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Cover image: General Store stoop.
photo by Dreadful Imagery



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• E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 102 •

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

2022 Municipal Elections: Gordon Kennedy

POLITICS

By Anthony Gregson

THE Grapevine finally caught up with Gordon Kennedy whom we are sorry to have missed in last week's election interviews. Gordon has published a succinct and practical platform, many of them useful improvements to municipal administration, particularly in the areas of communication, transparency, and adherence to laws. Gordon is someone who is interested in doing things differently.

A case in point is his home in Royston which is built entirely of steel at considerable savings (\$153 per sq foot). Working with architect Steven Wang, Gordon believes that affordability is a function of several factors, starting with highly efficient methods of construction (such as pre-fabricated steel wall panels), staying away from outrageous overcharging, and simplified spatial design (no built-in cupboards).

Affordability is also a question of administrative efficiency: in Europe, the planning department does not get involved in inspections; certified professionals, engineers and architects, sign off for the permit. The practise is now found in parts of the US and in Quebec and Ontario. It is the law in BC, but he finds that it is ignored by planning departments who claim to have their own policies. Small municipalities cannot afford to employ the equivalent high-level professional. The consequence is arbitrary policy, ignorance, lack of innovation, and long and inexplicable delays.

Another factor is financing. Gordon points to the model of private-public partnership which is a way of financing long-term development. For instance, the developer would build housing for rental at an agreed affordable rate that would then be mortgaged by the municipality against the rental income. He is highly

continued on P.3...

Kennedy, Gordon

-District 'A' Director, CVRD

Graduated from Ryerson University in Business Management. Spent 10 years working in Hotel and Restaurant management. Retired from the federal government in 2016 after working as a Officer mostly in Major Program Design and Development. Worked also for the last 22 years as an instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Have always participated in volunteer work. Moved to Royston 2 years ago after building a house with solar panels and a heat pump which is affordable practical green building.

1. **Communication:** Once a month a meeting should be set aside for citizens to come in and have 5 minutes to address council. There is a lack of communication here in the district.
2. **Conduct:** Municipal employees must follow the law. Any employee knowingly disregarding the law will be terminated. **Transparency:** Each time a municipal enforcement officer does an official inspection a receipt showing what was done and the result must be issued on site. **Also,** All permits and licenses issued by the municipality should be listed and accessible on the CVRD website
3. **Taxation:** No resident shall be forced to pay into and join the new sewage line that should be paid for by the developer in Union Bay.
4. **Environment:** All areas should either get yard waste pick-up or there should be a drop off area in the recycling dumping location. **Secondly,** Water is always an issue and we need to know if any water is used in a wasteful manner. Also watersheds, we have polluted enough of our water so they must be protected.
5. **Efficiency:** Minimise the building department (save money and minimise liability) by making developers use professionals on their projects. Building Codes were brought into effect in the early 1900's to protect the insurance industry. Why are we paying to protect that industry when it can be done by engineers and architects.
6. **Timeliness:** Service standards to be introduced in the CVRD. Published timeframes as to when the public can receive service. For example, a building development permit for a single-family house will be completed and issued or rejected within 30 days.

Make sure you vote on Oct 15

Remember paper comes from trees which are sacred. If you are finished reading this pass it on to another voter.

Authorized by Gordon Kennedy: comoxista@gmail.com

...continued from P.2 of the arrangements with the Union Bay development which, for the size of the project, has offered a mere \$1 million for affordable housing. In contrast, he points to Vancouver where the City requires a significant portion of a development to be dedicated to affordable housing. The shipbreaking site is a case in point where a public-private partnership could be used to transform the 50-acre property into affordable housing and a park and terminate industrial use with much greater economic and social benefit than the business that is now there.

Gordon feels that unless local politicians are better informed and less dependent on planning departments, they will be part of the problem in dealing with issues of affordability. 🍷

BC Museums Portraits Comes to Gulf Islands & Sunshine Coast

PRESS RELEASE By BC Museum Portraits

Galiano Island - Friday, October 14th
Salt Spring Island - Sunday, October 16th
Gabriola Island - Monday, October 17th
Cortes Island - Tuesday, October 18th
Denman Island - Wednesday, October 19th
Powell River - Thursday, October 20th
Texada Island - Friday, October 21st
Sechelt & Gibsons - Saturday, October 22nd

BC Museum Portraits (BCMP) seeks to define the boundaries of the 'Institutional Memory' of Community collections through recorded conversations and photography.

At times the history of museum collections in the Province sound like variations on a theme ("a bi-centennial collection with an early intake of items from the turn of the century", "a historical society with a few members who were avid collectors"). However, from these foundations, museum volunteers, and later professionals, carved out pathways through time to our present day and with this passage, new interpretations emerge.

Since February 2020, Portraits has covered twenty Museum/Archives in the Lower Mainland as well as the addition of virtual conversations with further afield institutions to develop connections in the seven other distinct regions in the Province.

