



"April. Month of dust and lies." • Naguib Mahfouz, *Adrift on the Nile*



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Cover image: Chickadee Lake, March 29th, 2023, DI.
photo by Dreadful Imagery

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



• DENMAN: 700 • HORNBY: 520 •
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*The opinions expressed herein do not
necessarily reflect the views of the
Publisher.*

Bus Stop Decoration Days HHEY DENMAN!

By Sam Borthwick · DIBS

COMMUNITY INFO

The time is nearly upon us when the Denman Island Bus Service will once again be plying the roads of Denman, and in the advent of our new bus, we have decided to spruce up our bus stops- Denman-style!

To this end, we'd like to invite creative souls young and old to come down to **the Earthclub Factory on April 8th and 22nd from 11am – 2pm** to help us put a personal, islandy touch on our little forest of bus stops. Feel free to bring weather-durable nicknacks, sticks, toys and curios that we can securely affix to a wooden post, and we'll spend the afternoon Making Denman Weirder.

We will be assigning the posts to specific stops around the route, so let us know on the day which neighbourhood you're in, and you'll be able to put your particular spin on your local stop!

Naturally, as this is April we're talking about, this project is somewhat weather-dependent. We will try and get the word out on the day if the rain forces us to cancel. 🌧️

DICES News WANT to know what we do and how you can help your

By Jessi Schlegel · DICES

COMMUNITY INFO

community and the Denman Island Community Education Society? Read this!

Food Bank

We are very excited about our first -hopefully annual- Food Bank Food Drive on Saturday, April 8th, 10am - 2pm. DICES would love to invite you to come by and check out our new space at the Hub (old preschool)!

We welcome you as well as food and/or financial support (as storage space may be limited).

Community Programs:

After-School Programs are ready and can be viewed on our homepage: www.dices.ca.

Start date is Tuesday, April 11th. We are proud to be able to offer a nice variety of active- and creative programs.

Due to cuts in funding and to make programs more self-sufficient, we are raising the program fee from \$2 to \$3 per session. However, no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. If your child would like to participate but you need some assistance, send an email to dices.communityprograms@gmail.com.

Big Thank You

This month's big thank you goes to **Gerli** who is our Lunch Program volunteer on Thursdays.

We are very thankful for all your time invested! The kids get so much value out of the program and love cooking, serving and cleaning up with you.

Thank you for being awesome!

Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to volunteer your time for anything else and/or have amazing skills to share with kids or adults, feel free to email us at: dices.communityprograms@gmail.com

You can also send donations directly to us via cheque, cash or e-transfer or through CanadaHelps! 🍷

COMMUNITY INFO

Changes Coming to Ima' Kitchen . . .

By Ima's Kitchen



HAPPY SPRING to all of you! We wanted to let you know of some up coming changes to our little bakery.

We opened our bakery six years ago, this was not our intention when we moved to Denman, but as some of you know this island tends to push you in directions that you may not have planned! When we started baking, we had no experience (other than baking for ourselves) and it was a steep learning curve filled with many funny shaped loaves...but we managed to learn from our mistakes and are so proud of what our bakery is today.

Unfortunately, Bronwynne was recently diagnosed with two tears in her shoulder tendons, which makes baking as usual extremely painful. This has been what we suspected she had for a while now, but an ultrasound confirmed this diagnosis, which confirmed our need to change up what we are doing! It is very hard for us to let go of the idea of baking and selling bread at the market, but we are sure it is the right thing to do to take care of Bronwynne's shoulder.

Luckily we have another project coming up fast, which we are so very excited to share with you all! We recently obtained a used food trailer that we are planning to renovate slightly and set up downtown Denman! Our menu will be simple: falafel in a pita, some small scrumptious sides, and the full variety of our vegan ice cream products! Every item in our trailer will be home made by us, from the pita to the sauces! We have been serving our falafel to the community since we first moved here and we are so ecstatic to have the opportunity to serve it on a more regular basis!

Our goal for opening will be May long weekend, but hopefully we will have a soft opening before that! We are truly sorry for having to pull away from the bakery....but we hope that offering fresh delicious meals all summer will make up for it!

We are so grateful for all of the community support we have felt throughout the last 9 years on Denman and especially the last 6 years of the bakery! Thank you!! We look forward to feeding you this summer! Look for "The Falafel Stand" downtown Denman! 🍷

SPECIAL INTEREST

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

interesting I thought I'd share what I can here.

AS part of their Life Long Learning series of Zoom talks, **HIES** offered a talk about our water situation on Hornby, presented by Darren Bond and Katy Helliwell of the Hornby Healthy Watersheds Project this past Sunday. It was so

For the first part of the talk, presented by Darren Bond, we learned about water quantity on the island. We learned about below-ground cracks and fractures in deep rock, where water can seep, and that two wells right next to each other might have very different water supplies. What's happening underground is complicated and there's no way to see what's going on down there, so some wells can tap into a fracture with a good water supply and some not.

