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THE ISLANDS Grapevine

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PUBLISHER Mike Van Santvoord

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Keith Porteous
DESIGN/PRODUCTION Chris Seguin

2550 Lake Road
Denman Island, BC
V0R 1T0
theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com
www.theislandsgrapevine.com

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

Thank You from DIGS

By Naomi Stewart
DIGS

What You Grow competition at the Fall Faire. Many thanks also to those who participated in the competition or entered displays, and to the volunteers who made it all possible.

DIGS will be holding our first post-pandemic meeting 2-4 pm on Wednesday September 20th at the United Church Gathering Place. Emma Scheurwater of Keep Floral will speak about starting a floral business on Denman Island. Old and new members welcome - memberships can be purchased or renewed at the meeting.

Aspects of Baba Yaga

By Magdalene Joly

JOIN CATHY STOYKO for an intensive weekend of dance exploring storytelling through movement and choreography creation. Each day will include a warm up, movement exercises, games, choreography combinations, and improvising within a structure. Learn tools to create your own choreography and learn a group dance related to Baba Yaga. In the evenings we will create seasonal Fall headdresses and yarn wrapped 'Motanka' dolls to be incorporated into the exercises and dances.

Contact magdalenejoly@gmail.com to register/for more information

Takeout Near You

By Takeout Near You

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023
Time: 1 PM

Attention, Denman Island food lovers!

WE'RE excited to invite you to the grand unveiling of our new space – The Café at Takeout Near You. Step into our lovingly curated indoor environment complete with plush booth seating, guaranteeing an atmosphere of comfort and style.

To mark this special occasion, we're introducing our delectable Italian sodas and creamy milkshakes. And to make your experience unforgettable, every guest joining us at the event will receive complimentary Italian soda and milkshake samples.

Join us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 PM, which symbolizes the beginning of this delicious new chapter. Our diverse menu, ranging from succulent burgers and fresh fries to artisanal pizzas (available Fridays through Sundays after 4 PM), will be at your fingertips, now elevated with our latest beverage inclusions.

Be it the savory zest of our Korean Style Fried Chicken or the sweet delight of a just-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookie, there's something to tantalize every taste bud.

Please note: We will be closed this upcoming Wednesday and Thursday. However, we're thrilled to announce a soft opening on Friday, starting at 1 PM. Our festivities will continue on Saturday, also beginning at 1 PM.



Gather your loved ones and make it a day to remember! Let's come together and celebrate the joy of delectable food and heartwarming company.

For more information, reach out to us at 250-335-1099, email us at admin@takeoutnearyou.com, or check us out online at Takeoutnearyou.com.

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

THINGS have quieted considerably (as anticipated) with the advent of September. Most businesses remain open through the shoulder season with reduced hours, and we are tapering off more gently than in the past. The Farmer's Market continues through Thanksgiving; a small core of hardy marketers will make their wares available in the Copse, but not I! After this next market, I'll dismantle my tent and set it up for the Fall Faire, and then I'm finished for the year. I admit, I'm going to miss it.

After a busy and satisfying blur of activity, our winter leisure season, busy though it is in its own way, can be anticlimactic. "Is that all there is? Where'd everyone go?" There will be meetings, of course, radio shows, events, some semblance of social activity, but it's a lonely season. We'll settle in, adapt, adjust, as we do, but there is a pang. I personally love the cyclic nature of life on Hornby, not just the seasons of nature but the human seasons too, the rising of human tide over the summer followed by the ebb of winter. Walking the length of Big Tribune Beach in the off season when you're the only living human around is quite the feeling, and I wouldn't miss it, but adapting takes time.

On a more difficult subject, I'm struggling with a response to what I learned in last week's Grapevine editorial, that I had been publicly accused of transphobia in the DIBB, without my knowledge. I never saw that conversation as I was not tagged in it. I don't know what was said, nor the reason for such an accusation. The definition of 'transphobia' as I understand it is, expressing or inciting violence, fear, hatred or disgust toward trans people, which I have definitively never felt or done. My issue, as I have clearly stated, is not about trans people but rather the right to freely discuss changes and ramifications of the rule of law in this country, and the impact on other vulnerable groups who are not being considered.

TIG has been criticized in the past for airing controversial opinions, 'anti-vaccine,' 'conspiracy theories' and the like, while the editor has, quite correctly, defended the right to free expression within the limits of clear editorial guidelines. Nothing printed in this paper has so far engendered the punitive reaction that my little column from July has. There have been real-world repercussions to the editor for publishing my words of 'hate,' while at the same time I've received several private expressions of heartfelt support for my 'sane, fair and balanced' approach. For these, I am grateful!

Laws passed swiftly can and do have unintended consequences. The punitive silencing of public conversation about feared or actual consequences does not suppress the conversation, but forces it underground, where it festers, distorts and can become real hate on both sides. I fear the potential backlash to our current extreme 'zero-tolerance for opinions'.

Most ordinary Canadians are confused and full of questions which have no answers except top-down definitions and slogans. Folk are told, in effect, "Because we say so, now shut up." It's shocking, the vehemence with which these new rules are enforced, not only by law, but by social pressure and public opinion. Simply raising the subject for discussion is not only discouraged but actively forbidden and punished. What on earth is going on? Questions merely amplify when they go unanswered.

Here's one problem: we are arming the CPC with exactly what they need to step in with a change of government which would bring sweeping changes in the law. For those of us who are not political conservatives, this is frightening. Remember the Harper regime? The rollbacks of environmental protections and rights? We need to talk.

No law is written in stone in a democracy, and suppression of expression merely empowers the pendulum to swing hard and far. Nobody wants that except actual bigots, who obviously exist. But broad brushstroking anyone with an opinion or questions as a 'transphobic bigot' does no one any favours, most especially trans folk. Cognitive dissonance is the rule these days, but pretending the issue away will not prevent a backlash.

I have faith in the power of community. I believe in inclusion, which means everyone, not just the people who agree with me. Real inclusion is not possible without speaking and listening. There is a middle ground between extremes, and I believe that is where the truth lies, but it takes work to discover and implement it. I don't know how we can manage that, but we have to start opening our minds to people we believe are wrong and listen for the common ground.

