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We invite the Hornby Island community and fellow travellers to participate in the upcoming

TOWN HALL MEETING #2

to discuss Rogers' proposal to install a 63 Meter (206.7 ft) high

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Come hear resident and off-island speakers expertly address different aspects of concern with this proposal. Among them:

- Continued lack of adequate/legal Public Consultation
- Information about Electro Magnetic Fields and 5G
- Known effect on Natural habitat (Birds and Bees)
- Impact on people and the environment, fire safety, land values, un-insurability, and other issues of major concern
- Use of Crown Land on area earmarked for Low Income Housing
- Other West Coast communities' successful resistance to Cell and Telecommunication Towers

Meeting will be held at

NEW HORIZONS (Sollans Rd)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Come to share your concerns and learn from one another

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Cover image: Thicket of pickets.
photo by Dreadful Imagery

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
MIDNIGHT MONDAYS FOR THE
FOLLOWING THURSDAY ISSUE**

Denman Island Covered Recreation Space

COMMUNITY INFO By Dylan Gale · DICRSC

Have you been wondering what is happening with the Covered Recreation Space project? Or maybe you've forgotten all about it. Either way you should read on to find out more!

The Covered Recreation Space (CRS) Committee has been working to get construction started, however, the project's budget has increased and we have been struggling to close the funding shortfall so that we can confidently begin construction without placing undue risk on the Denman Island Community Education Society (DICES). We have been working in the background to obtain extensions and increases from our major funders as well as applying for more grants. Unfortunately, we are now facing a time crunch as one of our funders is not able to give us an extension past March 31st, 2023 and we are therefore at risk of losing \$96 000 of funding for this project if we do not begin construction this winter.

Most of the pieces to have the CRS built are in place, including engineered drawings and over \$230 000 of government funding. However, we have an \$86 000 shortfall in funding for Phase 1 of the project—a finished timber frame structure with roof. Our hope is that the Denman community sees the value in this project and can help make the Covered Recreation Space a reality.

We would like to invite supporters of the CRS project to join us at the Community Hall this coming Saturday, January 14th from 2-4 pm to learn more about the situation and help us create a plan for closing the funding gap. Our hope is to find a diversity of ways for people to financially support the project, be that through donations, yearly subscriptions, long term loans or other creative approaches. Many folks have already pledged to contribute and for this we are very thankful, we will be collecting these pledges when we are confident that we can proceed.

If you would like to contribute but would prefer to skip the event, tax deductible donations can be made via e-transfer to dices.director@gmail.com, put CRS and your name and address in the message. You can also donate online through Canada

Helps, go to <https://dices.ca/crs/> to find the online donation link.

If you have questions about the project or opportunities to contribute please email Dylan at dices.crs@gmail.com.

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Winter Wellness Workshops on Weekends

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Cynthia Minden

HERE'S a thought: on chilly winter days when everything seems bleak, why not treat yourself to a solo session in donkey facilitated wellness!

Three protected spaces:

- a snug hay loft
- a cozy donkey barn
- a warm studio, tea provided

Three modalities:

- Mindfulness: cultivating thoughtful awareness through mindfulness might help us to stay grounded in an uncertain world.
- Connection: through connection with a donkey and we can learn to communicate using body language, empathy and relationship.



- Artfulness: through creative exploration and crafting something with our own hands, we may experience inspiration, wonder, and even hope thus sparking our imagination and creativity. We'll work on ideas for developing a short daily practice.

These are mini sessions, each 1.5 hours long for one person. Weekends through winter. \$75/person

For more information and to register visit www.cynthiamindenartsandequine.ca

Community Rallies to Help Restore Helliwell's Coastal Bluff System

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Chris Junck · TCBRPT

WIND driven rain didn't stop Judi Ayers' 15 Hornby Island School students on a cold day in early November. They were determined to help restore patches of coastal bluff habitat in Helliwell Provincial Park. The grades 5-7 class worked quickly with local volunteers and BC Parks staff to plant 700 plugs of native California brome, Roemer's fescue and field chickweed grown by the Hornby Island Natural History Centre. They also spread a custom mixture of native meadow seeds.

"Despite poor weather, the school kids and community volunteers put in an amazing effort, solidly demonstrating their commitment to this ecosystem restoration project," said Bonnie Zand, a biologist that assisted with the event. After the students left, some of the adults planted 400 more plugs of native grass and field chickweed.

The coastal bluff ecosystem restoration project has been ongoing since 2015. The first phases focused on limbing and gradually removing Douglas-fir and shore pine that had encroached into the previously open meadows in the southwest portion of the park, and replanting with native meadow grasses and flowers. Last winter, restoration efforts expanded to include the southeast section along the trail to St. John's Point. Dead and dying shore pine were selectively limbed or removed, piled, and burned. This work also met BC Park's goals to reduce fuel risk hazards in this section of the park. The resulting bare patches from the burn piles were seeded with native species in the spring and planted and seeded in the fall by Hornby Island school students and Satinflower Nurseries. The goal of this fall planting and seeding was to fill any remaining gaps with native vegetation to reduce invasion by weeds.

The ecosystem restoration project is intended to help the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterflies that have been released annually in the park's meadows since 2020 by the Taylor's Checkerspot Recovery Project Team.

"Several other at-risk and uncommon coastal bluff species also benefit from this work, such as western bumble bees, bats, dun skipper butterflies, and numerous birds and plants," said Jennifer Heron, chair of the project team and provincial invertebrate

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-01-12 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:22	1.6	5.4
09:44	4.8	15.6
16:24	3.1	10.3
20:33	3.5	11.5
2023-01-13 (Fri)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:58	2	6.6
10:09	4.7	15.5
17:12	2.8	9.2
21:59	3.4	11.1
2023-01-14 (Sat)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:40	2.5	8.1
10:36	4.7	15.3
18:01	2.4	7.9
23:55	3.4	11.2
2023-01-15 (Sun)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
04:35	3	9.7
11:06	4.6	15
18:50	2	6.5
2023-01-16 (Mon)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:06	3.7	12.1
05:49	3.4	11.1
11:41	4.5	14.9
19:39	1.6	5.1
2023-01-17 (Tue)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:26	4.1	13.4
07:17	3.7	12.1
12:24	4.5	14.9
20:29	1.1	3.7
2023-01-18 (Wed)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
04:22	4.4	14.6
08:38	3.9	12.7
13:15	4.6	15
21:19	0.7	2.4
2023-01-19 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
05:08	4.7	15.5
09:43	3.9	12.8
14:11	4.6	15.2
22:07	0.4	1.3



continued on P.4...

