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Cover image: Beadnell Creek, DI.
photo by Dreadful Imagery



COMMUNITY INFO

Ongoing

- After-school program
- Food Bank (located at the Hub, Thursdays 4pm - 7pm)
- Computer Access Site and maintenance of the Hub (located in the back of the Community Hall, Tuesdays 9am- 12pm, Thursdays 4pm - 7pm)
- Lunch program (in collaboration with the Community School every Thursday)
- School Garden projects (Garden Parties, Wednesdays 1pm - 3.30pm)
- Community Education/ Recreation (various sports like basketball, volleyball, soccer as well as workshops)
- Teen Night (every Friday 7pm- 10pm at the Hub)
- Parent and Tot (every Friday 9am -12pm at the school)
- Seasonal projects
- Summer/Spring Camps
- Holiday Hampers
- Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon program
- Special Projects
- Covered Recreation Space

We are thrilled to be able to offer such a broad spectrum of programs to our community. If you have any question regarding any of those programs, feel free to email us: dices.communityprograms@gmail.com

An outline for Summer Camp is being developed within the next few weeks. If you would like to offer your skill or time, please contact us as soon as possible. We will send out more information to all parents at the end of May.

Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

We are still in need of a volunteer for the following programs:

Parent and Tot - Friday mornings, 9am -12pm. The group is getting big!

Teen Night (25 years or older) - Friday evenings 7pm - 10pm.

If this sounds like fun to you, send an email. 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

The Scuttlebus is Upon Us!

By Denman Island Bus Service

YOU may have noticed some strange new growths sprouting up around the island this week- these woody mycelial growths resemble nothing so much as wooden signs, emblazoned with a white, crustacean-esque shape. These are, in fact, this year's specially cultivated crop of *Amanita busstopii*, but amateur mycologists are encouraged to beware- as delicious as they may seem- these sturdy fungi are considered inedible, albeit not actively poisonous.

Starting this Thursday, May 4th, the Denman Island Bus Service (DIBS) swings back into action until September 4th. You can't miss that bright red, half-size, school bus! We hope you'll agree the sixteen-seat bus is the perfect size for Denman – not too big, not too small, and with some interesting decoration still to come! Fully certified, clean and regularly inspected, but still embracing the cheerful eccentricity that is a Denman hallmark- we hope the island will embrace the bus as its own. To this end several bus stops have already been decorated by community members young and old, with more such bespoke personalisation yet to come!

The service runs five days a week – Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Down the line, the goal is week-round service, but this season, due to budget constraints, five days a week is what we can sustain. That doesn't mean the bus will be idle, however! Extra and modified service will be available to the many events that grace our island (please contact our coordinator to ensure your event is catered to), and plans are in motion to provide bi-weekly all-inclusive service to Courtenay for shopping on Wednesdays- more details to follow!

We are thrilled to introduce our lineup of experienced and professional drivers, many of whom you may already know! Lindsay Harrison, Dave Hansen, Richard Hutchings, Kieran Meagher, and Jen Minter, with occasional appearances by Sam Borthwick.

The service will start at 8:15 AM from Denman West and end there at 7:55 PM with eight circuits round the southern end of the island during the day. The new route is the basic shuttle between ferries with a few diversions to cater to the longer side roads. All told, with sixteen stops, this year's is a community- oriented route that caters to several popular summer spots – Graham Lake, MacFarlane Beach, Fillongley Park, and Chickadee Lake.

One way between terminals will be about 30 minutes, a round trip, just over an hour. The bus leaves Denman West, and takes Lacon, going down as far as Hinton before coming back up to MacFarlane where it passes Reginald before continuing on to East Road and Gravelly Bay. Coming back from Gravelly, it follows East Road through Little Burnaby, ducks up Owl Crescent to Mallard Way (pun intended), then continuing north to Corrigan and Marcus Roads. From Denman Road we take a side trip down to Fillongley Park before coming back and continuing on to downtown. There the bus diverts again, going down Northwest up to Wren Road before turning round and heading back to Denman West.

The bus this year is free! We found that this is far simpler for families and kids, rather than fooling around with free passes, family rates, under-fives-for-free, not to mention the futility of e-payments where the internet is so unreliable.

As they say, it's been a journey. Last year, DIBS had two contracted vehicles via Ambassador Transportation, a leased Honda minivan and a 20-passenger bus. Now we've struck out on our own, we've determined that two vehicles were not really necessary, and we're glad to have a single, recognizable, and uniquely Denman vehicle with which to ply the tarmac.

Our goal is to go year-round and go electric (the bus is diesel). In the meantime, DIBS is extremely fortunate to have got this far with three years of CVRD funding thanks to the advocacy of Area Director Daniel Arbour, and the support of Mike Zbarsky, Manager of CVRD Transportation and his team.

Finally, big thanks to the team of Coordinator Sam Borthwick, Bronwyn Schuster - Promotion and Communications, and Patrice Leblanc, the Chair of the Transportation Committee, and Tony Gregson, the Chair of Denman Works! 🍷

Denman Island Farmers Market

By DI Farmers Market

WELCOME TO SPRING! It is once again that wonderful time of year when the 'Official' Denman Island Farmers Market season begins, with the first official day

of the 2023 market season being Saturday, May 6 (we have been blessed all winter with the hardy vendors).

This new market season will be another opportunity to develop a resilient and thriving local community that supports our local vendors and neighbours.

We are excited to welcome back so many of Denman's long-standing vendors like Two Roads Farms, Lee Andra's Cosmic Catering, as well as adding new faces

to the market lineup including Gather Farm, Crooked Warden Cidery, and Sophia Katsanikakis Greek Food. The Denman Market is also welcoming Olena Russell as the new Market Coordinator. Olena is looking forward to seeing everyone again at the market as the season begins.

The Market is also looking for buskers to join us this year, so if you are interested in sharing your talent, please contact Olena at denmanmarket@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a part of the Denman Market as a regular or drop-in vendor, Olena will be your contact as well. Drop-in vendors must have their request in to the Market Coordinator prior to the Thursday before the market they wish to participate in.