We viewed a graph showing statistics for the past twenty years of the levels of the groundwater over the course of the year. This was sobering. We are now experiencing the lowest groundwater

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-03-30 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
03:17	4.4	14.4
19:54	1.7	5.7
2023-03-31 (Fri)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
04:11	4.4	14.5
11:22	3.3	10.7
13:47	3.3	10.9
20:59	1.8	5.9
2023-04-01 (Sat)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
04:48	4.4	14.6
11:28	3.1	10.1
15:14	3.4	11.1
21:54	1.8	5.8
2023-04-02 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:17	4.4	14.6
11:41	2.9	9.5
16:13	3.5	11.6
22:38	1.8	5.8
2023-04-03 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:39	4.5	14.6
11:59	2.7	8.7
17:02	3.7	12.2
23:16	1.8	5.9
2023-04-04 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:58	4.5	14.7
12:19	2.4	7.8
17:48	3.9	12.7
23:52	1.9	6.3
2023-04-05 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
06:17	4.5	14.7
12:43	2.1	6.8
18:34	4	13.2
2023-04-06 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
00:27	2.1	6.9
06:36	4.5	14.7
13:11	1.8	5.8
19:23	4.2	13.7

continued on P.4...

...continued from P.3 levels in twenty years. It may even be longer, but we didn't see data from previous years. Data on precipitation levels since 1960 has showed a slow, steady decrease in average precipitation that continues to the present day.

North America is suffering extreme drought right now, floods in California notwithstanding. The Southwest USA, Darren told us, is experiencing their worst drought in 500 years. According to the BC Drought Information Portal, all of Vancouver Island and much of the rest of the province is at Drought Level 3 (of a possible 5), a level that suggests adverse impacts are possible to ecosystems, humans and of course increased danger of wildfires.

According to the Canadian Drought Monitor, we are experiencing 'severe drought' in our local area right now. Not extreme nor exceptional, but severe. In March! Yipes. Of course, 'drought' is hard to define, and it speaks to long term conditions that are cumulative. There's no denying that the water in the ground and from the sky are both dwindling in quantity. Water is life! This is frightening.

And then there are the temperature trends, data graphed from 1945 to present times, that show an equally steady rise in average high as well as low temperatures. The highs are getting warmer, and so are the lows.

So that's the water quantity situation. We could mitigate some of that with better water catchment; indeed it seems we had better get on that. Lacking lakes or other year-round water sources, we are extremely dependent on what falls from the sky.

The next section of the talk, presented by Katy Helliwell, focused on the issue of water quality. What are bacterial contamination levels in Hornby water? The water group recently received a \$22,000 grant for the purpose of analyzing water quality here on the island. 700 individual tests were conducted, testing ditches, streams, ponds, wetlands and private wells. 70 to 80% of ditches and streams overall tested positive for E. coli, and over 20% of wells. However not all E. coli is pathogenic, so things are not as bad as that sounds.

Green Wizardries, Leadership: Jamie Prowse

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

FOR Jamie Prowse, leadership is first and foremost about service to the community. Jamie is currently the Deputy Chief of Denman's Volunteer Fire Department. She is in charge of the training that goes on.

"Right now, we are sending our people through Fire Fighter Level Two, which is the professional certification throughout North America. It is a two-year commitment for the trainees and we test every six to eight weeks. Right now, I am running three tracks of firefighters through it," said Jamie.

Jamie also told me she arrives an hour before practice to help the new recruits catch up and stays an hour after practice to make sure every piece of equipment that is used is properly serviced and stored away. "We train them in all aspects of

Sample sites were distributed over the island, from heavily populous neighbourhoods to deep in the woods.

The tests were conducted once per month, analyzed and collated. The results were actually not too bad, nor surprising. Water quality is of course much lower in June, July (where bacteria levels peaked much higher), August, September and October, then rebounded once the rains come.

They found that results were comparable to previous studies and that the background level of fecal contamination is <10. The presence of E. coli is lowest in winter to early spring; highest in late spring to summer and moderate in fall and early spring. Water in the remote areas was much cleaner than in the populated areas.

They concluded that the more people, the higher the E. coli, though it doesn't require many people to be present. Shallow wells are vulnerable unless they are maintained properly; flowing water is cleaner. This all makes intuitive sense. Sewage overflow or improperly working sewage systems (along with storm water) are the biggest culprits. It's important to maintain your septic system, and have your tank cleaned sooner rather than later.

Going forward, there are practical steps we can take as a community. We need greater awareness and education generally, and support for residents who can't afford to improve their systems. We should be encouraging more composting toilets and use of cisterns and water catchment, and advocating for financial assistance from grants and the like. Further research will hopefully be ongoing.

This brings home the importance of mitigating crowds in summer, as both water quantity and quality is lowest and the ecosystem is at its most vulnerable at that time.

Thank you to HIES and to Darren and Katy for a fascinating and important presentation.

That's what I think! What do you think? email phoenixhornby@gmail.com 🍷



Denman lambs.

the Fire Service, how to put on the gear, how to use the ropes, ladder, hoses, pumps and, most importantly, how to put out fires” explained Jamie.

“We just did community CPR training. There was a man who, two years ago, had a heart attack and was revived. He gave us a donation so we could buy some resuscitation dolls and some practice AED's (automated external defibrillators). The Fire Department gives this training free of charge for the community. The more people who know how to do this, the greater the chance we have to successfully resuscitate the patient.”