...continued from P.3 conservation specialist with the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

The project team are thankful for the assistance from the Hornby Island Community School students, teacher/vice principal Judi Ayers, parent volunteers (Ondrea Rogers, Sheryl Irvine, and Jala Klone), Hornby Island Natural History Center volunteers (Neil Wilson, Norma Wilson, Tina Wai, Bill Hamilton), BC Parks staff (Erica McClaren, Stephanie Govier, Eli Simcoe-Metcalf, Derek Moore), Satinflower Nurseries and Bonnie Zand. There has also been a lot of local assistance for the project from Helliwell Provincial Park neighbours in High Salal Ranch Strata and local community volunteers. BC Parks and the project team also thank the Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Homalco, K'omoks, Lake Cowichan, Lyackson, Penelakut, Qualicum, Snaw'Naw'As, Stz'uminus, Tla'amin, We Wai Kai, and We Wai Kum First Nations for allowing us to restore ecosystems in their traditional territories.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project Team includes biological consultants and representatives from the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, BC Parks, Denman Conservancy Association, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Mosaic Forest Management, Wildlife Preservation Canada, and others.

The recovery project has benefited from funding and in-kind contributions from the BC Parks Licence Plate Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Fund and the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Ecosystems Branch), Hornby Island Natural History Centre and others. Learn more about the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly:

<https://goert.ca/activities/taylors-checkerspot/> and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/implementation/conservation-projects-partnerships/taylors-checkerspot>



2. A native grass plug waiting to be planted.



1. Trays of native grass and field chickweed were placed by the burn sites before the students arrived.

Background Information

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) Also known as Edith's Checkerspot.

Historical range was Hornby Island, southeastern Vancouver Island, Puget Trough and to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. In B.C., they were once abundant at 10 sites in the Greater Victoria Area, one site each near Mill Bay and Comox, and sites on Hornby Island (including

Helliwell Provincial Park). They were thought to have been extirpated (became locally extinct) from Canada by 2000 when no Taylor's Checkerspots could be found in their last known sites on Hornby Island despite intensive searches. However, new populations were discovered on Denman Island in 2005 and near Campbell River in 2018.

It is federally listed as Endangered (COSEWIC, SARA Schedule 1), and is on the BC Red list of at-risk species.

Taylor's Checkerspot butterflies need open sunny meadows where they can find suitable host plants (food for larvae and nectar producing flowers for adults), such as woolly sunflower, common camas, small-flowered blue-eyed Mary, wild strawberry, sea blush, and yarrow.

Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation are major factors in the species' decline. For example, the meadows along the coastal bluffs in Helliwell Provincial Park became less suitable for butterflies due to invasions of non-native plants and encroaching forests.

Habitat enhancement work (weeding, selective limbing +/- or removal of conifers, re-planting and seeding with native species) has been ongoing in Helliwell Provincial Park for several years.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project is led by Jennifer Heron of the BC Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and is guided by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team's Invertebrates at Risk Recovery Implementation Group. It is a collaborative effort to restore Taylor's checkerspot populations in British Columbia through habitat enhancement, captive butterfly rearing and release, monitoring, public outreach, and other activities.

Team Members

Jennifer Heron (Chair), B.C. Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, Vancouver, B.C.

Erika Bland and Andrew Fyson, Denman Island Conservancy Association, Denman Island, B.C.

Deborah Bishop, Denman Island, B.C.

Menita Prasad, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Aldergrove, B.C.

Eric Gross and Ross Vennesland, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Delta, B.C.

Crispin Guppy, Entomologist, Whitehorse, Y.T.

Molly Hudson and David Vey, Mosaic Forest Management, Nanaimo, B.C.

Chris Junck, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Victoria, B.C.

Suzie Lavallee, University of British Columbia Faculty of

Forestry, Vancouver, B.C.
Patrick Lilley, Private Consultant, North Vancouver, B.C.
Erica McClaren and Stephanie Govier, BC Parks Conservation Specialist, Black Creek, B.C.
Kristen Miskelly, Satinflower Nurseries, Victoria, B.C.
Derek Moore, Area Supervisor Von Donop Area, BC Parks, Black Creek, B.C.
Nick Page, Raincoast Applied Ecology, Vancouver, B.C.
Jessica Steiner and Andrea Gielens, Wildlife Preservation Canada, Guelph, ON
Bonnie Zand, BC Conservation Foundation, Fanny Bay, B.C.
Supporters
BC Conservation Foundation
B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
B.C. Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
BC Parks
BC Parks License Plate Fund
Denman Conservancy Association
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Fund
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team
Greater Vancouver Zoo
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Hornby Island Community School
Hornby Island Natural History Centre
Hornby Island Co-op
Mosaic Forest Management
Sea Breeze Lodge
University of British Columbia
Wildlife Preservation Canada

For more information about the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project, visit: www.goert.ca/activities/taylors-checkerspot/
Or contact:

Project Lead/GOERT Invertebrates at Risk RIG Chair
Jennifer Heron
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All photos by Bonnie Zand



3. Hornby Island Community School students and adult volunteers worked together to help restore burn sites along the St. John's Point trail in Helliwell Provincial Park.



4. Cold, rain and gusty wind motivated the group to work quickly.



5. Hornby Island Natural History Centre members Bill Hamilton and Neil Wilson.



6. A soggy, satisfied group of planters. They installed 1,100 plugs of native grass and field chickweed and spread a meadow seed mixture on the burn sites.

♥ My daughter and grandchildren moved to Denman 6 years ago. I was living and working in Vancouver then, but began coming up for weekends and visits when I could and really liked what I found. Three years ago, I decided to retire and I moved up here to live beside my daughter. I visited the little Anglican Church and met some very fine people. Through them I found a couple of wonderful small Bible study groups, and learned about the community choir, and began practicing with the choir. I have made wonderful friends, some of them fine parents of classmates of my grandchildren. My grandchildren have made wonderful friends too, and live a lovely rural lifestyle that would be the envy of most families in the city I think. We have two lovely lakes for swimming in the summer, a lot of forest with great trails to explore, beaches with fabulous views, and wonderful skies at night with little competing light. We have a very well stocked general store and a hardware store that has almost everything I might need., The Farmers Market and farm stall at Two Roads are a great source of fresh food. The Free Shack and Free Store are great places to find useful things, (and get rid of other useful things) and the recycling centre is convenient and friendly. We have a great small library, and a rich range of cultural activities and concerts. I think we have everything we need, and more. I can still go to Vancouver a couple of times a month to visit family and friends, but am always delighted to arrive back here. This was probably the best move I ever made and I am so glad to live here and have such wonderful friends. Thank you all for making my life better.