Portraits of museums from the Vancouver Island as well as others on the Mainland can be viewed through the BC Museum Association (BCMA) site: <https://museum.bc.ca/membership/bc-museum-portrait-program/>

For more on the mission of BCMP, read this article in BCMA's publication Round Up: <https://museum.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/280-Recollections.pdf>

For further information you can contact Spencer W Stuart, BCMP Project Manager
 T: 604 363 1012, E: spencerwstuart@gmail.com 🍷

Phoenix Riting! PSA:

SPECIAL INTEREST By Phoenix Bee

RECENTLY I've had some slightly awkward interactions that made me realize that people are talking. There is that moment when someone says, "Ah, yes, I heard about that," and you have the sense they heard more than they are saying.

Gossip is fun! 'Hey, did you hear about X?' 'Gasp! No! Do tell!'

It's so easy to view others' circumstances from a distance, connect the dots and come up with an entertaining tale that seems to fit. However, gossip can be toxic and alienating when you are its object. Truth generally has little to do with such tales, which tend to be stretched or misrepresented for maximum entertainment **continued on P.4...**

TIDE TABLE

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

2022-10-13 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:33	1	3.3
09:35	4.5	14.8
14:49	3.3	10.8
19:49	4.4	14.4
2022-10-14 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:09	1	3.3
10:30	4.5	14.8
15:41	3.5	11.5
20:09	4.2	13.8
2022-10-15 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:45	1.1	3.6
11:28	4.5	14.8
16:52	3.7	12.1
20:23	3.9	12.8
2022-10-16 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:25	1.3	4.3
12:33	4.4	14.4
2022-10-17 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
05:12	1.6	5.2
13:43	4.4	14.4
2022-10-18 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
06:10	1.8	5.9
14:45	4.4	14.4
2022-10-19 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
07:20	1.9	6.2
15:31	4.4	14.4
22:54	3.1	10.2
2022-10-20 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:48	3.2	10.5
08:26	2	6.6
16:05	4.5	14.8
22:55	2.9	9.5



...continued from P.3 value. Now I shall spoil the fun with facts.

Many by now are aware that my longtime partner and I no longer live together. We haven't 'broken up,' we have chosen to expand our relationship. You may notice him out and about with a very lovely woman who is new to the island, and you probably feel uncomfortable mentioning this to me. Why wouldn't you? You have no idea how I feel about it. There may be hard feelings, broken hearts or pain waiting to be triggered. So awkward! What does one say?

I empathize. I know how that feels. I am choosing to use my platform to clear the air. I hope you agree that is a good thing in our small community. Awkward is not sustainable.

You will notice she and I hanging out together, also, or the three of us. No one is cheating, no one is being hurt.

"What! That's so weird! I could never!"

It's not for everyone; nothing is. The name for this lifestyle (or orientation) is 'polyamory'. Our small island hosts a number of sexual orientations, gender identities and unique lifestyles and for the most part, folk are blessedly tolerant and accepting. But far as I know, there are no openly polyamorous folk here, though they may be flying under the radar.

I have been drawn to poly since before puberty (I read Robert Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land" at age ten). It made so much sense. Why break up? Heartbreak is hell! Why must love end, just because new love begins? I understand that this seems strange, but to me--to us--it is perfectly natural. Finding others who share your orientation grows more challenging the more niche one's orientation is, but

compatible others do exist, even here. Thankfully.

What is poly? Some think of it as an excuse to cheat. It isn't. Neither is it about promiscuity, and it's certainly not about swinging. While some misuse the 'poly' label as a synonym for a swinging lifestyle, true polyamory means developing deep, intimate, committed relationships with more than one person. There are many forms and styles of poly. Most polyamorous people quietly live their lives without announcing who they are or what they are doing. It's edgy to admit. Most people who identify as 'normal' are only just getting used to gay marriage being legal or to the existence of trans people. What, more weirdos coming out of the closet?

Yes. Sorry. Not sorry.

In truth, there are many areas I could 'come out' in. Let me count the ways. I am autistic, I have CPTSD and other comorbidities, I am nonbinary, I would prefer 'they/them' if I cared about pronouns, but I'm fine with 'she/her' too. There are many different and valid ways to live one's life, and in a goldfish bowl like our island, it's impossible to live with any real privacy when everyone knows everyone else's business. But now, you know my actual business, not simply the gossip going the rounds. I hope this helps!

I write these words on Thanksgiving Day, on the twentieth anniversary of my Dad's passing, feeling so grateful for this community. What a blessing we share. Thank you for hearing me.

That's what I think! What do you think? About poly, or anything else. Email me at phoenixonhornby@gmail.com.



Food. Community. Resilience.

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Teresa Beers

A large percentage of our food crops rely on pollination...and the pollinators rely on enough food sources to nourish them. Right now the asters are in full bloom and are covered with pollinators, including our neighbour's honey bees. It is an absolute joy to see them, hear them, and take in all that beauty!

There are many different types of solitary pollinators, and then there are the honey bees. Their colonies are communities unto themselves, and they work cooperatively to build nests, rear their young, maintain their homes, and collect food.

Fall asters, (*Symphyotrichum* spp.) otherwise known as michaelmas daisies, and hardy chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* spp.), also known as garden mums, are both stalwart perennials of the garden this time of year. They come in a variety of bloom colours and sizes, and are extremely hardy.