Jamie also serves the four-legged members of our community by offering dog-training lessons. I recently saw Jamie on the soccer field putting the owners and their mighty pets through their paces. I had the feeling it was not so much the dogs Jamie was training as their owners. It was the first class and the dogs were looking pretty pleased with themselves.

“I am a certified dog trainer and I offer classes in person and do one-on-one training. I am making a website so we can do interactive classes on Zoom,” said Jamie. I happen to know that Jamie is such an excellent dog trainer that she has even taught her cat to do tricks.

Jamie trains humans as well as she trains dogs and I know this from personal experience. Jamie is my archery teacher. She helped me carve my first bow and has taught other students how to carve bows. After I had my bow carved, she taught me some basic archery skills. There is a little cohort of archers that meet at Jamie's place for Wednesday Archery practice. We all look forward to the fun and relaxed, but very safe, atmosphere of archery practice.

“I have been running archery classes for the last dozen years. I also teach archery one on one with people. I teach basic and more advanced archery techniques. Once people master the eight basic skills, I can give them more things to work on. Archery is a fun, social way to spend an evening. It is usually not competitive except when we are doing, “Shoot for Your Supper,” when you guys can get a bit rowdy.

Shoot for Your Supper is one of the games we play at archery practice. Jamie will put out a couple of melons or baskets of berries and the first one to get an arrow in the target wins the treat. I have noticed that people can be shooting sloppily all evening but once there is a tasty melon on the line, their skill can increase dramatically. We also shoot at balloons and do timed shoots to get us used to competitive shooting. All are fun shoots.

For people who want to begin learning archery, one or two private classes, some practice time at home and regular Wednesday archery practice will give you a surprising level of proficiency. I try to practice for a half an hour a day. When one begins archery, there are many little contemplative walks as you look for the arrows that missed the target. That is why the feathers, the fletching, are so colourful. Some people even paint the shafts of their arrows to make them easier to find. But, very soon the target begins to bristle with arrows. It is surprisingly satisfying.

“Archery classes will start April 13. It is always on Wednesday evenings. That is, weather permitting. Preregistration is a must. People can call me at 250-355-1599, email me at j_amazon@Telus.net or contact me on Facebook. I also teach how to select or make your own equipment. I have helped students make their own bows and to make arrows. I teach the crossbow, mostly the medieval style. We do a little axe, knife and spear throwing. I also teach sword fighting, rapier and dagger or cloak and dagger. It is a late medieval, early Renaissance style of fighting. This course is for adults and mature teens,” explained Jamie.

We wrapped up the interview with a discussion on Jamie's theory of leadership. “Leadership is service. The higher you go, the more people you serve. Good leaders, create leaders. Bad leaders create followers.”

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for restaurant service, Saturday and Sunday normal
winery hours for box lunches.



Farmers' Market Coordinator

The Denman Farmer's Market Committee is looking for the next Farmers' Market Coordinator (to follow on from Lorraine and Laura who were both wonderful). The coordinator is responsible for the organization/running of the weekly Saturday Farmers' Markets, helping to get the market up and running and then being on site from approx. 8.15am - 1.15pm weekly from May 6th - Sept 4th (can miss up to three markets). Hourly rate is \$23.00/hour for 175 hours over the season. Skills required: organization, public relations, problem-solving, site management, handling of money.

For the job description or expression of interest, email
denmanmarket@gmail.com.
Interviews start: Monday, April 3.



March 10th, 2007 *Why so M.A.D.D. Hank?*

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451

THIS morning I had myself a shower and while I refrained from singing a thought did manage to pop into my head. A good many of the guys have suggested that I should consider writing a book given my predilection for putting pen to paper. As I stood beneath the hot stream of water, watching the taxpayer's money gushing down the drain, a title for my as yet unpublished experiences jumped to mind. 'YOU SAY POT-AID-DOUGH, I SAY POT-ADIEU!' Get it?! Okay, okay, *perhaps*, in my zeal to waste the taxpayer's money lock step with that of the government's, I was in the shower too long and my brain was becoming water-logged. Besides, I seriously doubt that I could ever bid farewell to marijuana. Even though it's led me to where I can write a few chapters about my time in the pun-iteniary! Okay! Alright! I'll leave that one alone for now. Better still, 'let's call the whole thing off', *shall we?*