David Hayward



Green Wizardries, A Time for Alyssum

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

It is time now to plant many, many pots of alyssum. I know it is January but I feel we need to give nature a helping hand. Last spring was very cold. It was winter up to June 21. That is really hard on insects who need flowering plants to nectar on as soon as they hatch out. It wasn't just last spring that was a disaster, the previous two autumns it was too cold to fly and my grove of Michaelmas daisies bloomed profusely but none of the pollinators were out and about to get the last good meal of the year.

I used to have huge numbers of bumblebees in my gardens but have had fewer every year for the past three or four years. Cold autumns are very hard on these bees as the queens live overwinter in a little cell they dig out. They make two wax cups. One cup holds nectar to sustain them over the winter and early spring and the other cup is where they will lay their eggs. They sit on their nests like a hen and vibrate to make heat to ripen their eggs.

If they cannot fly to gather the last big meal of autumn and then the flowers are months late blooming in the spring, not many queens will be able to survive and hatch out their broods. At the best of times, only fifty percent of bumblebee queens make it through the winter. These are not the best of times and I have seen a collapse in bumblebee numbers because of the terrible weather conditions and probably other factors too such as the sort of human stupidity that results in cell-phone towers and idiots spraying pesticides.

It is not just the bumblebees but every sort of flying pollinator has become scarce. Hover flies, tiny wasps, native bees, large wasps, pollinating flies, moths and butterfly numbers are all catastrophically low. Which is why I feel we had better help them if we can.

So, I ask all of my readers who can to start planting alyssum in little pots. Fill the pots with good potting soil (you can make your own potting soil from finished compost and sand) and sprinkle a few alyssum seeds on top. Press them down but do not cover them. They need to be exposed to light to germinate. Next, keep these little pots on a sunny windowsill or in a propagator. It will take two months from planting the seeds to getting the first blossoms. In March, harden the plants off and then plant them outdoors. They are fabulously hardy little plants and will reward you with a cascade of tiny, honey-scented white flowers. The flowers are very tempting to all the pollinators and attract many species of beneficial insect to the garden.

Planting a row of alyssum along the edges of raised beds will make your garden a food haven to so many insects and the

insects are the base of the food chain. Another good flower to grow is the super-hardy calendula. We can also start those seeds now for earlier blooms. The flowers, usually yellow or orange, cheer up any garden and the daisy-style blooms make excellent landing pads for the larger insects and butterflies to land on. They are also a great source of nectar and pollen. To keep them blooming, remove the spent blooms.

Cosmos daisies grow very large and have nice daisy-style blooms from white to pink, coral, purple and red. They are excellent food for the larger pollinators especially butterflies and moths. Another favourite of mine are old-fashioned snapdragons. I love to watch the huge bumblebees land on the lower lip of the snapdragon, pulling the bloom open and then walking in for a snack. I grew snapdragons last year but barely saw a bumblebee all year.

It is not just the insects that have disappeared. It is also the birds that rely on them. I used to have a large, dependable flock of chestnut-backed chickadees but they have dwindled in the last few years and now we have not seen even one this winter. Even last summer, we had some red-breasted nuthatches although fewer than previous years. Now, we have none. Both of these species of birds rely on insects for most of their food. They should be year-round residents here on Denman. I put out suet and black-oil sunflowers which they like and have always taken in the past. If they are not here, I expect it is because they were unsuccessful at rearing young and we have lost them to attrition.



I would also like to ask people to leave some thistles on their property to bloom. This is because I love the American goldfinch. They nest much later than other birds and eat thistle seeds and also, make use of thistle down in their nests. No thistles, no goldfinches.

Humans have enormous destructive potential but we could also try doing things to help our little brothers and sisters: the animals, plants and insects who do so much to make the world a beautiful and fertile place. 🍇

Ukrainian Christmas 2023

COMMUNITY INFO

By Anthony Gregson

A traditional Ukrainian Christmas party was held on January 7th in the Back Hall of the Denman Community Hall. This year it was different in that it was advertised to be open to all, where previously it had tended to be an extended family affair, spread by word of mouth. Pierogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, ham, sausages, salads and desserts were all there in profusion, and there was a cash bar. Catering was handled mainly by Donna Wooley from the Guesthouse with several dishes by Jarah Kirk and an army of volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of Andrew Fyson and Robert Newton, who also paid for the hall rental, guests enjoyed the lively music of Kosta Bozhinov on accordion, and Michael Burnyeat on violin.



"I trust you are enjoying yourself," asks Mr. Fyson in Ukrainian costume.

The duo presented traditional Ukrainian and other Slavic pieces, as well as Monti's Czardas, Irish folk music and French musette. Robert Newton points out that they are exceptionally versatile, quite capable of presenting world folk music as varied as in Latin, Middle Eastern and Asian styles. Their versatility extends to classical music. Kosta has performed at the Baroque Festival on the archlute. Later that evening, after the event, with piano and violin, they improvised on familiar jazz standards. Then Kosta and Michael switched to improvising in a baroque style. Kosta played brilliant vivace riffs on the harpsichord and Michael tuned down like a baroque violin as they interacted improvisationally with each other. Such excellent ear training, and such great fun. 🍇



Michael Burnyeat and Kosta Bozhinov

Denman Green Update - January 2023

COMMUNITY INFO

By Simon Palmer · DHA

project; we received our Water License from the Ministry of Forests last week. While the permitted volume that we may pump exceeds expected demand, we still aim to supply 50% of Denman Green's potable water needs from collected rainwater.

Legislatively, this final Ministry approval means that our Denman Island Local Trust Committee may proceed to 4th Reading and Adoption of the bylaws relating to the rezoning of the Denman Green site, for the construction of 20 units of affordable housing, at its first scheduled meeting on February 7

Meanwhile, on the ground, our team of consultant engineers and architects has completed 50% of Design Development

THE new year has opened on a positive note for our Denman Green

work covering architectural design, site layout, water, wastewater, structural, electrical and mechanical systems, a geotechnical assessment and much more. Our immediate challenge is funding to pay for the balance of this design work that is absolutely critical to a successful application for construction financing later in the year to BC Housing, CMHC and others. We are hopeful that a funding request to CVRD will receive a positive response in their upcoming 2023 financial planning.