The Denman Island Farmers Market runs every Saturday from May 6 to October 7, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. 🍷

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-05-05 (Fri)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
00:07 2.8 9.2

2023-05-06 (Sat)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
00:52 3.1 10.1
05:59 4.4 14.4
13:17 0.7 2.4
20:34 4.6 15.1

2023-05-07 (Sun)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
01:38 3.3 10.8
06:28 4.3 14.3
13:55 0.6 1.8
21:25 4.7 15.5

2023-05-08 (Mon)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
02:29 3.5 11.5
06:59 4.3 14.1
14:36 0.5 1.6
22:18 4.8 15.6

2023-05-09 (Tue)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
03:27 3.6 11.9
07:36 4.2 13.7
15:20 0.5 1.7
23:13 4.8 15.7

2023-05-10 (Wed)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
04:37 3.7 12.1
08:22 4 13.2
16:10 0.7 2.2

2023-05-11 (Thu)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
00:07 4.8 15.7
05:59 3.6 11.7
09:25 3.8 12.5
17:04 0.9 3

2023-05-12 (Fri)

Time PDT (m) (ft)
01:00 4.8 15.6
07:21 3.3 10.9
10:52 3.6 11.7
18:04 1.2 4

COMMUNITY INFO



Olena Russell
Market Coordinator

250-335-2758
250-210-8912

A Celebration of Children's Art

ARTS&LIT

By Judith Scruton · Summer Art Gallery



The children of Denman are providing us with a wonderful collection of their Art work and we will showcase this as a Celebration of Children's Art.

The show will be open to the public from Saturday May 20th to Tuesday May 22nd from 12 noon to 4pm.

Please join us at 2pm on Saturday to celebrate with cake and icecream, and coffee, tea and juice. Bring your family and friends as each child has contributed a piece of Art and each one is delightful.

If you are involved with home schooling, please call Judith at 250 335 2069 as I would be happy to add your child's work to the display.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Gallery on Saturday, but if that is not possible please come any time when the Gallery is open. You may enjoy to bring one of the artists as this is a first name only show! 🍷



Gravelly Bay Open House

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Eartha Muirhead

Thursday, May 18

THERE are many reasons to save the fine wee forest at Gravelly Bay. One is that parking lots are built for cars, not for eagles, newts, lizards, frogs, worms, plants, creeks or turtles. They trap heat and increase area temperatures by 2-3 degrees Celsius. Waiting in the blazing sun could cause heat strokes to occur. And what might the eventual ripple effect be to the surrounding area? Parking lots also accumulate oil, gas, grease and heavy metals which then runoff into and harm adjacent waterways. For some of us, a neighboring eagle nest site is a significant reason to save this forest.

If a parking lot were to be built at Gravelly Bay, the adjacent trees will be more prone to falling down in high winds. This will jeopardize the eagle nesting site in the next door shoreline trees. The active nesting site is not on the BCF property but it is within the official buffer zone created by the province to protect them. This may be the reason why BCF backed away from the parking lot solution. Here are some interesting eagle facts. The average eagle nest can weigh up to 2,000 pounds, the heaviest weighed in at 3 tons. The nests are often 5 feet in diameter, 2-4 feet deep and take at least 3

months to build. Eagles prefer to nest in tall, mature, strong trees. Nests are not just for incubating eggs, (which take about 35 days to hatch); the juveniles stick around the home nest and their parents for 6 to 8 months. The divorce rate among eagles is 5-15% with most pairs staying together for life. They may spend time apart in the off season but reunite at the nest site to breed. When the nest site is gone, they can easily lose track of each other.

Many folks on Denman Island are also concerned about the safety and environmental issues of having endless cars using our roads as a highway. We will have some amazing data on these issues to share with you.

As you may be aware, there are many creative solutions being generated to prevent the cutting down of 100 plus trees and paving over the land at Gravelly Bay. The Friends of Denman Forests are looking forward to presenting these alternatives and the results of our survey at "SAVE PARADISE" on Thursday, May 18, 430-6 pm. at the Back Hall. Please drop by for some entertainment, tea, snacks, important information and initiatives to prepare for the BCF meeting on May 26th.

Thanks to all who have filled out the survey. Mark your calendars for the BCF community engagement meeting, on Friday, May 26th, 4:30 to 6:30 at the Community Hall. 🍷

Culture Media

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Oakley Rankin

I support mainstream media because they fact-check—most of the time—and if they get it wrong and print something that is untrue and damaging, they can be sued—unlike fly-by-night websites that appear and disappear like fireflies.

Just because a thing ought to be true—just because you mean well—just because it fits your ideology—just because it would be very convenient in the general scheme of things if it were true—doesn't mean it is true. - Margaret Atwood. Tell. The. Truth. 2019

WHEN correspondents claim we can't trust mainstream media, controlled as it is by an unnamed cabal in some never stated fashion, what they are really saying is that they dislike the culture they inhabit. Mainstream media is the public voice of the current Western culture and like every public creation it comes with certain fluctuating restraints. So far we have never devised public institutions which are perfect in the sense that everyone, without exception, will agree to them. Human vagaries are at work here; when I was growing up in the forties and fifties one of the obvious restraints in mainstream media was the taboo on publicly writing or viewing common sexual, religious, or political activities. And we were also close-mouthed about how much money one earned.

So let's forget the bleating about mainstream media and talk of the elephant in the room, culture—the ordinary habits and general beliefs of a particular group of people. Perhaps the defining characteristic of any culture is its PUBLIC nature. You may be entitled to your own opinions no matter how stupid or ridiculous, but this only applies if you keep them to yourself. Once you decide to speak forth publicly you should be constrained by an ethical convention to examine such opinions and provide evidence both for and against. Evidence for most things is not just black and white, true or false; it is sometimes hard to discover and even more difficult to interpret. Thus, as Atwood says, we must 'fact-check'. Fact-checking is by no means a perfect activity but merely the best we have; it includes among many things the rigorous repetitious testing of science, the application of reason and logic to all aspects of a claim, accountability for ALL aspects of the claim, a consensus among reporters and knowledgeable persons, and the standing of evidential authors within a community of peers. For nearly all problems in the cultural world evidence is hard to interpret regardless of the best attempts of historians, anthropologists, sociologists, philosophers, and perhaps most importantly, writers and artists.

