



"Graffiti is beautiful; like a brick in the face of a cop." • Hunter S. Thompson.



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

Summer Gallery Plans for 2022

By Judith Scruton

ARTS&LIT

but we are confident that everything will be fine! So let's get going on this.

We are looking to exhibit work in all media and encourage you to have your work for sale. We accept solo submissions, but we love to have artists collaborate to plan a group show as this gives us a better opportunity to show more artists' work. In fact, sometimes we put two artists together when they work in different media.

The Summer Gallery committee provides advertising, a curator and volunteers to sit at the Gallery, so please consider applying for a space as all you need to do is bring your work!

Please submit your proposal, which must include photos of your work, to my email address jascruton@gmail.com by Tuesday March 22nd at 5pm. If you prefer to submit your proposal by hand please place it in an envelope in the Free Post under S.

For those who are new to the Summer Gallery, there are guidelines to help you with the process under "Summer Gallery proposals" or you can call Judith Scruton at 250 335 2069.

We look forward to hearing from our great artistic community. Let's make this the best Summer Gallery ever! 🍷

Groundwater Licensing: March Deadline

By Anthony Gregson

COMMUNITY INFO

application in the works by deadline, you may go on using the water until a decision is made on the application. If you have not applied by deadline, you must stop using the water until a decision is made.

To encourage users to apply, **Wells and Groundwater Licensing in the Islands Trust Area** was a two-hour zoom seminar (zoominar?) held on February 3rd. The presentation was hosted by William Shulba, Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist together with two BC government program managers, Julia Berardinucci, Water Strategies and Conservation (Environment & Climate Change), and Cali Melnechenko, Water Authorization Head (FLNRO). Apart from an initial explanation of the policy and various application scenarios, the great value of this presentation lay in the wide-ranging questions submitted by the public, which took up most of the time. Now with five years of experience since the Water Sustainability Act was introduced in February 2016, almost all questions could be clearly answered.

Many questions were of a fairly technical or legal nature. There were some questions that struck me as broadly relevant to Hornby and Denman:

- Does a rental cabin require a license?
- Does a home business require a license?
- Does a B&B require a license?
- Do I require a licence if my garden exceeds the maximum 1000 sq metres, even though I am just growing flowers for home use?
- Can the license take into account recycled water (for example, greywater) that is returned to the ground?
- Can the license take into account rainwater catchment?
- Do I require a license if I use the water for animals that I may sell only on occasion (for example, sheep or cattle)?
- Can a well be licensed to serve more than one property?
- Does the groundwater license still apply if a property is sold?

Groundwater licensing is gradually working its way into the system. Surface and groundwater rights are now included in real estate disclosure.

In cases of uncertainty, it was advised to apply regardless, on a just-in-case basis. The government is apparently prepared for a last-minute deluge and has bulked up on information resources.

Even though the March 1st deadline applies to commercial use of groundwater only, the presentation has a lot of value for domestic users because they are a part of the total groundwater supply in any given area. While domestic users prior to 2016 are not required to register their wells, information on your well contributes to our knowledge of groundwater availability. It may also become important where it is affected by development of other wells. It was also interesting to learn that in the event of a declaration of a drought emergency, domestic users would not be required to curtail or cease use of their water. That is because they are automatically allocated a given amount of the total groundwater budget as a deemed right under legislation.

As Bernadinucci pointed out, British Columbia is a huge and complex water management environment. The licensing regime needs considerably more experience before the program can be fully evolved, to the point, for instance, where regulations for ground water monitoring could be applied province-wide.

To apply:

1. Register for a BCeID (www.bceid.ca); allows you to being your application and edit it later, if needed.
2. Fill in the required information as best you can (details can be worked out later).
3. Allow for about 2 hours to complete your application online; apply early to avoid technical issues.
4. For application form, required information, fees, links and tips groundwater.gov.bc.ca

Call FrontCounterBC for assistance 1-877-855-3222

Email FrontCounterBC to ask questions or book an appointment for assistance" FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca

You can also contract programs@islandtrust.bc.ca 🍷

Phoenix Riting! A Hornby Perspective

By Phoenix Bee

HERE on Hornby, emotions are again mounting around differing beliefs and priorities, and sparks fly in person as well as online. The most contentious split is between ideals of 'personal freedom' vs 'the common good.' This is framed as an either/or polarization, as if it is impossible to integrate the two in a workable form.

I submit that these are not contradictory ideals. Personal freedom, i.e. the right to decide what to do with one's own body and life, and to move freely in society (within reasonable constraints), is a fundamental human need. There cannot be a common good when individuals are forced to deny their needs, no matter how lofty the ideals may be. A group of unhealthy individuals doesn't add up to a healthy whole. Any true and lasting common good comes as a consequence of a society in which most, if not all, individuals have their basic needs met.

More and more, I see a trend on the 'progressive' side of the collective conversation, saying some form of, "We just need to accept that this is the way the world is now, get used to it." Translation: "Suck it up, you babies, personal freedom and choice are passe, get with the times." But this sort of attitude is giving alt-right groups the fuel they need to convince ordinary Canadians that they are being oppressed by a tyrannical government, and that, clearly, is a very bad idea.

No matter how many minds are made up about how important and necessary such societal changes are, basic needs remain non-negotiable. Many of us can apply the yardstick of 'the common good' to set our needs aside

continued on P.5...

TIDE TABLE

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

2022-02-10 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
03:03	4
07:26	3.6
12:14	4.2
20:05	1.3

2022-02-11 (Fri)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
04:15	4.3
08:50	3.9
11:36	4
20:38	1.5

2022-02-12 (Sat)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
04:53	4.4
10:11	3.9
12:53	3.9
21:25	1.3

2022-02-13 (Sun)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
05:24	4.5
10:47	3.8
14:12	4
22:07	1.2

2022-02-14 (Mon)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
05:51	4.6
11:12	3.7
15:11	4
22:45	1.1

2022-02-15 (Tue)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
06:17	4.6
11:37	3.5
16:00	4.1
23:21	1

2022-02-16 (Wed)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
06:41	4.7
12:06	3.4
16:47	4.2
23:56	1

2022-02-17 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
07:05	4.7
12:39	3.2
17:35	4.2





ARTS&LIT

An Unpainted Portrait: Not Such a Close Shave

By Leo Simmons

shave and remembered that fact only as we stood ready for inspection, I knew I was in trouble. At the age of nineteen, my beard growth was less than luxuriant, but this only made things look more obvious. Horrible Harrison prowled the assembled ranks and I waited as he drew closer. Slowly, as a predator stalks its prey, he strolled through the lines of impeccable officers. Unlike a predator, the sound of his boots crunching on the asphalt in the silence of a spring morning gave his location away second by second. With each step, tiny pieces of gravel and the steel hobnails in the soles of his boots met one another and signalled another moment nearer to my doom. He passed behind me first... then around to the front. While maintaining a steady gaze over my shoulder, he stopped a foot in front of me and directly in line with my nose.

Quietly (*thinks: oh thank God, he's in a good mood, he likes me...*) he growled "Have you shaved today mister..." He glanced at my name badge. "...Simmons?" He did a magnificent job of making it sound like "Shithead." I trembled respectfully, paused, and made an extremely poor choice. Relying on the babyish nature of my chin, I tried to blag my way out of it. "Yes, Sergeant" I said, instantly feeling myself falling thousands of feet onto cold, jagged rocks... I half-closed my eyes and braced myself. "You have, have you? he almost whispered" "Yes, Sergeant" (*Oh God - I just did it again!*) "Oh, I see" he murmured in a thoughtful, almost intrigued way. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see him staring across my face, into the distance, perhaps towards a place of execution. I clenched everything I was capable of clenching and one or two other bits joined in for good measure.

After a few moments of silence to heighten the tension, he leaned towards me and without any warning set off an explosion one millimetre away from my face. "YOU BLOODY LIAR!" Obliging, I jumped a few inches without any help from my legs, my helmet landing slightly askew on my head. "YOU are a BLOODY DISGRACE! GET OFF MY F..." He checked himself. "...MY PARADE SQUARE!" This was delivered with such force and venom that it took a second for me to process that I was being emphatically ordered off the parade square. I'd never seen - or more accurately, *heard* - anyone ordered off the square before. Wondering what this development might mean for my career, I tried very hard not to soil my underpants. I'd bought some new ones after the grand parade nut-swinging incident, and it would have been a shame to welcome them into the world in such a way. Things just about held together.