When planning your garden for next year, be sure to include as many varieties of asters and garden mums as you can, for you and for the pollinators. They are easy to care for, drought tolerant, make great cut flowers, and many of the varieties are even native to North America.



Food - the pollinators need it, we need it. Community - the pollinators need it, we need it. Resilience - the pollinators need it, we need it.

I humbly and gratefully acknowledge that we live in the traditional territory of peoples of Pentlatch ancestry who lived, died, loved, mourned, worked and played here long before we did. 🍷

Green Wizardries, **LAST WEEK,** **Conservation 2.0**

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

LI discussed home heating and ways to conserve money and heating fuel by means of insulation of the human bodies inside the houses and insulating houses themselves. My husband insisted the best way to perform conservation has to do with slimming down our ideas about what we really need, want or deserve by way of transportation. I tend to agree with him and promised him a column on transportation conservation.

Years ago, when we began steps in the direction of frugal living, I found that every time I was saving money, I was also doing a better job of conserving the Earth's finite resources and reducing our contribution to pollution too. Driving is really very expensive especially for us Gulf Islanders who always need to pay for a ferry to get home. It is also necessarily polluting and causes wear and tear on the vehicles which contain a lot of embodied energy. The longer we can make our cars last, the better, as new cars, even electric ones, require heaps of expensive, chemically polluting alloys, solvents, plastics, and rare earth metals. All these things are a pollution disaster for the living Earth.

Driving is tiring, unsafe (we just saw many dangerous manoeuvres performed on our monthly shopping trip to Courtenay) and usually unpleasant. I remember my parents taking us kids on interminable car trips for the pleasure of driving. I couldn't see it myself. I would rather go for a walk or a bike ride any day. We kill fewer snakes, salamanders, frogs and birds because we are not driving much.

If you walk or bike on our roads, you will know what I am talking about. Cars kill so many little creatures. I will never forget the look on one doe's face as I saw her by the side of the road. She looked as if she were weeping as she snuffled the small, bloody corpse of her road-killed baby.

We were able to do without a car at all for more than five years. We would borrow a car from friends once a month to go shopping in town. That worked well for all concerned and it weaned us from excessive car dependency. The car insurance companies are making it harder to lend a friend your car once a month. They want all of us paying premiums. I am sure there are ways around this.

So, let us consider the benefits of car-free days. A vehicle only has so many kilometres of driving in it so we hoard that capacity. Fuel is, every day, more expensive so we use less of it by having car-free days. We have fewer accidents because we are not on the road and that makes our insurance a lot cheaper than might otherwise be the case.

We use the ancient technology of writing shopping lists and lists of things we want to do in the village so we can get them all done at one stroke rather than driving to the village every day for some little thing. We sometimes delay our monthly shopping trip off island for six weeks. We keep a deep pantry so we almost never

continued on P.6...



**Notice of Annual General Meeting
Thursday, Nov 24, 2022, 4 pm**

**Invitation to ADIMS
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The meeting Invitation details
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationforDenmanIslandMarineStewards/>

...continued from P.5 run out of anything.

I know some people need to drive to Vancouver Island every day for work and that must be really wearing and expensive, not to mention deeply frustrating, trying to get home when every tourist in creation seems to have arrived at the ferry terminal before you.

I ask these people if they have ever done a calculation of how much driving to work is costing them? Add up all the fuel costs, ferry costs, insurance premiums, unpaid hours driving too and fro, the cost of lunches and coffees out, clothes or uniforms for the job, taxes paid on wages...

All this adds up to a lot of money spent to make a very little money. Now, if this hypothetical person were to look at working on Hornby and Denman Islands they would find there are not a lot of jobs but there is a great deal of work. An enterprising person can make their own job cleaning windows, doing house cleaning, cooking, brewing beer and cider, babysitting, walking dogs, farm sitting, making jam. Denman's famous jam maker is retiring this year, leaving that slot open at the Farmer's Market.

Being your own boss means you can set your own schedule which means you have time to grow something in your garden and cook from scratch which is a great deal healthier than buying fake, processed food for far too much money. A lot of money can be saved by staying at home and doing old-fashioned home economics stuff such as knitting from homespun wool.

The cost of wool yarn is ruinous in the shops but good raw

wool can be had for next to nothing. The act of spinning wool is quite soothing and you don't need a spinning wheel. Our ancestors got by with cheap drop spindles for millennia.

Working on one's own island might mean being able to do without a car altogether which we found to be a huge financial saving. It is not just the scheduled expenses of a vehicle that I am talking about. Years ago, when we started keeping a budget we had a column for unexpected expenses. Every month saw some unexpected expense and fully half of them were from the car.

When we didn't have a car we used our bikes a great deal more than we do now. In fact, we only used our bikes. For younger people, biking is a great way to get around and I see a lot of older people using electric bikes. Walking is also a possibility. Reflective strips on your winter rain coat and carrying a flashlight will make it easy for cars to avoid hitting you.

You may say winter is coming and you don't want to ride your bike in the rain and the dark. A suit of good rain gear including gaiters to go over your shoes is not expensive and it makes riding in the rain quite pleasant. We need really good lights for riding in the dark in the country. We need to light up the whole road, not just to be seen. Also a good flashing tail light is essential. All the gear needed for comfortable and safe winter riding is a fraction of one bill from an unexpected trip to the auto mechanic.

