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Cover image: Photo Remy Skolney



Correction for "Clarity Around the Covered Recreation Space"

By Sam Borthwick
• CRS Committee

COMMUNITY INFO

I would like to issue an apology for, and a correction to the article I submitted last week on behalf of the CRS Committee.

The article stated that there was opposition from the Tennis Court resurfacing project to having pickleball lines on the court- this is incorrect. The new surface of the tennis court will have both tennis lines and pickleball lines. 🍷

Denman Baroque Workshop & Festival

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Andrew Fyson

Denman Baroque Workshop & Festival May 8-14

WE are just a few days away! Despite all the work and stress and frustrations, we are nearly ready for another dip into the wonderful pot pourri of baroque entertainment. I am getting excited at the prospect of meeting old friends and new faces, to put together classy performances of wonderful, but little-known music. This truly community event, quite unlike anything else on this planet, continues to confound its doubters and produce memorable shows of delightful music performed by extremely talented enthusiasts. Instructors and workshop participants alike are eager to return year after year to experience immersion in the fine music of an earlier epoque, performed by world-class musicians and all set in a little paradise.

The performances kick off with the Instructors' (Contrasto Armonico) concert on Tuesday evening (May 10, Community Hall at 7.30 pm, by donation) with Paul Luchkow (violin), Romeo Ciuffa (recorders and baroque flute) and our musical director Marco Vitale entertaining us with delightful chamber pieces by Roberto Valentini (recorder sonatas), Georg Muffat (violin sonata), Bernado Storace (variations on the Folia theme) and Joseph Bodin de Boismortier (trio sonata for recorder, violin and continuo).

On Thursday evening (Community Hall at 7.30 pm, by donation), the workshop participants, with some guidance from the 3 instructors will perform 3 magnificent madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) for voices with instrumental accompaniment. We have two gifted soprano students and good friends, Akina Kishiyama and Isolde Welby from UVic who will perform the amazing O come sei gentile (Oh how gentle you are, dear little bird) scored for 2 sopranos and basso continuo (Anne Duranceau on Violone). The extraordinary O che'l chel a la terra e'l vento tace (Now, while sky and earth and wind are still) setting of a Petrarch poem will be performed by 6 singers with 2 violinists and a continuo group. Other singers including Bob Kowalewski as tenor soloist, will be joined by 2 violinists and continuo players in Introduzione al ballo a cinque voci (Introduction to the ball for five voices). To help us appreciate how skilfully Monteverdi has molded a fine score to a beautiful poem, Robert Newton has created surtitles which you may read while listening to the music. Don't miss it!

Our finale (Saturday May 14, 2.30 pm) will be a production of John Blow's Venus and Adonis from 1683 written as entertainment for Charles II the English King of the Restoration. It is the earliest surviving true opera in the English language and telling the story of Venus' seduction of the young shepherd Adonis with the assistance of her son Cupid (sung by Abby Boggs). Venus (sung by Manya Sadouski) sends Adonis (sung by Andrew Fyson) off to hunt an infamous wild boar so that he does not tire from making love. Adonis returns, gored by the boar, and dies in Venus' arms. Venus' lament and the final chorus are very moving. There will be dancing by Kathy Stoyko and Caresse Nadeau. We hope to see you there, a show not to be missed! Tickets (\$20) are available at Abraxas Books, Denman General Store and at the door. For off-islanders, call 250-335-9047 (Andrew or Robert) to reserve a seat. Thanks again to all those who have made this event possible by their generous donations of money and time! For safety of all, please wear a mask. 🍷

Phoenix Riting!

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Phoenix Bee

SOME people like to make waves; others prefer to ride them. I'm partial to riding them; less effort, more fun. Speaking of waves, we are on the cusp of a really big one this month. Already visitors are flooding our little island, but that's nothing to the tsunami we can expect during and after the May long weekend. Are we ready for this? With restrictions lifted, and the steep rise in travel costs (along with all costs), some vacationers who would normally choose to holiday in Hawaii or other exotic locales will likely turn their attention to Hornby Island, aka Canada's Caribbean, aka Hawaii of the North.

That makes us sound so attractive, and we are. Some call it the price we pay to live in Paradise, and we should just deal with it. But there's more to the story than "Oh poor us, we're inconvenienced, so crowded, all these people, ew!" There's a lot at stake here. Our tiny island ecosystem is strained to its limit. We have no lakes; our few creeks dry up by autumn and our shared water table seems to go dry earlier every year. This year, fortunately, we've had tons of precipitation. It's still raining, and while part of me wants to complain, the rest of me can't help thinking how good this is for our poor beleaguered water table. We're going to need every drop! Besides the problem of water, we don't have accommodations for so many visitors. Rentals are sold out early, campgrounds are fully booked before the season even starts. Where will they all stay?

Many of our island businesses that serve visitors—cafes for instance—can't hire enough staff because there is no housing for them to live in. So where will people eat? In my darker dreams they resort to foraging, stripping trees and bushes like locusts, ravaging farmer's fields. We have reached a limit, but we don't know how to enforce it.

There has been talk of erecting signage to discourage people from impulse-visiting if they don't have accommodations already in place. I don't know if anything has or is being done about that, nor am I sure it will make a difference. People may decide to wing it, take a chance, because how bad could it be? There are woods to set up a tent (and poop) in, and roadsides and beach accesses to park vehicles for the night. "After all, we did it last year, and it was fine!" But was it?