I played a few games of billiards with Blaster Hank this afternoon but it is becoming difficult to enjoy his company of late. His grumpy attitude, which I've usually been able to chip through with a little effort, is proving damn near impenetrable of late. Having been fighting off pneumonia over the past ten days has left him depleted and confined to the range, which I suspect is only dragging out his perception of time's passage. Add to this the fact that Big Dawg Sean resides in the same dorm as ol' Hank and I believe I'm witnessing in realtime the crumbling of his tolerance and sanity. The Big Dawg is an incessant snorer when sleeping and his antics while conscious have been documented enough by me in these pages to illuminate what gruff ol' Hank thinks of his dorm mate. Every morning of late it has been hard to look past how bedraggled Hank appears for lack of sleep. And when he awakes, there is the Big Dawg carrying on as he does. Something tells me that if he felt he could get away with it Hank would see to it that Big Dawg be taken to the edge of the back forty and put down. What initially was rather humorous seeing old cantankerous Hank and his multitude of 'reasons' for being surly has dulled and is fast becoming uncomfortable to bear witness to, not to mention be around. Where a simple glib comment, or siding with his predicament, would have sufficed in bringing Hank around to a forced smile previously, such methods have now become ineffectual. It is certainly unfair to put Sean in anybody's living quarters given his personality but I'm concluding that it is downright cruel to unleash the Big Dawg on such an old dog as Hank. The older you get, the more set in your ways you become. To be so immutable, I



worry that Hank is either going to snap or develop an ulcer. It's one thing to have to go to jail for drinking and driving but having to endure sharing a cell with the Big Dawg is arguably *just the deterrent* the folks at M.A.D.D. or Drinking Driving Counterattack could be looking for. If all those who choose to drive under the influence were to glimpse the hue and *feel* the texture of potential consequence for such transgression, *like Hank currently is*, they'd undoubtedly be begging for that cab!

Reading in today's Victoria Times Colonist about a guy in Port Alberni who robbed a beer and wine store at knife point. He took off with a case of Lucky (what else?) and almost \$1200 in cash. He was caught not long afterwards hiding in some bushes. When the gavel dropped on him he was given 20 months conditional sentence! His defence was that he couldn't remember anything owing to being high on crack cocaine. So from what I can gather, crack, and armed robbery amounts to roughly six-and-a-half months of house arrest. Yes, he also got a probationary period of three years, so I guess he'll be dogged by the system for a sustained period of time but a conditional sentence? Just what the hell are the courts thinking?! *Must've been an "Activist Judge" making law on the fly, usually in the interests of the offender,* to paraphrase the author of the Vancouver Sun article from March 6th, 2007 describing my original verdict (later lost on Appeal). And while I'm openly pondering what the courts were thinking, I may as well ask, "just what the hell was I thinking?!" Growing a plant must truly be some kind of evil for me to be writing about all this from *jail*. 🍷

Feminist Foreign Policy Part 2

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

trained "over 35,000" Ukrainian forces up for battle before Russian invaded. She didn't mention the 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers now dead. And then there's Elizabeth May pointedly wearing Ukrainian flag colours as she enjoys a photo op with Ukrainian Canadian Congress leaders in a show of "apology" for having had the temerity to suggest diplomacy/negotiations for that war-torn area, now saying she doesn't disagree with Canada's approach so far. Did she have a feminist "moment" only to be bullied into toeing the official line? One of the six core values of the Green party is non-violence. Why is no one in Canada's government advocating for immediate negotiation and settlement of what has been declared another "unwinnable war"? (Gen. Mark Milley, Chair of US Joint Chiefs of Staff: November, 2022, BBC News) Is this really "Feminist Foreign Policy"? 🍷

The NYT Is A Disgusting Militarism Smut Rag

OPINIONS

By Caitlin Johnstone

I hate The New York Times. Hate it, hate it, hate it, hate it. With every fiber of my being, from the depths of my immortal soul.

The "paper of record" for the most murderous and tyrannical nation on earth, The New York Times has been run by the same family since the late 1800s, during which time it has supported every depraved American war and has reliably dished out propaganda to manufacture consent for the political status quo necessary for the operation of a globe-spanning empire that is fueled by human blood and suffering. It is a plague upon our world, and it should be destroyed, buried, and peed on.

And I am being charitable.

Among the latest items of unforgivable militarist smut churned out by the Times is an article titled "An Anxious Asia Arms for a War It Hopes to Prevent," which freakishly frames the US as just a passive, innocent witness to the US military encirclement of China.

Times author Damien Cave writes ominously that China's president Xi Jinping "aims to achieve a 'national rejuvenation' that would include displacing the United States as the dominant rule-setter in the region," as though it makes perfect sense for the US to be the "dominant rule-setter" **in the continent of Asia**.

(You see lines like this in The New York Times constantly; earlier this month the Times editorial board bemoaned the fact that "the United States had tried with little success to persuade or compel China to abide by American rules," like that's a perfectly sane and normal line to write. Other nations make demands, the US makes "rules". These people really do begin with the premise that the US government owns the entire world, and then write from there.)

Watch how Cave then frames the US military encirclement of China as something "China's

continued on P.8...



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DENMAN ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Housing Advisory Planning Commission Members

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers to be appointed to a new Housing Advisory Planning Commission (HAPC).

The role of the HAPC will be to provide advice and recommendations to the LTC on policy and regulations to address a wide range of housing needs on Denman Island and support the LTC initiated Housing Review Project.

Eight volunteer members will be appointed for a period of two years. A 'Terms of Reference' guiding the purpose, role and frequency of meetings of the HAPC will be developed in coordination with the LTC.

Denman Island residents are encouraged to apply, including those who have served previously on a general or specialized APC (i.e. Marine, Transportation, or Agriculture). The deadline for expressions of interest is **April 10, 2023**.