However, I'd hesitated a microsecond too long. "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, YOU DIMWIT? QUICK *MERCH* OVER THERE, 'EFT 'IGHT, 'EFT 'IGHT!" Thus, trembling with every fibre, I found myself 'merched' *very* quickly to a distant corner out of the earshot of the rest of the parade, whereupon he laid into me again with much less volume but the same alarming purple hue to his face. He was genuinely mad. "You *f***ing idiot!*" he said. "You'll be outside my accommodation block tomorrow at 0630hrs in best uniform, understand?" "Yes Sergeant". "Now get out of my sight and get a f***ing shave before you go to class". I slunk away to have an emergency crap and to ponder both my immediate future along with my stubbly face in the mirror. I didn't much like the look of either.

The following morning turned out to be one of the very few non-sunny ones we experienced in our time there. In my best uniform - *impeccably* pressed if I may say so - there I was at 6.30 am, standing disconsolately and in silence outside the drill sergeant's quarters. Aside from the pulse thumping in my head, all was still. It was also foggy; very foggy. To understand the significance of what this means, I must enlighten you: damp air is the arch enemy of meticulously pressed wool-and-synthetic-fibre uniforms. Mist is an evil little imp that gently and silently removes creases in minutes, but full-blown fog? Fog is the absolute nemesis of the sharpened trouser leg or tunic sleeve. There is no escape from fog. It silently settles upon a pressed uniform and turns it into something resembling chewed newspaper.

Engulfed in the low cloud, I tried not to cry while all the beautiful, precise and sharp creases - the best I'd ever managed after a long and anxious evening sweating over the ironing board - fell out almost audibly. As my trousers turned into something akin to black plastic bin bags, I was still there at 7.00 am... I was still there at 7.30 am, as the much thicker fabric of my tunic sleeves transformed into black, dimpled blancmange. Finally, having been passed by just about everybody on the campus on their way to push their appalling, nutritionally-challenged breakfast around battered Home Office plates, the man himself appeared. He was immaculately turned out as always and on the way to partake of his own grim culinary catastrophe. My hyper-alert senses detected a slight but definite pause as he caught sight of me. He'd forgotten I was going to be there! *Twat!* Without even looking in my direction he paused directly in front of me, stared into the middle distance somewhere off to my left (he liked doing that) and quietly said out of the side of his mouth in a deep, gravelly voice ravaged by years of screaming at little idiots like me; "F*** off, lad. And never - *ever* - try to bullshit me again". It was a lesson well and truly learned.

With a palpitating heart and a damp, crumpled uniform, I raced back to my room, changed into my 'number two' rig - which was now in much better shape than my 'ones' - and with my mind elsewhere, dispiritedly shuffled off to stare at a breakfast of boiled bacon, boiled fried eggs and boiled toast. Entirely due to the fact that I was unable to taste anything at all through the filter of my humiliation and self-imposed misery it proved, without doubt, to be the *best* breakfast I consumed during the entire fourteen weeks. Silver linings...

It was yet another one of those small growing up moments that Horrible's use of the word 'lad' served to emphasise. As scared of his wrath as I may have been, this incident led to a conversation with him later that day in the bar. Put very simply, the man was a delight to speak with. Wise, kind and funny, he was full of advice and understanding for a too-young man jumping into a big organization. He succeeded in putting me at my ease as well as reassuring me that, despite the events of the previous morning, disaster did not lie around every corner. I wished - and still wish - that I'd known him for longer, and much better; if I had, I might have learned even more.



...continued from P.3 for a certain period of time, and we might even feel good about it--for a time. Eventually there will be a breaking point, and that will be different for different individuals. Certain introverts and those from cultures with a long tradition of compliance with authority might find it easier to follow rules indefinitely.

But the fact remains, humans are a social species. We all want this to be over. Most of us have cooperated, received our vaccinations, stayed home, avoided family gatherings and otherwise complied with restrictions. Yet here we are, two years later with no end in sight. We all feel the pressure mounting, and we wonder, might there be another choice?

The government of Denmark has recently rescinded all Covid restrictions across the board, because despite the highest infection rate in the world currently, they see that hospitals

are not being overwhelmed because Omicron is a much milder variant than previous ones. Michael Bang Petersen, an adviser to the Danish government, says, "Pandemic restrictions put on pause fundamental democratic rights. If there's a critical threat, that pause might be legitimate. But there is an obligation to remove those restrictions quickly when the threat is no longer critical."

This is a pragmatic and reasonable stance, in my opinion. Restrictions and mandates should be temporary and released as soon as possible. Any suggestion that we should learn to live with these changes as some sort of 'new normal' frankly chills my bones. If Covid is indeed the new normal, then we will have to learn to live with it, as we live with the seasonal flu. There are worse things than getting sick. Disease has always been a part of life on this planet. The kind of society in which all disease is eradicated is a dream whose cost is just too high.

People are fed up because they fear that this is going to go on and on, and that we will end up more like China than Denmark. They fear that vaccine passports are only the thin edge of the wedge that forces us into a controlled, machinelike society in which all interactions are monitored and managed by our smartphones.

I fear this as well. That is not a world in which biological organisms with deep seated drives and non-negotiable emotional needs can thrive. We can, and we must create a better world than that.

What do you think? I'd love to hear from you! You can reach me at phoenixhornby@gmail.com. 🍷

The Simple Life, Tailgate-Party Revolution

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

I have long noticed that the mainstream media will go to almost any length to not report the news. I guess they don't want to upset their sponsors. For example, in Canada, a country of around 38 million citizens, on Saturday 5 February an estimated 5 million of them were out protesting against the loss of our Charter Rights and Freedoms.

You would never guess this by looking at the CBC. They barely mention the protests and call all 5 million pissed-off Canadians a fringe minority. One of these pissed-off Canadians is the Honorable Brian Peckford, former Premier of Newfoundland. Mr. Peckford is the last surviving First Minister to have worked on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and he has launched a lawsuit against Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government for their suspension of the Charter Rights over the Covid 19 illness.

Mr. Peckford said the clause that allows



suspension of Charter Rights which include freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of religion, security of the person and freedom of movement was intended for a far more serious situation, such as war, insurrection, the state being threatened in its existence or some similar devastation, rather than the emergence of an illness with a greater than 99% survival rate. The reason he was being interviewed on a podcast was that none of the mainstream media in Canada will report on this story.

So, if the CBC will not report on that or on much of anything else then I felt it was up to me to go out and bring eye-witness news to Denman and Hornby. Last Saturday, I set off with some friends to join the Freedom Rally that was starting at Campbell River and would end up at the Legislature in Victoria. The rally organizers asked everyone in the convoy to drive slowly in the right-hand lane

continued on P.6...

...continued from P.5 with hazard lights on.

We caught up with the convoy just south of Parksville and it was a very jolly event. All the protesters were keeping good convoy discipline and driving safely. The lines of cars, trucks, and transport trucks were decked with Canadian flags. I saw a snippet of Jagmeet Singh saying the Freedom Convoys were flying hateful flags and I would like to ask him just what it is he finds hateful about the Canadian flag?

I have been watching the Freedom protest in Ottawa being livestreamed and have seen nothing but happy, proud and patriotic Canadians waving the Canadian flag. Perhaps Jagmeet needs to get out more and look with his own eyes or maybe he might just want to start respecting the working-class Canadians that he claims to represent and lead.



Anyway, the convoy was a delightful sight with many people flying the Canadian flag on hockey sticks. The sight warmed all our hearts. We passed many groups of supporters, a lot of them with sweet little kids, who were carrying signs of support for the Convoy, such as, "Truckers are our Heroes," and, "Free Canada." The overpasses were lined with Freedom Convoy supporters waving their red and white flags. There was a very festive atmosphere. No one was wearing a mask. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta recently came out and said that cloth masks do no good at stopping the spread of viruses so why are we still supposed to wear them?

The convoy was huge. We had to leave it a couple of times for refreshment breaks and when we came back out to the road, there it was still snaking into the distance to the north and south. There has been a lot of loose talk about the Freedom Convoys being made up of racists and misogynists but I was seeing more women than men and it strains credulity to believe that all those women were haters of women. There were a lot of different skin tones among the protesters but I didn't bother about what races were present because this is not about race, it is about Canadians standing up for their Charter Rights and Freedoms.