That's what I think. What do you think? Seriously. Email me at phoenixhornby@gmail.com 🍷

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-09-14 (Thu)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:44	2.8	9.3
05:39	3.8	12.6
12:10	1.6	5.1
18:57	4.5	14.8

2023-09-15 (Fri)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:06	2.6	8.5
06:21	3.9	12.8
12:39	1.7	5.6
19:13	4.5	14.8

2023-09-16 (Sat)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:30	2.3	7.7
07:05	4	13
13:09	1.9	6.4
19:30	4.5	14.8

2023-09-17 (Sun)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:56	2.1	6.8
07:51	4	13.2
13:40	2.2	7.3
19:48	4.5	14.8

2023-09-18 (Mon)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:26	1.8	5.9
08:41	4.1	13.4
14:15	2.6	8.5
20:08	4.4	14.6

2023-09-19 (Tue)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:59	1.6	5.2
09:38	4.1	13.6
14:56	3	9.7
20:30	4.4	14.3

2023-09-20 (Wed)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:37	1.4	4.6
10:44	4.2	13.7
15:44	3.3	10.9
20:55	4.3	14

2023-09-21 (Thu)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:22	1.3	4.3
12:04	4.2	13.8
16:48	3.6	11.8
21:27	4.2	13.7

Shucking Oysters: Marine Heatwaves... tearing me apart

By Alex Allen

THERE seems to be a pattern here. We read and hear about some horrible or surreal event elsewhere in the world and then just like that, it happens in our “world” too. Thankfully, the United States has held off attacking Canada. But, with their insecurities and love for the absurd and vulgar, you just never know.

Wildfires. Floods. Drought. Heatwaves. It shows how interconnected we all are in this world. If a tree burns in Tenerife, the world will not only hear it, they will feel it.

Now we have marine heatwaves. In July, water off the tip of Florida reached 39°C (101°F)! To put it into perspective, a comfortable soak in a hot tub is 101°F, the optimum temperature. Above 104°F can lead to heatstroke.

Coral bleaching. Marine mammal die offs. It’s like someone keeps turning the climate knob higher and higher.

And then in August, just like that, a marine heatwave hit the BC coast, bringing with it temperatures five degrees warmer than normal. It started in the waters off California in May, then grew to an area covering about four million sq. km. (twice the size of Alaska), before moving towards Oregon, Washington and BC coasts. This not a new event, apparently. Heatwaves form offshore in the Pacific every spring and grow early summer. The difference, is that they don’t always reach the coast. And that’s the scary situation.

Warmer ocean temperatures can affect every living thing in the ocean, from the smallest phytoplankton to marine mammals. Some species are directly affected by heat, becoming stressed, while others experience a loss of food, because the animals they eat are dying, warned Julia Baum, biology professor at the University of Victoria. It can also lead to more marine mammals getting caught in fishing nets or hit by ships while they’re migrating along the coast, with the narrowing travel corridor of cool water, pushing them closer and closer to shore. Read the news lately?

In June, field teams near Denman Island studying long-term change in kelp forests noticed “extremely warm” waters, measuring 21°C, Baum said, when the historical average summer water temperature is about 14°C to 15°C.

Fish that prefer cold water, like cod and salmon, are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves. Warm water forces them to work harder, which means they need more food to sustain themselves. At the same time, it can make prey less accessible — keeping the zooplankton from rising to the surface.

In 2021, BC closed 60% of its commercial Pacific salmon harvests. As many as 30 million sockeye salmon migrated up British Columbia’s Fraser River in 2010. A decade later, only 291,000 salmon returned. The fish are declining for a number of reasons, but studies say extreme ocean heat is a major culprit.

Scientists predict more fisheries will collapse in the coming years as climate change — and the ongoing El Niño weather pattern warming the Pacific — causes more marine heatwaves. “I’m really worried,” said William Cheung, director of the Institute of Oceans and Fisheries at UBC. “This year we already know the temperature is crazy high.”

Conditions are not yet as dire as they were in 2014 and 2015, when a huge marine heatwave, affectionately titled, the Blob, took hold in the Pacific, leading to seabird die-offs, record numbers of whales caught in fishing lines, starving sea lion pups washing up on beaches and plummeting salmon returns. With forecasts showing El Niño looming next winter, a worst case scenario could see the heatwave sticking around and rolling into warm El Niño conditions, which could lead to a similar situation.

The Blob was first spotted in the Gulf of Alaska and grew and grew until it covered an area about the size of continental United States. But as Max Graham wrote in the *Grist*, you could have easily missed it. “A heat wave in the ocean is not like one on land. What happens on the 70% of the planet covered by saltwater is mostly out of sight. There’s no melting asphalt, no straining electrical grids, no sweating through shirts. Just a deep-red splotch on a scientist’s map telling everyone it’s hot out there, and perhaps a photo of birds washed up on a faraway beach to prove it.”

Like “canaries in the coal mine,” dying seabirds are often the first alarm bell of a struggling ecosystem. Their deaths are considered a warning sign of how warming temperatures are affecting the environment as a whole.

Birds Canada’s David Bradley and other BC scientists were part of a eye-opening study released in July by the University of Washington. Eye-opening because it is the first study that shows a clear link between bird mortality and marine heatwaves. The group examined 90,000 seabird deaths along 500 km of the Pacific coast and discovered five massive die-off events between 2014 and 2019. They caution that ocean warming is indirectly causing mass mortality among seabirds, not directly. “The exact cause of each die-off is different, but all seem to be related to warmer waters ... thus affecting the whole marine ecosystem.” It could be algae blooms, increased disease outbreaks, or changes in the quality and abundance of prey, which can lead to starvation. After the 2021 heat dome that hit the province, a UBC scientist found that over a billion seashore animals likely died as shoreline temperatures reached 50°C.

Birds Canada is looking for volunteers. If you want to participate in the Birds Canada “Beached Bird Survey” [say that quickly], you can become a coastal guardian by contacting Rémi Torrenta at: rtorrenta@birdscanada.org. You will identify and tag the dead seabirds you encounter. Go to their website or email: bcvolunteer@birdscanada.org to get your free tool kit. The concept is simple and anyone can take part: simply walk your favourite beach every month to report and identify all the bird carcasses you found, or the absence of. Happy beachcombing!