For more information, please contact:

Trustee Sam Borthwick
250-845-9477

sborthwick@islandstrust.bc.ca

Trustee David Graham
250-218-6871

dagraham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Please click the following link to apply : <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/whats-happening/expressions-of-interest/>

Forward your completed application to: northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

...continued from P.7 neighbors" are doing as a "response" to Xi's goal of "displacing the United States as the dominant rule-setter in the region":

In response, many of China's neighbors — and the United States — are turning to hard power, accelerating the most significant arms race in Asia since World War II.

On March 13, North Korea launched cruise missiles from a submarine for the first time. The same day, Australia unveiled a \$200 billion plan to build nuclear-propelled submarines with America and Britain that would make it only the seventh nation to have them.

Japan, after decades of pacifism, is also gaining offensive capabilities unmatched since the 1940s with U.S. Tomahawk missiles. India has conducted training with Japan and Vietnam. Malaysia is buying South Korean combat aircraft. American officials are trying to amass a giant weapons stockpile in Taiwan to make it a bristling "porcupine" that could head off a Chinese invasion, and the Philippines is planning for expanded runways and ports to host its largest American military presence in decades.

Notice the glaring contradiction between the narrative that the US is "the dominant rule-setter in the region" and the framing of this encirclement operation as something the US is merely supplying to locals who request it of their own free will. If you acknowledge that the US exerts enough control over those nations to be able to "set rules" for them, then it's probably a bit nonsensical for you to claim they're stationing US war machinery because it was their own idea that they chose of their own volition.

As we discussed recently with regard to Australia, we've all seen what the US does to nations which disobey its "rules". Australia isn't arming itself against China to protect itself from China, Australia is arming itself against China to protect itself from the United States. The same is true of all the other US assets listed above.

Just one paragraph after outlining the ways China is being militarily encircled, Cave then writes that China has "engaged in provocative or dangerous behavior" toward its neighbors: In flashpoint after flashpoint over the past year, China's military has also engaged in provocative or dangerous behavior: deploying a record number of military aircraft to threaten Taiwan, and firing missiles into the waters of Japan's exclusive economic zone for the first time last August; sending soldiers with spiked batons to dislodge an Indian Army outpost in December, escalating battles over the 2,100-mile border between the two countries; and last month, temporarily blinding the crew of a Filipino patrol boat with a laser, and flying dangerously close to a U.S. Navy plane, part of its aggressive push to claim authority in the South China Sea.

The US empire asks us to believe many stupid things on a daily basis, but arguably the very stupidest among them right now is the narrative that the number one geopolitical rival to US power is being surrounded by US war machinery **defensively**.

The US is surrounding China — a nation on the other side of the planet — with war machinery in a way it would never permit itself to be surrounded for even an instant. One of these nations is the aggressor, and the other is responding defensively to those aggressions. If you can't tell which is which, it's because empire propaganda has melted your brain.

Another recent New York Times article titled "From Rockets to Ball Bearings, Pentagon Struggles to Feed War Machine," author Eric Lipton warns urgently that the US isn't producing enough weaponry to meet its current needs while preparing for war with China.

"If a large-scale war broke out with China, within about one week the United States would run out of so-called long-range anti-ship missiles, a vital weapon in any engagement with China, according to a series of war-game exercises conducted



by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank," Lipton writes.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is funded by military-industrial complex entities like Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, and is also directly funded by the US government and its client states, including Taiwan. Lipton makes no mention of this immense conflict of interest.

The whole article reads like an advertorial for the need to pour more wealth and resources into arms manufacturers, even directly citing statements from war profiteering CSIS funders like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. Lipton quotes Lockheed Martin COO Frank St John expressing his deep and solemn concern that the Pentagon might not be meeting its goals in procurement of expensive military equipment, saying, "Any time you see an analysis that says, hey, we might not be prepared to achieve our strategic objectives, that's concerning."

Hey thanks for your concern Frank, I'm sure it has nothing to do with the fact that your company sells the murder machines which meet those strategic objectives. Great journalism, Mr Lipton.

"The surge in spending is likely to translate in the long run into increased profits at military contractors," Lipton notes. Yeah, no shit.

One of the most freakish and depraved things happening in our society is the way war machine-funded think tanks shape public opinion through the mass media and government

without that conflict of interest being disclosed. Profoundly influential outlets like The New York Times routinely cite them as though they are impartial analysts of national security and foreign affairs and not functional PR firms for war profiteers and government agencies.

If you killed thousands of people and sold their skins for a fortune, the media would correctly call you the worst monster who ever lived. If you kill the same number of people for the same amount of money but do it by lobbying for war and selling the weapons used in that war, the media will call you an industrious job creator.

It is never, ever acceptable, under any circumstances, for news media outlets to cite think tanks funded by governments and the military industrial complex as sources of information or expertise on matters of national security or foreign affairs. As soon as they do this, they're guilty of journalistic malpractice. As soon as you find yourself writing anything like "According to my source from the Center for Strategic and International Studies," you have ceased to function as a journalist and are now functioning as a propagandist. It's insane that this extremely obvious fact isn't better understood in western journalism, but we can understand why this point is obfuscated by looking at the power structures it serves.