It was a long slow drive and we began counting the RCMP cruisers that were parked along the road facing the oncoming convoy, the Mounties sat with their little filming devices in their hands. I was a bit surprised to see one Mounty sitting on the bank by his car, filming the convoy. What surprised me was that he had a full-face rubber mask on to disguise his face, the creature! Who do the Mounties think they are, the Chilean police? Are they ashamed to show their faces? Perhaps, they should be. All we were doing was exercising our constitutional right to peaceful protest and they appeared to be seeking to intimidate us.



The Mountie's strategy of being the enforcers of illegal government policy is going hilariously wrong at the Coutts, Alberta border crossing. Every time the Mounties try to block supplies getting in or harass or arrest peaceful protesters, another group of Freedom Convoy supporters comes up and surrounds their police cruisers, blocking them in. The local farmers and ranchers came up with their big tractors and surrounded the RCMP cruisers at which point, our brave lads in their cop cars were sort of puzzled about what to do next. So, they called the towing companies who declined to come and save their very cold Mounty asses.

The Mounties sent in more cruisers and tried again and were surrounded again by a huge number of just ordinary cars and trucks from the surrounding area. This morning, 6 February, I was delighted to watch what looked like every horse club in Southern Alberta show up mounted on

beautiful horses, decked with those glorious Canadian flags Jagmeet and the Trudeau boy find so hateful, and ride in to support the protesters.

You see, Government can only govern with the support of the people. Once millions of Canadians are prepared to do such things as sleep in their tractors in the freezing Alberta night to protect a peaceful protest, I would say the people have withdrawn their support and the government no longer has any legitimacy.

The protest at the Legislature in Victoria was noisy, good natured and fun. All the Denman and Hornby people who went enjoyed it hugely. I will end with some of the slogans I saw painted on the protesters' signs: "Stand for Freedom or Kneel to Oppression, I prayed for a miracle and got a Convoy, Freedom 4 all, Let's Make Justin a Drama Teacher Again!, Science that Can't be Questioned=Propaganda."



Memoir of a Rural Introduction Sisyphus-Redux

By Bill Engleson

• www.engleson.ca

For several years, I kept a diary of my inauguration into the Denman Community. This column, recently renamed Memoir of a Rural Sisyphus-Redux, will extract a few of my observations from a dozen or more years ago and share them. Hopefully, they will have some modern times currency.

ARTS&LIT

Three Remembrances

July 25, 2007

As I write, I have returned from Willo Walker, my acupuncturist. I have a needle in my ankle and one in my ear. I am wearing a healing patch on my knee. I also have pills, salves, ointments, homemade regimens of hot and cold torture, my Dr Ho kit (Dr. Ho offers an almost acceptable mini-electrocution therapy), and more. Jimmy (a community member no longer with us) mentioned this morning that my knee was quite swollen. In addition to his eyeball diagnosis and suggested cures, he said, "Getting old isn't for sissies."

How true.

Too bad I am a sissy. It's not looking good.

August 10, 2007

I resist the diary if only because I am demolished by hip and knee pain and, really, why would anybody want to hear about my decrepit decline. I don't even want to hear about it. I can barely discuss this shooting ache, this lingering torment with Willo, or my GP. If I am not interested in my decline, why would anyone else be?

Willo is convinced I need surgery on my torn meniscus. I think this is correct. I am on a waitlist to see an orthopedic surgeon. Two, actually. An acquaintance has suggested I should go the private route. I say no, I have my principles. I will not jump the queue. Especially because of my crappy knee and hip, but also because, if I am anything, I am a socialist. Okay. A social democrat. Splitting hairs...I will go kicking and screaming (well, screaming in pain for sure but my kicking capacity is inhibited these days by my wonky knee) to the grave before I will pay hard cash for something that the state is prepared to provide.

October 12, 2007

continued on P.8...

Seedy Saturday is Here!

Third Zoom Talk this Saturday, February 12th from 10am to approximately 12 noon.

Plan B(ean)

Go to www.denmangpa.ca/seedy-saturday to get Zoom link



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...continued from P.7 The Valdy and Gary Fjellgaard concert is tonight. Fake beer and real wine on the deck at 3:30 this afternoon. A fantastic fall day. Damn knee still hurts.

I have a cinnamon concoction from Willo.

I relish the occasional therapeutic brew.

Ah, life!

Some great folk music!

That's it. Pain or not, I cannot, will not resist the concert tonight. 🍷

Sara Hagen: *The Goldberg Variations*

ARTS&LIT

By Anthony Gregson

pianist Sara Hagen, pointed out to the audience at the Community Hall on Saturday, the Variations have a reputation for music that requires serious attention. For me, they evoke the iconic intensity of Glen Gould, hunched over the keyboard and singing to himself, as if possessed, followed by an insightful commentary in his disarmingly relaxed but precise manner. "Listen to the aria and see how it develops," I overheard someone explain.

But Sara surprised me. First, she played a formidable piece by Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, a renowned child prodigy who studied with Bach himself. How the Variations got Goldberg's name is debatable. Goldberg was employed by Count Herman Karl von Kayserling, an ailing aristocrat who commissioned the Variations from Bach to help deal with his insomnia, "like counting sheep", and never tired of them (Goldberg, fourteen at the time in 1741, is thought to have been the first person to play them, presumably outside the Count's bedroom if all this is true). Sara offered her own version, that Bach

she pointed out, are in a darker, minor key.

Her explanation of the structure of the Variations was helpful for someone like me, who has never studied up about them (Wikipedia has a wonderful, detailed article, I subsequently found). Her commentary helped me hear the emotional architecture that comes to a climax in the famous Variation 25, a crisis of pensive emotion, like a lull of silence in the city, that is eventually resolved in Variation 30, the extraordinary Quod Libet, where Bach combines four different songs. Two of them, Hagen pointed out, are known. "One is something along the lines of, 'You have been away so long, come near, come near my love.' And the other song is very different. It says, 'Cabbages and turnips have driven me away; Mother, if you'd only cooked meat, I would have offered to stay.'"

Quod Libet is an improvised harmonizing that mixed up popular songs. Evidently, Bach's family, most of whom were musicians, enjoyed quod libet at family gatherings, much to everybody's amusement. It gives a homely touch that is both cheering and grounding.

At the very end is the reprise of the Aria on which the whole set of Variations is based. After such an intense journey of invention, virtuosity, dance, nobility, solemnity, joy, and even fun, the understated, somewhat melancholy emotion of the aria has acquired a poignant depth of experience, as if we have just gone through an entire life and come to the question of its meaning, for which the answer can lie only in the heart.

Hagen played the Variations at a somewhat slower tempo, which for me, was a relief, as they can be delivered with a crisp, swift brilliance that blurs them together and can be overwhelming, drowning the Aria in a deluge of virtuosity. Robert Newton, commenting afterwards, put it so well I must quote him: "I like hearing the details, voices and expressive phrasing. Ah the



Sarah Hagen - Photo by McKinnon Photography

colleagues turned right around and started streaming performances. Hagen tried a few, but found it wasn't for her and made plans to focus on her repertoire. "Then, one night, a voice came to me, and it said, You are going to learn the Goldberg Variations. The next morning, I got up and thought, that is so strange because I don't really want to. Every pianist has this and plays a few variations here and there and reads through them once a year, but I didn't really think I would perform them until I was about eighty. Maybe," she added, "Covid has aged me."

She went about it in an unusual way. "I did start to learn them, but I decided to do it by not just going right to the piano and study the scores. I decided to listen to piles of recordings, and I would make a piece of artwork for each of the variations and try to understand the structure and form from that. If you work with visual art, you are always thinking about light and shadow . . . and I don't think I would have realized it just sitting at the piano. I realized this is music that is filled with light." Only three of the variations,

voices! It's the quiet ones embedded in louder passages that speak out. You ask, what was that? There was one moment when she got me with it. Those subtle voices are an aspect of piano playing that elevates the music to seem almost mystical." The pace was reflective, with pauses of greater or lesser extent between each variation, sometimes savouring the fade on the last note. In a word, her approach leaned to the romantic and unhistorical.

The Community Hall grand gave the playing a strong presence, something you could not experience just from a recording. This made the whole performance more personal with a greater awareness of the performer's individual involvement. I was not listening simply to see how well the composer's intent was delivered, nor to the performer as savant of the canon.

Hagen summed it up well: she pointed out that Bach annotated the score with the words "refresh" and "uplifting". The voice that told her to learn the Goldbergs put her – and ourselves – on a path of hope to get through the pandemic – music for our times.

The performance is part of her Goldberg Variations album tour. The two-CD set was available at the door, together with two other of her CDs. 🍷

For You on Valentine's Day

ARTS&LIT

By Dante Ambriel
• Flowing Art Studio

FEBRUARY 14 is the feast day of Saint Valentine which has deep roots in our pagan past.

