of climate change. So how can we help? There are more than 150 invasive species in the CDF and on Denman we have a number of invasive plants, such as English holly and Scotch broom that are interfering with the ability of the forest to regrow. Proper removal of these plants without using pesticides will allow native plants to grow and flourish. Everyone can join in by removing the plants from their property and participating in invasive pulls in Protected Areas. Deer can also cause the forests to change forests by preferentially browsing seedlings such as red cedar, so that the forest and its understory do not regrow with the same structure and diversity. This has many “knock on” effects as the forest lacks many of the understory shrubs that birds and other wildlife species rely on for nesting and food. This is the UN Decade of Ecological Restoration, and by planting trees and other native plants, we can help our forests recover and flourish into the future.

Please join the DCA and the Pesticide Free Committee for a walk in Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve on Saturday November 6, 2021 at 1 pm to talk about forests. Please meet at the top of Mallard Way off Owl Crescent near the Nature Reserve entrance kiosk. 🍷

DICES AGM

COMMUNITY INFO

By Emily Guinane
• DICES

YOU are invited to Denman Island Community Education Society (DICES) AGM Tuesday, November 16th at 3 p.m. The AGM is taking place on Zoom, to receive the meeting link please email dices.director@gmail.com.

DICES is updating its bylaws and they will be up for approval. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposed bylaws please send us an email.

We are welcoming new DICES council members to help advise our work. If you are interested in learning more about what the council does please email us and we can set up a time to chat.

At the AGM we will report on our diversity of programs, including after school programs, Parent and Tot, the Food Bank, Teen Night, the Computer Access Site and Community Recreation and Education programming. DICES has continued to successfully adapt to the changing circumstances of the pandemic and this AGM is an opportunity to acknowledge the volunteers, staff and council's hard work at continuing to provide services and programs through these challenging times. 🍷

Denman Writers Win Big

ARTS&LIT

By Stewart Goodings

IT may not be the Giller, or as Stuart Maclean used to say, ‘we may not be big, but we’re small.’

Denman's recent writing competition has led to five island writers each winning \$500. With funding from the BC Arts Council, the Readers and Writers Festival committee was able to entice sixteen submissions from local writers, all on a loose theme of ‘Denman Island.’ Our literary judges did their work anonymously, and the five winners, in alphabetical order, are Verna Isbister, Lorraine Martinuik, Katarina Meglic, Karla Neuffer, and Leo Simmons.

The winning entries ranged from short fiction to poetry to memoir. They will be published later this year in Denman's monthly, the Flagstone. The diversity and quality of the sixteen submissions attest to the depth of the island's writing community. Already published books by writers Des Kennedy, Jo-Anne McLean (whose supernatural thriller, "Blood Mark" is just out and will be launched at Abraxas Books on November 13th from 11-2), Howard Stewart, Keith Keller, Ron Sakolsky illustrate the tradition of writing of this island.

Denman's writing community is clearly larger than the names mentioned so far. Every issue of the Grapevine and Flagstone contains articles by a wide range of authors who may not necessarily consider themselves "writers" but their words and reflections illustrate their ability to share powerful information and reflection.

Two years ago, I went to a conference of literary festival organizers from across Canada, and one of the things I learned was that our little Denman festival was one of the only festivals where local writers were given the opportunity to read their own work. For many years now, we've had two sessions at the annual July Festival where local writers have read their own compositions. And this past July, when a 'normal' in-person festival was not possible, we had Turning the Page, a two day event in the Community Hall where 17 writers and musicians shared their words and music to appreciative audiences.

Whether the recent writing competition will be repeated is up for discussion. We won't likely be able to count on further government funding as we were this year. But there may be ways to offer financial incentives to island wordsmiths. Small the island may be; however, it does not lack creativity!

Phoenix Riting: A Hornby Perspective

COMMUNITY INFO

By Phoenix Bee

So, two AGMs last week, each facing issues core to community. The first, the Housing Society, is obviously a core issue; you simply don't have a community without places for contributing members to live. In April of 2007 (I think), we had a big Housing Conference at the Hall with speakers from communities all up and down the coast. It was fascinating and heartwarming and it raised the alarm, but didn't solve anything. Each year we bleed out irreplaceable community members who leave solely because they can't find housing.

At the Housing Society AGM, I was inspired by the passion and vision the developers hold for the Beulah Creek project. They were clearly committed to make their project fit into the Hornby esthetic and to facilitate community, and it shows. The design is well thought out, beautiful and functional. With close to two dozen units of various sizes, this project could seriously alleviate Hornby's housing crisis. They are nearly ready to start construction but there is a hurdle. Lumber and building material supply prices have skyrocketed in the past couple of years, and building on Hornby is much more expensive than most. The board are wondering how to manifest this lovely and visionary design with current funds. They need to find a way to save costs or generate more funds.

I know that several other local groups are working on projects to increase available and affordable housing on Hornby. I love that this is being taken so seriously. I take heart from the concrete steps being taken, however slowly the bureaucratic wheels grind.

The second AGM I attended was our beloved Arts Council. They are also nearly ready to start construction on our new Arts Centre. This project is controversial, as people seldom agree about what should be paid for from the public purse. There will be a referendum. Vote yes, please.