So if the problems thrown up by the cultures we semi-consciously devise are complex and resistant to discovering direct cause and effect why not turn to what Gordon Rachman in his book *The Age of Strongmen* calls 'simplism' or "the idea that there are simple solutions for complex problems that are being frustrated by nefarious forces"—in short, a conspiracy theory. There is an analogy with creationism in this explanatory result; the natural world presents an almost limitless diversity of complex living organisms, so much so that there must have been a single, conspiratorial 'designer' behind each and every one as it would be impossible for such complexity to arrive by evolutionary trial and error. So you can dismiss the work of evolutionary biologists as a part of mainstream media; a 'designer' is a perfect, simple answer and we need no other.

If you are willing to believe that cultural virtue is an abiding characteristic of an autocratic nation you must realize that if you published a screed in any autocratic nation's mainstream media as critical of the state as has been publicly claimed by several writers in the Grapevine for Western states, you, and probably our intrepid editor Mike, might be joining Alexei Navalny in prison or the hundreds of Turkish journalists in jail or fleeing the country as many Hungarian reporters had done—if the two of you aren't first assassinated as were Jamal Khashoggi and Anna Politkovskaya. And this viciousness just for activities which are commonly allowed in most Western countries—reporting on the nation's faults. Adverse reporting of the type that follows

Trump around in the U.S. simply isn't allowed under our current autocrats. If a Russian journalist reported that Nord Stream, with 51% Russian ownership, was blown up by Russia with the help of Belarus, the chances are close to 100% that the journalist responsible would never be heard from again unless she managed to get out of Russia quickly. Seymour Hersh is still able to publish in the West. The simplest example of lying in autocratic mainstream media is the slogan 'Make [insert a nation's name] Great Again!' This immediately writes off any attempt to assess current culture critically while implying there was a time in the past when current problems and attitudes were not manifest—perhaps a time when publicly discussing sex, religion, and politics was taboo.

Atwood's fireflies are often individuals who put their opinions out publicly without fact checking and demand that the rest of us take them as proven truths. Folks like Steve Bannon, Alec Jones, and Ezra Levant, if they do any fact-checking at all, discard results that don't suit their simple, pre-conceived notions. The web is infested with opinions having little or no evidentiary basis, the worst of which propose conspiracy as the obvious solution to problems they don't want to examine in the complex detail necessary to understand their causes and effects. I can say unequivocally that every failing of Western nations that energizes our culture complainants I have read in what they label as 'mainstream media' with much more depth and understanding then is demonstrated in their emotive screeds.

So let's call it for what it is. The mainstream media is a characteristic of Western culture which allows much more diverse reporting and analysis than any comparable autocratic regime. It includes the New York Times, Fox News, Facebook news feeds, and various book and magazine publishers. Of course it has its faults as does Western culture generally but complaining Grapevine correspondents see Western culture as having almost no good features in spite of the fact that they are able print publicly what they wish and live a rewarding life here in relative safety—relative to a similar complaint in any autocratic nation you wish to name. When dealing with the very real problems of Western culture, conspiracy and opinion unhinged from all reasonable evidence only worsens those same problems. Let's take web comment with a large dose of salt and look to the best of mainstream media in its books and magazines, whether in paper or online, for analysis and fact-checked reporting. 🍷

The Mother Of All Plant Sales
Saturday, May 13th at The Market

student-led plant sales, pampering station and busking
 call 1330 to donate plants


2023 Denman Island Recreation Grants
 Applications are now available for the CVRD Recreational Grants for Denman Island non-profit Groups which provide sport and fitness related activities. Applications can be picked up at Abraxas Books free mail under "R" or on line <www.denmanresidents.com> link to "Committees and Services" Return completed hard copy to the Abraxas file for Rec. Grant. or email to gfhtholli@gmail.com
Deadline for submissions is MAY 31st at 5 pm.
 (total funds available \$23, 000). Enquiries to Georgette at 250-335-0449 or Jennifer at 250-335-2120

Phoenix Riting!

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Phoenix Bee

IT'S the middle of Blues Camp, and what an amazing week so far! Last year was my first. I was accepted as a scholarship student, and my life was changed. I wrote that story last year. This year, I am paying my way, because once having that experience, I'm hooked!

It all started with the "Blues, Where Art Thou?" art opening on Saturday night.

"Blues, Where Art Thou?" is a celebration of our island's love for music; a way for island artists to express the soul of blues at its heart in visual form. Gord Bateman organized a song circle in the Round Room, featuring the wonderful Kathy Stack from Saltspring, Gary Manzer and Bonita Thornsby, Gord Bateman, and myself, with spontaneous sets by Roy Slack, Peter Walford and a gentleman named Tom who drove here from Ontario. The music was delightful, the art was wonderful, all in all it was a great opener for the week.

Sunday evening after registration was the teachers' showcase. Each teacher in turn spoke to the audience of students about their classes, what they plan to teach, and played songs to demonstrate. Essentially, we had another free concert, not open to the general public. Riches upon riches.

Today was the first day of classes. I am majoring in the vocal class, taught by Angel Forrest, the woman with the Voice. Last year, I took a minor class with her and her husband Denis ("Call me D"), who teach as a team, and I walked away knowing I would do their masterclass this year. The vocal major class with Angel and Denis this morning was super fun and I expect nothing short of total transformation by the end. I'm exaggerating; I'd be happy with a few days of fun

Green Wizardries, A Treasure Worth Keeping

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

THE GARDEN CLUB is Denman's oldest social group. It was started in the mists of the distant past by Phyllis Brewer and it has shaped the culture on Denman ever since. I believe it started out due to a rivalry between some of the more dedicated gardeners; the sort of people who knew the Latin name of every plant and were willing to duke it out over the smallest differences in pronunciation.

I was President of the Garden Club, mostly by accident, for six years and you might say that I have done my time and paid my debt to society. You might say, "Go thou, loyal servant and rest." But I tell you this, it was the best job I ever had. It was the most fun job I ever had and I would do it again for another six years if only my health would cooperate. It won't and that is why I am writing this as a plea that someone on this island step up and run for Garden Club President.