We are small. We don't have a lot of room for extra people. We have real limits, and I can only hope we don't stress them too much. All this extra rain will help, it's a blessing we very much need. And with so much to be grateful for, there are still problems to deal with. There's only so much we can do about it, for now. My advice, for what it's worth: breathe. Then take another breath. And then keep breathing. We'll get through it, one way or another.

In the meantime, let's enjoy this sweetly scented air, those moments when the sun peeps through the clouds, the world is washed in glory and we can remove a layer or two of clothing before the rain starts again. Beauty is free, you can enjoy it anywhere, but in spring, on this island, it's spilling out everywhere. Trees are greening wildly, birds are singing their birdy little hearts out and blessings overflow. What more could we ask for?

And now, on to my very first Blues Camp. I'll tell you all about it next week!

I'd love to hear your thoughts! Email me at phoenixonhornby@gmail.com 🍷

Green Wizardries, Four-Square Gardens & the Importance of Wild Birds

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

SPRING seems to have arrived this afternoon as I write this on the second of May, with blue skies and much sunshine. I am not sure if I believe it. We have been fooled before. A very respectable man on Denman says this spring has been the worst since 1981 for cold weather. On Beltane, May first, we visited a friend on Hornby and tried to walk along the curve of Tribune Bay but it soon became apparent that we were all going to be flash frozen like fish sticks if we kept it up.

The birds are back and I have feared for the swallows who cannot hunt on very cold days as none of their insect prey will be able to fly in such cold weather. The cold and wet weather has given us a wonderful show on our pale-pink camellia. The blossoms are extravagant and are lasting such a long time this year. A gallant friend said that we have the best camellia show on Denman Island.

He said this when I had a few friends over and was showing them my gardens. What I was proudest of and wish most to share with you is my new, no-till garden. We only started it last year, early that spring, and it was wonderfully productive last summer. It was just a sheep pasture, full of grass, until we decided to expand our garden last year and fenced it in.

TIDE TABLE

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

2022-05-05 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
03:50	3.7	12.1
07:17	3.9	12.8
15:22	1.1	3.6
23:21	4.5	14.8
2022-05-06 (Fri)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
05:23	3.7	12.1
07:13	3.8	12.5
15:59	1.3	4.3
2022-05-07 (Sat)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
00:15	4.4	14.4
16:44	1.5	4.9
2022-05-08 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
01:12	4.4	14.4
17:42	1.7	5.6
2022-05-09 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
02:04	4.4	14.4
18:50	1.9	6.2
2022-05-10 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
02:46	4.4	14.4
10:03	2.9	9.5
13:48	3.1	10.2
19:58	2	6.6
2022-05-11 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
03:20	4.5	14.8
10:17	2.5	8.2
15:18	3.3	10.8
21:00	2.1	6.9
2022-05-12 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)	(m)	(ft)
03:48	4.5	14.8
10:40	2.1	6.9
16:28	3.6	11.8
21:57	2.3	7.5



continued on P.4.

...continued from P.3 Just a note on fencing, it takes more than a six-foot fence to stop deer. Ours is seven feet tall with page wire up to about six feet and then we have a wire stapled to the top of the fence posts. We have not had a deer jump that fence in 12 years.

It is not only deer you need to exclude from the food garden but also raccoon. Raccoon like to get into a garden and eat up all the strawberries and grapes which is understandable (who would not?) but they will dig up beds of vegetable seedlings, tossing the seedlings aside to get at the worms in the beds.



This is very frustrating and we found we had to place a four-foot tall bolt of chicken wire at the bottom of the garden fence. The first six inches we pegged to the ground and the rest of the chicken wire went up the page-wire fence. At the top of that, we placed a strand of electric fencing wire. As long as the batteries were working, we never had a raccoon in the garden.

We started in the new garden by cutting the grass and covering it with newspapers, paper feed bags and cardboard. We covered that with stable waste from the sheep fold, the chicken house and the rabbit barn. Some weeds were so strong that they came up through the mulch but we just threw down more paper feed bags and stable waste on top of them. We were able to get a very large space for gardening for very little effort.

The no-till garden has far fewer weeds than the old vegetable garden. It is easier to work in and to change the spacing of plants but my favourite part is that we divided the new garden into four quarters with a path. A lot of crops need a four-year rotation and it gets harder every year to remember what I planted a few years before. In the new garden, I have a brassica bed, an alium bed, a potato patch and a corn patch. All I have to do is to shift the beds to the right every year and I have my four year rotation built in.

I like the raised beds in the old garden with their deep, fluffy soil for carrots, parsnips and other root vegetables. I keep my perennial vegetables, such as asparagus, in the old garden. The raised beds are good for salad crops and now is a good time to plant out a bed of chard.

I prefer Lucullus chard to any other variety. Its lime-green slightly savoyed leaves are delicate enough to use in salads and cooked, it make an excellent substitute for

spinach. Spinach is day-length sensitive and bolts when the days grow longer, no matter what you do. Chard is much easier as it is a biennial and overwinters nicely most years. It gives you a good crop of greens the second spring before flowering and setting seed. Do not try to grow beet and chard seed the same year in the garden as they will cross-pollinate.

Just outside of the new garden, we have a brush pile in the sheep pasture. The brush pile is essential to attract white-crowned sparrows. These birds need a brush pile to build their nest in. We never had any white crowns here until we built a big brush pile when we cleared a field. My husband meant to burn the pile but the weather grew too dry. We were soon inundated with white-crowned sparrows, some lovely little wrens and towhees who were all nesting in the same brush pile. So I urge everyone who can to go out and build the largest brush pile they can manage to accommodate birds who need them to nest in.