The arts are proven lifeblood for community. Arts deserve to be supported for the same reason that schools and buses are supported. Many don't have school-age children or use buses, but no one denies them their share of the public pie. Arts are also, not 'as important' as schools, but important 'as schools'. Children who grow up steeped in the arts through ongoing events and programs become much-needed creators, communicators and innovators.

The arts foster social connections. Let's just say it; non-neurotypical folk gravitate to islands. For those who find friend-making a challenge, group gatherings such as art openings help to get to know others and feel included in community. Even better, you don't have to be personally invited.

The more spaces open to gather in communal conviviality, the more widely the lifeblood of connection may flow, enabling families and neighbourhoods to thrive

continued on P.5...

TIDE TABLE

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

2021-10-28
(Thursday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
05:06	1.6	5.2
13:34	4.5	14.8

2021-10-29
(Friday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
06:11	1.7	5.6
14:29	4.5	14.8
21:56	3.3	10.8
23:56	3.3	10.8

2021-10-30
(Saturday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
07:23	1.8	5.9
15:11	4.5	14.8
21:59	3.0	9.8

2021-10-31
(Sunday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
02:04	3.4	11.2
08:30	1.9	6.2
15:45	4.6	15.1
22:22	2.7	8.9

2021-11-01
(Monday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
03:26	3.6	11.8
09:29	2.0	6.6
16:13	4.6	15.1
22:51	2.2	7.2

2021-11-02
(Tuesday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
04:33	3.9	12.8
10:22	2.1	6.9
16:40	4.6	15.1
23:24	1.8	5.9

2021-11-03
(Wednesday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
05:34	4.2	13.8
11:12	2.4	7.9
17:07	4.7	15.4

2021-11-04
(Thursday)

Time PDT	Height (m)	(ft)
00:00	1.3	4.3
06:32	4.4	14.4
12:00	2.7	8.9
17:36	4.7	15.4





ARTS&LIT

An Unpainted Portrait: A Sudden Case of Vertigo

By Leo Simmons

ONLY a short time after my interview with Mr Pyle, and having been officially found by the force medical officer to possess an appropriate - if disappointingly unremarkable - set of genitals, I was in. My next task was breaking the news of my impending departure to Donald Protheroe. With no choice of a starting date, my last day with The Venereal (oops) was imminent. The short conversation in Protheroe's office went as expected: he was hung-over, in a bad mood, and yelled a lot. He was still yelling when, with a new job already in the bag, I turned on my heel and left his office.

Within a week I found myself driving once again towards the same force training centre that my father had attended almost thirty years before. The significance had not escaped me, his expectations pressing me into the seat. I'm sure that Crumpton has, since the days of my acquaintance with it, become a thriving metropolis of culture, colour and light. It may have become a wonderful place filled with joy and laughter.* However...how to put this delicately...in the early eighties, the grotty little town could only be described as a grimy, miserable, self-obsessed dump which seemed to have been left behind by words such as 'progress' or 'happy' or the number '1950'. Sesame Street it most definitely was not.

*Nope.

The Force Training Centre ('FTC') was mostly comprised of a rather imposing and - let's be honest here - downright ugly Victorian building which had started life as a convent around the turn of the century. The convent for some reason failed to fulfill its religious promise and was therefore acquired by the constabulary some forty years later, by which time the building was already reputedly haunted. Having for many years looked at old, creased monochrome photographs of my father's miserable-looking training class pictured outside the very same building, it was a slight shock to see that there was, in fact, a little bit of colour in the dirty old blackened bricks. I think it was a particularly daring, ambitious effort by the standards of Crumpton; an attractive shade of purple/brown with black soot ground in there just to make sure the jolliness didn't get out of hand. Nevertheless, the thought struck me that those old monochrome photos of my dad in front of the very same structure may have been taken on colour film after all.

I followed the formal and severe-looking signage and gingerly drove around to the rear of the elderly and forbidding building. As I did so the relatively modern accommodation block hove slowly into view. Unfortunately. Looking at it felt like being beaten around the face. This triumph of aesthetic terrorism managed to achieve the impossible by making the old and very austere pseudo-gothic wing appear to be an absolute marvel of creative and elegant architecture. Try, if you will, to picture a 1960s block of flats which has, in a vicious and cynical genetic experiment, been forcibly mated with a cardboard egg carton, and you get an idea of the style - as well as the external texture - of the beast. This pebble-dashed concrete thing - the windows of which sported the most violently orange curtains ever produced outside of a rogue planet with no natural light of its own - would be my home for a week in the immediate future, and for many, many more weeks at irregular intervals over the years to come.

Violently shaking by the time I'd parked the slightly distressed car as far away from

the building as I could, I realized that I was probably being watched from the building, and had a significant amount of real estate to negotiate. Intensely conscious of being judged on everything from my clothing to my perambulatory skills, I made my way across the parking lot. Disproportionately relieved, I finally arrived at the rear entrance of the building, pushed the 'pull' door for a moment or two, hoped that nobody was watching me, entered and made my way to the reception desk.

There, in the suddenly hushed atmosphere, I was startled to be met at the desk by a grossly overweight Humpty Dumpty-shaped man of advanced middle age. Worryingly, he was dressed in a pseudo-uniform which included the largest pair of pants that I had ever seen. Might this impressively-trousered figure be the Chief of Training himself, I thought. He wore a pale blue shirt of uniform issue but without epaulettes of any kind and which made him look half-dressed. The shirt was almost invisible from the neck down, as his amazing, intimidating pantaloons were fastened just below his nipples in order to accommodate what I shall charitably refer to as his 'waistline'. Of truly global - and I mean global - shape and proportions, it set me thinking. I assumed - erroneously, as it would turn out - that before me stood a former and now ancient 'Bobby'. Is this, I wondered, what the job did to a man? What did the future hold? Had he once been the reasonably athletic and fit young man that I regarded myself as? Just how much was I expected to eat?