March 26th, 2007 Ode to the Big Dawg

By CS#05943451



TONIGHT is Sean's final night here at Camp Cuddles for tomorrow he will be freed. In what for us was a dubious introduction, he laid down guidelines and rules of conduct he expected adherence to. Further to that, he expressed a willingness to enforce such credo if necessary. I remember it well. To emphasize his stance he declared himself the 'Big Dawg' and our shared prison range his 'doghouse.' Furry, or Fur Dog as he has come to be known, is a nickname birthed from that initial altercation. It's a name that he has worn well. As for this place being a doghouse, I never really looked at it that way but the food that the keepers of this place insist on giving us isn't too far off of dog food, so I can't be too quick to dismiss his allusion!

Influenced by my rocky start with him, I'll admit to thinking that his personality clashed with that of the others here. But understanding there is always a period of adjustment to new surroundings and new arrivals, I've been witness to the Fur Dog's assimilation to the pack and over time his acceptance by the pack. Knowing 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,' the authorities wisely took the precautionary measure of placing a twelve foot high razor wire topped fence around the lot of us! (Woof! Woof! Woof!!) This place will be less lively and less entertaining for those of us he leaves behind.

During the course of his stay here I've learned snippets of his past. Empires are built over time but, sadly, they can fall all too quickly. I've also gleaned snippets of his present beyond these jailhouse walls for during his time in the doghouse, he became a father for the second time. A daughter by the name of Ava came into this world March 7th. I must say that while it was odd to see the Big Dawg doing the 'expectant father' pace in jail instead of the hospital waiting room, it was a nice reminder that life is still happening out there for at times it can seem like it's not in here. And while the future can be a vast and unknowable proposition, one snippet of Furry's future beyond these gates that he's shared, is his intent to go and smother himself in his kids. Leaving Camp Cuddles to cuddle his children will make him a happy camper, no doubt. I imagine he'll revel in such a role, for having gotten to know him I detect a hint of teddy bear in his gruff, 'Fur Dog' persona.

In the days leading up to his discharge Furry was roving the range bartering away all his prisonly possessions. I myself landed his rechargeable battery pack, though if he had his way I'd also have his wooden cross, empty tobacco pouch (used by Furry himself), his pillow and popcorn too. He's still walking around in his prison togs, so he may not have yet finished his dispersal. But as the days of his incarceration have dwindled down to mere hours, I suspect that 'Fur-Bay' has now gone off-line. There is little left for him here now. Save for a sleep and a coffee.

This evening the Big Dawg offered an apology and explanation to me over our tumultuous start and for that, I'm appreciative. I've always preferred making friends over enemies. That being said, the time has come for your release. Your future, and the rebuilding of your empire awaits. Best of luck and have fun with your son and daughter, Sean. Someone else will have to take over the role of Big Dawg now.

Epilogue: I read to Sean the passage above in honour of his release and, of all things, it elicited a hug from the Big Dawg! And to think that when we first met he expressed little reservation for punching me out. To have him hug me all these weeks later is nothing short of a miracle. So there you have it. The pen IS mightier than the sword!



Denman Island & Hornby Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting



Delivering the best service to coastal communities means knowing what is important to those who live, work and play in them each day. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the next Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting this month.

Date: Friday, September 29, 2023
Time: 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Location: Hornby Island Community Hall, 4305 Central Rd

For more information on the agenda or speaking opportunities, contact your FAC Chair: karenross@telus.net

We will be back out in both communities later this fall to continue conversations on the Denman East terminal project, and to evaluate summer service. Scan the QR code or visit your community page to ask questions, share your comments and ideas: bcferriesprojects.ca/in-your-community

Learn more

For more information or to receive the link to attend the FAC meeting virtually, contact: FACinfo@bcferries.com



bcferries.com

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Letters Dear Editor, to the Editor

OVER the few years I've lived on Denman I've written but never sent letters-to-the-editor in a volume at least equal to the length of the novel I've not written, so I am most appreciative of the recent work *The Island Grapevine* (TIG) has done to remove that particular writer's block. (A gentle side note here – the writer's style manuals unequivocally insist one write an organization's name in full prior to using acronyms, otherwise things get a bit incestuous when only one's intimates know the secret. I've met people from Saskatchewan. They know about that stuff.)

I'm curious about a number of things, but starting the list with asking how long it was before you stopped laughing about the appellation "Team TIG" before you appended it to your article seems rude. Instead, I'll get to the heart of the matter. Will there be t-shirts?

I'm pretty sure if I was to look into the family closet amongst the skeletons, I'll find Team Edward and Team Jacob t-shirts despite my in-laws' protestations. Near as I can tell, the controversy then was either forbidden love or Vamp night at the high school. It was equally confusing, but I do know Edward got all sparkly whereas poor Jacob just got furry. The sparkly bit was much easier on the wardrobe. Ed even got the girl in the end. Seems to me that with a few belly rubs she could have kept the dog too, but relationships are complicated.

The moniker Team TIG (henceforth Ttig as on Denman we acronymize everything) bestows about as much anonymity as Donatello's mask. I'm no smarter than the average bear, but even I could tell he was a turtle. Even so, your move toward anonymity is still concerning. I have enough problems without the local paper encouraging my neighbors to throw rocks at me from behind their shrub. Just doesn't seem very sporty in my book.

That the Ttig attributed articles may have been written by a committee is not belied by the evidence, but even then, I'd urge courage. "Claim your own!" is the cry. Of course, the lady was pointing at her children at the time, but it's the same idea. Sort of.

This being the Island Grapevine, it's entirely possible Ttig is actually a guy named Klaus who you've warned us is behind every single nefarious plot on the planet. I note that Ttig doesn't rhyme with COVID, so that's reason to be suspicious right there. I'm just a confused little primate, but between imaginings of wicked, syringe wielding "health professionals" and fears of being EMFed all night long by someone with a really big, pointy antenna, it's just hard to get a good night's sleep sometimes. (See, I do so read the paper before I start the fire.)