As the economy melts down and inflation rises, we are all going to have to trim sails to get by. That is not a bad thing but it does take practice. Start now and avoid the rush. 🍷

February 14th, 2007

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451

Date: February 14, 2007 6:47 PM

Topic: February 14th, 2007

I think I'll take to calling tonight's dinner the 'Saint Valentine's Day Massacre!' Chili con carne, which is T.V.P. (textured veggie protein) substituted for ground beef, baked potato which was cold, and corn chowder which was atrocious and, to my palette, completely inedible. Not the best meal to come back to after working in the rain all day.

I knew that the weather couldn't hold out forever and today, as I mentioned, it didn't. It made for quite a depressing outing. The work was o.k. I guess, but the wet weather I've never been a fan of. It is, after all, one of the reasons that I left tree-planting for growing. My joints just don't deal very well with the cold, wet conditions, and as I write, my hands are aching. I was sitting in the crummy over lunch reflecting on everything and finding it difficult to say what the most depressing thing about jail is. Pretty much everything about it is depressing.



The food sucks to eat, is usually cold, and the portions are inadequate. Not being able to choose what you want to eat, is another detractor. Days away from work are long and boring, and the work, while it does help to pass the time more quickly, I find it difficult maintaining motivation as there is no such thing as proportionate remuneration. The inability to find solitude in a cramped living arrangement is also becoming tiresome. No amount of feigning disinterest seems to be understood or respected as there is always someone looking to shatter the quiet that

I'm increasingly craving. Often with the most frustratingly benign utterances, looking to draw you into a conversation. The only privacy to be found is in your sleep and when you awake, the depression is nothing short of jolting as you realize you're not in your real bed. Then the sad cycle starts all over again. While there are moments of levity and even the occasional laughter that manages to break through the blanket of mind numbing monotony, I think that the lack of smiles on the faces of us all has this way of wearing us down all the further. Ah, jail! My momma told me there would be days like this! 🍷

Letters to the Editor

Since 2014, 2 terms of the current Denman Island Trustees, not one unit of affordable housing has been built on our Island. While it is true that 2 affordable housing proposals have been progressing through the red tape and bureaucracy, one has only just received approval after more than a decade of painful and expensive work by volunteers. The other is years away from approval. Still not one unit built, in over a decade.

Our LTC could have followed Provincial changes and approved secondary dwellings on ALR land 10 months ago. However, ignoring a petition signed by more than 650 residents of Denman, Trustee David Critchley insisted that these secondary dwellings only be granted with a Temporary Use Permit, which is good for only 3 years at a time. In reference to this, he said in July, "rather than jumping off the high tower here, we'd be just dipping our toes in the water." This Trustee continues to stand on the sidelines recommending caution (read status quo). What we really need is an engaged life guard to jump in and help the members of our community who are drowning in this housing crisis!

Since January of 2021 I have been trying, unsuccessfully, to have discussions with our LTC about housing, the human right to housing, and how their inaction (and the threat of bylaw enforcement action) has made 15% of our community feel very unsafe. While the LTC "politely listens" (then promptly disregards) the rest of us watch so many awesome community members leave Denman, because they can't find housing.

When David Critchley talks about housing it is to drum up fear of the rampant development that he claims may follow any bylaw changes. Hornby is often used as an example of over-development, yet there is no mention that Hornby's bylaws (like Galiano's) are completely different from Denman's. We have no tourism zoning on Denman, and no-one is asking for it. Many simply want, like most of the other Gulf Islands already have, to be allowed secondary dwellings on properties over a certain size.

The Denman way has long been to share land and resources. So many land shares and co-ops have given Denman a beautiful character. So many creative Denman homes were lived in, in earth loving ways, for many decades. While perhaps not "lawful", Denman practiced "don't ask, don't tell" ways of getting along with neighbours. All of that changed 4 years ago, when the Denman LTC, ignored a great many community voices (who feared it would be used against housing) and voted unanimously to approve the Bylaw Ticketing Notification (BEN) system. The BEN threatens fines against landowners who share "unlawfully" and as a result a large number of rentals have disappeared.

Those who justify not taking action to alleviate the housing crisis repeat that housing is not in the Islands Trust mandate, which is: "to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia..." Please read that again > for the benefit of the residents of the trust area. How do the residents keep being left out by people who insist on the supremacy of the mandate?

Most residents of Denman care about our fragile environment. That environment is what drew us here in the first place. Any one who makes assertions that secondary dwellings are somehow contrary to caring for the environment clearly show they aren't paying attention to the "lawful" monster homes that have been built on Denman the past 5 years. And perhaps therein lies the bias. Perhaps those folks are fine with monster

continued on P.8...

NOVEMBER
First Edition

DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 19th
11:59:59 pm

NOTE:
Double Issue
December/January
DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 20th
11:59:59 pm

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...continued from P.7 homes? Maybe they don't want to share community with the people who would live in a secondary dwelling, or who must pool their money to be able to buy land to share?