The figure behind the counter was unique, certainly. I'd never seen anyone attired quite that way before, and the trousers were, in all honesty, both mesmerising and in their own way, magnificent. Each trouser leg rather daringly - if not downright cheekily - stretched from the nipple region to ankle at the front, and from lower shoulder blade to ankle at the back.

It was a truly remarkable garment; a triumph of the tent-maker's art. I'm sure he had legs in there somewhere but they never stood a chance of touching the inside of these magnificent leggings due to the huge overhang created by the rest of him. Inanimate objects though they were, those trousers scared me. Was this what lay in store for me? For my legs? It was a terrifying thought.

After finding my name on an extremely short list, he moved – stiffly and rather grumpily – across his office to point out where my room keys sat upon a hook. I held out my hand for them but he shook his brylcreemed head. “Nay lad, yoo ‘av to be givvun cleeyerance fust.” Since the organization had invited me there, this seemed a little churlish, but there was nothing to be done with the fellow, who was obviously relishing his moment of power. He moved back towards me, those acres of pants appearing to be just one trouser leg. Only his feet appeared to move; it was fascinating. With bristling grey eyebrows the size of my hands and the bloodshot gaze of the committed drinker peeping out from underneath his slicked-back, startlingly black hair, he planted his hands on the countertop and leaned towards me. Suddenly, he grinned. It wasn't a pretty sight, but I decided not to share my feelings on the matter. In a kindly ‘you have no bloody idea what you've let yourself in for, son' manner – enhanced by the alarming lack of several teeth normally involved in grinning – he imparted his final piece of information. “Roowum wun-wun-two.”

Following his helpfully extended digit, I took my leave of him, sucked in a deep breath and headed into the haunted convent, ever closer to the precipice of my future.



...continued from P.3 within a context of community. Art openings are the very best form of warm social gathering. Viewing and sharing art with others is a nourishing form of intimacy. It demands nothing from participants except their presence, attention. When ideas are exchanged, they tend to be most insightful and stimulating. This, at least, has been my personal experience over time.

An Arts Centre such as is the one being birthed on Hornby is a rare blessing for community. Despite the general air of dystopian apocalypse 'out there,' I feel powerfully (if cautiously) optimistic for our future 'in here.' May balance prevail.

Green Wizardry: The Hay Box

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

THE first time I ever heard of a Hay Box I was in the field with my Army Reserve medical unit, 11 Med of Victoria. We had pleased the Gods and were to be served a hot meal under the dripping trees of Albert Head.

Any sort of a meal would have done. To be frank, 11 Med was not the best organized clown show in town. We rarely got fed. I eventually gave up on them and brought my own rations on exercise. Once, after 48 exhausting hours in the cold of midwinter, I hauled out a bagel that was stuffed full of sliced roast beef and mustard. This raised an anguished cry from our acting Sub-Lieutenant, “Why does she has a Hamburger!” I explained to him that if he wanted to eat on exercise, he should pack his own food.

The Hay Boxes mentioned above were insulated hampers with metal containers of hot boiled potatoes and some sort of meat. It was not too bad and it was very hot. I asked around but no one knew why they were called Hay Boxes.

Many years later, I read John Michael Greer's interesting book, *Green Wizardry*. This book is available from the Vancouver Regional Library and I recommend you check it out. It is full of what Greer calls, “Appropriate Technology.” That is what this series of essays will be about.

The Hay Box was one of the first projects I tried as a Green Wizard. I keep sheep and have heaps of wool so instead of the traditional hay, I filled a cardboard box with some wool and filled an old pillow case with wool and I had my Hay Box.

Hay Boxes were once very popular in Canada and the States. They were insulated boxes sometimes with cooking pots that fit in specially-shaped insulated spaces in the Hay Box. You could either cook a meal and put it in the Hay Box to stay warm, or even more clever, you could bring a pot of rice or potatoes to the boil and then put it in the Hay Box to finish cooking.

The first time I used my Hay Box, I boiled up a large pot of beans one evening and snuggled it down into the wool and pressed the pillow down on top of it. I slid the hay box under the coffee table where it lives out of the way. The next morning, I slid the box back out, removed the pillow and grabbed the handles and promptly burned my hands. It was that hot! The beans were perfectly cooked and very tender.

Some people like to eat porridge for breakfast and this is a great dish to cook in a Hay Box. All one has to do is bring the porridge to a boil last thing at night and put it in the Hay Box. In the morning, breakfast is cooked *continued on P.6...*

...continued from P.5 and ready to eat. This has the additional advantage of not scorching the porridge on the pan so the pan is very easy to wash. This is a great way to cook steel-cut oats which take a long time to cook.

A Hay Box is also a good place to put your heated milk and yogourt culture to ripen into yogourt. I have seen a number of electrically-heated yogourt makers, but none work as well as a good Hay Box.

I never like to have something on the stove when I have to go out so if that ever happens, I just slip the pot into the Hay Box and I don't have to worry about anything burning or boiling over on the stove while I am out.