We look forward to reporting regularly and positively to the Denman community on progress with the Denman Green project and, if anyone has questions or wishes to contribute in any way, just call 335 2559 or email DenmanAffordableHousing@gmail.com



Letter to the Editor

Letter to the editor in the Islands Grapevine,

Credit Union members demanding term limits, basic democratic reforms

This will be of interest to those on Hornby and Denman who are members of Coastal Community Credit Union.

Catalyzed by a special resolution petition that was sponsored by hundreds of disgruntled members – most from Gabriola Island – the entire 100,000-odd membership is voting this month to impose term/tenure limits on the co-operative's directors.

Forced by the provincial regulator to proceed this vote, the directors have retaliated with a counter-resolution and a procedural trap. It seems clear that the old-guard directors (holding a majority position, and having occupied their positions for over 20, some over 30 years) do not want to vacate their lucrative positions. Directors receive \$40k to over \$65k per year, the amount essentially determined by meeting attendance – they schedule over 60 meetings annually, most of which they can attend virtually or in person.

The members group is urging members to vote “in favour” for BOTH resolutions – #1 for a 12-year tenure limit and #2 for 9 years. It matters little which length, the group feels, as long as we can end this dynasty, and get our credit union back on track with democratic member control, care for community and the environment, support for co-operatives and the other co-operative principles.

The trap set by the old guard has been to promote the vote as a competition between the resolutions. The propaganda-like bulletin issued with the ballots is inflammatory, clearly intended to goad members to vote in favour or against each resolution. But doing so will almost certainly guarantee neither resolution will pass because a “pass” is 2/3rds, not the typical 50% situation. Any vote against will cancel out two votes in favour. This trap has been used by other boards to neutralize member resolutions – (in) famously by Coast Capital in 2014 to successfully thwart four member resolutions.

If neither resolution achieves 2/3rd in favour of the votes cast, there will be no term limit. That's why the members group is

Dora Drinkwater Library Closure

Several library volunteers have been concerned lately with the number of people on Denman sick with flu, Covid and other respiratory diseases. Due to that concern, we have decided to close from January 16 to February 13. I am sorry for the late notice, but we look forward to seeing you on Monday, February 13th.

Please remember that we prefer you wear a mask in our small library space, and there is one for you in the library, if you don't have one.

advocating that member ignore the trap and vote "in favour" to BOTH resolutions.

The members group is also challenging the old-guard's blatant biasing of the annual elections. The directors must run for re-election every three years – their terms are staggered. Candidates are prohibited from campaigning in person or online, advertising, allowing a friend to endorse them, talking to media, sending out a group email, acknowledging their candidacy on Facebook and other online boards, advocating for or against any policy, and saying anything that might be considered (by the board in its sole discretion, with immediate effect and without possibility of appeal) to be critical of incumbent directors or the credit union. Directors decide who to "recommend" – and routinely select their peers and avoid recommending anyone who might challenge them, regardless of that person's qualifications. It would be hard to make this stuff up, but it's all true.

We'll keep members posted in the IslandsGrapevine. If members want more information and to get involved, you can visit www.CCCU-membersgroup.org or email to CCCU.membersgroup@gmail.com.

Please remember to vote "in favour" to BOTH resolutions to help rescue our co-operative credit union from this somewhat tragicomic situation.

Thank you,
Bruce Batchelor
on behalf of the Coastal Community Credit Union members group 🍷



B.C. LAND SURVEYOR

PETER T. MASON

P: 250-757-8788

surveyor-ark@uniserve.com

ADVERTISING FEATURE

BC Ferries in your community

Keeping you informed — Keeping you connected

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the way we engage the communities we serve and to be more accessible and transparent to all community members, BC Ferries recently launched online pages for minor route communities. Our goal is to provide easy access to updates and information to keep community members connected.

These new community pages act as both a record for route-specific information and a place for community members to connect with BC Ferries and fellow community members about their ferry service.

Content on the pages include:

- Interactive community feedback forums to support in-person events
- Community updates
- Key community event dates
- A document library containing engagement

reports, materials presented at community drop-in sessions, formal responses to community requests etc.

- A sign-up link to receive proactive updates when new information is added to the page
- Contact information for our community relations team

Communities can expect to see in-person drop-in sessions being offered regularly now that COVID restrictions have lifted. Community pages will help support sessions by helping us determine the topics that are of most interest so we can bring answers, information and discussion themes the next time we visit.

Please check out your community page at bcferriesprojects.ca/in-your-community.

BC Ferries

WorkBC Employment Services Services d'emploi

January 2023 / janvier 2023

Sunday dimanche	Monday lundi	Tuesday mardi	Wednesday mercredi	Thursday jeudi	Friday vendredi	Saturday samedi
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Denman Island 10:00 – 2:00			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Hornby Island 10:30 – 2:30			
29	30	31				

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This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.
Ce programme est financé par le gouvernement du Canada et la province de la Colombie-Britannique.

Letter to Gary **D**EAR GARY,

By Maxine Rogers

I want to first, thank you for your informative and well-written article on MAID. I am glad someone else has joined the conversation that I think we need to have as a community around this issue. Secondly, I want to give you my condolences on the loss you have endured or will soon be facing.

Hugs from Max 🍷

Burning Crosses on the Front Lawn

OPINIONS

By Jane Masutani

This is something I want to avoid at all costs. The burning crosses. My recent horoscopes all keep advising me to express myself fully for a change, then in the next breath, that I must “be careful”. Well which one is it? It’s hard to express myself fully if I’m walking on eggshells.

They have a much-used expression in Japan and perhaps in all of Confucian Asia, (Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, China) “The sticking up nail gets hit”. Conformity in thought and deed is the safe bet. We in the West are of a mind, or like to think we are of a mind, that “the squeaky wheel gets the oil”. Well, maybe it does, and then it gets hit. By a hitman.

There seem to be risks attached to saying much of anything these days. Best to discuss trips to Mexico. Of course politics and religion have always been taboo in dinner or any other conversations, really. But the present dark vibe, I would venture, is unprecedented in my lifetime. Maybe in human history. I haven’t been around for all of it. Some days it feels like I have. The only thing I can compare in my lifetime to this current downer vibe is when JFK was killed. I was nine at the time. Now that was one hell of a downer vibe, let me tell you. You could feel it in the supermarkets. Teachers were crying in the classrooms. There was a strong, shocking sense of evil having triumphed. I’m not saying it’s an identical vibe now, but it’s a confusing and dark vibe. My sister tells me to knock it off, says I’m alone with my mindset. The rest of the world is frolicking and having “fun”, planning their sun-filled vacations while I’m obsessing over World Events.