Marking the first day of Spring, when work in the vineyards began, it was said wild love birds proposed to each other on

that day.

Saint Valentine became the Saint of Spring, good health and the patron of beekeepers

When I was commissioned to produce the film, I had to abide by certain rules dictated by the constraints of Covid.

No stage or live actors.

Everything had to come from the internet and be produced digitally.

I had to think creatively and learn about the digital world which I knew nothing about.



and was said to stir life deep into the very roots of plants which began growing on this day.

Now, celebrated globally as the Day of Love, I want to offer to you a love story that I wrote, won an award for and then a grant to be produced as a virtual play which was to be presented online.

For the last six months my play/film has been under contract and out of my control and could only to be seen as a pay per view online.

But now I am free to offer it out without any cost to anyone.

So, please think of it as a moving Valentine Card to this community.

Out of these restraints came Virtual Ecstasy - a 35 minute kinetic collage film that follows three people in their quest to find love as they explore virtual reality.

I hope that you enjoy it and the amazing special effects towards the end. www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRBuMbaiYdM

You can also find our two musical albums The Genesis Moment www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEGSwX4PvsY www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLHmutwH4DY 🍷

The End Will Not Come Easily

OPINION

By Ryan Dueck (OP Feb 4/22)

• Submitted by Graeme Isbister

These words, from Danish political scientist Michael Bang Petersen in today's New York Times, state what is self-evident to many, particularly here in Canada where the so-called "Freedom Convoy" has dominated the news over the past week or so. For many, relinquishing the emotional urgency that this pandemic has thrust upon us has the feel of a bitter concession. "The End of the Pandemic May Tear Us Apart," warns Petersen's ominous headline, and after the two years we have all endured, few would doubt this is true.

The article is refreshingly sane, measured, and wise and is well worth reading in its entirety. But I was particularly struck by Dr. Petersen's succinct and, to my mind at least, accurate portrayal of what's going on in so much of what passes itself off as public debate these days:

For two years people have debated the value of masks, vaccine passports and more, to the point that they are no longer opinions but identities. And when opinions become identities, they warp our understanding and make it harder to change one's mind as the situation changes. The truth is that we are all biased.

Well, yes. This seems painfully obvious here in Alberta these days with road blockades and protests and fiery responses dominating the news and everyday conversation daily. The situation might not be as acute where you are, but I suspect you would only have to stick a toe in the shallow end of the social media pool to be afforded rich confirmation of Petersen's assessment. We live in a world where increasingly opinion = identity, and identity is all. This is not good, to put it mildly.

Two years into this thing, some of us have so thoroughly made our opinions about Covid a key piece of our identities that it almost defines us. For many, Covid has become the grand narrative that gives life meaning and purpose (even, sadly, many Christians). When this is the case, dialing back the intensity becomes extremely difficult. We cannot concede that we may have been wrong or at least less right than we imagined. We can't acknowledge that in a fluid situation where things change rapidly, and in a media context that incentivizes polarization and hostility, we have all misread, misinterpreted, prioritized wrongly, spoke out of ignorance, etc. Going back to "normal," however gradually, could seem to lay all of this bare. Indeed, some may not even want things to go back to normal. Chris Hedges wrote a book with the memorable title, *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*. It certainly is and does. And for many, that meaning will be difficult to give up.

Well, what to do about all this. I have no idea how to solve the macro problems, but on a micro level I can only believe that if we are to in any way make the end of this pandemic come easier, we will have to at least try to reach across the divides we have created (or accelerated) and try to inhabit the experience of those who do not think like us, however odious we find their views, however threatening to the identities we have spent the last two years constructing and fortifying this might be. I wish there were some easier path that didn't involve enmeshing ourselves in the stew of ugliness and complexity and self-interested signalling and half-truths and partial information and identity posturing. But there is no other way. We will have to reach across and attempt to genuinely understand those who are different from us. We will have to come to re-imagine one another as human beings instead of avatars of this or that ideology or political perspective.

When I was in graduate school, one of my theology professors made us do an interesting exercise on our final exam. We were given three statements that were currently generating theological controversy in

the church. We had one hour to write on each one (and were told that if we didn't use the full hour we should not expect an A!). We were instructed to marshal all of the course reading and lectures in our response, to make the best theological case possible for how and why we had arrived at our conclusions. But there was a catch. No matter how strongly we disagreed or agreed with the statement we were attempting to refute or defend, we had to start by laying out the position we disagreed with in the best possible terms. We were to affirm everything that could be affirmed, even if it wasn't much. Most importantly, we were to describe the viewpoint that we were opposed to in terms that would be acceptable to someone who held that particular view.

I have never forgotten this exercise. I have returned to it often in my writing and pastoral ministry more broadly. Is how I am talking to or about this person or position something that they would recognize and affirm? It's a vitally important question to ask. Nothing is easier than taking cheap shots at a caricature. Nothing is easier than labelling all protesting truckers as white supremacists bent on spreading "hate." Nothing is easier than labelling all Black Lives Matters or Defund the Police protesters as anarchists or mindless rioters. This is a very easy path to take, and many take it.

We need to do better. In how we stagger out of this pandemic and in our discourse more broadly. We need—somehow—to recover a view of those we disagree with as neighbours instead of enemies.



Letter to the Editor **J**ESUS and Reincarnation

In Jesus' time, scholars from throughout the world came to study at the great library in Alexandria, Egypt - This included Buddhists from Afghanistan - India (Alexander the Great had been there 350 years previous). It's no secret Buddhists believe in reincarnation and evolution of the soul.

Jesus who could heal the sick, said "I am the son of man" and "as I am, so shall you be."

Sounds like reincarnation and evolution of the soul to me.

I wonder why no-one else seems to come to this conclusion. Whether the story of Jesus is allegory or history: I couldn't care less.

That said, reading the gospel of John - a two hour read certainly put a spring in my step.

Eric Atlee 

Letter to the Editor

VACCINE protesters have often said that the current vaccines are 'experimental'. They rarely, if ever, explain what they mean and this leads a commentator like myself to ask a few questions. When does 'experimental' become accepted for them? Or rejected? How long do they think the 'experimental' phase lasts? Does the 'experimental' phase end when authorities pronounce the vaccine safe? As vaccines are often developed after the onset of the disease they attempt to prevent, aren't such vaccines always 'experimental'? Was the polio vaccine I scarfed down in early 1960's 'experimental'?

Another area vaccine protesters completely ignore is the methodology behind the authorization of any vaccine. As there is no such thing as a perfect vaccine—one with no side effects at all—authorization is granted on the basis of a risk assessment. All vaccines exhibit some harmful effects. So in order to assess the usefulness of any vaccine we have to look beyond individual 'rights' to communal ones. And the only method we have to do so is 'risk assessment' based on the ratio of beneficial to harmful effects determined by a communal count of events. Let me repeat: we cannot escape this common form of assessing danger. Indeed we all do it when we jaywalk. Arguing from individual rights alone asks us to never authorize a vaccine if a single person is harmed. This is not tenable for communal protection. But vaccine protesters deliberately say nothing about the validity of communal 'rights' even though they are reserved in Section 1 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which protesters so loudly proclaim as definitive. They attempt to divert our attention by quoting spurious figures for deaths from the vaccine itself. We are asked to take as our authority Drs. Bhakdi and Burckhardt. I read their non-peer reviewed preprint—which gave results from 15 autopsies, selected by relatives, not researchers, as to the cause of the deaths. It was stated that the only common factor was the vaccine shot given anywhere from 7 to 180 days before death occurred. There was no indication that the researchers gave any thought to other possible factors in the 15 deaths.

Then there is the infamous Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) which is a self reporting system for the U.S. only (Canada has its own) to which health providers are legally required to report. ANYONE can fill out the VAERS reporting form (I have read it); it does not ask directly for a cause of death but does ask if death occurred. The only way to determine cause of death would be to select reported incidents claiming a link to a vaccine and subject them individually to a rigorous analysis including autopsy. In reporting 150,000 Americans dead from vaccines Jessica Rose and Matthew Crawford did not do this—I have read their report as well. They attempted through statistical means alone to estimate the rate of under reporting anaphylaxis events on VAERS on the premise that anaphylaxis strikes within minutes of a vaccine shot and thus is unequivocally caused by the jab. They did NOT examine in any way causes of actual deaths reported. Having worked out that under reporting

continued on P.12...