Hay Boxes are really nice to use when one has a lot of things cooking at once, such as preparing a festival meal. Some dishes seem to like the even, gentle heat of a Hay Box more than being boiled on the stove. Rice, potatoes, beans and meat stews all seem to work out better in a Hay Box than on the stove top.

Hay Boxes are still very popular in low-income countries. I saw my first real Hay Box in Southern Africa. Fuel is not something we worry about much in Canada, (at the moment), but it is a great expense in many other countries. A Hay Box

means people can cook for for a long time but only pay for a short time using fuel. This may become more of an issue in Canada as the cost of all sorts of fuel and electricity seems set to go up around the world. This will cause prices to rise here too.

Hay Boxes can be a specially-built, nice wooden box, an old cardboard box or an insulated picnic chest. They can be stuffed with hay, wool, an old feather pillow or even rags if you have nothing better. If you try this idea, I am sure you will like it and it will save you money as well as conserving fuel.



Proposed Forestry Bill Disrespects Indigenous Rights

OP/ED

By Eartha Muirhead

KATRINE CONROY, the BC Minister of Forests, introduced a bill on October 20, 2021, to reshape forest management in this province. She says the proposed changes align forestry legislation with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. I quickly took to my computer to read between the lines of Bill 23 – 2021 -The Forests Statutes Amendment Act, and I discovered some key things of concern regarding Indigenous rights.

The bill can be found here: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/42nd-parliament/2nd-session/bills/first-reading/gov23-1>

Does the bill include the need for a chief forester to communicate with the Indigenous authorities affected? Yes, it does. Does the Indigenous authority get to have their concerns heard? Yes, they do. Is there a requirement for dispute resolution if necessary? Yes, there is. So, what might be the problem? The problem is Part 1.1 / Division 1- Forest Landscape Plan / 2.26 Dispute Resolution Facilitation.

There is an entire process laid out for co-operation, consent, and concerns from the Indigenous authority and the public; and it all sounds good up to and including the potential facilitation of a dispute resolution. After the resolution process, the facilitator gives a report and in comes clause 7, “A report of a facilitator does not limit the power of the chief forester in respect of the decision or matter that is the subject of the report.”

Wait, what?! Does this mean the authorized Indigenous group goes through this entire process up to the point of mediation, and then the chief forester can go ahead and make their own decisions anyway? Oh wait, perhaps the solution can be found in clause 9, “this does not limit the right of the Indigenous governing body to take it to court” The good old If-you-don't-like-it-take-it-to-Court card.

Hmmm, that doesn't sound too hopeful to me; and meanwhile the trees would be falling.

Further along in the Bill, in clause 2.38 we find that the chief forester can submit their plan to the Minister for approval as long as they can show they have made ‘reasonable efforts’ to engage with Indigenous nations, and that they have made the plan public. The results of those ‘reasonable efforts’ are apparently irrelevant so long as they made the effort. If from there the Minister requests an amendment to the plan, it does not have to go back to the Indigenous nation or to the public to be a done deal.

There is another question at the top of my mind, for which there has been much discrepancy - who are the ‘authorized Indigenous bodies’ that the BC government shall choose to do this forestry business with? Elected chiefs and councils only have jurisdiction within the boundaries of the reserve that they are elected to serve, and yet many agreements are made with them about land outside of that jurisdiction, sometimes without the consultation or consent of some of the nation's members.

Let's take Ada'istx for example, also known as Fairy Creek. Premier Horgan has been very proud to say that he is honoring Indigenous land rights and allowing the Pacheedaht nation to come to its own decisions. And yet, a Revenue Sharing Agreement was signed between British Columbia and the elected council, in February, 2021. Clause 11.1 of that agreement states, "Pacheedaht First Nation agrees it will not support or participate in any acts that frustrate, delay, stop or otherwise impede or interfere with provincially authorized forest activities." And clause 11.2 says that if any of their people take action that is inconsistent with the agreement the elected council must support British Columbia" That is not neutral. That is not respectful. That is not equal. And that is only one small example in this big, beautiful province.

Our leaders are too often using this power-imbalanced paper-signing to allow and benefit from the continued extraction and destruction on unceded lands, while other nation members, elders, traditional chiefs, and allies are left to fight against the forces of RCMP and courts, that they might save their sacred places, their hunting grounds, their forests of medicines, their clean rivers, their rights, their ways, and now our very planet.

Having seen this clause, in the new bill, regarding the decision-making power of the chief forester and the Minister, I must say that my trust is low and I can only hope that we who care can turn this ship around and demand that things be altered and brought in line with the real intentions of DRIPA.

Laura Appleton-Jones
Eartha Muirhead 

Lost Causes

OP/ED

By Ron Sakolsky

AS far as many islanders are concerned, opposing the corporate CityWest high-speed internet proposal is a lost cause. One might as well oppose Santa Claus. However, to others, lost causes are the only causes worth fighting for precisely because they expose and counter the narrow limits of what is considered to be possible and desirable within the framework of consensus reality by expansively demanding the impossible. Of course, those self-congratulatory proponents of coastal connectivity consider their proposal to have accomplished the impossible, but what seems way more impossible than ubiquitous high-speed internet at this historical moment is a world without the trappings of a high-speed internet surveillance network. Though connectivity critics are typically dismissed as unrealistic and out-of-touch in their opposition to the gentrifying consequences of high-speed internet, it might well be remembered that their subversive foundational challenges to such technocratic maneuvers are not meant to please bureaucrats or win referendums. Rather these interventions are designed to question our most basic assumptions about what we need to live the good life and what will enhance or hinder us in that quest as a diverse community of free spirits who no longer believe in the supposed benevolence of some relentlessly jolly old bloke in a false beard and a garish red suit with a melting North Pole snail mail address. Can't we dream up something better than that? 