We are very lucky with our birds here. Our violet-green swallows come back year after year to nest in the bird box outside my office window. We started with a pair and now seem to be up to eight birds. They perch on our wash line where we can admire their colours from the breakfast table. Another favoured visitor is our house wren who showed up a few days ago and announced his return in a great burst of song. I attribute our success with the birds to having a diversity of plants and never, never using synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides or fungicides. They are not necessary and they are not helpful in the long run.

The best birds were kept for Beltane. I got up very early on the the first of May and went out into the garden to perform my ritual to celebrate this great festival. I had lots of company from yellow and white crowned sparrows and bossy rufus hummingbirds. Just as I finished and was tidying up, two pair of American Goldfinches arrived at our feeder. Truly, a divine gift.



Letters to the Editor

GOOD news that the Schoolboard will be building a beautiful timber frame covered area at the School yard and also at the preschool so.... two new covered areas to be used during the summer and the before and after school hours. So families and children's needs seem to be met already. The youth who want basketball facilities, already have an indoor and outdoor court. I am wondering how many soccer people want to play on concrete instead of grass.

I know my Seniors Tai Chi group would always prefer to do our sets in the open fresh air, not undercover. When the weather gets cold we definitely prefer to be in the warm gym.

It would seem to me that, a winter market if they, wanted to move, would be better indoors in the warmth of the Hall.

This will be a costly building that has not got insurance coverage and it is unclear who will be responsible for that? Have the costs changed and who will fund raise for this structure?

I also wonder which group will manage clean up and maintenance when birds, wasps or hornets choose to nest or, garbage and cans and butts will get left in the area?

Does the proposed building fit into the heritage structure of the Hall aesthetic?
OSB and tin siding?

My overriding concern is that this building will fill up the only remaining green open space that our Downtown Center has.

I want to see the free flow of community gatherings that have been traditionally held in that little meadow.

This building will fill up and interrupt the ability to gather together. It will block the sports field and change the whole feel of the green space.

We already have a stage off the back of the Community Hall.

To be squeezed into a shelter to watch the Zucchini race seems an antithesis to the whole idea of outdoor celebration of the Fall Faire.

I think we need to keep our little meadow as it is.

Leyah Kelly 🍷

Panic Pandemic/Reality Check

Bi-annual Review - Canada

Age group	Distribution	Died
01-11	10.9	25
12-19	8.9	11
20-29	19.0	109
30-39	17.6	277
40-49	15.2	596
50-59	12.3	1,711
60-69	7.4	4,042
70-79	4	8,085
80+	4.7	22,872

Deaths : 39,230 (April 30/22)

Infections : 3,740,545

Approx. Population : 37,000,000

Reality: 50% of adults and 75% of children have already caught COVID. The posted number of infections is a useless statistic. Yet the Liberals still stress the numbers. Less said on the chance of dying.

The number of deaths is closer to the truth.

90% of fatalities involve those over 60. Those under 60 are human shields.

Teens got adult dosages. One size fit all. Push on to vaccinate children as young as 6 months. CDC drew the line on fetuses in the womb.

Pfizer tests based on fewer than 400 pregnant mothers. **continued on P.6...**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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HomeStars  



...continued from P.5 Who are you going to trust!

Overview: COVID escapes from a Chinese lab. Shows up in Italy. Kills the elderly. Two month later, the same thing happened in Canada. In underfunded extended care homes. No warning. No preparation. Gross incompetence. Didn't have to happen. Had experience with SARS. Governments had to deflect blame from their incompetence.

Experimental drugs go through a decade of tests. Canada wrote a blank check for the worst companies in the worst industry. No corporate liability. Open season for the big Pharma pushers. The vaccinated are psychologically addicted to boosters. Dependency.

Specialists revolve through the CDC door. U.S. labs share RNA science with a Wuhan lab. By spectacular bad luck, COVID appeared in a local outdoor market. The doctor who broke the news died. (In China that's normal.) The affordable Oxford and J&J vaccines couldn't get approved by the CDC or NHS. 90 labs are working on vaccines worldwide. CDC only responds to studies of certain wealthy labs.

By spectacular good luck, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines cost 24 more than the unapproved vaccines. (2 boosters)

Sales: Pfizer/Moderna (2021) \$54,000,000,000; (2022) est. \$51,000,000,000.

Profit: (2021) J&J, \$3,000,000,000. Pfizer/Moderna \$34,000,000,000. Net of the expense of wiping down the chandeliers in the board rooms. Five new billionaires came out of this.

This is war profiteering. Big Pharma can buy a lot of experts and politicians with pocket change.

J&J and Oxford had blood clot issues. Materially insignificant. 18,000 blood clots worldwide. RNA technology is the norm. Is it, or the virus, the cause?

J&J and Oxford could have developed a real vaccination. Not a synthetic solution.

Pfizer and Moderna Websites still claim to be 95% effective. Never more than 84%. RNA is rejected as a foreign substance.

Test kits verge on useless. Pharmaceuticals skew test results.

Protection wanes after two stabs. 50+% lost after 6 months. Herd immunity through vaccinations is a myth.

1% of world pop. died during the Spanish flu pandemic. No vaccines. Survivors were blessed with natural immunity. Over and done in two years.