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at the Hornby clinic on Wednesday, February 16th for anyone eligible for doses 1 or 2 (ages 5+), dose 3 (ages 18+ and designated CEV), or a booster dose (ages 12+ and at least 6 months after dose 2).

To book: call 1-833-838-2323 and request to be booked at the Hornby Health Centre. Appointments are required to ensure enough vaccine is available.



Short Term Contract

The Hornby Island Housing Society has received funding for a short term contract to update its information about the number of community members currently in need of housing, what type of housing and what is a realistic rent scale. The person hired will gather information in person about housing needs from individuals and will consult with businesses and community organizations to identify their staff housing needs. We are looking for a person who is comfortable reaching out to our diverse community, is skilled in gathering and collating information and is committed to maintaining confidentiality and anonymity. If you interested and/or would like more information, please contact April at hornbyislandhousing@gmail.com

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...continued from P.11 was 41X for anaphylaxis (for every reported anaphylaxis case there were 41 unreported), which they admit is a 'ballpark' figure, they apply this figure to VAERS reporting of claimed vaccine deaths to get their 150,000 largely unreported ones. Remember at no time did these researchers look at the actual cause of death, if reported, and VAERS does not ask directly for the cause of death.

We have the demand for complete and systematic testing implied by the word 'experimental'. And we have a research 'study' put forward by Bhakdi and Burckhardt which meets no experimental standards whatsoever. Far too small a sample; no control group; no indication of compounding factors; no description of methodology—in short, no science; and a 'study' from Rose and Crawford purportedly linking deaths to vaccine but created entirely by statistical manipulation. And when presenting us with the 'evidence' for a massive number of deaths due to the vaccines, they do not present us with related figures for the incredibly high number of vaccinated persons who have suffered no side effects; both are necessary for risk assessment. If 15 deaths is enough to prove to vaccine protesters that vaccines caused them, can I put forward my dozen or so friends who have suffered no ill effects from three shots to prove vaccines don't cause deaths? If you think both claims are ridiculous by any scientific or logical standards you are right.

And then we have the Freedom Truckers. A large number of reasonable Canadians who feel they have some grievances which are being ignored. Among them swim a very small group claiming they will hold Ottawa to ransom until the unelected Senate dissolves our elected national government and puts the country under the direction of the last symbol of real autocratic government in Canada—our Governor-General along with a council of true believers. As they agitate to actually remove much of the political freedom for millions of Canadians they prate about their rights to do so. Like 'Trumpeters' and Republicans in Congress they wish to do away with both democracy and freedom, and do it in the name of democracy and freedom.

We live in a cultural age where opinion is sacrosanct: I am entitled to it and you can't question it. This leaves us with the elephant in the room: what if your opinion is based upon demonstrable lies which you try hard to get others to believe are true. How are we to respond when you hide behind the bulwark of sincerity, individual 'rights', and opinion 'sanctity'? Perception becomes all and those of us who actually believe that there are some provable truths are just whistling in the wind. The truth is what an individual says it is. Evidence is unnecessary. Bishop Berkeley's immaterialism rides again.

Oakley Rankin 

February 6, 2022

Dear Editor,

I was impressed (and by that I mean painfully so) by the bulk (not by any means the credence) of anti-vax, anti-mandate, anti-regard for Public Health in the February 3rd, 2022, edition of the Islands Grapevine.

I suppose there is a sense from some that punnelling the Islands with tons of tonnes espousing outlandish outlier opinion (and prosaic propaganda) canonizing the incongruously overwrought Freedom Convoy will in some way justify the positions staked out.

One wonders how the residents of Denman and Hornby would react if a similar subjugation of honking noise and fossil fuel excess clogged the hearts and/or the ferry terminals of both our island communities.

And stayed for a week or a month or forever until the government was overthrown.

I do realize that toppling governments might appeal to a segment of our two communities.

We are all tired of the virus, the means to control/manage it. However, masking, vaccination, vaccine mandates, care for the exhausted health professionals and others on the front lines (including the 90% of truckers who are vaccinated) and, perhaps most importantly, respect for Public Health guiding us through this monstrous maze are essential to the way out of this pandemic-involving-into-an-endemic Ferris Wheel.

Regards,

Bill Engleson RSW (Retired and Non-Practicing)

Denman Island

www.engleson.ca 

Letter to the Editor of the Islands Grapevine

OTTAWA used to be my hometown, so I have taken a keen interest in news about the trucker convoy which has occupied Canada's capital for the last two weeks. Of course, protests on Parliament Hill have always been a regular feature of life in Ottawa. And I agree with so many observers who have acknowledged that peaceful protest is an important right for Canadian

citizens.

What is happening in Ottawa is not peaceful protest. It is a blatant denial of the rights of fellow citizens to enjoy safety and security and choice in their own home. Friends in Ottawa have written to tell me of truly aggressive behaviour by convoy participants—for example, ripping masks off people who have made their own choice to respect public health guidelines, urinating and defecating (sic) on private property, honking their vehicle horns at all hours of the day and night, interfering with health care workers going to their work, intimidating senior citizens wanting to get some fresh air, and so on.

Then there is the total disruption of normal life and business for thousands of people who live in the central part of Ottawa, as well as convoy participants flying Trump flags, Swastikas, Confederate flags, and disrespecting national monuments. Need I go on?

And now we have a small number of people from our own two islands proudly supporting this type of irresponsible behaviour by taking their vehicles to Victoria to cause a similar disruption to life in the provincial capital.

As for the Islands Grapevine, each issue seems to be more and more filled with letters from conspiracy theorists, and supposedly intelligent people who display total, or wilful ignorance of science. Even your resident poet seems to be obsessed with writing odes with ludicrous references to conspiracies and Nuremberg trials. It used to be enjoyable to read your weekly publication. Now it frequently induces only high blood pressure and a desire to breathe some clean air instead of the vitriolic abuse spouted by many of your letter writers.

Let's get a grip on things, folks, and behave like sane and responsible human beings. And truckers, and all your fellow travellers, please go home, get vaccinated and help everyone recover from this pandemic.

Stewart Goodings. 🍷

The Rise & Decline of Sociopathy

By Gwynne Dyer

OPINION • Originally published February 7/22

this departure is the spectacle – half-fascination, half-disgust – of Boris Johnson, Britain's part-time prime minister, gradually foundering in a sea of his own lies. But there are other examples, too.

There was Donald Trump just a year and a bit ago, trying to drag an entire country down with him and having some success in the enterprise.

There's Jair Bolsonaro, flailing around as he awaits almost inevitable defeat by 'Lula' in next October's Brazilian election.

There's Viktor Orban, astounded to face a united six-party opposition in Hungary's April elections.

And what they have in common is that they are all liars. Not shy, sly liars. Bold, in-your-face, shameless liars. They don't care if you really know the truth from personal experience. It doesn't bother them that you know they are lying. They will just say the lie again – and you might even believe them, because they say it with such conviction.

They are convincing because after a split-second when they privately decide that some lie will serve their purpose, they actually believe it themselves. They have other markers, too: they are usually male, they are always intelligent, they are almost always charming, and they generally get through several spouses and many children in a lifetime. They are, in a word, sociopaths.

Almost all confidence trickster are sociopaths, but the reverse is not true. Sociopaths can also end in the highest positions in business, in the professions, even in politics. (Not so much in the military, where they tend to get found out early.) And in recent times, they have been showing up in the highest political offices in many countries. Why now?

Which takes me back to an interview I did with a sociologist in an American

I generally leave the psychohistory to Hari Seldon, but just this once I feel sufficiently motivated to venture into the field. The immediate spur for this departure is the spectacle – half-fascination, half-disgust – of Boris Johnson, Britain's part-time prime minister, gradually foundering in a sea of his own lies. But there are other examples, too.

university many years ago. He had written an article about how evolution had shaped human marriage customs, which somehow fitted into some radio doc I was doing at that time. God knows.

Anyway, we had finished up, and as I packed my gear I casually asked if he knew of any evolutionary circumstances that were changing human behaviour now. He paused for a moment, then said that he thought the sociopaths were multiplying. So I unpacked my gear and resumed the interview.

He began with the obvious statement that sociopathy is usually if not always a genetic property. Most sociopaths are born, not made. And he speculated on how they could have escaped being weeded out by natural selection back in the hunter-gatherer days, because those were small groups of people – thirty or forty adults – where everybody knew everybody else.

His answer was that small groups are not very vulnerable to a sociopath. Everybody has his number before he reaches reproductive age, so he can't be a super-spawner. Everybody checks his lies with everybody else, so he doesn't get away with much. And there are

continued on P.14...