Letters to the Editor

I know there is a referendum happening soon concerning high speed Internet for everyone on Denman Island. All I can say is access to the internet is critical for any musician. Living without the ability to stream music would be a big deal for me. I spend hours planning and marketing shows on line. Music on the internet affords access to venues, lessons, networking with peers and much more. I can't imagine trying to promote yourself as an artist or a studio without access .

I say yes to high speed internet.

Sheldon Rempel, Denman Island

More about language from Amanda Hale
Running the gauntlet

To run the gauntlet means to take part in a form of corporal punishment in which the party judged guilty is forced to run between two rows of soldiers, who strike out and attack them with sticks or other weapons. Metaphorically, this expression is also used to express the idea of a public trial that one must overcome. Wikipedia

The term originated in the seventeenth century, when the Germans adopted this military punishment from the Swedes. It consisted of stripping a man to the waist and making him run between two rows **continued on P.8...**

...continued from P.7 of soldiers, who struck him with sticks or knotted cords. Dictionary

On Saturdays at noon a small but rapidly growing group of us gather in a public area outside the Hornby Island Co-op Store. We are peaceful, non-judgmental individuals whose intent is to share information with our fellow islanders concerning our right to choice on the question of forced Covid injections. We do not discriminate between “vaxxed” or “unvaxxed.” Our goal is solidarity with everyone in our community. Many of us have been researching outside the mainstream media for more than a year, and have valuable information to share, especially for young people who are under pressure to conform. We welcome exchange and debate in a spirit of mutual respect. We do not in any way pose a threat.

At our gathering on October 23rd a Hornby resident told us to move away because we were making her feel she was “running the gauntlet” from the Co-op to the parking lot – not only her, but two other people she had spoken with in the Co-op.

We are saddened by the level of fear that causes our fellow islanders to so deeply misunderstand our intent that they have to use this inappropriately strong language. As stated above, “Running the gauntlet” is a term that refers to a time of war.

Indeed, we are at war, or should be, not between each other, but in unity against our abusive and bullying government. Instead, many people are controlled by media propaganda that heaps blame for everything covid-related on the “unvaccinated,” and upon youth, and now small children of age 5 and up, to whom Anthony Fauci refers as “vessels of disease.”

Please, if you have concerns, talk to us. We respect everyone’s choice, and have no agenda to change anyone’s mind. We ask your respect for our choice also. If anyone is undecided, confused, concerned, there are many of us available to help in clarifying what has become a seriously divisive situation – one that threatens the spirit of community we so pride ourselves upon in these small Gulf Islands of the Salish Sea.

*“The divide in our society is quickly leaning toward a level of national security.”
I quote from Mounties for Freedom in their open letter to RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki.
The entire letter can be read at <https://mounties4freedom.ca/>
You can read and sign to show your support.*

*The RCMP is a group familiar with unpopularity, and can take it in stride.
With their knowledge of the bullying and blackmail involved in domestic abuse, they equate the Canadian government with the abuser.*

The letter explains how these mandates breach Canadian laws, and demands an investigation be opened into the breach of public trust by the political figures who, we must remember, are working for us!

In solidarity, friendship, and community, as always – Amanda Hale 🍇



Looking for the Pain Threshold: Why COP26 Won't Deliver

By Gwynne Dyer

OP/ED

• OP October 26th, 2021

climate disaster. And it really isn't looking good.

COP26 starts on Saturday (30 October) in Glasgow with over 100 world leaders and 25,000 delegates in attendance, but much that should already have happened has not happened. The draft texts that are normally negotiated before such meetings are only half-done due to the pandemic. Neither China's President Xi nor President Putin of Russia is even showing up.

This meeting is the last chance to keep average global temperature below +1.5°C. That target was adopted at the last summit in Paris in 2015 because it would avoid the most extreme storms, floods and heat-waves. It would also not trigger the 'tipping points', where some feedback in the climate system causes a sudden lurch upwards in temperature.

Reaching that Paris goal, however, would require a 45% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. That's not unthinkable if we treated this as an existential emergency – it's only 5% a year – but the grim fact is that we have never yet managed to cut global emissions at all.

"We are not going to get to a 45% reduction," admitted a UN official who understandably wished to remain anonymous, "but there must be some level of contributions on the table to show the downward trend of emissions." Why would a conference full of highly educated, well informed and mostly well intentioned people behave like this?

They're not wicked people, and almost all of them do know the truth. They just cannot afford to get too far ahead of the people they lead. A majority of citizens in almost every country worry about global heating, but dramatic change isn't possible because it hasn't reached their 'pain threshold' yet.

That phrase acquired its political meaning during the American war in Vietnam. The idea was that a gradually escalating US bombing campaign would make the North Vietnamese government stop trying to reunite the country by force when the damage to North Vietnam reached its 'threshold of pain'.