Her argument is, what does it matter to us? Our lives are here. This is our reality. We walk a muddy path to the car. We drive in the rain to Courtenay. We hope to return before it gets dark so we can see where we’re going. So what if the media are lying to us on all fronts? And I see her point.

For the past year or so I have followed a woman on YouTube, Mel Rentmeister. Her skin is white, her clothes are white,

she’s blond and her house is white too, minimalist white. There may be a green frond in the background. Just one. The point is that for all this time she has spoken in a very soft voice about the importance, basically, of turning the other cheek and rising above whatever awful thing is happening this week in the world. If we give out a negative vibe we’re just strengthening the other side, making them stronger. Best to just lighten our vibration and rise above the maelstrom. I struggled with her message, but respected it. At the end of the day though, I’m not a buddhist monk.

Well, blow me down with a feather when I turn on her channel last week and the headline, in all caps, is “WAKE UP NOW”. And the soft tone of her voice has changed. “We need to question what we’re being fed everyday.” Really? Et tu, Mel? You, of the ethereal white world, allowing yourself to experience a tad of displeasure with the way the world is now? So that rocked my online world.

Any change in this world, big world-changing...change, is not going to come from a bunch of people sitting on comfy couches. Those couches are just so darn comfy, right? It wasn’t just lack of funds that brought me back from Afghanistan 50 yrs ago. It was hard benches. My bum had gotten so skinny. I was 95 lbs and at 5’5” that’s thin. I experienced the lack of the comfy, upholstered couch. When you’ve grown up in suburban North America there’s just no life like it anywhere else. Even the couches of Europe can’t compare. They just don’t have that softness you can just sink into. Ikea makes special couches just for us, for the North American market.

Martin Luther King said, before he was unceremoniously bumped off at the age of 39, “The saving of our world from impending doom will come not through the complacent adjustment of the conforming majority, but through the creative maladjustment of a non-conforming minority.” Well, I would like to help in any way I can. Beats me if I can figure out how. Please let me know if you come up with anything. 🍷

Dear Metta Spencer

Letter To The Editor: Peace Magazine

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

Dear Metta Spencer,

Re: Your editorial on Putin’s motives for invading Ukraine

I look to Canada’s Peace Magazine for progressive, solid analyses of war with a view to finding ways through, not simply “eliminating false theories” to reduce complexities and pin the blame on one side. I was surprised to read your still-relevant editorial (July-August edition) dismissing NATO encroachment on Russia’s borders as a factor in Putin’s illegal invasion. To say that it was “merely a pretext” for the invasion is a denial of accountability that makes resolution much more difficult. It’s a dangerous narrative. In war, the harms done by everyone involved must be considered and learned from to prevent further damage & loss of life.

You rightly claimed that the West should have followed the demobilization of the Warsaw Pact dissolution rather than expand NATO. Instead, NATO violated its 1991 US promise to Gorbachev to not expand “one inch” eastward. Could the Russian invasion be an unintended consequence of such deceit? How might the situation be different had we disbanded NATO and followed the course of diplomacy? What if we had agreed to the OSCE (Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe, which grew out of the Helsinki Accords) taking the lead security role for Europe, as proposed? What if Western Europe had incorporated Russia into councils of European governance as Gorbachev proposed? (as Germany should have been after WWI.) NATO has never been a “defensive” alliance, and its aggressions (in Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq & Libya) have been critical to the breakdown of relations between Russia and the West.

It is of course, easier to dismiss or minimize Russia’s legitimate security concerns about NATO’s military expansion eastward, and take the position you do, that he’s simply a “thief & a murderer with delusions”. Even William Burns, the current head of the CIA, warned against the dangers of NATO expansion. (Dr. Marcus Stanley, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.) Putin also wanted Russia to be a closer part of the European economic/social networks. He was effectively shunned by the West, despite Europe’s clear reliance on Russian natural gas and other trade. Russia will now sell its gas to markets eastward and Europe will face exorbitant extra energy costs for importing gas from the US. Who really stands to benefit from this arrangement but the US?

Europe is and will continue to feel this war far more than Canada & the US. Speaking as a Canadian, our belligerence, our refusal to lobby for a cease-fire, for negotiations, is shameful. Negotiations are not a sign of weakness, or a call to appeasement. They are the necessary beginning of a pathway to peace. How many more people will have to die to reinforce US/NATO dominance? Canada has had troops in Latvia for several years before this war began, and special forces in Ukraine training up Ukrainians for battle. Always we act unquestioningly in the name of NATO; until recently I was unaware that NATO has always been headed by an American general and under complete US control. The US has openly stated its goal is to “weaken Russia”. (Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.)

What does it matter if Biden doesn’t have the delusions of grandeur of his Russian counterpart?

We have seen many unhinged political leaders; that doesn’t justify proxy wars and “regime change”. How well did it go in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya & Syria? The onus should be on Biden to act rationally and push for peace. How would Biden’s government react were Russia to station troops on its Mexican border and conduct

“training exercises” there?

We must reject distributional, zero-sum thinking; all your theories of why this war – NATO expansion, Putin’s wish to restore the Russian empire and Putin the madman - have truth to them. And there are other factors of course. Let’s just acknowledge that NATO gave Putin a pretext, knowing full well that he is no peacemaker like Gorbachev was. And NATO continues to play a frightening role in this debacle. Witness former British PM Boris Johnson’s trip to Ukraine last March when he shut down the Turkey-facilitated peace process. President Zelensky was looking for some type of security guarantees for a neutral Ukraine in exchange for peace with Russia, and was told by Johnson (there representing the West) that such guarantees wouldn’t be forthcoming if Zelensky opted for continuing negotiations. This news was censored by MSM. (Yves Engler, Canadian Foreign Policy Hour, 2022.) Massive aid from the US and Canada now goes to Ukraine, mostly in the form of weapons for war.

All war is dirty business; no war is justifiable. The ones who benefit most from warfare are the arms manufacturers & dealers, and they are all doing just fine right now.

Lastly, we must consider the two elephants in the room: nuclear weapons - Putin has already threatened their possible use. Canadians (and Peace Magazine) should be pushing our government to sign onto the Treaty for the Prohibition of

continued on P.12...