...continued from P.13 certain rare circumstances where it could be handy to have a sociopath around.

Hunter-gatherer bands are normally not just egalitarian but literally leaderless. However, little groups that can suddenly face existential crises – a famine, a rival band – need somebody in reserve who can provide ruthless, charismatic leadership. He'll be almost an outcast in normal times, but one day you might need him, so don't breed him out entirely.

All went well until human beings started living in societies thousands or millions strong where the sociopaths become invisible. Nobody has their number, and there's an endless supply of strangers to deceive and exploit (and breed with).

A mass society is a sociopath's garden of delights. Of course their numbers are going up: my sociologist friend reckoned 3% of males and rising. And of course they are appearing in leadership positions because they can lie directly and convincingly to far more people. (Mass media gave them a boost, but social media made them rocket-propelled.)

I checked, by the way. All four of the men listed above are daily, even hourly liars. They are male, fairly intelligent, and some people at least find them charming.

They have all have five or more children (Johnson is at 7+), and all except Orban are currently on their third wives. Bingo!

But here's the really interesting question: why are all these men now on their way out of power or already gone? That may be part of their sociopathy too, because they all leave trails of human wreckage behind them: cheated partners, abandoned lovers, betrayed followers. They can't help it; it's who they are.

So the good news may be that genuine sociopaths get found out in the end. The bad news, however, is that there's lots more of them out there, and they're breeding like flies. 🐛



Freedoms on the Table

by Ken Fisher

I lounge in this Diner, (much relaxed)
just knowing the clientele are ' vaxed '
I love the pie here, Their perfect steak.
Outside, Some angry-guys, scream " Fake "
" Conspiracy ", and " Hear the ' Truth '
As I ponder the menu in The Diner's booth.

Now I've safely planned out my eating task,
much assured, (in a fitted mask)
And satisfied, with my choice ;
for ' Reason ' ...
which comes with a side of ' a peace of Freedom '.

Untitled

by Maureen Galbraith

Alone I stand on wrinkled sand,
Coloured shells were in my hands,
I mused upon a rugged rock,
While a heron motionless took stock,
An eagle soared drifting nigh,
And a feather fluttered slowly by,
And in the garden by the sea,
A white-washed cottage small and neat,
With orange blossoms at its feet,
And ivies growing straight and tall,
Along an herbacious border wall,
The splash of oars o'er water borne,
Boats striking home before a storm,
Blossoms burst in subtle shades,
While a rabbit hops across the glade,
Twilight descends and all is quiet,
Another day passes into night!

The Jab

by Thomas Provençal

A nightmare pharmaceutical
has filled my waking dreams:
would be doctors jab me
though proof exists in reams,
the potion that they're pushing
isn't what it seems.
Like laboratory guinea pigs
our freedom and our rights
are squeezed into a quarantine
with artificial lights
where TV hammers information
to convince us of a lie
that the jab is for protection
though from it people die.
The strongest evidence I see:
the rich are making money.
Is this what Justin had in mind
when touting times as "sunny"?
When I lineup for the booster
and sign the waiver form
I hope the jab won't kill me.
All I want is to conform.
I know that politicians lie;
it's how they get their job.
Doctors pledge to do no harm
but they're working for the mob.
What's the reason for the jab?
It doesn't stop the virus.
Bamboozed by the 1%
so they can hang and dry us.
Yet the jab is mere distraction.
It's all about control!
Impose a pass as pressure
to permit a social role.
The jab is just a smoke screen.
They really want the pass.
Bunnie bitch can take em all
an shove em up her ass.



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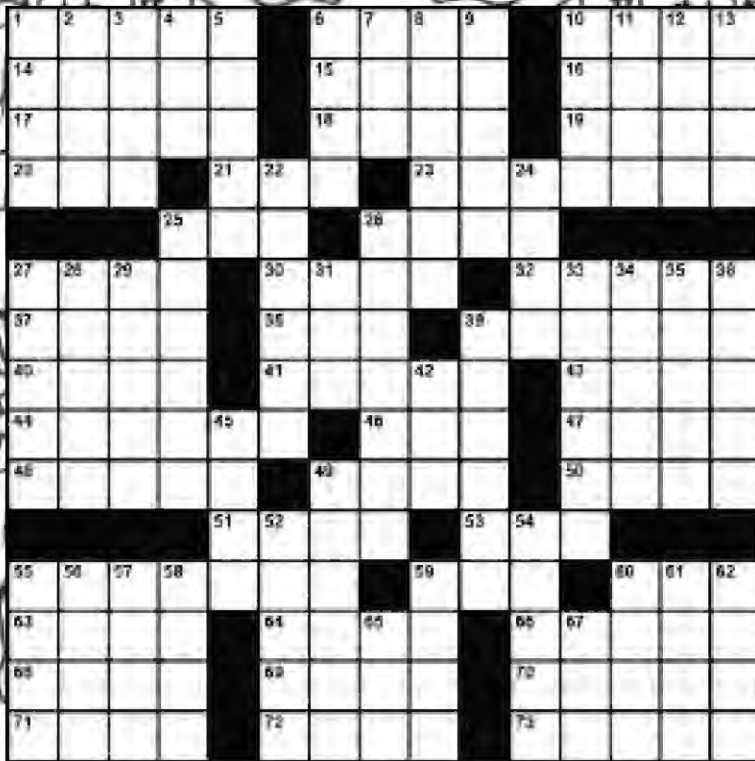
EDITORIAL POLICY

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 •



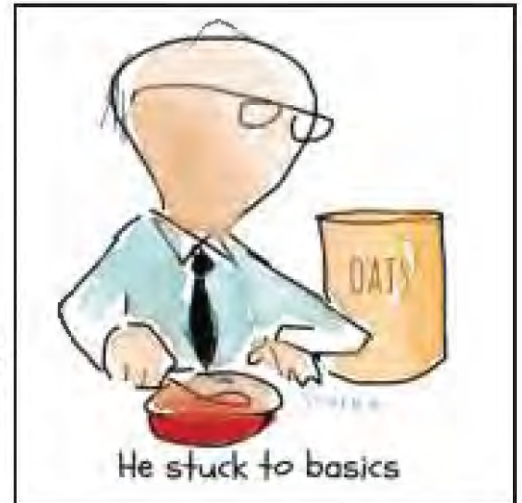
• ACROSS •

1. Mix-up
6. Frau's spouse
10. Drop feathers
14. Snake venom
15. Sandwich snack
16. Bhutan's locale
17. Narrow bay
18. Cliff projection
19. Mountain valley
20. Baby fish
21. Calligrapher's supply
23. Iffy
25. Clinic cost
26. Evil grin
27. A 1977 movie
30. Exploiter
32. Analyze ore
37. Airplane fixture
38. Foyer spread
39. Bailey of comics
40. Asian garment
41. Express a view
43. Ad sign
44. Delivery person, once
46. Big argument
47. Crash result
48. Essential oil
49. Concluding passage
50. Fertilizer compound

51. Anemic's supplement
53. Boot hill abbr.
55. Egyptian ruler
59. Became one
60. Band aid
63. Excellent
64. Abominable snowman
66. Mountaineer's refrain
68. Barflys
69. A son of Zeus
70. Tibetan capital
71. Dance piece
72. Bounding distance
73. Navigational system

• DOWN •

1. Be up and about
2. Forbidden subject
3. Car bar
4. Expression of shock
5. Free, in a way
6. Patronize a pawn shop
7. Drop the ball
8. Bookshop browser
9. Dishonest person
10. Biblical trio
11. Capital on the Aker river
12. Stead
13. Beach shades
22. Brain bit
24. Highland hillside
25. Shrine site
26. Type of restraint
27. Or in music
28. Change chemically
29. Insert mark
31. Have a dinner
33. Sentence to prison
34. Cowboy's charge
35. By oneself
36. Gossipy one
39. Caveat word
42. Agree silently
45. A Met score
49. Cling
52. Like a king
54. Pastoral poem
55. Bidding word
56. Cry of derision
57. Add to the pot
58. Answer, abbr.
59. Smoke curl
60. Hebrew month
61. A real butte
62. Architect's design
65. 1773 jetsam
67. Cousin of eureka



Mr. Stofer
www.stofergallery.com

Grumpism



“I had a girlfriend once who was an X-ray technician. Was never going to last, she could see right through me.”

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •



* Apologies for last week's mixup - I hope the kittens & puppies in this week's issue will placate any ill feelings.