'Operation Rolling Thunder' lasted three years, but it never did find the Hanoi regime's pain threshold. Similarly, the accumulating damage to people and property done by various sorts of wild weather has not yet reached the population's pain threshold anywhere except for a few low-lying island countries that are already close to going underwater.

It was always clear that the attitudes of people in the rich countries could not be shifted by images of other people in the global south suffering from climate-related calamities. Only when the catastrophes struck close to home would they take the message to heart – and frankly, many despairing climate activists were counting on that.

That's why the killer wild-fires, heat-waves and floods of this year in the US,

THE world is on a catastrophic pathway to 2.7°C of heating," said UN Secretary General António Guterres. "There is a high risk of failure of COP26." That's the global climate summit that meets every five years (but was postponed last year because of the pandemic) to plot a course away from

Canada, Germany, Greece and other developed countries led some people to hope that there would be a general mobilisation of public opinion in favour of climate action. There certainly has been some movement in that direction, but by the look of COP26, probably not yet enough.

On our current track, we will irrevocably commit to +1.5°C by 2029 or 2030, but the time lag with CO2 means that the immediate effects of even that abject failure might not be severe enough to shock a critical mass of people into action.

So what can usefully be done while we wait for the heating to reach our collective pain threshold? The best hope at the moment is the Global Methane Pledge, whose supporters promise to cut their methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

Methane has accounted for at least a third of the warming so far, but it allows for a quick partial fix for two reasons. It stays in the atmosphere a far shorter time than CO2 – eight years instead of 200 – so emission cuts show quick results. And one source of methane in particular is cheap, low-hanging fruit: the fossil-fuel industry.

Just stop flaring unwanted gas and fix all the leaks in almost 3 million km. of gas pipelines, and the 30% cut is a done deal. Not only that, it will practically pay for itself, since you can burn the saved methane. It will produce carbon dioxide, of course, but that's a 200-year problem and we need results now.

Almost forty countries have already made the methane pledge, including the US, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Nigeria. We could even delay +1.5°C down into the 2030s, and something else might turn up by then. Grasping at straws, perhaps, but what's the better option?



A Stupa Resplendent

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Anthony Gregson

various components, worked out well. He proved that, with a few adjustments, the work can be done by unskilled volunteers under knowledgeable guidance. A video to spread the word is in the works.

Peter (whose Buddhist name is Karma Yeshe Gyaltsen) led a team of about eight volunteers, mostly from Denman Island, who put in what time each could spare. He is particularly pleased by how happy everyone was, despite the rain, and the chill of the barn. Faces, he said, were just glowing. The project had an energy of its own, even drawing in one or two people who happened by with no knowledge of the Hermitage or the project. That's because the building of a stupa is not like the erection of a more functional structure, like a barn raising. A stupa, Peter points out, is an object of meditation, and like a good song, speaks to you (Peter is also a songwriter).

He recalls a farmer back in Ontario who would pull up in his battered truck and eat his lunch, looking at the 32-foot stupa he built at Kinmount decades ago. The fellow had no idea what it was; he just said he liked to look at it. Such inherent appeal may have something to do with the sacred geometry. Like the Golden Mean, there is something optically

PETER BOAS is pleased by the Hermitage stupa, now resplendent with a conical spire of gilt rings, surmounted by a crown and at the very peak, the crystal of enlightenment. The experiment, he says, of working from a template of pre-cut patterns for the



satisfying about the proportions. The design is based on a grid of the energy points or chakras of the human body. The same concept, of a grid of chakras, though different, is also used to design a statue of the Buddha. Sometimes, Boas says, the two grids for stupa and the Buddha figure may be overlaid on each other.

There is another reason for satisfaction that has to do with the stupa as a reliquary. On October 9th, at a ceremony of consecration with three lamas, including Lama Tsultrim (aka. Lama Sid), Lama Govinda, and Lama Rodney Devinish, as well as Karma Dorje, the treasury of the stupa was finally filled with relics, fifteen years after the foundation of the stupa was first laid down. The treasury is a chamber in the top of the vase (the main body of the stupa shaped like a lotus bud) fitted with a raised, square opening.

The relics were accumulated by the lamas from their teachers over many years. They consist mainly of small phials of ashes and rinsels, in small packets, of venerated spiritual masters, including a very precious one of the Buddha himself, a white speck in some old cello tape. (Rinsels are tiny, pearl-like beads, scientifically described as crystallized bone, which are believed to occur in the ashes of

Buddhist spiritual masters as a sign of their purity and enlightenment.) There was also an Indian-style votive portrait of a guru with a lock of his hair inside the frame. All these were carefully placed in the treasury on layers of sand from the Ganges.

Another relic, a statuette of the Buddha filled and sealed with ashes of two masters who were teachers in the direct lineage of the founders of the Hermitage, was placed in the Gate (the



Notice of Annual General Meeting Thursday, Nov 25, 2021, 4 pm

Invitation to ADIMS Members and Public

Please feel welcome to join us for our AGM Zoom Meeting.

The meeting invitation details will be posted on our website and emailed to our members the week prior to the event.

ADIMS provides the residents of Denman Island with a strong voice in protecting our marine environment.

For more information: www.adims.ca or Email: adimsinfo@gmail.com

veneration niche in the main body of the stupa).

Taken together, it is good that the relics come from spiritual masters associated with each of the five Tibetan schools of Buddhism because the Hermitage seeks to be inclusive of all practises.