Western media are the marketing department of the US-centralized empire, selling war and militarism to the public in the form of nonstop propaganda. And The New York Times is probably the most destructive offender among all of them.



Precision Fermentation: Catastrophe Lifeline

OPINIONS

By Gwynne Dyer · OP March 27, 2023

ON Saturday Asteroid 2023 DZ2 flew by our planet at 27,000 km per hour, closer to us than it was to the Moon. It was less than one-hundredth of the diameter of the gigantic asteroid that took down the dinosaurs and most other animals 66 million years ago (75% of land species extinct), but it would still have killed a large city with a direct hit.

"While close approaches are a regular occurrence, one by an asteroid of this size (50-100 metres in diameter) happens only about once per decade, providing a unique opportunity for science," said officials with NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office. But even the scientists would not welcome an asteroid ten times as big as 2023 DZ2.

news:

A one-km-wide asteroid would boost megatons of vapourised rock into the stratosphere, where it would stay for years and block some of the incoming sunlight.

It wouldn't be complete darkness at noon like the dinosaur-killer of 66 million years ago (10-15 km.), but it would be dark and cold enough to kill most plants – which would cause mass die-backs in the animals that eat them, too. Not enough to cause mass extinctions, probably, but really hard

times for most living things, including people.

The one-km-range strikes don't usually leave any record in the rocks, because enough breeding pairs survive to build populations back up to normal levels in a few centuries. We certainly wouldn't want such a strike to happen on our watch, but even an average of once every 80,000 years gives us a decent chance of avoiding it.

Some of the biggest volcanoes, alas, cause much the same problem, and they explode much more often. Mount Pinatubo in 1991 drove immense amounts of gas and pulverised rock into the stratosphere, including 17 million tonnes of sulfur dioxide, and gave us a half a degree Celsius of global cooling for two years.

The 'Year Without a Summer'

continued on P.10...



B.C. LAND SURVEYOR

PETER T. MASON

P: 250-757-8788

surveyor-ark@uniserve.com

...continued from P.7 of 1816, after Mount Tambora in Indonesia exploded, saw average global temperature drop temporarily by 3°C, crops fail everywhere, food prices soar, and millions starve. Lord Byron wrote the poem 'Darkness', which begins, "I had a dream, which was not all a dream. The bright sun was extinguish'd."

There are about a dozen known supervolcanoes in the world, mostly around the Pacific 'ring of fire' or in the Mediterranean region. They can produce worldwide climatic effects similar to a major asteroid strike, but possibly much longer-lasting. Such eruptions are unpredictable, but tend to happen at intervals of tens or hundreds of thousands of years.

And finally, the likeliest kind of 'darkness at noon': simultaneous firestorms that push smoke and soot up into the stratosphere in a hundred cities struck by nuclear weapons. It's called a 'nuclear winter', and even a relatively small nuclear war like India vs. Pakistan could cause global famine for a number of years, depending on how many cities burned.

The common denominator, the kill mechanism in all of these catastrophes, is the loss of sunlight, killing crops and causing

mass starvation. The new technology that could protect the human race, or at least most of it, from death by starvation and related horrors is 'precision fermentation': food that can be mass-produced without land or even sunshine.

It's bacteria that contain the right kinds of nutrition, fed on hydrogen produced by electrolysis of water, fermented in bioreactors and needing only light (which could be artificial) to double in volume every few hours. If necessary, the food they provide could feed the world.

The first pilot plants are being built right now, and in a few years 'food from the sky' will be cheaper than soya and the various grains that are currently grown to feed the world's domesticated animals. Indeed, within a decade much of the land that animal fodder used to be grown on may be returned to nature.

'Farm-free' food for people will come later, but the basic elements can be combined to suit human tastes too. In the future, if one of these catastrophes should strike, we can just switch from feeding the animals to feeding ourselves. We weren't even looking for it, and we're getting free survival insurance. 🍷

First of Its Kind Wellness Festival Comes to the Comox Valley

PRESS RELEASE

By Jenna Walker

on gathering in community to share ideas on wellness, connection, identity, creativity, healing and more.

Inspired by her book *A Guide to the Collective Awakening: Advice, Tools & Art Projects*, local author and artist Jenna Walker had the idea to bring this festival to life. Walker said she, "wanted to create an open space for community to come together and celebrate our connections." With help from festival organizers Jess Moore, the Alchemy of Gathering will be a celebration of diversity, culture, and healing.

Open to all, participants will have the opportunity to join various Art for Healing Workshops where they will take home their own projects. On the stage, throughout the day, there will be presentations, live music and a sound healing performance. There will also be a variety of interactive stations including access to various meditation techniques including Comox Valley's own Ocean Stone labyrinth.



A self-guided, walking meditation, the labyrinth is credited for providing connectedness to oneself that a person experiences long after walking the hand-made path. This cross-cultural and ancient wellness tool was designed to foster contemplation and discernment.

If you have a product or service related to wellness, creativity, healing, empowerment, self-care and community, join the 40+ vendors and food trucks that will be coming out to this community event on Saturday, June 10th, 2023.