I can't speak to anyone else's internal motivation. I can speak to a repeated lack of action, by our outgoing Trustees, to embrace and engage with housing as a way to keep our human community AND environment strong, healthy and resilient. Please, if you care about housing and the future of our Denman community, please vote for 2 candidates who support housing and who know that our future health depends on all of our neighbours being safe at home.

Riane daSilva 

Letter to editor, Grapevine

Catlin Johnstone (sic) urges your readers to dismiss what she calls the Western propaganda about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and implies that somehow, this brutal war was 'provoked' by the West, or Ukraine. What nonsense.

In 2005, President Putin made clear his views: the collapse of the Soviet empire "was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century". And since then, his objective has been even clearer: restore the Russian Empire, invade and annex territory of neighbouring countries, make war on neighbours, threaten nuclear weapons, jail or murder all opponents, threaten ordinary citizens with arrest and worse if they raise objections to the war in Ukraine, and so on.

While these may not be the actions of a 'madman', they certainly are the actions of a power-hungry and cunning dictator. All the European countries near Russia know this. Other than Belarus—home to another old Soviet hangover dictator, all the other countries near the Russian border have been invaded and many occupied in the past by the Soviets, and they now rightly fear that if Putin is successful in Ukraine, they may be next.

Of course, we all want peace. The UN wants peace. Europe wants peace. Ukraine wants peace, for sure. Most Russians probably want peace too. But Putin doesn't want end to this war, except on his terms. And his terms are hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians dead or displaced, and taking over huge chunks of a neighbouring country. Is that the kind of peace Ms. Johnstone wants?

A final reminder for any who may believe Ukraine is somehow to blame for being invaded: when the Soviet Union collapsed, Ukraine agree to give up its nuclear arsenal. In return, Russia agreed to respect the sovereignty of Ukraine.

It's a strange sort of nostalgia, isn't it, to yearn for the old Soviet Politburo? In those distant days, if a General Secretary of the Communist Party had made the kind of brutal strategic error Putin has made, he would have been discreetly removed and another leader put in place. Now, it is probably impossible for that to happen given the overwhelming authority Putin has. Would that his allies, like Xi and Modi and Erdogan might prevail on him to step down and retire to one of his many luxury dachas!

Appeasement has never worked in the past, and won't now.

Stewart Goodings. 

Let's Tap Into & Imagine

OPINIONS

By Eartha Muirhead

"...the vision of the economy of the commons; wherein resources fundamental to our well-being, like water and land and forests, are commonly held rather than commodified. Properly managed, the commons approach maintains abundance, not scarcity....in which the earth is not viewed as private property but as a commons, to be tended with respect and reciprocity, for the benefit of all." Robin Wall Kimmerer

THE NUT AND APPLE FESTIVAL, last weekend, was inspiring. I attended Dylan and Nick's talk about creating a nut culture here. In Ireland, I learned that it is still legal to take a hat full of nuts wherever a "trespasser" encounters a nut tree. Someone suggested a collective nut orchard project and Sandy Kennedy recalled how many apple orchards here were planted by groups of friends and neighbors. In this time of unreliable weather, inflation and an aging population, local food security might best be approached from creating commons dedicated to collective farming projects. I realize that for folks who have lived here for some time, informal mutual aid networks already exist. Us newbies, who are disconnected from these wonderful networks may want to get organized soon.

Thanksgiving Monday was a beezy, cloudy, cool day. As of 8p.m. not one drop of rain has fallen from the sky. I am wondering why rain did not fall, yet again.

I am having difficulty understanding why we have a drought here. I am surmising that droughts are part of the overall global increase in deforestation and increasing urbanization. The floods that have occurred are a result of falling rain sliding down mountains instead of being absorbed by forest floors and/or channeled and modulated into creeks and streams. Forests create rain. Forests harvest rain. Forests distribute rain. Global rainfall has increased at an average rate of .08 inches per decade since we began measuring it. As surface temperatures rise, more evaporation occurs, which increases rainfall. So why, on Denman Island, with all our forests, is there a drought? I read that most rain is now falling with more concentration and force. Underground water aquifers are not filling up. Maybe the deforestation and the shallow root systems of tree farms is preventing the recycling of overflowing water from torrential floods. And now many are flocking to cities. Cities are creating more and more heat, due to a lack of tree canopy. Increased reflective surfaces, such as roads, highways, glass windows, etc., in turn, creates more cloud cover, high winds and resulting erratic weather patterns.

The Biotic Pump is how forests have created rain since they arrived on the planet long before the first single-celled organism showed up. We used to think that clouds full of rain were dependent on the water vapour contained in ocean winds. Let me attempt to explain. The surface area of the canopy of a forest and all the many breathing plants contained within, allows water vapour to amass and then rise into the air. This gas becomes liquid, which creates a change in air pressure, which forces more vapour to rise, which condenses into and creates clouds. As water vapour rises, air moves in from the ground and sucks more vapour upwards. Healthy forests are pumping out constant air currents, creating about 1-2 meters of moisture evaporation per year.