Honestly though, speaking for the vast number of Islander's I usually ignore on the ferry, it could be that this whole affair of bent egos and stubbed toes might have ended well when Ms. Schuster publicly fell on her sword point right there in the Island Grapevine in front of everyone. I fell on my front porch. Nobody was around and I'm not sure there was a point, but it still hurt. I'm certainly not going to try harder next time. However, this could be like second grade. I had everybody else's favorite teacher, Miss C, that year. She was constantly giving me advice. Loudly and with feeling. Usually it was, "Stop hitting Billy!" Being a second grader, I immediately interpreted that as "engaging in conflict for purpose of attention might be considered a poor executive decision. Please reconsider." She was backed up by Mrs. Leadbeatter down the hall. In the office. Let's just not go there. Not again.

Ttig is smarter than I. If not, we need to warn Billy. He's dead now, so the warning won't help much, but his mama would have appreciated it. She thought he was a bit thick and needed all the help he could get, but she still had such high hopes of Billy and me becoming gentlemen. (Sadly, but as you might expect, she died a disappointed woman.) She used to say that a gentleman does not do what he wants, but rather what he ought. Perhaps Ttig and some other fine folks might spend a stretch of time thinking about the meaning of the word ought instead of traveling further down this pitted road together. I suspect the meaning has something less to do with righteous indignation and more to do with an open heart. A rather contented friend of mine says the key is to just be kind. Everyday. It's a tall order I know, but seems it's worked well for him. Now, of course, one can always continue to fuel blame and feel put upon because others are fueling blame and feeling put upon. My dog chases his tail too. I do wonder what he's going to do when he finally catches it.

I'd hate to pass on advice from my imaginary Uncle Bob (relations are relative), but what he used to say about his time as a cook down in the bayou was "if you ain't on the menu, don't climb in the pot." He liked my mother's gumbo recipe, so his wisdom is suspect, but there's a bit of truth there anyhow. That's what I think. I think. Caitlin's got both of me so confused we're constantly looking over our shoulder. Reading dirty minded narratives can do that to you I'm told, so I can't be sure I'm sure. What do you think? Here's a quarter.

Sans wax,
Michael Dillon

PS - I don't know any of the parties involved. I think Mr. Van Santvoord takes rather nice photos. Ms. Schuster has a first name I've never actually heard pronounced. I'm sure it's pretty. Anyone else involved might as well be yet another unnamed co-conspirator. I do know if you're wrestling alarm clocks you might just need to sleep in.



SPECIAL
INTEREST

My Three- Minute Case Against the Trust, Rogers & the Tower

By William Thomas

Special Report to the Grapevine
Copyright 2023 by William Thomas

Spoken submission delivered by William Thomas to the Islands Trust/LTC on Hornby Island, Sept. 8, 2023:

I speak for the voiceless ones. When does consultation become collusion? More specifically, when does the required Trust advice to Rogers Communications become complicity with an arrogant corporation that mocks our democratic process and emphatically voiced concerns?

Answer: Consultation becomes collusion when distant Trust officials correspond with a Rogers representative over a period of *five months* — from June 10 to Nov. 23, 2022 — *without informing this community — or our Local Trust Committee* — of plans to impose a 63-meter cell tower on an environmentally sensitive island, whose residents had overwhelmingly rejected a similar Telus proposal in favor of the fiber-optic network currently under construction.

That lesson had been learned: *too much public consultation endangers corporate profits*. Federal (ISED) statutes mandate that local government regulations be followed for any proposed cell tower. Among a list of legal stipulations — of which our lawyer has just reminded the Trust — is a mandatory *face-to-face* public meeting with the proponent.

We're still waiting.

The timing is suggestive. Rogers waited until we chose fibre-optics — before pushing a cell tower whose untested 5G component requires fiber's bandwidth to operate.

If both "fiber" and a telecommunications tower seem needlessly redundant — if the trashing of our community process by Rogers and the Trust feel insulting — that's because they are. Cancelling our trustees, and delaying until the winter holidays to spring this announcement — then refusing postponement until March — was so incredibly cynical I'm lost for words. At least polite ones.

Does the Trust have no shame?

Is any of this necessary? Cellphone coverage is already available throughout much of Hornby. For those who cannot tolerate "dead zones", Elon Musk's STARLINK currently offers satellite connectivity, as two people in this room can confirm.

Earlier this year, Rogers signed contracts with STARLINK and LYNK GLOBAL to provide additional satellite-wireless service to rural communities. When will our Trust officials look UP?

continued on P.8...

**Denman Community Land Trust
Association (DCLTA)**

Annual General Meeting

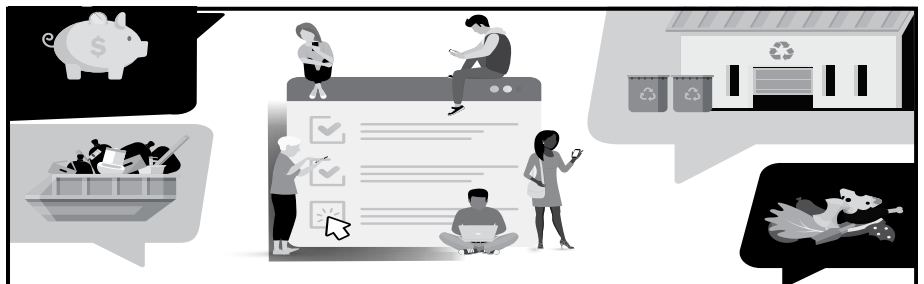
Sunday Sept. 17, 11 a.m.

Location: Community Hall

We have good news to share!

To become a member or renew your annual membership visit our booth at the Market Sept. 9 & 16 or e-transfer \$10 to bookkeeper@denmanaffordablehousing.org. Or come to the AGM a few minutes early and join.

www.denmanaffordablehousing.org



Weigh In On Waste

Online Survey: Help shape how we manage solid waste in the future

We're developing a new Solid Waste Management Plan designed to reduce the amount of garbage and greenhouse gases we generate. Tell us what you think about how solid waste is managed and provide your feedback on our draft goals and guiding principles that will steer how we manage waste over the next ten years.

Participate & Win!

Complete the survey or attend an open house to be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate for Humanity Restore.



**Comox Strathcona
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...continued from P.7 Two superior alternatives to an obsolete, unsightly and risky tower — and a glaring lack of *public* consultation — show that we are nowhere near concurrence.