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• SERVICES •

HORNBY COMPACT EXCAVATION

Versatile machine
and operator.

Small footprint efficient for
ditches, holes, levelling, brush
clearing, etc. Please inquire
email: Call: 2503350770
Matthewlingle@hotmail.ca



RUBBISH/TRASH REMOVAL.

Truck and single axle trailer.
Lawnmower service come
Springtime. Small Kubota
tractor/backhoe. Ideal for small
yard work call Brian: 250-335-
2390 or 250-650-2390

THORLACIUS TRUCKING Top soil,
bark mulch, gravel and sand.
Call Chris & Lora, 250-650-9986.
denmantruck@gmail.com

GUTTERS seamless, supply
and install also repairs, for free
estimate contact Kevin at 250
335 1986 or cell at 250 667
3233. Serving All Areas.

• FOR SALE •

ESTABLISHED LANDSCAPE/
GARDEN maintenance business
for sale. To be able to work
outside, on Denman, in nice
gardens, call 250.335.0768

RECUMBENT TRIKE - \$1700/obo
- call 335-2377 for more info.

WAGNER FIREWOOD. 2 cords
to Denman, \$610 plus GST.
Hornby, \$630 plus GST. Text or
call Scott at 250-334-7323

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION

SOCIETY Emergency Crisis Line:
250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-
4034 For more info visit [https://
cvts.ca](https://cvts.ca)

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/](https://denmanworks.wordpress.com/contact/)

• EMPLOYMENT •

THE GENERAL STORE needs two
more employees to start right
away. The applicants must have
some work experience, be able
to take direction but also be able
to determine and prioritize what
needs to be done. A Serving It
Right certificate is necessary, as
are references. Call 250 335-
2293 or email denmanisland.
generalstore@gmail.com if inter-
ested. A resume could also be
dropped off at the Store.

THE ABRAXAS CAFE located in
the heart of Denman Island is
looking for a barista and sand-
wich maker. The job pays \$17 an
hour with experience (on average
with tips \$21 an hour or more).
I am looking for a commitment
through to September (it can
get to a high pace environment
in Summer) or hopefully lon-
ger! Start training mid-March.
Please call during banking hours
2507021769 or email resume to
Abraxas9@telus.net.

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

• WANTED •

INTERIOR FRENCH DOOR. Also,
a pair of fisherman pants (wool/
size about 44).
John Wells Ph.250-335-1079

• FREEBIES •

FREE FIREWOOD from milling
operations on Denman. Bucked
up in firewood lengths. Easy to
split. Mostly fir. Some cedar.
Seasoned. You load... Contact
Lucille (403) 617-8296



By Angelika Forray

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

- Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
- Denman Community Hall Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
2 halls, commercial kitchen, new sound system
suitable for concerts, plays, meetings, weddings, etc.

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 335-2510 (H/D)
- Cloutier Matthews LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants 338-7367 (All)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)
- Sylvie Schroeder • Royal LePage Denman Island 335-2551 (D/U)
- Katarina Meglic • Pemberton Holmes Realty 778-557-7429 (D/H)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoepner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation 335-3145 (D/H)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake 613-447-8873 (D/H)
- Denman Electric, Licensed, Fully Insured & Bonded 335-3122 (D/H)
- DB clearing & excavations • call or text 250-465-1889 (D)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather 703-6512 (All)
• John Isbister 335-2565 (D)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • Licenced, Bonded & Insured 702-0570 (D/H)
- Tandem gravel truck & transfer trailer • Grant Morrison 335-0702 (D/H)
- Scott Knight • Licensed Home Inspection 604-779-9335 (D/H)

• SERVICES •

- Denman Workst • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Music Lessons & Piano Tuning • Scott Knight 604-779-9335 (D/H)
- Landscaping & Home Services • Beech&Cedar Home Maintenance
(Kane) • 335-0745 (D/H)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac • 778-992-0165 (D/H)
- Acupuncturist, Herbalist, Physiotherapist • Carmen B-G, RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 10

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 5-7pm

FRIDAY 11

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 12

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

SUNDAY 13

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

MONDAY 14

TUESDAY 15

WEDNESDAY 16

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

THURSDAY 17

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 5-7pm



FRIDAY 18

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 19

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30am
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- TEA WITH YOUR TRUSTEE
Guesthouse 1-3pm

SUNDAY 20

MONDAY 21

TUESDAY 22

WEDNESDAY 23

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

THURSDAY 24

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 5pm-7pm

2022 Denman Island Phone Directory

Deadline for changes and new listings
is **March 6.**

Submit to:

denmanislanddirectory@gmail.com or
leave a message at 250-335-1483.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE AND TEXT LINE FOR WOMEN

Crisis Line phone number: 250-338-1227

Text number: 250-218-4034

The Lilli House 24-hour Crisis and Text Line provides immediate support and information to all women, trans women, and gender non-binary folks who are experiencing abuse.

Family and friends who are concerned about someone experiencing abuse are also welcome to call/text these numbers for information and support.

Trained staff at Lilli House respond to the calls/texts and will share information about where to find resources in the community. Staff can support those who are at risk of violence to create a safety plan for themselves and their children.

Lilli House serves the Comox Valley, including Denman and Hornby Island, and can provide a taxi service from Buckley Bay to a safe shelter. Free and confidential counseling is available.





Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 60, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

February 2022

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of **DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION** will be
7:30 pm on Monday, February 28, 2022
on **ZOOM**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ Reports from: Co-chair, Treasurer & Lands Manager
- ❖ Election of Directors

*** *To request a link to the meeting email info@denmanconservancy.org* ***

On the Land

Introducing the New DCA Lands Manager: Andy Blackburn! by Erika Bland

Andy is currently in training as the incoming Lands Manager and will take the reins beginning March 1, 2022. Andy grew up in the UK where he studied Physical Geography at the University of Nottingham before moving to BC 6 years ago. After working in science education in Prince Rupert, he moved to Denman in 2020. He is passionate about growing food, and spends any spare time poking at mosses and lichens and playing banjo in his shed. He truly appreciates all the time, energy, sweat and tears the residents of Denman have put into conserving valuable landscapes for the future. He greatly values the protection of ecologically sensitive areas, along with the restoration of disturbed landscapes. He is looking forward to helping continue the DCA's important work on Denman. He also really likes Buffleheads. If you'd like to wish Andy a warm welcome, you can reach him via his new DCA email address: lands.dca@gmail.com.



Andy Blackburn
DCA Land Manager

‘Raven Lands’

a.k.a Pickles Waterfall Wetland Conservation Area

DCA has now completed the transfer process to secure the ~80 acres known locally as the ‘Raven lands’ on Pickles Road. DCA is excited to begin making stewardship plans for this precious area. Once the weather is a bit nicer, we will organize a public walk at the land, so islanders can learn a bit about this lovely and very special place and how to explore it! Meanwhile, here is a map of the land showing its existing walking trail, a lovely, mossy old logging road through the regenerating forest. There are no other trails laid out on the land yet, but that will come as part of the management planning process. We are so grateful for all the support received for this project from islanders and various agencies over the past year.

Building and Strengthening Relationships with Local First Nations

by Erika Bland

Spurred on by the recent Pickles Road acquisition DCA has recently formed a committee to work in collaboration with our membership on building and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples in our region. This work is critical as we make decisions about lands that we hold, steward and manage for conservation. We must do a better job at ensuring local First Nations, on who's traditional territories we live and work, are invited to