Still, I keep asking why a Red Cedar, growing at the edge of a lake, is turning orange and why I cannot read dystopian novels without having claustrophobic nightmares. The one I am reading now, only during the daytime, because it is too realistic and scary, is called "Kracken Calling" by Aric McBay, www.aricmcbay.org.

Canada's Purchase of Armed Surveillance Drones

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

TIM MCSORLEY of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group says US military officials have called armed drones "a recruitment tool for armed terrorists".

As part of Canada's new defence policy: "Strong, secure, engaged", there is a planned purchase of armed surveillance drones.

Most information about the purchase is classified. What we do know:

1. The armed drones will be based at Comox (!) and in Nova Scotia, possibly in Yellowknife as well.
2. They will require 250-300 staff.
3. They will be medium altitude, long endurance drones (meaning they can fly over other countries).
4. Their current estimated cost is \$5B. This does not cover costs during their shelf life.

The new name for "military-industrial complex" is "military innovation ecosystem" or MIE. The idea is the creation of dual use technology, systems that have both civilian and military applications, drones being a good example. They are always cited for their benign usages, such as environmental mapping, and aiding Parks & Recreation projects. In truth, drones have been developed through violence, such as surveillance and targeting of Palestinians. This is how Israeli vendors of such weaponry are able to advertise them as "field tested".

Canada's two leading competitors for the drone contract are L3Tech (Israel) and

continued on P.10...

VOTE

YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE SATURDAY OCTOBER 15.

Vote on October 15 and make our region a better place to live. And we make it easy for you: visit options for mail-in ballots, advance polls or election day polling stations. Be part of the process.

FOR VOTING INFORMATION VISIT COMOXVALLEYRD.CA

...continued from P.9 General Atomics(US). Public Works & Government Supply Canada has issued a Letter of Interest re the purchase of armed drones. Its list of their intended purposes is truly chilling. It includes: domestic overland surveillance, surveillance of crowds (with “anti-capitalist radical elements” cited as an example, as well as a scenario involving interception of a planned “global warming banner drop”. Do we need \$5B worth of armed drones to protect us from protests such as these?) Also included as purposes are maritime surveillance with the example being “terrorists arriving by boat”. Who exactly might that be? I attended a recent webinar: Militarizing the Skies: Opposing Canada’s armed drone purchase, sponsored by Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, Just Peace Advocates & World Beyond War Canada. (You can go to one of these sources for the link.) There I learned that there’s an externally aggressive purpose for the drones as well: an “expedited ISR strike scenario”, which they explained to mean use of drones against individuals elsewhere, targeted strikes in other countries.

In my view, Canadians are at a real crossroads right now. Who do we want to be in the world? And how do we want to be seen in the world? The more research I do into NATO, Canada’s military, and our foreign policy, the more I see a deep integration into the US agenda of world dominance and control. Importantly as well, there seems to be a continuing

Ukraine: The Focus Shifts **M**OSCOW is not blaming the latest Ukrainian attack on careless Russian smokers, as it previously tried to do with suspicious explosions on airbases in Russian-occupied Crimea and on a Russian warship in the Black Sea. The blast that brought down sections of the Kerch Bridge connecting Russia and Crimea was far too big and well placed for that.

It was “a masterpiece of clandestine sabotage,” a former senior British army explosives expert told the BBC. “With structural demolition, you always plan a ‘collapse mechanism’ which lets the weight of the structure do the majority of the work.” Not one but two sections of the road bridge ended up in the water.

But planning the explosion on the road bridge so precisely that it also set alight a train of oil tankers on the adjacent rail bridge and closed that too is almost miraculous. Exact timing and coded radio signals may suffice to explain it, but one cannot exclude the possibility of a suicide element in the attack.

The rail bridge and two lanes of the road bridge are already open again, but the psychological effect of this unexpected Ukrainian success will strengthen the fear in Moscow and the growing conviction in Kyiv that Ukraine is on an unstoppable roll. The wholesale collapse of the Russian army

keenness on the part of our leadership to further the old aims of colonization - dominance and control of those whose resources we want, and it is often under the auspices of NATO. As in other times of warfare, right now there is little tolerance for voices seeking diplomacy, negotiation, acceptance of difference.

We need to remember that the US military budget is about \$1 Trillion/yr., if you include nuclear weapons (in the Department of Energy budget) and Veteran’s Affairs. That is ½ the amount spent on weapons and war-making worldwide.

Canada is a mid-size country that could well learn from the example of Costa Rica which de-militarized in 1948. Or we could consider Mexico, also in the shadow of the US, but not In bed with the US militarily.

“Armed drones impact civilian populations in a different way than fighter jets.” (Militarizing the Skies webinar) As for those fighter jets, Canada has chosen Lockheed-Martin to supply our fleet of F-35’s, but that \$77-billion-dollar deal is not yet closed. In either case, whether it’s jets or drones, Canadians need to be vigilant and clear about those decisions, before we let billions of tax dollars fly out the window-- and over domestic or foreign soil.”

h/t Erika Ritter 🍷

now seems quite possible to both parties.

This belief may or may not be correct, and on the Russian side it will inevitably evoke more loose talk about resorting to ‘tactical’ nuclear weapons. Behind the bluster, however, most of the people who matter in Russia will be considering their options if Vladimir Putin loses power. The real focus of the crisis is moving to Moscow.