Far better medicine today. If you trust the science, over 1% of Canadians died. If you trust Nature, 00.1% died.

Most fatalities are elderly. The elderly get an annual flu shot.

The vaccinated are as likely to infect others as are the unvaccinated. Or more likely, as their symptoms aren't as obvious.

The vaccinated got to blame the unvaccinated for the mutations. They thought they were 100% protected. No sickness; no spread. Therefore, the fault lay with the unvaccinated.

The unvaccinated get sick. They either die, or acquire a natural immunity. For life. No threat to Nature. No reason for mutations.

The over-vaccinated deplete their protection. Pfizer science is from Mars. Stored @ minus 40-70 C. Unstable. RNA synthetics fight the virus in a half assed way. Nature perceives even that as a threat. The response is the mutations. Sixth wave, and counting.

The overuse of vaccinations has led to untreatable superbugs. 400,000 unpreventable deaths from malaria alone.

COVID speeds up aging. It accelerates underlying health conditions by several years. 200 conditions from "long COVID" are on record. Covers just about everything.

83.1% are fully vaccinated. Half the dead are fully vaccinated. Vaccines only delay the inevitable. Daily deaths got down into the 20's. With the appearance of the less lethal OhMyGod! mutation it's back into the 50's-70's. In the most extreme cases it averages out for a few more hours of life.

Vancouver hospitals limit the effectiveness of a mask. After two hours, throw it away.

Relentless propaganda. Reckless squelching of dissent. Deflection of criticism. No investigative journalism.

A monumental blunder for the ages. A spectacular con. Neighbours judging one another. Big Pharma laughing all the way to the bank. Corrupted Governments. No economy, effectiveness, efficiency. Bankrupts future generations. Medical procedures delayed. Pain, suffering, casualties. A crisis of our making.

A physical solution is now a metaphysical problem. Trust the science? Trust nature! She takes care of her own. As with climate change, she feeds off our collective despair. Better to blame corruption for that!

Sources: Globe and Mail, Guardian, Financial Post, CBC

Hersh Chernovsky 🍷

Wild Walk

FOR all those wily walkers out there, I'm taking a 21 km, stroll on the wild side of Denman on Monday, May 9th in support of the World Wildlife Fund - raising funds to restore and encourage all the natural life that surrounds us. I like walking, as running is an unnatural act, except in races and to the bathroom. Like a camel, I can go without a walk for 7 days – and have on several horrible occasions. If you would like to sponsor me, go to: <https://fundraisers.wwf.ca/fundraisers/morleycrosby>

All coin goes to WWF.

See you on the Wild side of Life! Cheers!

Bob Morley 🍷

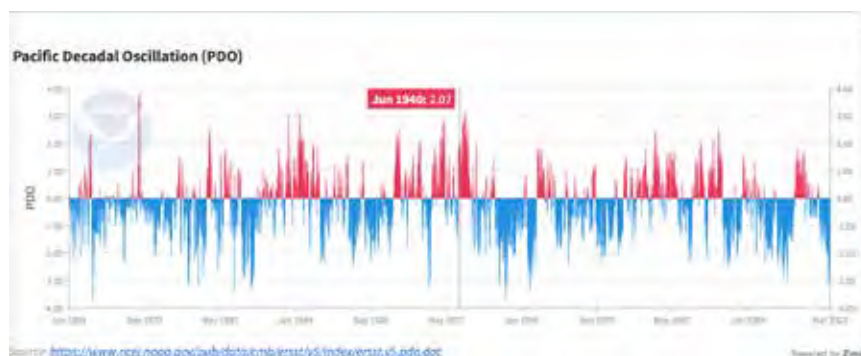
Shortages in the Land of Plenty

OPINION

By Helen Grond, M.Sc. (UBC, Geology '82)

VIRTUALLY all government policy in Canada (and elsewhere in the world) is modelled on the currently dominant theory of manmade global warming. If you look through the Islands Trusts' revised policy statement, you can see it is the main driver of land use policies throughout our islands as well.

The elephant in the room...



The elephant in the room is “natural climate variability”. Listening to the politicians, one would think it doesn't even exist. You only have to hear the words “ice age” to realize that's absurd. As scientists continue to study natural climate change and politicians and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) continue to pretend it's immaterial, I would like to draw your attention to an important natural climate cycles affecting us right here in our neck of the woods. The following graph of natural decadal (decades long) oscillations in ocean currents in the Pacific has been updated to March 2022 and as you can see we are in a pronounced cooling phase (lower bars).

“The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is often described as a long-lived El Niño-like pattern of Pacific climate variability (Zhang et al. 1997). As seen with the better-known El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), extremes in the PDO pattern are marked by widespread variations in the Pacific Basin and the North American climate.”

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/teleconnections/pdo/>

No, you are not crazy for feeling as if the weather over the last couple of years has been changing and generally getting cooler and wetter than “normal”. This graph tracks the decadal oscillations – and related temperature variations back to 1854 and as you can see there's a lot of ups and downs. The extreme and persistent heat waves (upper bars) of the 1930's are very noticeable on

continued on P.8...

Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Hornby Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the agency. Applicants must reside on Hornby Island in order to be considered for this position.