If I could make a motion, I would move to reject this irreparably flawed application from a bullying Toronto corporation — outright.

Not “reconsider” it.

Throw it out.

We can do so much better than this.

We already are.

None of the five Trust representatives present commented on my remarks. But our LTC did decide to insist that Brian Gregg hold a public presentation on Hornby before any vote on the Rogers application would be taken. To the attendees’ astonishment, planner Margot Thomaidis blurted out, “He’s on the line right now.”

Turns out, the unannounced Rogers consultant had been listening in via teleconferencing the entire time. Our reaction can be imagined.

-William Thomas

willthomasonline.net

OPINIONS

Shortages in the Land of Plenty: Bombshells Are Dropping on Hornby Island

By Helen Grond

the mask dropped and the inner workings of the Islands Trust were revealed for all to see. It wasn’t pretty. It will take time to unravel all the details but suffice to say that the reputation of the Trust will forever be tainted by the revelations of that meeting.

First of all, the despised two minute rule for speakers was soundly smashed by Elspeth Armstrong, who challenged the arbitrary rule and calmly made a good case for abandoning it. Thank you Grant Scott for backing her up and telling us to take all the time needed to express ourselves. That in itself is huge. Let’s never again allow bureaucratic controls to censor our voices. They don’t get to shush us.

The cell tower consultation process between Rogers and Hornby Island has been a sham from the get go. The corporate giant started communications with the Trust head office in June of 2022. The community never heard a thing until November, 2022. According to our local Trustees (not totally clear), they weren’t informed either. It was a big surprise to

"There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen" -- Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.

ON Friday, September 8th, a Hornby Island regular Islands Trust meeting took place. It should have been business as usual but it wasn’t.

In the course of that meeting,

everyone, even though the IT planners were in secret communication with Rogers for five months. How interesting that the five month covert consultation process happened to coincide with our Trustee elections. I wonder how the elections would have played out if this contentious issue was allowed to be an election issue? We would have had a chance to be fully informed and the entire community would have had a voice. Why did the Trust head office choose to take away this right?

The most uncomfortable moment in the meeting was when a staff planner tried to make the defense that the planning staff actually had no clue about the due process for cell tower placement on Hornby; a process that they themselves had developed. In spite of creating the protocols in the first place, including them in a regular LTC meeting agenda and witnessing our Trustees pass a motion to adopt the model strategy for the cell tower approval process in September, 2022, they claim they didn’t have any idea that any of the above occurred. The air was literally sucked out of the room at that moment and the realization that something very extraordinary had just been revealed was clear for all to see. The feeble attempt to cover up the situation was exposed. The Trust was clearly in the process of selling us out to a massive corporation and it is a miracle that this came to light in the way it did. Every man, woman and child in the Trust area contributes \$300 annually to keep this monstrosity alive. “Preserve and Protect” seems to be nothing but a farce.....

There were other important revelations that came from that meeting. We must demand accountability. Stay tuned.

OPINIONS

BRICS

By Sally Campbell

BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA: What do they have in common? They comprise BRICS, the group we’d do well to keep our eyes on. Formed in 2009 after the global financial crisis, they jointly decided to pursue other ways to respond to the World Bank (WB)’s and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s grip on their economies/stringent policies on lending. Helena Cobban’s research on *Globalities*, a branch of her **Just World Education** site, shows that in the decision-making of the World Bank, the US vote counts for 15.64% of the total vote, while that of the original five BRICS nations combined is 14.24%. No wonder BRICS is creating its own system of global finance. Their focus for their first decade was on trade, the dollar, sanc-

tions, development and infrastructure finance.

They are part of what is now being called the “majority world”, and 40 other nations in that world are clamoring to join them. Of those, 23 countries have formally applied to join BRICS, including 7 of the 13 oil-producing countries. At their late-August summit in South Africa, they accepted six new members, (now becoming BRICS +). They are Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, & UAE.

How different an idea this is from the Western concept of the “3rd world” or even the “developing world”. Remembering how language shapes thinking, it’s time to give our heads a shake and examine the myths we hold about Western superiority, the cultural conditioning many Westerners consider to be unshakeable reality, and how we define “developed”. Maybe our language needs to become more inclusive; certainly our thinking needs to.

Our ingrained, often unconscious racism may lead some to simply judge or fear BRICS as a threat or perhaps to dismiss its rapid growth by ignoring or minimizing it. So maybe this is a time to learn more about BRICS. Here’s a few things they are not:

They are not a socialist or even an anti-imperialist bloc.
They are not a military alliance.
They are not attempting to be a moral force in the world.
They are not trying to take over the world.

Their interests are geo-economic, related to having a sustainable way of life in the countries they live in. They are trying to cooperatively build their own economies, out from under the grip of US/Western hegemony.* For instance, they are offering loans to their member countries without the austerity provisions of the IMF. 30% of those loans are in local currencies.

The US, and to a lesser extent, the EU, currently have sanctions in place against dozens of countries. Naturally, Russia has been sanctioned for its invasion of Ukraine. To the surprise of many, Russia’s economy only diminished by 2.2% in 2022 (John Power, *Aljazeera*, May 20,2023). After the 2022 sabotage and destruction of its Nordstream Pipeline to Germany, Russia diverted its energy exports from the EU to China, Turkey and India.

And as so many countries are being sanctioned these days, BRICS members are trading in their own economies and gradually leaving the dollar behind. Their bank is called the **New Development Bank** (NDB), intended as a counterpoint to the WB & the IMF. The NDB has authorized capital of \$100B, no small change.

In 2009, Head of Economic Research for Goldman Sachs’

Jim O’Neill described BRIC (before South Africa joined in 2010) as including the “largest emerging markets” in the world, growing faster than the G7. He stated that G7 should “be adjusted to incorporate BRICs representatives”. (*Progressive International*, No.34: **Dismantling Northern Hegemony BRICS by BRICS**, July, 2023) This didn’t happen, and now O’Neill’s research assistant, Roopa Purushothaman, is chief economist to India’s TATA Group, whose \$106B market capitalization value is three times that of Goldman Sachs. The times they are a-changing. Speaking of which, thanks to *Music from the Deep Dark Woods’* King Anderson for playing Frazey Ford’s stunning version of that Dylan song last week on Hornby Radio CHFR! Well worth a listen indeed, a fresh take on a song as relevant as ever. Back on topic: The G7 countries - Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, US, UK and the EU had a 70% share of the global economy in the 1980’s. That share has now diminished to 44% today. (*Aljazeera*, above) These are rather startling numbers, not ones we often hear in mainstream media. Will we pay attention and ride the horse the direction it’s going?