Putin still refuses to accept that his war in Ukraine is lost. His ‘partial’ mobilisation of somewhere between 300,000 and a million reservists (the exact number is the one secret clause in the mobilisation decree) may be his last throw of the dice, but it shows his personal belief that the war could somehow still end in a Russian military victory.

However, most other powerful players in the political elite, the so-called ‘siloviki’ (literally ‘people of force’), have already concluded that a Russian military victory in Ukraine is highly unlikely and getting more so by the day. The best evidence for that is the recent behaviour of two of Putin’s strongest supporters, Ramzan Kadyrov and Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Kadyrov, the Chechen strongman, put his private army at Putin’s disposal early in the war. Most of his troops are now in eastern Ukraine, still in their own units. But Kadyrov says that no Chechens will obey the new military call-up, and his units in Ukraine (which are much closer to Moscow than to

Chechnya) have largely withdrawn from the fighting.

Prigozhin is now recruiting volunteers from Russian prisons for his 'Wagner' mercenary army. They will no doubt serve as cannon fodder in the 'meat-grinder' war in Ukraine: he needs to keep the cash flow up. But his more experienced and reliable troops have also largely stopped fighting, as if he were saving them for something more important.

This doesn't mean that there is going to be a civil war in Russia, or even a coup that overthrows Putin. However, all the interest groups (including the armed forces) that have orbited around Putin for the past twenty years have realised that change may be coming to Moscow. They are adjusting their positions to profit from the change, or at least ride it out.

It doesn't even mean that Putin is doomed. If he could abandon his weird historical obsessions and recognise that the war in Ukraine has become unwinnable, he might still be able to repair the complex web of favours and unspoken threats that has kept him in power for so long.

It does mean, however, that the focus of the political struggle for Russia's future has moved from Ukraine (which never made any sense) to Moscow. What matters from now on is not who controls Kherson but who controls the Kremlin.

Everybody knows that in politics, perception is reality. Fewer understand that in modern 'wars of choice' like the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where none of Russia's vital national interests are at stake, perception also trumps reality.

In theory, Russia still has some cards to play – or at least it would have if political support for the enterprise could be sustained. Russians still outnumber Ukrainians more than three-to-one, and their GDP is eight times bigger. God is always on the side of the bigger battalions.

What makes the war 'unwinnable' in Russian eyes (and most other peoples' as well) is the perception created by a series of spectacular Ukrainian victories. That is what drives the growing power struggle in Moscow, and reduces Russian interest in Ukraine to a level where an outcome satisfactory for Ukraine is now imaginable. 🍷

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*THE DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY
RECREATION SOCIETY (DIRCS)
IS HOLDING ITS 2022 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING ON
NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30 PM AT THE
BACK HALL*

*ALL DENMAN RESIDENTS ARE
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AND
ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND RUN FOR
OFFICE.*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
STIRLING FRASER 250-335-1009*

Job Opportunity

Research Assistant

PlanH Project

Hornby Island and Denman Island

The Hornby Housing Network has received funding from BC Healthy Communities to create a community database/profile for Denman and Hornby Islands that is easy to access, use and maintain. A research assistant is needed to work with the project steering committee.

The successful applicant will

- Identify what data already exists in provincial, municipal and local organizational database
- Compile that data
- Identify gaps in available data
- Working with the steering committee, create and implement methods to collect missing data
- Work with steering committee to create solutions including surveys to obtain missing data
- Create a database that is easy to access, use and maintain

Qualifications

- Experience with the practise of quantitative and qualitative data collection and management
- Experience with database creation
- Experience with theories and practices of community development and engagement
- Experience with creating a database that can be used by multiple people with varying skill levels
- Experience with computer programs that can be used to manage data sets
- Experience in a health-related field
- Knowledge of the interconnectedness the social determinants of health

We are looking for someone who is assertive, who demonstrates effective communication skills, including public speaking, and is not only self-directed but also team-oriented. The ideal candidate is able to work collaboratively with diverse groups and underrepresented individuals on both islands.

Salary. We offer \$25.00/hr, plus some travel expenses. Some of the work can be done online, but the position requires in person meetings and activities, especially in the later part of the project (January to March 2023). Access to a good computer and reliable internet is required.

Please note that while we are advertising widely for this position, housing on both Hornby Island and Denman Island is very scarce. If the successful candidate is not currently living on one of the islands, securing accommodation will be a challenge. Temporary billeting may be available.

Closing Date October 31, 2022. Expected starting date November 15, 2022.

Email application including references to: wendy.Burton@ufv.ca



Chus chien

by Thomas Provençal

*Le plaisir de courir
est né dans un chien.
Forcer les muscles,
ça fait du bien.
Lécher le monde
et pisser partout,
quoi d'autre de mieux?
Ne m'es-tu pas fou?
Un maître qui marche
et respecte l'horaire,
des fois farceur,
est fait pour me plaire.
Je te suis où tu vas.
Ma mission dans la vie,
c'est rester avec toi
et satisfaire l'appétit.*

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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THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES

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

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

The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression. Opinions expressed in the Grapevine do not necessarily reflect that of the Publisher.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity. Inciting violence, hate speech and pejorative language will not be tolerated.