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...continued from P.11 Nuclear Weapons, and press for world denuclearization. Second, climate crisis. War is the biggest polluter of all (see www.worldbeyondwar.org), and it completely distracts from the urgent work of ensuring the survival of living beings. We need to examine, protest and end our part in "endless war" so that we can focus on what matters. Let's dedicate this New Year to peace! 🍷

Growing Up Means Extracting The Beliefs That Were Placed In Your Head By Others

OPINIONS

By Caitlin Johnstone

MOST people never grow up. Not really.

Growing up means maturing. It means becoming

independent. It means developing into your own person and standing on your own two feet.

Few people really do this. Because few people ever get around to extracting all the beliefs that were placed in their heads by other people.

Most people have similar beliefs to their parents about life, society, politics and religion. If it's not their parents it's other influential figures in their lives like friends, teachers, or the media pundits they follow.

More significantly, most people hold a lot of beliefs about themselves and their place in the world that were put in their heads by people they care about. The average person goes from cradle to grave without ever seriously examining their beliefs about who they are, what they're like, or any of the other ideas about themselves that get inserted into their minds by the verbal and nonverbal communications of the people around them.

For most people, a huge amount of their personality is pretty much locked into place in early childhood by the life experiences that they have with other people during that time. They're still essentially who they were when they were kids, but we call them grown ups just because they're a certain age and can have kids of their own.

Really growing up means doing the hard, earnest work of extracting all the bullshit that was placed in our minds over the course of our lives by people who were just as immature, traumatized and confused as us. It means really excavating our beliefs about ourselves, about life, and about our world, all the way down to the old subconscious beliefs that are buried so deep inside us that we don't even normally notice them.

This isn't easy. It takes work, it takes dedication, and it takes courage, because truly relinquishing long-held core beliefs is like a kind of death. But unless we've done it we can't really say we have matured as human beings, because we're still existing in more or less the same state we were in when we were children: sponge-like imitators who soaked up whatever was placed in our minds by trusted authorities.

And to make things even harder, it turns out that there's a whole other category of people who've been placing beliefs in our minds, and they're complete strangers. It turns out that powerful people have been pouring massive amounts of wealth and effort into manipulating the way the public thinks, speaks and behaves in order to manufacture consent for agendas and status quo policies which benefit them.

It's obnoxiously unfair, if you think about it. You go through all the hard work of uprooting all the dopey nonsense that was put into your head by your parents, preachers and teachers since you were small, only to find out that you've got a bunch of other garbage in your head that was dumped there by the news media and the manufacturers of mainstream culture for the benefit of a few powerful assholes. Just as you put down your shovel and got ready to relax, you've got to pick it back up and get right back to shovelling.

But hell, that's the job. That's what it takes to become a mature human being. You've got to rip out all the crap that was placed in your mind over the course of your life by confused elders and corrupt manipulators if you want to live a life that's grounded in truth instead of bullshit.

This doesn't mean that you can't have beliefs, or that you can't have beliefs that came from other people. Humanity has been full of brilliant minds with great ideas, and the world is full of true and helpful information. The difference is that you are consciously choosing as a mature adult to take on board whatever you take on board for however long you find it useful, rather than mindlessly ingesting it into your worldview because someone told you to.

And you can't do that until you've cleared everything out. Stripped your worldview bare of everything that was put there before you were mature enough to lucidly interrogate its truthfulness, including your most fundamental assumptions about self, life, and reality. From there, you can consciously construct your own worldview based on what you have independently found to be true.

Again, this isn't something most people tend to do, including the powerful people who are destroying our world and driving us toward disaster and annihilation. Our world is being steered by confused psychological infants who have not done the work of becoming true adults, and it's going about as well as it sounds like it would go.

Humanity needs to mature if we are to avert disaster and begin creating a healthy world. We are each singularly responsible for our own role in that maturing process. Every mature human brings humanity as a whole that much closer to maturity, and provides one more voice that can help orient the world toward truth. The work starts here and now, beneath our own feet. 🍷



A Shocking Disclosure

By Gwynne Dyer · OP January 7, 2023

OPINIONS

WHERE do you look when somebody says: “In the age of Apaches and laptops, everything I did in the course of two combat tours was recorded, time-stamped. I could always say precisely how many enemy combatants I’d killed. And I felt it vital never to shy away from that number.”

“So, my number: Twenty-five. It wasn’t a number that gave me any satisfaction. But neither was it a number that made me feel ashamed.”

That was Prince Harry fulfilling his contractual obligation to spill his guts in his new book ‘Spare.’ (“An heir and a spare”: he is second-in-line to the British throne.) And to my surprise, I was shocked by what he said. Not by what he did, but by the fact that he put a number on it.

I have been in close contact with the military world for much of my life, as a naval officer, an academic, a journalist, and a documentary film-maker. I have interviewed at least a hundred veterans about their experiences in war – and none of them ever mentioned how many people they had killed. Well, almost none.

There is no formal ban on talking about your ‘kill count’, but it’s in extremely bad taste. As retired Col. Tim Collins, formerly of the British Army, put it: “Harry has badly let the side down. We don’t do notches on the rifle butt.”

Rear Admiral Chris Parry, ex-Royal Navy officer, said: “Over 35 years of service, I’ve never heard anybody in the Armed Forces say what their score is. I think it’s highly unusual and I think, if we’re going to be kind, it must be the ghostwriter who has put these words into Harry’s mouth.” Probably, but Harry must have had a final veto on the content.

Enough about Harry, but what an extraordinary thing! The whole business of soldiering, when you get down to basics, is efficient killing– and yet that is the one and only aspect of their profession that soldiers will not talk about. I don’t think they are ashamed of it, but that’s not what they were brought up to do. Nobody was.

Many years ago I interviewed William Manchester, an American writer who fought as a Marine in the Pacific War in 1944-45. He told me about the first time he killed a man.

“I was utterly terrified – petrified – but I knew there had to be a Japanese sniper in a small fishing shack near the shore....And there was nobody else to go, and so I ran towards the shack and broke in.

“I was absolutely gripped by the fear that this man would expect me and would shoot me, but it turned out he was in a sniper harness and he couldn’t turn around fast enough. He was entangled in the harness so I shot him with a .45 and I felt remorse and shame.

“I can remember whispering foolishly ‘I’m sorry’, and then just throwing up...I threw up all over myself. It was a betrayal of what I’d been taught since a child.”