**For information and an application form
please visit our website at:
gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner**



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Graham Lake Swim Dock

So many of us get so much pleasure swimming off the dock down at Graham Lake; but with so much use, and at times such inclement weather, we now need to do some serious renovations on the dock. Our preferred option is to raise about \$15,000 to \$20,000 to do a complete overhaul, something that will last for years (the last dock was built in 2007 and has made it to today), the second option is to raise about \$2,500 now, have another go at patchwork, and see if we can put the money together for the major work over the coming year. Our plan is to see how much money comes in by May 15 this year, if we have enough to do the major renovations by then, we'll proceed; if not, we'll do what needs to be done to keep the dock afloat for another year and keep collecting money for a major overhaul in 2023. If you would like to help, please make a cheque out to DIRA, and send it to the DIRA mailing address, 5901 Denman Road, Denman Island, BC, V0R 1T0. Cheques or cash can also be dropped off at the Graham Lake Swim Dock box in the general store (left side of the main counter). If you would like further details, or would like to help with the renovations, please contact J Thornton at 250-335-9089 or jmt.rtd@gmail.com (we are very grateful to J for leading the charge back in 2007).

Thanks so much, and happy swimming!
Graham Lake Swim Dock Committee
Ian Elliot (Chair)
ianelliott0@gmail.com

...continued from P.7 this graph. Imagine the heat bomb event we witnessed last June playing out every summer for nine years! There are many other natural climate cycles that make this area of study complex and ever changing as new information comes forward. It's an important and rapidly changing field that, apparently, has gone completely unnoticed by the politicians who seem to be on snooze mode. So much for following the science!

At least some of the global food supply problems we are seeing now are related to cooler and wetter conditions in critical growing areas. I closely follow worldwide food production and it's been dropping significantly (for several years) in many parts of the world (especially China) due to natural cyclical climate change. This has been steadily predicted for years by climate scientists who have been able to see the current cooling cycle coming. These scientists also understand how parts of the earth will experience extreme droughts as these natural cycles play out.

We should be pressuring our politicians to help us plan for these cycles and learn to mitigate their consequences - that is if we could focus their attention away from their single minded efforts to come up with new and novel taxation schemes. They also seem to be awfully busy flying on private jets to international climate conferences that never achieve anything beyond socializing and narrative fine-tuning. They never act as if they actually believe the dire predictions they keep putting out there! If only they would just ask their own government funded climate scientists for evidence of what is actually being observed rather than projected by the ridiculous mathematical models and silly cartoons their media flacks like to trot out. (Every model and prediction, put out by the IPCC for decades has failed to even come close to what temperatures have actually done).

If you want to follow the most up to date global temperature changes you have to go to Dr. Roy Spencer's page (<https://www.drroyspencer.com>), from the University of Alabama at Huntsville, who posts the monthly temperature changes by satellite measurement - which is THE only reliable worldwide source of changing temperatures since 1979. It shows that from 1979 (satellite launch) until March 2022, global temperatures have only risen .13 degrees Celsius over a baseline of 43 years and have been dropping rapidly in the last few years.

It is no small fact that this time frame corresponds to a large increase in CO2 levels in the atmosphere. You'd think that contradicting as it does, the current dogma, this fact alone would garner some interest in political circles! Then again, politicians are remarkably good at dodging the facts and only focussing on their agendas - just watch question period in parliament to see for yourself.

It's long been established that the earth's temperature has been naturally rising, on average, at a rate of .8 degrees Celsius per century (taking into account all the ups and downs of natural climate cycles). This makes sense as we are still technically coming out of the last major ice age of approximately 12,000 years ago.

Do the math and you can see that if current trends continue, we are going to fall far below that .8-degree C historical rise - that is to say, nowhere near the human caused 1.5 C or even 2 degree C rise we've been threatened with. In fact, natural historical cooling cycles (heavily related to cyclical sun activity) have been pretty dramatic. The Little

Ice Age (Maunder minimum) of 1645 to 1715 was devastating. The widespread starvation and suffering in Europe was caused as temperatures continued well below average for decades and is well documented. Warming cycles are also damaging as the massive heat waves and drought of the dustbowl era of the 1930's resulted in continent wide poverty and contributed to the Great Depression in no small measure.

Natural climate change is a serious and persistent threat to us humans and we ought to be paying a lot more attention to what it's actually doing (and the natural causes) and a lot less attention to the politicians who apparently never heard of it!

It's completely unacceptable, as the IPCC does, to label 99% of all climate change as manmade when there is no obvious mechanism to differentiate it from natural cycles. Isn't that obvious? Governments and the IPCC have no idea what the actual ratio of manmade to natural climate change is and they don't care to study it. Any model that blames CO2 exclusively will have to explain all the anomalies we've seen in natural historical climate change over millennia that are obviously in complete contradiction to that theory. They make a whole lot of assumptions. That's called guessing - not evidence based science. It won't help us one bit if a doozy of a predictable natural cycle blindsides us because we weren't paying attention to the elephant in the room...

For the local food growers and gardeners, it's really helpful to understand some basic natural climate cycles. Besides the links I've posted, you can go to Environment Canada - Comox weather station and research their historical weather record that goes back to 1944. It's a goldmine of information.



Dangerous Ideas

OPINIONS

By Keith Porteous

WE need the inclusion of a diversity of perspectives in media. And while we don't need the pretense of unbiased media, journalism needs to have a certain degree of scepticism and challenge dominant narratives. We've seen that when it comes to war and public health report-

ing, the corporate media carries the State Media message without serious question or scrutiny. Their analysis contains little or no dissident voice, which should be the first clue.