The last President has handed in her ceremonial kneeling pan and trowel. Family commitments have taken her and the old board out of the running. They did what they could to keep the Club afloat during the wretched period of Covid

and learning tips and tricks for opening and caring for my primary instrument (voice).

The afternoon minor with Rick Fines, on 'Songwriting in the Key of the Blues' was also fun, engaging and inspiring. We learned stuff, we chatted and shared songs. Rick demonstrated some of his own stuff and gave encouraging feedback. And oh, the delicious lunches and dinners at the Seabreeze. I can't believe it took me so long to discover this experience; I guess I wasn't ready. I'm not alone though; that is, I am, and that's weird. I'm one of only two Hornby students this year (the other is our favourite tarbender). Hornby Islanders are fully involved in Blues week in many ways, of course; there are many, many hardworking local humans making this happen behind the scenes on so many levels.

And everybody comes out for the concerts, most especially Electric night, my favourite dance night of the year. What a way to blast off the spring and summer season! By the time you see this, everything will be over, but right now, it's still to come, and the anticipation is electric.

Next year, I'll have to talk some friends into coming. Whether or not I'm the only one, I'll keep doing this. It's a great way to meet and make new friends, to open up with new experiences and to stretch and grow out of my usual comfort zone. Worth its weight in gold.

On top of all this, spring has finally sprung. I rode my bike without a jacket for the first time today, and everywhere smells of flowers. Bliss and beauty. I'll tell you all about the rest next week!

Blues camp makes me happy. I hope the blues doesn't mind.

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

19 lockdowns where we didn't get to see each other much. The lockdowns are now over and the club should be meeting regularly.

Let me explain that the club used to meet only ten times a year. We took July and August off and our year started in September with elections and a garden tour. For some years now, since the Seniors gave up running the Produce competition at the Blackberry fair, the Garden Club has run that event. It doesn't mean the Club has to. Any event the Club used to do is up for negotiation.

October usually saw us having a garden tour or a cozy talk by one of any number of knowledgeable gardeners. For November, I started the tradition of the wreath-making workshop. Some of us would go out and cut greenery and find vines to twist into wreath bases and then heaps of people would show up to learn how to make an organic Christmas wreath and no plastic junk from China was ever involved. People made beautiful wreaths and it was a great way to start the festive season.

In December, we had a Secret Santa party with lots of goodies and tea and coffee. We really did have lots of tea parties. I will never forget the time Shirley Ward, our best seed saver,



brought a little box as her contribution and the woman who won it first decided to open it. She was telling us all about the many packets of delightful seeds she found in the box. She looked up and found us all staring at her like ravening wolves and said, "There are not many seeds in each packet and I think they are mouldy." That didn't strike any of us as likely and the box was gleefully stolen the regulation three times before it came to rest with a smugly-smiling woman.

Another thing we did in December was to sell the Garden Club's own seeds under the Paradise Gardens label at the Craft Fair. We made heaps of money that way and spent a lot of it on paying for broom to be physically removed from our roadsides so the thrice-damned local government would not spray them with herbicides.

January became the month we did a seed swap. I got the members interested in cultivating our own seeds and the fresh seed we produced was excellent. We had a great variety of seeds, many of the best ones were

from Shirley Ward who introduced the herb parcel to Denman. The seed envelopes were laid out on the tables and people could just take as many as they wanted. That, dear reader, is how you promote local food security!

April was the month when we held a seedling swap as everyone produces too many of one type of seedling. There was no end to the amount of seedlings we found new homes for. There was never a seedling left over and one year, all I got was one eggplant, the competition was that fierce.

May was usually a garden tour but June, the end of our year, was the jewel in the crown. We held a Hats and Gloves party for years. The last one was the best. Phyllis Brewer generously allowed us to have it in her amazing rose garden. Some 50 people attended all wearing garden gloves and garden hats decorated with flowers and ferns and in one memorable case, a tiny watering can.

Don't let this year see the end of the Garden Club. We have candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We only need someone to run for President and the Club will come alive again. You don't need to be the best gardener on the island; I wasn't. You don't need to do what we used to do. You just need to be able to run a pleasant meeting, have fun and be able to throw a party. Call Andrew Pringle at 778-977-1032 to put in your bid for this great, fun, community job. 🌹



250-335-9143

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

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All prices include GST

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DEADLINE MIDNIGHT MONDAYS FOR THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY ISSUE

Going Going Gone Fish

ARTS&LIT

By Mary-Jane Stewart

ANYONE who has not yet seen Nettie Wild's and Scott Smith's show, *Go Fish*, at the Comox Valley Art Gallery in Courtenay, really ought to try and catch it before its final showing on May 27. The triptych of footage is only 15

minutes long, but its impact might keep you awake all night. Even the jaded among you may be brought to tears, as I was, with their artful portrayal of the spectacular natural beauty that surrounds us, that beauty we sometimes don't try hard enough to protect. The show captures the annual herring spawn in and around Lambert Channel from land, sea, sky, and underwater. Predators that arrive to devour the herring include industrial fishing boats with vast nets reeling in and vacuuming up millions of herring. You will not be bored.

Viewers might wonder as I did if this extraordinary show is art for art's sake. Or is there a message? It certainly arouses curiosity about herring, and a little fact sheet on herring to read after viewing the show would help to educate the public about a very crucial issue.

Without any accompanying literature, however, the show is in danger of giving the impression that there is an abundance of herring in local waters, whereas herring on the BC coast have been mismanaged and overfished for over a century and are endangered. The herring stock that spawns in and around Lambert Channel is the last commercially viable herring fishery on the BC coast, and it is barely hanging on to that status. This is tragic when you consider that Indigenous elders told stories of wading thigh high in herring at spawning time. In Indigenous communities up and down the Strait, herring and their roe were a mainstay food source, and in parts of the northern Strait, more important than salmon. No more. They are also a key forage species in a food chain that feeds 40 species of fish, birds and mammals, including salmon and whales.