In almost every other walk of life, killing somebody is the ultimate crime; in war, it is the soldier’s duty. And in ground warfare, you are actually aware of the humanity of the people you are killing. Even if you are in the artillery and rarely see the enemy, you see the consequences of what artillery does to human flesh and bone.

It creates at the very least a discomfort, an uneasiness that is best dealt with by not talking about it. So while soldiers will talk about other aspects of battle quite frankly, at least among themselves, only a few misfits would ever mention how many people they have killed.

Insert a little distance into the equation, however, and everything changes. Fighter pilots are happy to talk about their ‘kills’, and even have a system where five ‘kills’ makes you an ‘ace’. An infantryman who talked like that would be viewed as a head-case.

And perhaps this can be Harry’s excuse. He was flying a helicopter gunship, and viewing the results on a screen. The distance between him and the men he killed wasn’t very great, but in practical terms his insulation from reality was almost total.

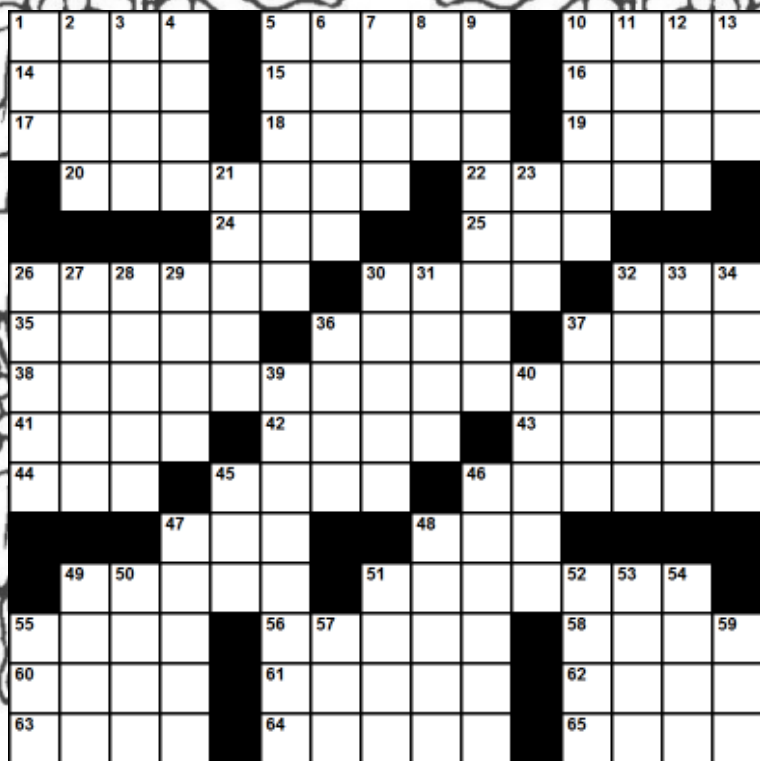


End It

by Thomas Provençal

*The other side of anger
is unrelinquished love.
One’s heart becomes a battle-
ground,
the war: ‘tween crow and dove
where imaginary stories
embellished for their juice
are strained through mixed emo-
tions
before they’re put to use
as weapons in a manuscript
justifying one’s position
re: who’s the better victim
in a public court decision.*

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Indulge in mockery
5. Detox facility
10. Garbage vessel
14. Figure skating jump
15. Bit of lowlife
16. Ask for a miracle
17. Bakery purchases
18. Thermoslike flask
19. Mechanical repetition
20. Darwin's concerns
22. Poker coins
24. Blade
25. Barnyard critter
26. Wrist related
30. 32-card game
32. Attacked vampire style
35. Alaskan language
36. Be up and about
37. Hill of sand
38. Lord
41. Abbr. after a list
42. Fish habitat
43. Maze barriers
44. Animal abode
45. Inoperative to NASA

46. Be a snitch

47. Existed
48. Ganoid fish
49. Forked out
51. Abase
55. Stamp backing
56. Elite category
58. Actress Perlman
60. Blue material
61. Brief brawl
62. Does some planting
63. Be loyal to
64. AOL rival
65. Siberian city

• DOWN •

1. As. nation
2. Bygone alliance
3. Coop call
4. Besides that
5. Kind of tire
6. Arabian ruler
7. Cuts down
8. Arab robe
9. Annual report feature
10. New growth
11. Batch
12. Bran bits
13. Zee preceder
21. Raccoon like carnivore
23. All the rage
26. Like Superman
27. Winged
28. Aired again
29. Play tug-of-war
30. Girl in a pool
31. Category
32. Erected
33. Omitting none
34. Future, e.g.
36. Fresh air foiler
37. Heck's cousin
39. Renunciation
40. Clio or Edgar
45. A Darling dog
46. Indelible design
47. Teeny follower
48. Vigorous vitality
49. Grungy one
50. Faultless
51. Kind of helmet
52. Approximation words
53. To ---- it may concern
54. Crier's delivery
55. Mail HQ
57. Actress Salonga
59. Answer on Jeopardy

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

Grumpism



“I am terrified of elevators and I am taking steps to avoid them.”
(Thank you Noel Villard.)

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

G	E	T	I	T		D	A	H	L		G	A	T	S
A	G	O	N	E		O	B	O	E		A	C	H	E
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M	E	S	S		Y	O	Y	O		C	E	N	T	S

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DESIGN/PRODUCTION Chris Seguin

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suitable for concerts, plays, meetings, weddings, etc.

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 250-792-0128 (H/D)
- Cloutier Matthews LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants 338-7367 (All)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoeppner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • LEL0207455 • 702-0570 (D/H)
- Tandem gravel truck & transfer trailer • Grant Morrison 335-0702 (D/H)
- Shel Brodsgaard • Excavation & Services • 250-703-3898 (D/H)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather •
250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)
- DB Excavations • Dorianbaker56@gmail.com • 250-465-1889 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)