The basic principle in Western governance of a more "free" society, is to control the message and indoctrinations of what assumptions may or may not be challenged. In a more authoritarian State, people just get carted off to the Gulag. They silence themselves in that case. In Western corporate and State media, dissident narratives are erased in the mainstream, and there is near religious fervour for a monochromatic perspective of good and evil, right or wrong. And every time they get it "wrong", which is often, they get it wrong all in the same direction. And that is the second clue.

The third clue is, from a historical perspective, we almost always discover later that the government and their compliant stenographers in the dominant media were lying. They are continually lying, and there is no reason to believe that they've suddenly changed their tune. In their view, the crisis of democracy isn't a lack of truth, justice, and democratic will expressed in our society, but an excess of it, needing to be quelled in order to sustain "civil order and respect for institutions" while employing strategies of message control, "content moderation", and outright censorship.

And the salt in the wound is that conservatives are now defending openness, while it is liberals who are embracing the idea of increased authoritarianism. Any self respecting Leftist abhors the kind of information overlords in State and corporate media, and tolerates heterodox views even when expressed by people we don't like. And this is perhaps especially important in a small local community newspaper. If you support the principle of diversity, it should include the diversity of viewpoint. What would be more truly troubling, is that we should only see views that mirror our own. That is the most dangerous idea of all. 🍷

China & Covid: The Cost of Infallibility

By Gwynne Dyer
• OP May 2nd, 2022

OPINIONS

On the chance of rain or the speed of a racehorse he will freely admit that he is just as fallible as you and I. Whereas secular dictators, and especially ones who are building a personality cult, are implicitly claiming to be infallible about everything.

This is quite a burden, although it helps that dictators can deny things have gone wrong, and punish anybody who says otherwise. Nevertheless, sooner or later people are bound to notice that things really have gone wrong. That is President Xi Jinping's main problem at the moment, but it is also China's.

For more than two years now, Xi has loudly proclaimed that China's zero-Covid policy has been a brilliant success that demonstrates the superiority of the Chinese system and of his own leadership. And for a while there, the evidence was on his side.

The Covid death toll in China is still under 6,000, while Covid fatalities in the United States, with only a quarter of China's population, are nearing the million mark. However, China achieved this miracle only by almost completely shutting its borders and imposing draconian shut-downs on entire cities at the first sign of an infection.

That succeeded for a while, just as it did in Australia and New Zealand, two geographically isolated countries that followed essentially the same policy. But their governments knew that this could not be a permanent policy, and as soon as the great majority of their populations were fully vaccinated they began to release the restrictions.

Happily, by then the Omicron variant was taking over, making Covid even more infectious but far less lethal, especially for vaccinated people. Xi Jinping seems to have missed that memo, and has pressed on with the zero-Covid policy even at great cost to the Chinese economy and in the face of growing resentment among ordinary Chinese people.

continued on P.10...

**Get
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Notification System

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The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) in partnership with the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and with engagement of K'ómoks First Nation, invite residents to register for emergency notifications for the communities in which they live, work and play. Local emergency notifications will be delivered to registered users directly to mobile or landline phones.

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VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND

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REGIONAL DISTRICT
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...continued from P.9 At the moment, 340 million people, around one-quarter of the population, are under full or partial lockdown in 46 different cities. The 25 million residents of Shanghai, China's commercial capital, are in their fifth week of lockdown.

Guangzhou, the southern industrial hub, has ordered the mass testing of 5.6 million people after the detection of one suspected Covid case. Even Beijing is teetering on the brink of lockdown, with schools already closed and people panic-buying provisions for what could be another long confinement to their homes.

Given the huge infection rate of Omicron – in both the United States and the United Kingdom around 70% of the population have had Covid at least once – this policy cannot logically have a long-term future.

The ceaseless lockdowns are hitting China so hard that second-quarter growth in an economy that used to boast of 10%+ growth rates is forecast to be only 1.8%. This means not only unemployment and potential unrest, but Chinese customers elsewhere shifting away from dependence on supply chains originating in China. The shift could be permanent.

And yet Xi Jinping perseveres with the policy. His regime has not even speeded up vaccinations in China, although fewer than half the over 60s have even had one booster shot. Nothing must be allowed to suggest that the zero-Covid policy is failing. Why?

Because an absolute dictator must appear infallible. Xi has boasted so much of the 'success' of his victory over Covid, made it so much his own signature achievement, that no doubt can be admitted – especially at a time when he is planning to make his dictator-for-life status official.

Cannabis Digest VCBC

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This autumn marks the end of the two five-year terms that Xi would have been permitted under the Communist Party's post-Mao rules, which were designed precisely to thwart other would-be absolute dictators from gaining powers.

His plan was to be elected to a rule-breaking third term at the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party next October or November, and even a year ago he looked like a shoo-in.

Xi has purged and/or jailed a great many senior officials on corruption charges, and those who were still in office seemed thoroughly cowed. Nevertheless, there are still a lot of senior Party people who think that one-man rule is always a mistake.

Xi's complicity with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and his continuing Covid blunder also count against him with many important people, and the Party Congress, normally a choreographed, almost ritual event, could theoretically turn against him.

You'd still be unwise to bet against Xi's chances of a third term (and as many more as his lifespan allows), but he himself is now running scared. Which probably means that there will be no change in the current, crazy Covid policy at least until the end of the year.