For more information on event details and for vendor and non-profit inquiries, please visit <https://www.changesbyjenna.com/the-alchemy-of-gathering-1>

Tickets available through the Tidemark Theatre. 5% of ticket sales will be donated to the Copper Legacy: Indigenous Empowerment Society. 🍷

Rural Islands Forum

PRESS RELEASE By Susan Swift · Rural Island Economic Partnership

Rural Islands Forum April 25-27 **Connect + Reflect + ACT!**



WHAT do you call a gathering of 100-plus passionate islanders from west coast BC communities? Organizers with the Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP) refer to their April 25-27 Forum event as an “unconference.”

While the three-day event will be filled with ‘the usual’ conference programming, such as keynote panels, showcases and ‘action lab’ break-out groups, there will be opportunities for networking and recharging as well—during meals, after sessions, and in nature around Gabriola’s seaside retreat centre, The Haven.

“The opportunity to learn what our island neighbours are doing to build resilient, sustainable communities is always a boost to keep working on what seem like intractable global challenges. The Forum is about people with shared goals moving ideas to action. It is time to ‘Connect, Reflect, and Act!’ so we can develop solutions in real time,” says Sheila McDonnell, an HICEEC board member who will be traveling from Hornby Island to attend the 2023 Forum.



The inaugural Rural Islands Economic Partnership Forum held on Pender Island in 2019 led to the formation of the Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP), a registered non-profit society dedicated to collaboration and advocacy across the rural islands of British Columbia (BC).

As the title of the ‘Connect, Reflect, and Act!’ Forum suggests, RIEP staff and Board members are planning a participatory, outcome-oriented program that will showcase best practices and support actual problem-solving. Among the timely topics to be addressed are: The Economics of Climate Change; Regenerative Tourism – Ensuring Travel Is A Force For Good; Housing Lessons Learned – Policy Changes Now; Working with Indigenous Businesses Through The Lens of Reconciliation; and Food Hubs and Agri-Food Businesses.

Vancity has signed on as the Presenting Sponsor of April’s “unconference,” which builds upon RIEP’S virtual forum held in November 2022. At that event, RIEP adopted a four-point “Values Framework” focused on Creating Resilient Economies; Ensuring Basic Needs & Services; Fostering Connections to Build Community; and Taking Collaborative Action.

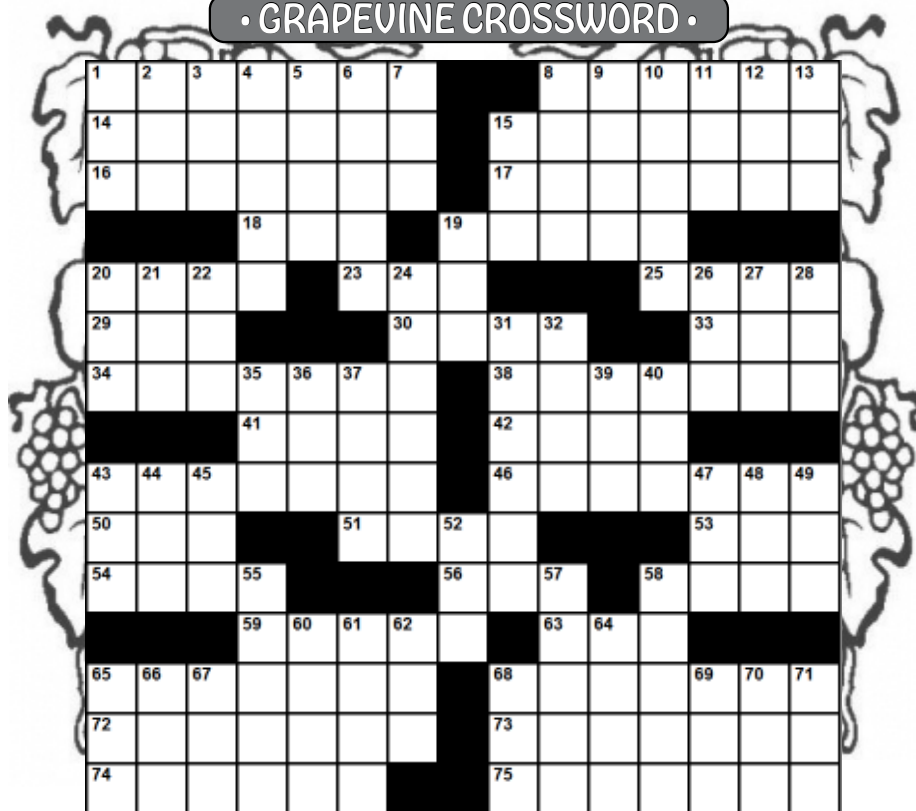
The Forum program will include a deeper dive into ‘Doughnut Economics’ and how this globally-recognized conceptual tool can be used to support BC’s rural island communities. “Merging our recently developed rural islands Values Framework with the perspective of Doughnut Economics opens all kinds of possibilities for planning,” says RIEP Board Chair Francine Carlin, adding that “the Framework offers a vision of a unified approach to achieving our goals, and the Doughnut provides the context and language of ecological and social justice, so it’s a very common-sense approach for us to take.”