Here’s more from *Progressive International’s* 34th weekly news bulletin: “The BRICS is not a moral force. But its development is part of a historical process that sees Northern hegemony wane and splinter. That process presents opportunities for progressive forces around the world to engage with critically”. That gives me hope.

We in Canada, a mid-size power, would do well to cease our sabre-rattling against China, lobby for an immediate cease-fire and negotiations to end the Ukraine War, and attempt to maintain and extend our economic ties globally. We have a global climate crisis to attend to, after all, and this summer has shown we are far from immune to the ravages of global warming.

* “Hegemony is the phenomenon whereby one group leads the whole by projecting its interests as the collective interests” (*Progressive International*, above).




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If Everyone Understood that the US Deliberately Provoked this War

By Caitlin Johnstone
OP September 7th, 2023

WAR is the single worst thing humans do. The most insane. The most cruel. The most destructive. The most traumatic. The least sustainable.

Those who knowingly choose to steer humanity into more war when it could be avoided are the worst people in the world, without exception.

And there are mountains (1) of extensively documented evidence (2) that that's exactly what the drivers of the US-centralized empire did in Ukraine (3). That's why so many western analysts and experts (4) spent years warning that the actions of western powers were going to lead Ukraine into disaster (5), and it's why US empire managers keep openly boasting (6) about how much their proxy warfare in Ukraine advances US interests. They knowingly steered Ukraine into war (7) to advance their own geostrategic interests while being fully aware that no powerful nation would ever permit (8) the kinds of foreign threats the west was amassing on its borders (9), and then they intervened (10) in the early days of the war to prevent the outbreak of peace.

If there was widespread awareness of these facts, the US war machine would lose support around the world—not just for its actions in this one war, but for all future wars as well. Which is why so much energy goes into making sure this does not become a widespread understanding.

<https://twitter.com/JamesMelville/status/1693975335610593401>



The official mainstream narrative throughout the western world is that Putin invaded Ukraine solely because he is evil and hates freedom. That's the actual, literal belief about this war that the western political/media class works to instill in the western public. Anyone who counters this self-evidently ridiculous assessment with facts and evidence gets branded a Russian agent and swarmed with pro-US trolls on social media, and loses all hope of securing a major platform in any mass media.

And it's important to notice that shutting down all mature adult analysis of the events which led to the war in this way does not actually save a single Ukrainian life. It doesn't make Russia any more likely to stop fighting and withdraw its troops. All it does is prevent people from seeing the US empire for what it really is. It isn't being done to protect Ukrainians, it's done to protect the empire.

The worst thing that could possibly happen to the information interests of the US empire would be for a critical mass of people to become aware that all this death and destruction in Ukraine could have been avoided by the US-centralized empire behaving less aggressively on Russia's doorstep, and that those aggressions were instead increased with the goal of advancing US strategic interests on the world stage. If everyone really, deeply understood that all this suffering, all these mountains of human corpses could simply not have happened if the US hadn't been feverishly focused on securing planetary domination at all cost, the US would no longer be able to manufacture consent for its agendas. It would no longer be able to whip up international support for its actions against its enemies. It would no longer be able to persuade the world to help prop up the hegemony of the dollar.

<https://twitter.com/TarikCyrilAmar/status/1661748858140127233>



But because the US empire has the most advanced soft power apparatus that has ever existed, hardly anyone understands this. Not even the people who understand that the west provoked this war have deeply grappled with exactly what that means on a visceral emotional level, for the most part. It's more of a superficial intellectual understanding for most, without really grokking into the horror of it all, really letting the enraging nature of what the US empire did wash over them.

The west was deceived into supporting yet another evil American war, this time with the added dimension of nuclear brinkmanship threatening the life of every terrestrial organism. All to suck Moscow into another draining military quagmire so war plans can be safely drawn up against China while advancing US energy interests in Europe and building support for US military alliances. It's almost too evil to take in. There aren't really words for it.

And that's one of the reasons it's hard to get people to take in exactly what happened with Ukraine: people have a hard time wrapping their minds around the idea that **anyone** could be that evil, much less the government we've been trained by Hollywood to think of as sane and humanitarian.

<https://twitter.com/TheGreeneBJ/status/1639643608360910849>

It's about as monstrous a thing as you could possibly come up with. Yet here it is, still unfolding in all its blood-spattered glory.

Our task then is to help people see this and understand it, not just intellectually but emotionally. Help people really grasp deep down the horrors the US empire unleashed upon our world with the war in Ukraine; the suffering; the death; the existential danger. We can't fight the empire on our own, but we can each do what we can to help weaken the consent manufacturing machine it uses to rule and terrorize the world.

- 1) https://jmss.org/article/view/76584?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 2) <https://medium.com/@benjamin.abelow/western-policies-caused-the-ukraine-crisis-and-now-risk-nuclear-war-1e402a67f44e>
- 3) https://mate.substack.com/p/by-using-ukraine-to-fight-russia?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 4) <https://archive.ph/stMC4>
- 5) https://twitter.com/JamesMelville/status/1693975335610593401?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 6) https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/us-officials-keep-boasting-about?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 7) https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/its-not-okay-for-grown-adults-to-2cf?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 8) https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/the-last-time-a-foreign-military?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 9) https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/revisiting-john-pilgers-2016-warnings?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- 10) https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1686510247844904962.html?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email 🍷