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



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theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Fedora feature
5. Baltic capital
9. Banisters
14. Actress
Turturro
15. Common
scent
16. Islam's deity
17. Placed down
18. Mug with a
mug
19. Heart part
20. U.N. labor
arm
21. Protective
screens
23. David is a
famous one
26. Inhuman
30. Casino action
31. Actor Ely
33. Forest ox
34. Craven images
37. Cheese buy
39. Convent
dweller
40. Alarm button
41. Like
mindedness
42. Actor's actor
44. Aladdin
prince
45. Startled cry
47. Limerick, for
one
48. Asian weight
unit
50. Contemporary

51. Adult males
52. Lofty nests,
var.
54. Pretty much
57. Instinctive
60. Grandson,
perhaps
62. Diner
employees
65. Duel unit
66. Bump free
67. Las Vegas
show
68. Peruvian
plants
69. Defrost
70. Drainpipe
parts
71. Salamander
72. Computer
menu choice

• DOWN •

1. Exotic island
2. Money in Iran
3. Blockhead
4. Alfred E's
mag.
5. Cheap booze
6. Be crazy
about
7. Asian expanse
8. Chemistry
term
9. Crow cousin
10. Biggest state
11. Afflicted
12. Restroom,
for short
13. 1967
Monkees
song
22. Air bag
24. Competent
25. Easily
irritated
27. Internal
28. Name words
29. Beatrice's
admirer
31. Avoid
expiration
32. Amatory
writing
34. Full of wrath
35. Holds off for
36. Basketry
willow
37. Head reveille
38. Chalet
overhangs
43. Charming
chap
46. Asst. prof.
49. Unite
51. Bother
repeatedly
53. Abates
54. Brilliant
bird
55. Add zest to
56. Bond
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58. Current
with
59. Battle the
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61. Centerward
62. PC monitor
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63. Above, in
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64. Aves, once
66. Cassowary
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• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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Grumpism

“If a pig
loses it's
voice is it
disgruntled?”

(thank you Rick - last name
withheld at request citing that
it may embarrass spouse.)



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

T	A	L	C		R	A	B	B	I		G	A	T	T
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Union Bay Community Hall -
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@ 5pm dinner @ 5:30. Adults
@25-Children 10 & under \$10.
For tickets call Rick @ 604-
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- Music Lessons & Piano Tuning • Scott Knight 604-779-9335 (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)
- Florist-Keep Floral (Emma) • 250-335-2746 (D)
- K9 Grooming, Boarding & Training • info@4pawseeducation.com
250-335-1968 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac • 778-992-0165
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160 • www.
heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Magnoliahealing • Deep Tissue Body Work • Kelly Hyllestad •
1(250) 650-2405 (D/H)



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

October 15 3pm

music jam bring instruments and join us.

October 22 6pm

Jordie, Ryder &
Keelan Band.



OPEN 8 TO 3 DAILY CLOSED MONDAYS.
BISTRO OPEN 7-7 FRIDAYS • 7-9 SATURDAYS
ESPRESSO DRINKS, BULK STORE, FROZEN DINNERS AND POT
PIES, CALL TO ORDER SANDWICHES
250 335 2688.

THURSDAY 13

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

FRIDAY 14

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- DENMAN LTC Special Zoom meeting 10am

SATURDAY 15

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

SUNDAY 16

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 17

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

TUESDAY 18

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

WEDNESDAY 19

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- HIRRA Zoom meeting 7:30pm

THURSDAY 20

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



FRIDAY 21

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

SATURDAY 22

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

SUNDAY 23

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm
- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

MONDAY 24

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

TUESDAY 25

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

WEDNESDAY 26

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- BALLET VICTORIA Concerts Denman
Community Hall

THURSDAY 27

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

What if ...

**You called 911
but no one answered your call**



Fortunately, on Denman Island, that's not the case but Denman Island Fire Rescue does need a few more volunteers to train as front-line Firefighters/First Responders or to serve on our support crew, the Auxiliary to ensure that we will be able to continue to provide high quality essential services to the community.

We offer:

- Training to professional standards
- Potential for moving on to a career in firefighting
- First-class gear and equipment
- A one-on-one mentoring program
- Income Tax benefits
- Diverse challenges and experiences
- The opportunity to serve and protect our community

... and much more.

If you think that you are up to the challenge and interested in learning about becoming a front-line firefighter or a member of our Auxiliary, talk to us at our open-house on Saturday, October 15th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Firehall – 5555 Denman Road or contact Fire Chief Rob Manering by email at denmanfire@outlook.com before November 1, 2022

Denman Island Fire Rescue

"Proudly serving the Denman Island community"

Re-elect David Critchley to Islands Trust

*The background of a lawyer
The experience of a Trustee*

- Protecting the island and marine environments
- Supporting affordable housing
- Reforming Trust policies
- Initiating a governance and management review of Islands Trust
- Making fact based decisions



“You have to be more careful with an island.”

~ Motto of San Juan County, Washington State