The viewers of *Go Fish* might wonder where all these herring being scooped up by fishing vessels are going. Most are going to feed open-net farm fish whose lice and viruses are a threat to wild salmon. Some will become pet food, and their roe will be sold to Japan where they no longer fetch the high prices they did back in the 70's. Nobody's getting rich on herring anymore, not even billionaire Jimmy Pattison who owns much of the herring fleet. Herring are on the verge of complete collapse as will be the many other species in the marine food chain that rely on herring for their survival. Let's pressure Jimmy and our Minister of Fisheries, Joyce Murray, to close down the herring fishery to non-Indigenous fishers for as long as it takes the populations to replenish themselves and the aquatic food chain they support. 🍷

March 14th, 2007 Work? No Sweat!

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451

WELL today was a cluster-fuck right from the word, 'Go.' Half of our crew was absent today attending a 'sweat.' While I'm sure the experience is worthwhile I'm of the inclination that over half who attend do so to get out of work. Just my personal opinion. Anyways, this meant I stood about with Jason and Joe waiting on C.O. Person to lead us into battle but he, too, was a no-show due to some training course. So after about a half hour's wait and presumably several rounds of rock-paper-scissors by the blue-shirts, we were presented an unenthusiastic C.O. Welsh as a replacement. When he discovered there were just three of us to oversee he became an even more exasperated stand-in. The head C.O. was radioed at this point and the frantic energy of shoddy organization took flight. Within minutes S.C.O. Wight came careening around the corner in his truck, screeching to a halt. Thrice we had to give our names to him as he was so flustered he could barely count to three! When he figured out what came after two, arriving at the number of workers present for the only thing that this entire facility exists for, he determinedly struck off to root out a couple of more bodies from within the bowels of our range. He was pissed. Which is to say just slightly more rankled than normal. Before long he emerged from Campbell House with two of the three new arrivals to our range. Thus began the scramble to get these guys outfitted with the appropriate working togs. Something that further revealed the gatekeepers' poor handle on things. Even Al was summoned to go to work despite the option to stay back being his, given its his final day before release.



Never mind that he wished to take part in the sweat as well, now suddenly a non-option in lieu of the morning's chaos. You see, Al is the only one who is trained amongst us plebes to operate the wood-chipper, and that included C.O. Welsh, himself! Finally having collected enough of us reds to justify the cost of diesel to propel us to work and back, we left the compound for the tool shed. Even this proved to be a bit of an adventure as, in both Mr. Wight's haste and that of C.O. Welsh's impatience, they damn near clipped one another with their respective vehicles upon pulling out! Once at the tool shed, we dutifully loaded up all the requisite gear for our day. Finally the day was ready to get underway! Or was it? Not quite, as we now needed to await C.O. Tatler's arrival so that C.O. Welsh and the new guy, Rick, could get trained in operating the chipper. It was damn near coffee break and

we still had a 45 minute drive to get to work. On an aside with eyes fully rolling, C.O. Welsh then confides to me, "this day is fucked."

"Well, at least it's a beautiful one!" I rejoined, for the sun was out with barely a cloud in the sky to impede its bright light. He smiled wryly as I laughed impishly.

The morning's circus atmosphere revealed what remained of the day to be a half-hearted, lax affair. C.O. Welsh even had to be back a half hour early for other engagements, cutting further into a day that probably should have been scrubbed altogether. And to think this all could have been avoided had the gatekeepers thought to check the participation list of the 'sweat,' and cross-referenced those names with that of each crew. It is, after all, something that *they* organize. Not we. Procedure, procedure, procedure! Even I have come to learn in my short stay here that not a thing can happen without reams of paperwork and request forms. It's their system of accounting, though by today's folly it could be surmised counting isn't one of *their* strong suits. 🍷

Arts & Lit **Hina Matsuri** *By Jane Masutani* **THIS** is a Shinto spring festival in Japan and these are the words emblazoned across the back of my most recent Vancouver thrift shop purchase. It's a satin bomber jacket in red and blue. If it had a yellow and black tiger across the back it would look like something a young Hong Kong triad member would be wearing. Instead, it's got a white crane and cherry blossoms cascading all over it. Likewise, cranes above the chest and it's just little old me wearing it. I haven't been arrested yet.

I walked into Book Warehouse on Main St. and was it my imagination that they averted their eyes? Two seconds later they were full of welcomes for people walking in after me. I was in there for 20 minutes and no one asked if they could help me. (They couldn't have.) I suppose if one is going to walk about while old, with silly long red hair and a triad jacket knock off, one needs to develop a thicker skin. One is scary, apparently.

Have you noticed the conservative atmosphere in general in bookstores these days? I have. I thought bookstores were traditionally the haunt of louche, bohemian types. The children's section had all these historical picture books and I *continued on P.10...*



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Denman Cross Island Trail Public Consultation

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Parks team will be attending the Denman Island Farmers Market to provide updates on the Denman Cross Island Trail and seeking feedback on a downtown portion of the trail. Visit the CVRD booth to provide your input!

- **Saturday, May 13 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**
Denman Island Farmer's Market at Marcus Isbister
Old School Centre, 5901 Denman Road

To view the presentation boards after the event and for more information, visit:
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/denmanCIT

Comox Valley
REGIONAL DISTRICT
comoxvalleyrd.ca

The Denman Conservancy Association is seeking applicants for the positions of Tour Coordinator and Media Coordinator for the 2024 Home and Garden tour. These are contract positions and run from the Fall of 2023 to the end of the tour in the Spring of 2024. Both contracts could be done by one applicant or shared between two or more.



The tour coordinator role includes managing all aspects of the tour (with the exception of those undertaken by the media coordinator,) including identifying the date for the tour, recruiting homeowners and volunteers, arranging for food service providers and ticket sales and related jobs.

The media coordinator is responsible for publicizing the tour in relevant print and online publications, handling media inquiries and related PR tasks.

The fees are negotiable and there is considerable support available from DCA directors and past coordinators.

The DCA Home and Garden Tour is one of the most popular events on Denman's calendar and has been an extremely popular event for residents and visitors for over 20 years. It is the principal fund raiser for the conservancy and is now held every two years. This could be an ongoing position for the successful applicant(s).