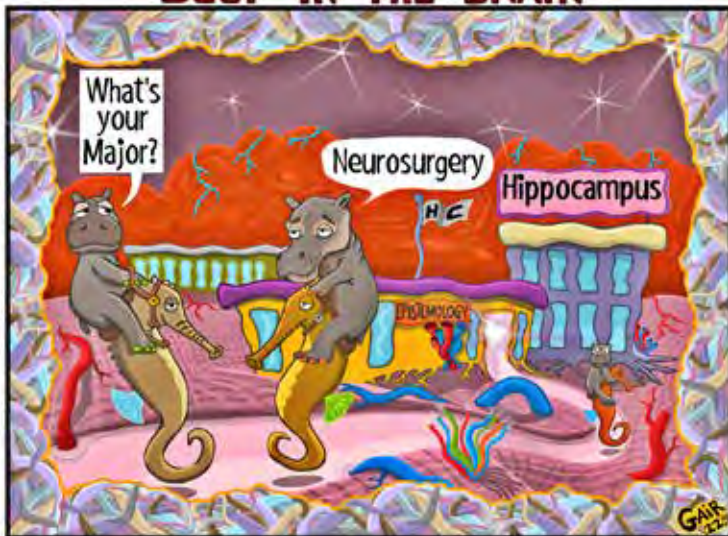
• SERVICES •

- Denman Works! • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)
- Florist-Keep Floral (Emma) • 250-335-2746 (D)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac • 778-992-0165 (D)
- Registered Massage Therapist • Mary G Vellet • 11100 Dusty Rd •
250-202-1268 (D)
- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160
www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Ryan Moulf Counselling (Statera Therapy) • Ryan Moulf, MA, RCT-C
moulfcounselling@gmail.com • remote service (D/H)

DEEP IN THE BRAIN



BEV FINCH & FIDDLE

JANUARY 13TH
6PM DINNER
SHOW STARTS AT
7PM

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

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 12

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

FRIDAY 13

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

SATURDAY 14

- 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 15

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 16

- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

TUESDAY 17

- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

WEDNESDAY 18

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13
- AUDIO ARTS OPEN MIC Back Hall 7pm

THURSDAY 19

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

FRIDAY 20

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

SATURDAY 21

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

SUNDAY 22

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 23

- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

TUESDAY 24

- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

WEDNESDAY 25

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library CLOSED until 02/13

THURSDAY 26

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

Urgent call for action regarding cell tower proposal on Hornby

Community members of Hornby Island have many questions regarding the Public Consultation Process underway - regarding the installation of a telecommunications tower by Rogers on our island. The purpose of a consultation process is to ensure that the public has the opportunity to gain clarity into the exact terms of any proposal; Rogers's is no exception.

There are many concerns regarding the location (crown land near highly populated areas and earmarked for low-income housing) of the tower, its present and future purposes, the need for a tower, health and safety issues, the risk of forest fires, the sensory impact of a 200 ft antenna running live for 24 hours, depreciation of land values and many others. This is a very complex issue and the rushed process – forced to take place over the busy Christmas season, has not given the community time to absorb and understand the complexities in a reasoned and convincing manner.

Our local Trustees appear to be in the dark as well, apparently due to a lack of clarity regarding the sharing of information by the Trust office; information the Trust has had for many months. We can't help but wonder if our Trustees are being unduly pressured to make a snap decision, without allowing both themselves and the Hornby community they have been elected to represent, the time to fully understand the implications of this proposal. As our elected representatives, we count on them to speak and act on our behalf according to the best interests of the community. They should not be hampered in this duty.

The Islands Trust Head Office needs to be held to account when not complying with their mandate to “preserve and protect” the fragile islands it is responsible for. Is it possible that they, too, are being influenced by the corporate/government partnership model that communities all over the world are fighting against? Mounting evidence about substantial damage wreaked by similar tower installations on all organic systems (bees, birds, humans, entire forests), is rapidly being revealed worldwide. Is this the primary motivation for rushing this process, regardless of the consequences?

Expressions of concern are being raised throughout the community, including members of the fire department, the depot staff, the elementary school, the social housing committee, the Spark and a large number of residents. Why orchestrate a process that, willingly or not, obscures the facts, potentially leading the public to accept a type of industrial installation that is yet to be proven necessary or safe and is potentially dangerous? What is the hurry? Shouldn't protection of our pristine environment and the health of our community-our elders, and small children, all proven vulnerable to a greater or lesser degree-be paramount?

We are in the process of deciding whether or not to seek legal advice. Technical advice we have already received has alarmed us and we will continue to inform ourselves and others. We need to understand what is actually happening. We need to know if our community can legally be forced to follow a process controlled by a large corporation based in Toronto. We need answers as to why our community is being pressured into feeling that we no longer have any say over our own destiny. This is not what we moved here for. This is not why we chose to raise our children here.

Corporate bullying and government overreach that seek to cut the public out of decisions heavily impacting our lives, must not be tolerated. It is not a stretch to say that this proposal and the process by which Rogers and its partners are attempting to implement it has possibly crossed a number of legal boundaries.

We implore our Trustees to support the community they were elected to represent and either vote NO to the proposal in the upcoming Trust Meeting, due to a lack of proper consultation, or put forth a motion to POSTPONE a decision to give the community the time it needs to understand the proposal and its implications properly. A

vote that truly and dutifully represents the will and interest of the community needs to be one based on informed consent.

Submitted by a large and growing group of Concerned Citizens of Hornby Island

Elspeth Armstrong, Chris Armstrong, Linda Armstrong, Alf Bangert, Cassandra Bassett, Cento Bevilacqua, Nanna Brehmer, Rex Brown, Christiane Brown, Gary Burtinsky, Heather Caton, Iyana Celestine, Fiona Connen, Jim Crawford, Sara de Rose, Michelle M. Easterly, Sylvia Elysiana, Elena Feder, Baily Gordon, Pam Gordon, Jean Gordy, Holly Grieve, Helen Grond, Aurora Grond, Lily Graham, Amanda Hale, Jackie Heim, Wrena Holliday, Ed Holliday, Gina-Rae Horvath, Cathie Howard, Mary Howard, Sally Howard, Tom Howard, Francka Jenzer, Roger Jenzer, Lori Kemp, Carol Jones, Laaszlo Laczko, Linda Lake, Lorraine Lightfoot, Bev Lownie, Ida Mackay, Carol May, Mahony, Russ Mahy, Janet Morgan, Kathleen O'Brien, Glen Rabena, Jeff Rabena, Vera Ronnigen, Jan Steen, John Struthers, Jane Talbot, Erin Towson, Kenneth Towson, Scott Towson, William Thomas, Nic Tunheim, Kees Vandervalk, Kleyo Walmsley, Judith Walmsley, Ian Walmsley, Christa Yeomans

Tight time Constraints have limited our ability to canvass the island for signatures. We anticipate that this list will grow much longer as people become aware of what is being proposed and how the consultation process has been compromised.