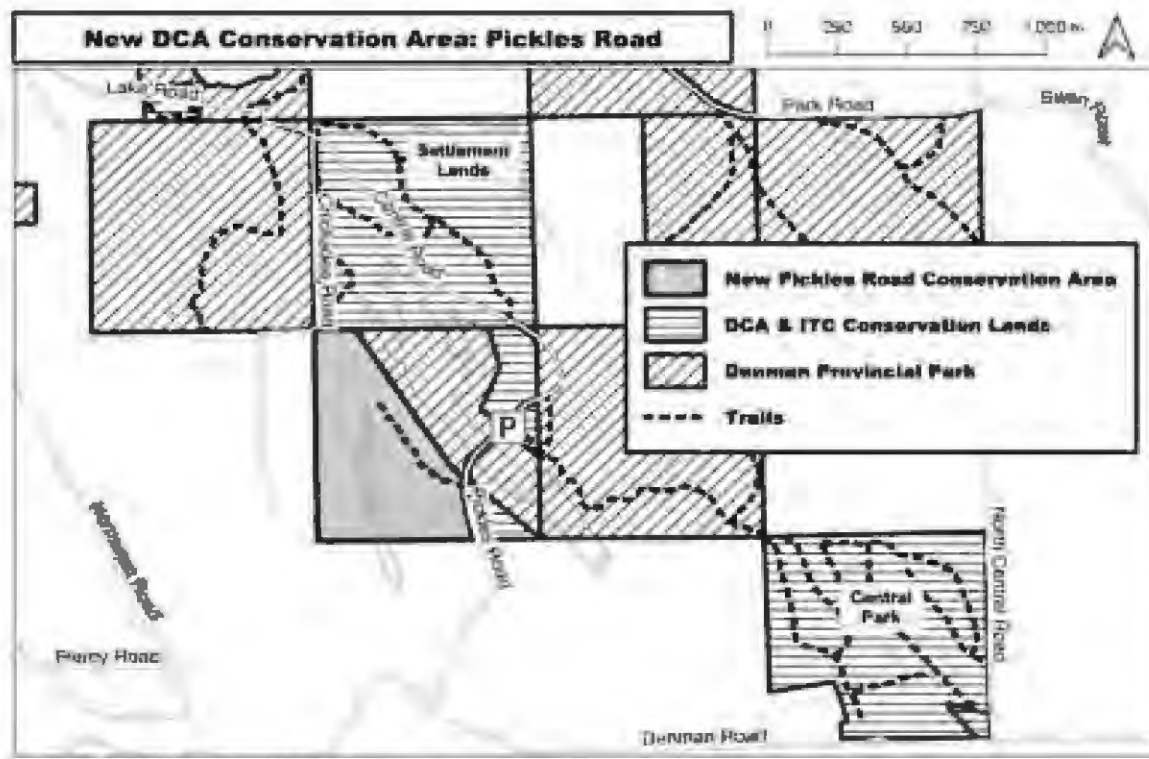
participate in that process, if they wish, from the outset—not just consulted at the tail end of our management planning processes.

Before undertaking any management planning for the new Pickles Rd conservation area this committee will reach out to local First Nations with news of this newly protected area.

Relationship building is the first step to any collaborative efforts between DCA and local First Nations with respect to how we approach the management of DCA lands. We hope that there will be some mutual interest in building a relationship.

In a previous conversation with K’ómoks First Nation Chief and Council, I heard from them that one possible way to cooperate could also be around place naming; consultation on place names is one way to ensure that we as settler land stewards acknowledge the important ties that Indigenous peoples have to the places we collectively hold dear. Thus, we hope the name for the new Pickles Road conservation area will be determined with input from local First Nations. At the same time, we may also ask for input on the renaming of the adjacent ‘Settlement Lands’ property.

Building any relationship of trust and mutual affinity is a process that takes time, but we hope we will learn a lot as we go and that it will be a positive experience for all of us. If DCA members are keen to get involved with this effort, please don’t hesitate to reach out!



2021 – Year in Review

Despite COVID constraints, DCA made good progress in fulfilling the goals of its *5-year Strategic Plan 2020-25*.

Among the highlights:

- * Acquired 80-acre Raven Lands
- * Acquired 28-acre Danes Creek South parcel
- * Reviewed Management Plans for Lindsay Dickson (LD), Inner Island (IINR) & Valens Brook (VB) Nature Reserves
- * Completed DRAFT Railway Grade Marsh Management Plan; sent to BC Parks & 13 First Nations for review
- * Designated Volunteer Stewards for LD, IINR, VB & Settlement Lands (SL)
- * Met requirements for monitoring lands, covenants & management plans
- * Maintained existing trails & consulted with Parks & Island committees to establish new trails
- * Initiated water quality monitoring on SL
- * Consulted with Regional Implementation Group for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly & BC Parks regarding hydrological alterations in Park Butterfly Reserve
- * Participated at Summer Market for community outreach & conservation education
- * Facilitated "Workshop 'n Lop" – 10 educational work bees on DCA lands
- * Collaborated with DICES to support an annual Spring Break Nature Camp
- * Involved 15 youth in native seed collection
- * facilitated production of a DCA "Importance of Beavers" video by local youth for Isfeld High School's virtual Eco Fair
- * Partnered with birders for Bird-a-Thon 2021
- * Established DCA committee working on Indigenous Sovereignty and Reconciliation to inform DCA's work
- * Created a brochure on bequest options to support DCA conservation – available at Summer Market & from Comox Valley solicitors
- * Conducted the on-going bat program, collaborating with Conservancy Hornby Island
- * Hosted the ever-popular used Book Sale (this time, indoors with COVID protocols)
- * Undertook intense and wide-reaching fundraising efforts to support DCA's work

2022 Home and Garden Tour

Our Tour coordinators have been doing a great job preparing for the Home and Garden Tour in these uncertain times. Of course, everything is still dependent on that nasty little coronavirus but we're all remaining hopeful that the Tour will go ahead as planned on June 11 and 12.

We're very pleased that JoAnne and Naomi have found 11 homeowners who have already committed to the tour and an additional 21 people who have volunteered to help. While Naomi and JoAnne have been hard at work here on Denman, Katarina has been ably coordinating our media campaign from Barcelona (poor Katarina!)

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Naomi (naomielliot0@gmail.com) or JoAnne (joanneshepherd3210@gmail.com).

AGM by ZOOM (Again)

Please join us: 7:30 pm Monday 28 February

If you haven't received a link, send a request to info@denmanconservancy.org

Get your **questions** answered about Conservancy activities, properties or policies

or maybe just: "Who are these Guys?"

Join the Board?

DCA is seeking new Board members to help guide the organization.

We have interesting tasks ahead with planning for our new lands, caring for existing substantial Conservation Reserves and readying for the challenges ahead.

If you are interested in this work please contact DD Fuchs or Susan-Marie Yoshihara.



Beaver: one of our favourite Denman Isl. wild residents

Donation of Danes Creek Wetland to DCA

DCA would like to thank Henning Nielsen and Bente Pilgaard, of PanDesign Inc., for their generous Ecological Gift of 28 acres of the Danes Creek Wetland Covenant Area. In 2010, these owners, in cooperation with DCA, placed a conservation covenant on 45 acres of this large privately-owned wetland complex. Now, a significant portion of the covenanted-land has been gifted to DCA ownership. In addition, DCA has placed the necessary capital, from the DCA acquisition fund, in trust with the Vancouver Foundation, towards the long-term stewardship of this wetland property.

Conservation ownership means not only that the complete protection, but also all possible day to day research and monitoring activities, are directly overseen by DCA. Also, the former owners are relieved of their covenant and property oversight on those acres.

The Danes Creek wetland area was first noted by the international ecologist Dr. Chris Pielou as a significant Western redcedar, skunk cabbage swamp. At that time a remarkable overstory tree-canopy spread above, while among the trees-roots were curious pockets of wetland plants, particularly skunk cabbage.

This site surrounded the headwater basin of Danes Creek. Here, the lower western edge of the impressive Quadra sand formation of Denman's Komos bluffs, meets and overlies the impermeable rocky sandstone-conglomerate formation of Denman's central ridge. Running water over the shallow Danes Creek sands is still a year-round feature.

Logging removed the impressive trees in the late 1990's, but the wetland remained and its significance was apparent. Over the subsequent two decades, the site has evolved from open water pools to complex ponds, marshes and drainage channels. Beaver have been busy organizing water flow patterns. Now, young-tree and residual forest patches surround open sphagnum bog areas. Birds, amphibians, dragonflies and small mammals abound in the diverse terrestrial and aquatic habitats. While many young Sitka spruce trees grow on the wetland edges, a significant and unusual forest of large Western white pines adjoins this wetland property on the upland sands.

With the changing climate, the area's future ecological development is unknown, but if our Western redcedar trees do survive into the future, this wetland may well be one of their sanctuaries. Biologists will observe this sensitive area carefully over the coming years.



Shallow wet areas with Sedges & Skunk Cabbage



Growing Sphagnum moss surrounding skunk cabbage

Webmaster Wanted

DCA is looking for a new webmaster for denman-conservancy.org. The web site, running on Wordpress, is still functional but it has not been refurbished since 2012. Offers to Update the web site, and/or expressions of interest in routine maintenance work may be sent to: info@denmanconservancy.org

Contributors to this Newsletter: Jenny Balke, Andy Blackburn, Erika Bland, DD Fuchs, John Millen, Patti Willis, Susan-Marie Yoshihara.