If you are interested in applying, please email to: denmanconservancytour@gmail.com

...continued from P.9 couldn't help turning face out a book discussing the Chinese head tax in Canadian history. There was one about Japanese internment, as well. Which I likewise turned face out. The true north strong and free.

But I love this jacket. I had a silver and black one a few years ago with flowers also, but I gave it to an old friend's daughter because she liked it. So this is a replacement jacket and I was very lucky to find it, they're as scarce as hen's teeth.

A few minutes later and I was out of the bookstore and back on home turf, so to speak, near my daughter's house on 27th and Main. The road in front of me was cherry blossoms, "pink perfection" to be exact, the type that look fake, over the top, all the way down the street as far as the eye could see. The heat of the day had opened them all up. So beautiful! Vancouver is hard to beat in the spring.

I was instantly reminded of a famous (in China) Chinese TV historical drama series "Ten Miles of Peach Blossoms." (And would we ever name something like that? Quick answer, no. It would sound absurd. Flowers are not us.) The show stars Mark Chow who graduated with a degree in economics from UVic and here he is prancing all over the screen in a very long black wig, heavy makeup and authentic-looking historical Chinese fairy costumes. Isn't that incredible? What a career path! He has a lovely profile because of his large nose. Perhaps they chose him because of it? Out of 1.4 billion Chinese citizens they chose someone from Richmond who happens to speak mandarin. Amazing.

I've never watched the actual show, I've tried to, it's on Netflix, but it's unwatchable, truth be told. What a load of gibberish... but I love an outtake that's been put to an Ed Sheeran tune. If you type into the search bar on Youtube "ten miles of peach blossoms kiss me fmv" it will come up. Ed's song just seems so romantic with the video. See what you think. Have I gone nuts in my old age? "Settle down with me. Cover me up. Cuddle me in." As one woman said succinctly in the comment section, "If I wanted to watch large, hairy men I would watch Hollywood productions." Indeed... And so, all power to you, Mark Chow! If things fall apart you can always fall back on the degree.

Korea seems to be producing the shows I want to watch. The writing and acting are head and shoulders above most Western offerings and I have been completely sucked into Korean dramas since covid days, so for the past 3 years. They've been a tremendous solace in hard times. You would think I'd be fluent after all that watching but you would think wrong. Just a few phrases. I'm quite inflexible with my language learning. I seem to have my own theories on how a language should work. In Korean and Japanese the verb is at the end of the sentence. (Like in German?) You need a bit of patience to find out if the woman is cooking or dying in the kitchen. Mandarin seems to work like English with its grammar placement. Too bad there are those pesky 5 tones to worry about.

Enough about languages. Suffice to say I'm not a linguist. One more thing to feel inadequate about. But the story of my day is not over. I sauntered down the "flower road" (In Korean mythology, and perhaps Chinese too, a phrase meaning a happy, easy life.) Somebody stop me being so pedantic! SO PEDANTIC!!

I feel better now. I sauntered down this beautiful road that felt like something out of a dream, the sun was out, the warmth was on, and into Cafe St. Georges, an ancient grey wooden structure on the corner. People sat at uncomfortable metal tables and chairs all over the sidewalk seemingly having the time of their lives. There was a loud, happy hubbub of noise, in various languages...

I walked in and ordered a small americano coffee. The large, hairy Celtic-looking man behind the counter with tattoos down both arms seemed to be about thirty and seemed to come alive at the sight of me. I can't remember what was said but there was a definite frisson in the air. I was waiting for the coffee to be brought to me outside. A few seconds later he rushed towards me with the remains of the drip coffee. He thought I might like it while I was waiting for my americano. I found a space to perch outside on the edge of a flower planter. A few seconds later another, even swarthier young man sat down beside me. "Mind if I sit here?" and proceeded to be fully engaged with his cell phone. Or was he?

At this point I was on the verge of hyper-ventilating. What in the world was happening! Then he spoke and looked at me right in the eyes. I can't even remember what he said at first. I was just so shocked that he would do such a thing. Was I about to faint? Would I need smelling salts to revive me? Two men! Two young men paying attention to me. Were they in cahoots and after my money? Wait, I didn't have any. Why is he so intent on poring over my face? Please avert your gaze. Let's discuss the Palestinian situation side by side like this without looking at each other full on. My face is the wreck of the Hesperus and the sight of it might burn your retinas. I look at least a hundred years old. Over the phone would be even better. Then I can discuss this brave new world till the cows come home. But this is just too strange and intense for me. Was this even legal?

Just then my cellphone rang and it was my daughter in Comox. "Are you okay mum? You sound a bit distracted?" Then my husband phoned. "Yes, it's a beautiful day here too. Just sitting here having a coffee at Cafe St. Georges."

He had grown up in Qatar. His parents were Palestinians. I told him about my obsession (it seems to be) with Korean dramas and he said he could send me more info on Korean films if he had my email address. Red warning lights and loud sirens were going off in my head as I said no, I'm sorry, I can't give you my email.

People were still sitting in the sun, but it was five o'clock and the place was closed. The counterman came towards us laughing and said, "I've told you not to chat up the customers." My young man (already he's mine.) stood up to leave and I waved them both off with admonishments to have a good evening.

His name was Wahleed and he said it meant newborn baby in Arabic. I said his parents didn't seem to have much foresight. And he'd laughed. And that was it. The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone. I walked home with wings on my feet, a spring in my step and all the other cliches expressing exhilaration that you can think of. Then I've sat down here and written it all down to record it.