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Attractions

by Thomas Provençal

*The crack of electro-
magnetism is in the air
two hearts in the same beat
four eyes lost in stare
happiness reflected
a need to touch and squeeze
excited to abandonment
in no mood to tease
following the energy
that spirals into lust
and the mutual decision
to bang until we bust
in that instant minds are set
glands are activated
for launching into loving
and feeling much elated*

2022 Denman Island Recreation Grants

Applications are now available for the CVRD Recreation Grants for Denman Island Non-profit groups which provide sport and fitness related activities.

Applications can be picked up at Abraxas Books Free Post under "R"
Or online at www.denmanresidents.com under "Committees and Services" .

Return to Abraxas Books Free Post under "R Completed" .

Deadline for Submissions: May 27 at 5 p.m.

Committee Members: Tim Fuchs, Dennis Lavalley, Frank Frketich

CHARITY AUCTION FOR ACTIVITY CENTRE, COMMUNITY HALL AND PRESCHOOL:

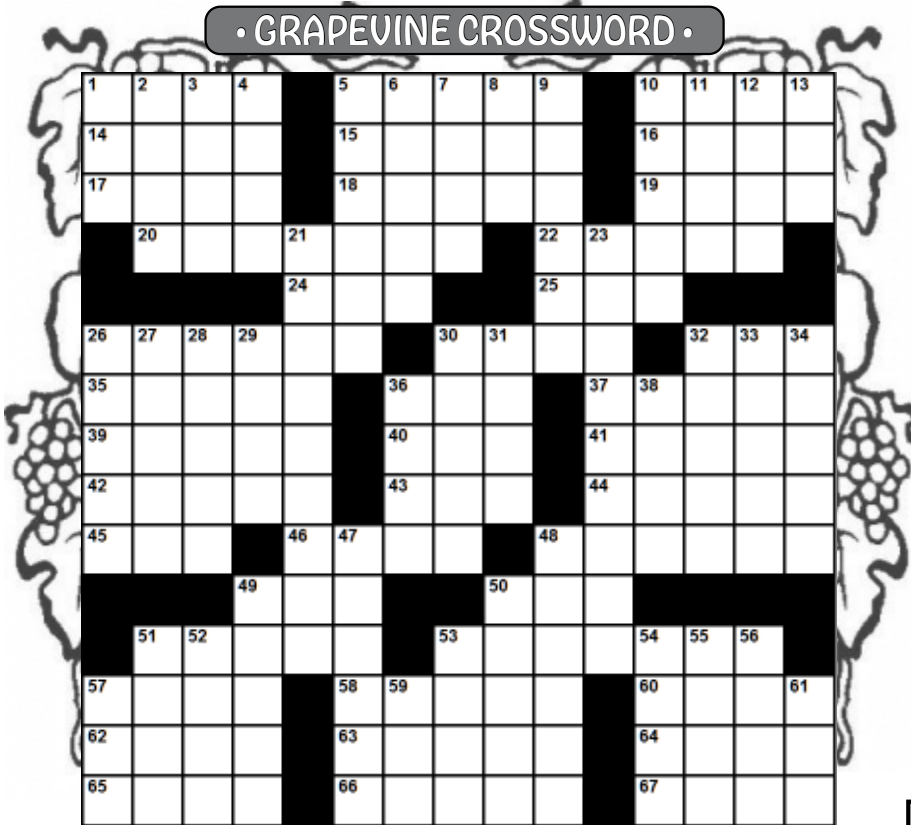
**A REMINDER THAT THE NEXT BIENNIAL CHARITY AUCTION
IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH IN THE ACTIVITY CENTRE.**

**DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF THE WEEK BEFORE ON
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY TO NOON.**

VIEWING IS ON SATURDAY AND THE AUCTION STARTS AT 10 AM

INFORMATION CALL ROXANNA AT 2576 OR STIRLING AT 1009

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• ACROSS •

1. Samoan cash
5. Dover sight
10. Closely confined
14. Moslem prayer leader
15. Personnel manager
16. Chinese horn
17. Elbow action
18. Omit a vowel
19. Bubbly beverage
20. Animal shelters
22. Fishing net
24. Avail oneself of
25. Cry on a set
26. Persuade
30. At the peak of
32. Big bird down under
35. Male swine
36. Do business
37. Abode of the dead, in myth
39. Chopin creation
40. Kind
41. Drive out
42. Fringe
43. Bearing pivot
44. Bishop topper
45. Cover crop
46. Covered with cinders
48. Hershey treats

• DOWN •

50. Is down with
51. Beat
53. Allocate
57. Sinewy
58. Bug-to-be
60. Camera glass
62. Helm position
63. Cats creator
64. Forest ox
65. Nordic rugs
66. A family tree apple
67. Bath attire

• DOWN •

1. Bit of advice
2. Berserk
3. Erie and Tahoe
4. So be it!
5. Fondue stuff
6. City of northern France
7. Blue flag, for one
8. Catered a banquet
9. Art on plaster
10. Hypothesize
11. Black in poetry
12. Bump or knot
13. 1773 jetsam
21. Mom's employee
23. Alternate phase
26. Aids a criminal
27. Bantoid language
28. Long-beaked Atlantic fish
29. Pakistani tongue
30. Blend of metals
31. Brat
32. Expurgates
33. Free for all
34. Cable subscribers
36. Kind of helmet
38. Bygone alliance
47. Swiped
48. Chopping sport
49. Eye sores
50. Utter chaos
51. Overly suave
52. Fertilizer compound
53. American canal
54. Auxiliary
55. Casino city
56. Radio control
57. Armed conflict
59. Actress Macgraw
61. Thus, to Burns

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

5	6	8					4	
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	5						8	
3				7			1	2
			9	2	5			3
	7					8	9	4

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4	2	7	9	6	1	5	3	8
8	6	2	7	3	4	1	9	5
9	3	5	6	1	2	7	8	4
7	4	1	5	8	9	3	2	6

Grumpism

“I was happy to finish my jigsaw puzzle in only three weeks when the label said 12-24 months.”