In addition, Peter was pleased that Lama Geshe Yongdong, who lives in the Comox Valley and practises the ancient Tibetan Bon religion predating Buddhism, not only participated in the consecration, but also helped with the completion of the stupa.

The relics are thought to protect from evil and confer blessings, energizing the stupa on a principle of multiplication, not unlike the homeopathic diffusion of a tiny quantity of a medicinal substance by succussion in water. The same idea featured at the consecration. Sacred texts, overlain by a mirror, were thought to infuse seeds and marigold petals strewn on top and later scattered over the stupa.

The relics also venerate the lineage of teaching that lies at the heart of Buddhism.

Peter, who likes to compare values and beliefs, points out that veneration of relics is actually very common, especially in the secular realm, where people will pay crazy amounts of money for a silver spoon by a hero like Paul Revere, or, for that matter, some knickknack of Jacqueline Kennedy. It is just that for Buddhists, the values are spiritual.

Relics aside, there's one other thing that pleases Peter about the project: he thinks it is probably one of the first times a stupa has been worked on by a team mainly of women. In other cultures, women are often forbidden to have anything to do with the construction. Given the LGBT movement and the fluidity of gender, you wonder what other barriers may fall. Go Denman, go!

The stupa (or chorten) is a chanyub, or enlightenment stupa, one of nine Tibetan types. The chanyub type, also known as the "Conquest of Mara", symbolizes Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree where he at last triumphed over all secular temptations and threats.

Every part of the structure is symbolic. The overall shape represents the Buddha, "crowned and sitting in meditation posture on a lion throne." The base is his throne, the steps his legs, the vase, his body, and the square at the base of the conical spire (the portal of the Treasury), his head. The concentric rings of the spire represent the thirteen stages of enlightenment. Atop this, there is a ring of down-turned lotus petals that represent the princely umbrella traditionally associated with sovereignty,

continued on P.12...

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – LANDS MANAGER

The Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) is seeking expressions of interest for the contracted part-time position of DCA Lands Manager starting no later than January 3, 2022. The contract will be for 8 months (which includes a two month training period) and may be renewed for a one-year contract after that following a successful performance review. Detailed information with respect to this position can be found at <https://www.denman-conservancy.org/2021/10/18/lands-manager-contract/>.

Interested parties should provide written information supporting their qualifications and experience by November 8, 2021 to: Denman Conservancy Association, Attention JoAnne Shepherd, PO Box 60 Denman Island BC V0R1T0 OR info@denmanconservancy.org.

Boogeyman

by Thomas Provençal

*Be careful with the
boogeyman
who lurks inside your mind.
He'll weaken your potential
and squeeze you to the rind.
After all your juice is gone
your love for life is lost
as you scramble for
protection
or hide inside some sauce.
The truth is that we humans
are living fantasies,
stuck inside our stories,
surviving ill at ease.*



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...continued from P.11 and atop that, the crown. In an innovative touch, Peter had the mantras on the leaves of the crown, pierced, rather than painted, so that the letters show against the sky. A crescent moon and sun top the crown, ending in a crystalline finial, representing the dissolving point of wisdom or, as Peter puts it, the clear light of the mind, the moment described as the light of a million suns. The mind lights up and the neurons have purportedly been shown, through medical testing, to rearrange themselves. Peter's been there.

That surely beats any church steeple I've ever seen.

A few things remain to be done. The first is to gild the surround of the gate, the niche holding the statuette of the Buddha, with gold dust mixed in lacquer. Second is to apply a thin coat of cement to the multi-tiered base before it is painted a gleaming white with a silicone-based paint that repels mildew. The base has already been carefully cleaned and ground smooth. "Sharp edges," Peter notes, "are important". Then, come next Spring, there will be a celebration.

In the meantime, the stupa, like a radio beacon, will radiate its blessings over the island. 🍷

O, Friend Poet

by Bill Engleson.

www.engleson.ca

O, friend poet,
Is what we write our
unswerving psalm,
that which we espouse at the
drop of a glove?
Do we seek collaborators in
our ideas?
Do we massage/message
others to come our way?

O, friend poet,
If we believe ersatz thoughts
are true thoughts,
If we champion impulses built
on sand,

*If we run the course
backwards, downhill,
do we lacerate our spirits, our
poetic souls?*

O, friend poet,
Is freedom so fragile in our
universe,
so swaddled, so cloaked in
self, self alone?
Should flamboyant poetic
passions flout the freedom
of collective action for the
common good?

O, friend poet,
Do you steadfastly suppose
our liberty is lost?