Letters to the Editor



I write this with respect to the April 20 Grapevine Letter by Anthony Gregson and his letter on 'The 'K'omoks Treaty '.... The Process he writes is Correct in Principle Only

However this Treaty will have No Bearing on Denman Island as these Bands have no claim ... To be Correct it is the 'Te'mexw Treaty' instigated by the Snaw-naw-as Band of Lantzville BC.... Further to claim All of the Parksville area and Denman Island as their Heritage Lands I suggest this is a False Claim as it is recorded that the original Peoples that inhabited these areas were the 'Pentlatch Tribe '... As recorded by the Tranfield Family of Parksville for four Generations.... Prior to the 1850's the Pentlatch Tribe/ Band spent their Summers in the Parksville Area and the Winters on Denman Island leaving the Middens at 'Fillongley Park' as trace of residence....About this time intertribal Warfare brought the Pentlatch to extinction at the hands of the Bands/Tribes from the Lantzville & Nanaimo Regions.... A Battle field on the north side Qualicum Beach and French Creek and Craig Bay attest to the TroublesThus giving reason that the Lantzville 'Snaw-naw-as Band' should have No ClaimIf the Te'mexw Treaty proceeds this will give control over Parksville and Denman IslandHere is an Example of what has happened in a previous Treaty in the Ladysmith Area,,,, Remember the 'Ivy Green' Provincial Park... That

was handed over to the local Band on the North side of the Park as their Traditional Heritage LandThe Park was Closed as it was on the Band Property which was no longer under guidance or control of the Regional district or Ladysmith Town.... As you drive on the MainIsland Highway Where Ivy Green Park Was... You today will find Gas Stations, Fast Food Services, a Hotel with Waterslide and Stores in a Mall like SettingBeing that the Band has Total Control and All the Decision making without outside Guidance this could happen to a property on Denman Island like Fillongley Park as it did to 'Ivy Green' ... I applaud the industriousness of the Ladysmith Band and wish them well BUT ...IS this what you want for Denman ??? As you know If a Property is Designated aReserve as Fillongley Park may well could be in the Territorial Te'mexw Treaty control over Denman Island A Group of concerned Citizens stopped the Tree Cutting at Gravelly Bay.... This Treaty is a much Bigger Picture I suggest All Of Denman contact the Government levelsAnd Have Denman Island Removed from this Treaty because it is Not the Heritage Lands of the 'Snaw-naw-as Band', Nor is Parksville BC There is only a year or two to stop the Takeover

I am Steve Harris Property owner in both Denman Island and Parksville
250 248-3750 5960 Lamber Road Denman mcharris@telus.net

Due to much confusion and lies regarding transmission towers, I feel I must share a very upsetting story which happened to my family.

The incident happened in the late fifties in New Zealand. We were tied up in our ketch to a N.Z. warship festooned with transmission aerials. My wife and I were starting a family and at the time of conception it seems we were under the influence of these transmission aerials. At birth, the child turned out to be a jelly baby, lacking a skeleton and grossly retarded.

Today these jelly babies still occur in the islands of the South Pacific which are subject to intense military transmissions for military purposes.

John Wells

Nord Stream Pipelines Sabotage (Part 4)

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

WE haven't heard the last of this story by a long shot. The CIA and the White House have both claimed that the Seymour Hersh expose is "utterly false". If that is the case, why then wouldn't the Biden administration or the CIA call for an inquiry into the explosions in response to Hersh's

detailed account of their involvement? According to Hersh, the CIA has many very smart folks in its internal investigative unit, and Biden could always put his Director of Intelligence on the case. (*The Real News Network: Chris Hedges interviews Seymour Hersh*) Yet there seems to be no appetite for doing so.

In the meantime, some speculate that Ukraine did it with US help. I find that theory hard to accept. Ukraine after all is fighting Russia. Why would Ukraine take such drastic action to interfere with the re-industrialization and well-being of its allies in Germany and the rest of Western Europe when its current leaders want to join NATO?

Update on the cover story: the rented Polish sailboat, *the Andromeda*, and the folks who did the deed:

The German newspaper *Der Spiegel* reported the "Sailors with forged passports did it!" story, **continued on P.12...**

...continued from P.11 published simultaneously with *The New York Times*' story, in early March, 2023. Picked up by press elsewhere, *The Guardian*'s headline read: "Divers used chartered yacht to sabotage Nord Stream pipelines – report". The subtitle then states that experts question the theory (Julian Borger for *The Guardian*, 10th March, 2023). Apparently the *Der Spiegel* story says that experts question whether a 15 metre yacht could carry the estimated several hundred kilos of explosives (some experts say up to 2,000 kg. would've been required), as well as the diving equipment necessary. Such deep dives would require a decompression chamber for the divers, which wouldn't fit on a yacht, and certainly wasn't on the Andromeda when later "found" in dock.

And then *Der Spiegel* quotes a harbour master in Rugen, Germany, where the Andromeda sailed in early September. He says that the travelers, several men and a woman, were carrying shopping bags of provisions, and speaking a language that "sounded Polish or Czech to him". One was apparently using a forged Bulgarian passport. We later hear of two forged Ukrainian passports, somehow left behind on the Andromeda. And still no one seems to know the nationality or whereabouts of the saboteurs. Photos of the Andromeda in dock show it as unlicensed, and no log of its travels has been produced. But ever so mysteriously, "traces of an explosive" were said to be found on a table in the yacht's galley. The fact that a sailboat can't really anchor in depths of 250 feet did not go unnoticed by those who know boats. Nor did the length of time it would take to search the waters for the pipelines themselves in the Baltic Sea, let alone lay the mines, go unrecognized by the German investigators.

The Guardian journalist quotes Konstantin von Notz, the Chair of the German Bundestag's intelligence oversight

committee as telling the German investigation that it was very likely **state or quasi-state actors** because of how demanding the mission was – transporting and placing large quantities of explosives, undetected, to just the right place and the right depth, and then to trigger several controlled explosions at once. So the German report seems to use more ink debunking the rented sailboat story than reporting it as credible. According to von Notz, "a state-backed act of terrorism makes it more likely that false or deceptive clues were laid". Isn't this what seasoned investigative journalist Hersh warned about?

Follow this with the Russian appeal to the UN Security Council for an investigation into the explosions, an **act of war** even acknowledged as such by those who most likely planned it (Hersh on Chris Hedges' show). Russia, China and Brazil were the only nations voting in favour of an investigation. Who exactly was being protected by the abstentions of the other 11 members of the Security Council? Why wouldn't the US, if innocent, want to back an independent UN investigation? And so it goes.