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

D	D	T				P	E	A				D	U	B
H	E	R	O			B	O	A	S	T		B	A	S
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				V	E	T	O			T	N	T		
S	M	A	R	M	Y			P	O	A	C	H	I	N
C	U	R	E	S				V	E	N	D		E	L
A	R	E				J	I	N	G	O			I	R
R	A	T	A			U	L	N	A		R	E	A	C
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L	A	P				P	A	R					T	E

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• SERVICES •

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• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

PLANT SALE. SAT AND SUN MAY 7TH/8TH 10am - 3pm 3525 East Road. Hardy Annuals (Poppies, Larkspur etc.) and Perennials. Tel 250-335-2541 rharris@telus.net.

HIRRA ZOOM MEETING: Wednesday, May 11, 7:30pm. AGENDA: Motion to approve HIRRA policies revisions; CVRD Director update, Pre-summer Community Conversation including Messaging Group and RCMP. E-mail office@hirra.ca to register.

LOOKING FOR ARTISTS to paint a sign posting our hours on the front of the Denman Recycling Centre. Contact Mike or Stacey for further information at enviromikebc@gmail.com or stacey.armstrong@mac.com

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/

• EMPLOYMENT •

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THE DI OLD SCHOOL CENTRE requires someone to fill the boots of our time gardener. Duties will include, but are not limited to: weeding, deadheading, watering, mulching (but not mowing). Please contact Gloria Michin gloriamay@telus.net.

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 interested. A resume could also be dropped off at the Store.

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LICENSED GUN BUYER wants your unwanted rifles & shotguns. Cash buyer, call 250-335-1686 or 250-650-0355

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) has an opening for a casual employee at the Denman Recycling Centre.

The successful candidate should be familiar with or willing to learn through hands-on experience all of the requirements for processing materials handled by the Centre. The work entails the ability to lift and move objects up to 20 Kg. and the operation of mechanical equipment used to compact and bale recycled materials.

The person performing this role is expected to be able to fulfill the operating duties of the centre including opening and closing and helping community members with detailed sorting of recyclables. As the job involves interaction with other staff and the general public good communication and interpersonal skills are required.

This is a part time position with approximately four hours of work per week. Starting wage is \$20 per hour.

The closing date for applications is May 21st, 2022. Interested applicants may email their resumes to Stacey. armstrong@mac.com or drop them off c/o Stacey Armstrong at the Denman Island Recycling Centre.



• DENMAN: 700 • HORNBY: 520 •
• E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 101 •
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DESIGN/PRODUCTION Chris Seguin

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

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

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- Katarina Mešić • Pemberton Holmes Realty 778-557-7429 (D/H)

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- DB clearing & excavations • call or text 250-465-1889 (D)
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- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 5

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

FRIDAY 6

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 7

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30am
- NEWCOMERS MIXER 3-5pm
Activity Centre

SUNDAY 8

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MONDAY 9

TUESDAY 10

WEDNESDAY 11

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

THURSDAY 12

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



FRIDAY 13

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 14

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30am
- FREE STORE 9-Noon

SUNDAY 15

MONDAY 16

TUESDAY 17

WEDNESDAY 18

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

THURSDAY 19

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



**May 14 Saturday 6pm
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Kevin, Devin, Steve and
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OPEN 8 TO 3 DAILY CLOSED MONDAYS.
ESPRESSO DRINKS, BULK STORE, FROZEN DINNERS AND
POT PIES, CALL TO ORDER SANDWICHES 2503352688.



Blackberry Lane Children's Centre Fall Registration Drive

Blackberry Lane Children's Centre will be accepting 2022 Fall registrations during the weeks of May 9th – May 20th. We are a licenced, not-for-profit, childcare centre located beside the community school. Staffing of our small centre is based on demand so if you anticipate needing early childcare education (ages 1- 5) during the 2022/2023 school year we want to hear from you!

Please email: blackberrylanecentre@yahoo.com for a registration packet and all other inquiries.

Are you looking for flexible and meaningful on-island part-time work?

Blackberry Lane, Denman's certified early childhood education centre, is hiring for **two positions** - a manager and a caregiver.

Manager position

- **We're looking for a team player who can wear multiple hats.**
 - o Our manager will liaise with staff, the board of directors and the School District, but will also work at least 6 hours on site per week, so will have the privilege to hang out with some of Denman's youngest (and finest) residents.
- **We're looking for someone with excellent communication skills.**
 - o We value our staff, families and board members. We need someone to do the same.
- **We're looking for a resilient problem solver.**
 - o There are lots of small pieces to this job, but there is also lots of flexibility.

Wage is based on experience and qualifications. \$22 - \$26/hour to start.

Caregiver

- **We're looking for someone who is passionate about children.**
 - o We need someone who is interested in certifying as an Early Childhood Educator or Assistant and who is comfortable guiding groups of up to 8 children, ages 1-5.
- **We're looking for someone positive and engaging.**
 - o We are a community-minded centre. Our wages are competitive and our facility is brand new.

For full job descriptions or if you have questions, please email thebbboard@gmail.com