“Leave your car at home” is one of the key messages that event organizers are sharing with those who register. In the spirit of helping to reduce the event’s carbon footprint, Tour Salt Spring, a Forum sponsor, will provide participants with a Gabriola van shuttle service that runs on vegetable oil.

RIEP is offering an ‘Early Bird’ discount for those who register before April 7. There are also a limited number of sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please visit: RIEPForum.ca

Contact: Colin Stein
Engagement & Communications, RIEP
colin@ruralislandspartnership.ca
778-908-0185 🍷

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Fluid diffusion
8. Scamp
14. Having ice cream on top
15. Image
16. Key in text
17. Glum
18. Asian gazelle
19. Fury
20. Robin Cook novel
23. Deposit
25. Actress Evelyn
29. Colorization
30. Give up
33. Baby talk syllable
34. Least favorably
38. Pantomimes
41. Exotic island
42. Cut into pieces
43. "Dear Me" writer
46. In the direction of
50. Behold
51. Group of larks
53. John's Yoko
54. Gave the pink slip
56. Claus aide
58. 6/6/1944
59. Fork part
63. Damp and cold
65. Battery end
68. Jackpot

72. Repress

73. Not tested
74. Swiped
75. Represses

• DOWN •

1. Bran bit
2. Conniving
3. Atlas makeup
4. Alpha's antithesis
5. Passable
6. Flawless
7. Adjust for proper functioning
8. Band
9. Analgesia target
10. Quite bare
11. Davis or Ryder
12. Dada leader
13. Pastureland, var.
15. A play on words
19. Assent asea
20. Half a dance
21. Alibi
22. Cat's cry
24. Not dormant
26. Big head
27. Addressee
28. Heavy imbibor
31. Foot, e.g.
32. Alpine sound
35. Decorative belt
36. Fled
37. Grungy one
39. AAA task
40. Bath, for one
43. NAFTA member
44. Census form question
45. Ball perch
47. 5 1/2 yards
48. Chromosome letters
49. Cover crop
52. Be a couch potato
55. A British doctorate
57. Combat zone
58. Dopey, e.g.
60. Bath attire
61. Chief Norse god
62. After taxes
64. Against, prefix
65. Opposite of trans
66. Aardvark fodder
67. Even if, informally
68. Clear tables
69. Love, in a sense
70. Kin of omega
71. Billboards

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

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

Grumpism



“Sad to hear about the last local balloon company closing. It couldn't keep up with the high cost of inflation . . .”

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

S	O	B				A	M	P				A	I	D		
T	R	I	M			G	R	I	E	F		A	N	N	A	
E	Z	R	A			O	R	D	E	R		I	T	C	H	
W	O	R	N			K	O	I		A	E	R	I	A	L	
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E	T	C	H			M	E	N	A	C	E		I	V	E	
S	O	Y	S			A	U	C	E		A	N	K	L	E	T
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F	O	R	C	E	S			R	I	M			Y	U	A	N
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M	E	O	W			I	B	S	E	N			D	E	E	D
E	S	T						O	E	R				A	S	S

• **CLASSIFIED ADS** •

• **SERVICES** •



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ing): See [denmanworks.word-
press.com/contact/](https://denmanworks.wordpress.com/contact/)

• **LOST & FOUND** •

LOST - 1-10qt aluminum pressure
cooker. Can't remember to whom
I loaned it to. Please return to
Jackson Steen.

• **EMPLOYMENT** •

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port in an inclusive, nonprofit
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more drivers for the 2023 season,
which runs May 4th – Sept 4th!
Applicants will need a valid Class
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inal Record check and a driver's
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ed, DIBS can offer guidance and
support in acquiring the required
certifications and documenta-
tion. To apply, please email [info@
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is retired from Island Health
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pets. Hm# 0188 Laz cell 250
207 0222. [ms_jones49@hot-
mail.com](mailto:ms_jones49@hotmail.com)

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

- Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
- Denman Community Hall Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
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- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)

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- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoeppner 335-2037 (D/H)
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- 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)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake • 613-447-8873 (All)
- Steve Isaak • Bobcat & Compact Excavator • 250-335-1853 (All)
- Water Cisterns • Steve Isaak • 250-335-1853 (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)

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- Registered Massage Therapist • Mary G Vellet • 11100 Dusty Rd •
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- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP •
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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 30

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



FRIDAY 31

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

SATURDAY 1

- 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 2

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm

MONDAY 3

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

TUESDAY 4

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- DILTC Zoom meeting 10am

WEDNESDAY 5

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

THURSDAY 6

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

FRIDAY 7

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

SATURDAY 8

- 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
- BUS STOP DECORATION DAY see p.2

SUNDAY 9

- AL-ANON United Church 7pm
- EASTER EGG HUNT see insert

MONDAY 10

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

TUESDAY 11

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

WEDNESDAY 12

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

THURSDAY 13

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





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of

EASTER EGG HUNT



SUNDAY APRIL 9TH

11am Easter Egg Hunt
Community Hall

12pm Hotdogs & Lemonade
Denman Seniors/Activity Center

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&
MUSEUM SOCIETY*

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ISLANDS
Grapevine