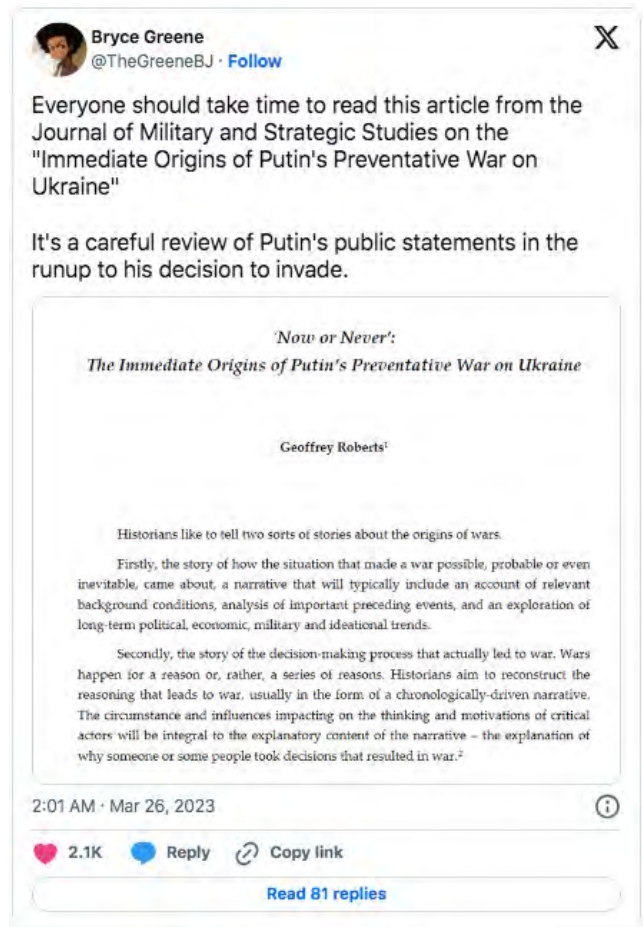
Convoy in Court

by Thomas Provençal

*With Tamara on trial
and Chris by her side,
it's a question of freedom
and Canadian pride.
The convoy colluded
with citizens' rights
to have truckers excluded
from cross border plights.*

*With kids in their castle
and dads on the grill,
police came to hassle,
orders straight from the Hill.
This cross country parade
brought our flag and our song
to end the charade,
saying mandates are wrong.*

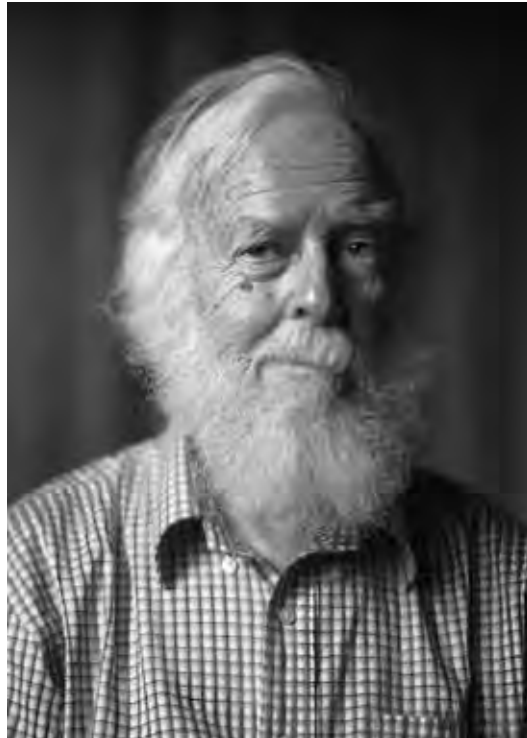
*Our leaders insist
that the convoy was bad,
with propaganda in fist
and police riot clad.
Court will consider
the extent of the harm
while memories are bitter
of law's overstretched arm.*



Herman de Vries

*May 4th 1942 –
September 8th 2023*

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be held at the Denman Island
Activity Centre, Saturday
September 16th beginning
at 2pm. All those who wish
to attend are invited, and
encouraged to do so.*



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Two feet or a saddle

by Mr. Unknown:

Back in the day
Before cars were in sight
People lived in community
A sustainable life.

People found ways to
skedaddle

By foot or by horse
Two feet or a saddle
With no remorse.

They got by
Two feet or a saddle.



The Islands Grapevine Calendar Corrections

• The Food Bank is
open at the HUB
every Thursday from
4pm to 7pm

• Library is Open
Mon-Wed & Fri-Sat

Apologies for any
inconvenience



♥ A big thanks to Denman
Island Fire & Rescue and
their ambulance/first
responder squad for their
quick response last week . .
. you know who you are . . .
and I know who I am . . .
♥ Anonymous

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FOR OCTOBER
SUBMISSIONS IS
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Send details of your event to:
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ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES

Opinions expressed in the Grapevine do not necessarily reflect that of the Publisher.

Inciting violence, hate speech and pejorative language will not be tolerated.



Whether covering events that entertain us, presenting issues that concern and affect us or highlighting the many interesting and gifted people we call neighbour, the Grapevine celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of our shared island life. The following is our policy on content:

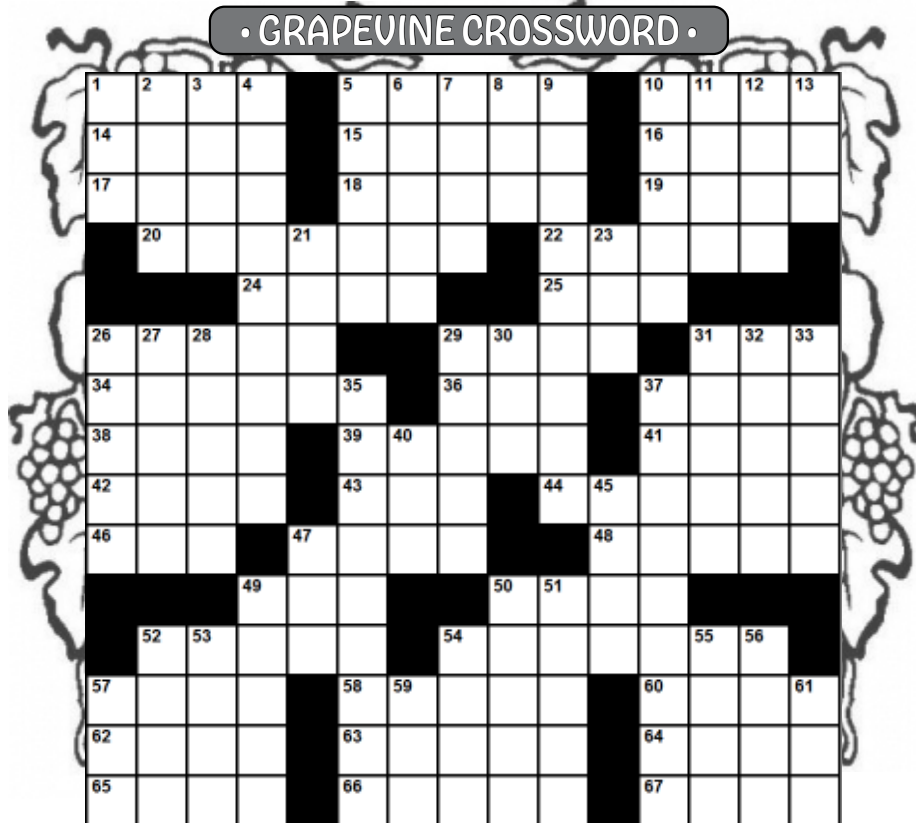
- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres are published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service 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.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity.