*I see liberty as freedom to
survive the virus,
freedom to unite with the
caregivers,
freedom in mutual
endurance, in cooperative
healing.*

*And finally, friend poet,
I believe "writers inform and
shape life," iever see-king
the means to fashion the way
forward.*

*Though we, you and I,
dispute the means, the might,
I accept the melancholy and
remain resolute.*





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theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

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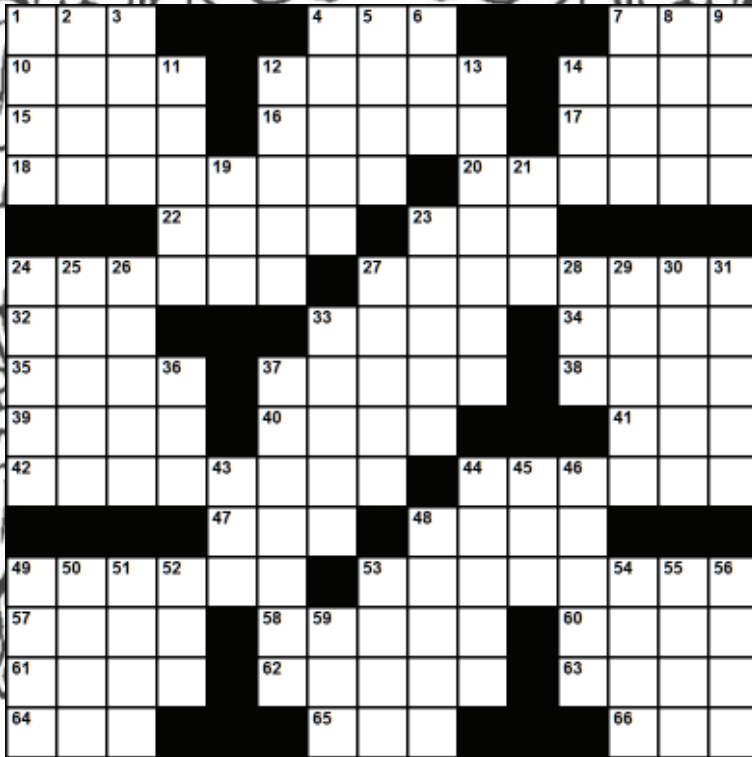
EDITORIAL POLICY

The Grapevine is dedicated to fostering a sense of community on Denman and Hornby by covering events, issues, and the creativity of the many gifted people amongst us. The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres is published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee. Exceptions will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.
- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.

Please keep in mind that Hornby and Denman are a very small market for newspaper publication. We do our best to provide quality content at no cost to our readers but we ask you to understand that this depends on financial viability. Paper, ink, postage, equipment, and rent all add up. As it is, the Grapevine can only be brought to you with considerable subsidy of time and energy by our team which is very willingly given. The Grapevine would like to accept more content free of charge, particularly around community news, and is working on plans to expand its reach and revenue base to move towards that goal.

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Annoyer
4. A Ripkin
7. Dyne-centimeter
10. African wading bird
12. Free for all
14. Leaf angle
15. Blackjack draw
16. Extempore
17. Is congenial
18. Court figure
20. Light hearted
22. Aged, to Burns
23. Pork place
24. Buildings and land
27. Estrange
32. Arab robe
33. Lattice
34. Exploited
35. Bullring wound
37. Pickle juice
38. Asian cuisine
39. At some other time
40. Kind of capital
41. Approx.
42. Behavioral complex
44. Flat, round cakes
47. Candied item
48. Hunk of gunk
49. Prohibited

53. Dark haired one
57. 2-D measure
58. Comic Anderson
60. Certain bean
61. Bank holding
62. Adventure tales
63. Benevolent group
64. Claus aide
65. Saute
66. Susan of L.A. Law

• DOWN •

1. Creeping palm
2. Be next to
3. Essence
4. Handed over
5. Co-fighter
6. Luau wear
7. Beltway sign
8. Abundantly supplied
9. Club of notes
11. Sand bank
12. Virile
13. Hit song of 1953
14. Cuckoo
19. Dead end job
21. Cleansing agent
23. Creep
24. Hindu tunes
25. Black wood
26. Braves legend
27. Crop up
28. Eccentric
29. Cinereous
30. Back comb
31. Expurgates
33. Brothers of fairy tales
36. Author's last word
37. In a wide fashion
43. Part of a reuben
44. Swings about
45. Put one over on
46. Destined to diet
48. Very salty
49. Bundle hay
50. Extra seed coating
51. Atoll barrier
52. Fled
53. Gore Vidal book
54. Narrated
55. Brat
56. Hassle free
59. Big klutz



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• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

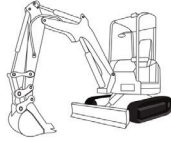


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• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

SHOP LOCAL CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

In lieu of the cancelled Christmas Craft Faire, several Denman artists have gotten together to present their crafts at the Arts Centre on the first and second weekends of December. Crafts will be displayed inside and on the porch on Friday afternoon and 10 to 4 on Saturday and Sunday. Covid protocols will be followed. Please come out and support our local artisans. Detailed information to follow. This just in: there will also be a crafts day at the Arts Centre on Saturday, November 27.

THE DENMAN FARMERS MARKET is looking for someone to build a) two 8-foot picnic tables, and b) a small wooden hand-wash station. Email denmanmarket@gmail.com for more info if you are interested in one of both of these jobs. Proposals needed by mid-November; flexible time-line for completing the work.

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 Cidery. 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

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/

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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 Bones Home Halloween Eve



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 28

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

FRIDAY 29

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 30

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

SUNDAY 31

- HAPPY HALLOWEEN
- GUESTHOUSE HALLOWEEN 6pm

MONDAY 1

TUESDAY 2

- CAP SITE 11-2pm
- DI LTC Zoom meeting 10am

WEDNESDAY 3

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



THURSDAY 4

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

FRIDAY 5

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 6

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

SUNDAY 7

MONDAY 8

TUESDAY 9

- CAP SITE 11-2pm

WEDNESDAY 10

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

THURSDAY 11

- 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