We are open to contributions from all Denman & Hornby Islanders. If you've something to say, send it our way! No copy and paste submissions. In your own words, please!

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Bathysphere explorer
5. Home finisher
10. Act as
14. Battle group
15. 1000 kilograms
16. Canter leisurely
17. Catch hold of
18. Forge implement
19. Banjo cousins
20. Fibrous
22. Intermingle
24. Bookie terms
25. Heart of the matter
26. Glove material
29. Giant ant horror film
31. Broadcast letters of old
34. Strong flow
36. Adriatic, e.g.
37. Baby food buys
38. Congressional caucus
39. 1960s fad
41. A four corners state
42. 90-degree heading
43. Formal address
44. Fur for a king
46. Bakery choice
47. Makes a decision

• DOWN •

48. Chinese horns
49. Ring around the collar
50. Angel's circle
52. Easy to see
54. Wet blanket
57. All aflutter
58. Breezing through
60. Exuberance
62. Cold cut place
63. Fencer's ploy
64. Clock's information
65. Rectangular paving stone
66. Annual feast
67. Passable

• DOWN •

1. Black sheep's trio
2. Botches up
3. Discharge
4. Secondary consequence
5. Arise
6. Iceman's tools
7. Covetousness
8. Cuckoo
9. Traces
10. Exactly vertical
11. Norse god
12. At the summit of
13. Affirmative reply
21. Caesar's bad time
23. British parent
26. Drab, as colors
27. Untwist a rope
28. Bumpy
29. Former rulers
30. Him's opposite
31. Math term
32. Hart or Stephen
33. Campfire remains
35. Curing businesses
37. Big planes
40. Apricot stone
45. Bagel or bialy
47. Above, in poems
49. On the up-and-up
50. Be contingent
51. Horatio of fiction
52. Curved arch
53. A bit of shock
54. Category
55. Musical medley
56. Candied items
57. Billboards
59. Actor's hint
61. Art movement prefix

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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Grumpism

“The meaning of opaque is unclear.”



Thank you Judy Armstrong.

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

C	L	E	F	T		B	O	B	S		L	O	K	I
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- Seaside Electric • LEL0207455 • 702-0570 (D/H)
- Shel Brodsgaard • Excavation & Services • 250-703-3898 (D/H)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather •
250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)
- DB Excavations • Dorianbaker56@gmail.com • 250-465-1889 (D/H)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake • 613-447-8873 (All)
- Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer • Lora Mercieca
• 250-650-9986 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)

• SERVICES •

- Denman Works! • Tony Gresson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac. • 778-992-0165 (D)
- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac. • 250-508-8160
• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Jessi Schlegel • Personal Training & Fitness Classes • 604-329-3466 •
online & in-person (D/H)
- Dan Last • Registered Massage Therapist • 250-335-1270 (D)



DOC FINGERS & BLAINE DUNAWAY

SEPTEMBER 23RD
DOORS 6PM MUSIC 7PM
MUSIC & APPIES

CLOSED SATURDAY 2PM FOR
HERMAN DE VRIES MEMORIAL

OPEN 7 TO 3 DAILY CLOSED MONDAYS
ESPRESSO DRINKS, BULK STORE, FROZEN DINNERS
AND POT PIES, CALL TO ORDER SANDWICHES
250.335.2688

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 14

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm



FRIDAY 15

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm

SATURDAY 16

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SUNDAY 17

- ST. SAVIOUR'S Join us at 10:30am for a
Morning Prayer Service. Ben Jones Leading,
Naomi Elliot preaching

MONDAY 18

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm

TUESDAY 19

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 20

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

THURSDAY 21

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30-6pm

FRIDAY 22

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm

SATURDAY 23

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SUNDAY 24

- ST. SAVIOUR'S Morning Prayer Service
10:30am

MONDAY 25

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm

TUESDAY 26

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 27

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

THURSDAY 28

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm



Magic is Alive



We will build on our common ground and diversity, creating paths and practices which nurture awareness of Spirit, Gaia, Goddess, and nourishing our reverence for Earth. This workshop directly addresses the despair and hopelessness felt by so many around the multi-level crisis we are witnessing. Our experience of and communication with nature move us from hopelessness to effective engagement, from theory to practice. Changing consciousness at will.

We are very grateful to the United Church of Canada for a 'Seeds of Hope Grant'. This helps us to present this workshop, provide meals ☺ and offer the following sliding scale. \$250 - \$50

We hope you will consider participating in the Elements of Creation Workshop, October 13(evening) & 14, 15 at The Gathering Place of the Denman Island United Church.

Our weekend together will focus on experiencing personal connection with the Elements of Creation: Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Spirit - the four sacred components of Planet Earth with Spirit being the quintessence. We will use tools of energy awareness, guided visualisation, story, movement, song, ritual creation and Earth Magic.

We will be led by Oriana and Ruby who will draw on their 30 years of experience teaching at Witchcamps and leading ritual in the Reclaiming Tradition (reclaiming.org). We draw on these deep roots of the activist Reclaiming tradition and share common ground with the many diverse traditions and paths which honour and hold the Earth and Her elemental components as Sacred.

For info and registration contact:

Helen Wilson 335-0029
wilson.helen60@gmail.com

Wendy Pope (250) 218-3148
wendypope@uniserve.com