That's the sorry tale, and just as sorry a fact is Canada's complicity and lock-step adherence to US policy these days, including media coverage. Mainstream media seems to have let go of even a pretense of independent thinking. There is a lot of pressure on Canada right now to increase its NATO contributions and its military spending in general. We know from the recent "Discord" leaks that Trudeau has demurred on the former because he sees no appetite for it amongst voters. We need to make our voices heard and continue to advise our government that *we refuse* to contribute to the madness. Let us have the courage to say that enough is enough. And we need to say it, not just think it. George Orwell's 1984 aside, politicians can't really read our minds. 🍷

Shortages in the Land of Plenty - Patterns

OPINIONS

By Helen Grond

WE all see patterns. Tired, headache, sore throat, sniffles = a pattern we all know too well.

Patterns happen all the time and indeed life on this planet and the planet itself is composed of patterns. It's mathematics and physics all rolled into one.

There are unhealthy social patterns unfolding on Hornby. They are a bit hard to spot if you're not really looking. One of our Facebook community platforms with over 4000 subscribers, is rigorously controlling the narrative on important community debates. Freedom of expression is being curtailed and our community is suffering as a result. This has been going on for years. I recently posted a correction of information exposing broad misunderstandings that have been circulating on that site. My polite posts were instantly deleted and I was publicly shamed. This is the sort of juvenile behaviour we are being forced to contend with! The moderator owns the site which allows him to control the narrative without challenge. The subscribers are receiving an imbalanced perspective which is harming a lot of innocent people.

Our community is being fractured and weakened. – It's

still beautiful and resplendent with gorgeous nature but the residents are suffering. We used to do the most imaginative and creative things. People are feeling shut down and pushed out. Many have left because Hornby became unforgiving. The rules keep changing – for the worse.

Those involved in home sharing have every right to feel fear in this hostile environment. They are simply supporting themselves by engaging in a sanctioned, legal and regulated right that has long been protected by our Official Community Plan, a document that overrides political interference and requires a very high standard of community engagement to change. For at least 30 years the Islands Trust has been attacking this right. The current OCP review is heavily flawed and unethical. Do you see a pattern of control?

The slow process of pushing residents out has picked up speed in the last few years. Folks don't want to go but they have to. How much has political interference contributed to this trend? Home sharing is one of the few economic activities that allow many people to stay. It's kept a lot of our families afloat for decades. Why is it being attacked? Why is our local government (Islands Trust) so intent on destroying it? In the late 1980's our community made a well thought out decision to block the construction of hotels and resorts. Instead, we chose to allow residents to open their homes to visitors, an activity that maintains our much-loved rural charm while

allowing many to support themselves. In spite of widespread misinformation that home sharing has exploded in recent years, the facts indicate it's been relatively stable for many years. No evidence to the contrary has been presented by the current hand-picked and heavily biased Advisory Planning Commission who are poised to destroy it. Home Sharing has never created a stir itself. The stir was always politically induced. In late 2017, the I.T. held a meeting to review home sharing – 6 people showed up. No problems or complaints were forthcoming. Nonetheless, that meeting was a venue to begin the process of removing home sharing altogether, a secret (as revealed in F.O.I.A requests) we didn't know at the time. Today we are witnessing the final stages of that plan. The Trust has actively interfered with our legal rights and it's a long-standing pattern.

There are some very privileged folks around these days. Don't say you haven't noticed. They are above facts, data and evidence, as we've seen with the March, 2022 APC report that wholeheartedly condemned home sharing without a single shred of evidence against it. Governments are always behind political patterns. Political patterns destroy communities by first destroying us. They decide who will be the winners and who will be the losers. They don't know what's best for us. We are cowardly and lazy to think they do. Politicians and governments have always been good at propaganda. That's what election promises are all about. That's what the smear campaign against home sharing is about. If there's no venue to explore truth, the lies will dominate. Our Trustees are refusing to engage and provide answers to pressing questions and it's a big problem. It's becoming a pattern.

"Follow the money" is the most important pattern that we

You're Not Deficient, You're Just Ruled by Assholes

OPINIONS

By Caitlin Johnstone

STRESS, anxiety and depression are on the rise, and they have been for years. Studies have found that increases in cost of living have a lot to do with this deterioration in mental health, while others have linked it to widespread social media use, and the financial and social stressors ensuing from government Covid restrictions certainly haven't helped.

What nobody seems to be doing any research at all into investigating is the possibility that all these mental health problems have something to do with the fact that we are ruled by tyrants who are squeezing the working class harder and harder while continually pounding people's minds with mass-scale psyops.

William Gibson said "Before you diagnose yourself with depression or low self-esteem, first make sure that you are not, in fact, just surrounded by assholes." And speaking from personal experience this is fantastic advice; I've found that many of the problems I had previously ascribed to flaws in myself and necessary difficulties that are built into the nature of human living quickly disappeared from my life at the same time assholes did.

But even more worthwhile than pointing out that a lot of your assumed mental health problems have more to do with being surrounded by assholes is considering the possibility

need to watch closely. Who benefits from banning home sharing and why? The losers are obvious but who are the winners? The privileged people benefit. They aren't dependant on the income so they don't care. We get the sense that they feel deserving of having the island to themselves.

How is Hornby actually catering to the privileged: how about BC Parks secretly buying up Tribune Bay? What about that imposing new development at Shingle Spit? Float planes can fly the privileged folks directly there avoiding our struggling ferry system altogether. How does that development comply with our OCP? Why are many families about to lose their livelihoods and home security through current political agendas and yet that development sailed through? That large new resort with lots of new tourist "beds" (time shares, I believe) got approved overnight and quietly. I saw the Trustees grilled over that issue by the late Carol Martin. It was an incredibly uncomfortable moment for one particular politician. Politicians will do anything if they're suitably motivated. It's a very long-standing pattern. They'll try and hide it with propaganda and double-speak. I think we can see that pattern loud and clear. There has been around 40 million dollars of government money poured into Hornby in the last 15 or so years. No affordable or temporary housing has been created, just high end - luxury stuff for the privileged. See any patterns?

If you want your inclusive community back, start noticing the patterns and speak out. There is a reason we are not allowed to support our working class. It's purely political and it's a long standing pattern.



that you are in fact **ruled** by assholes. By tyrants who are making life needlessly difficult for ordinary people while psychologically abusing them into thinking their situation is normal and appropriate.

A popular socialist YouTuber called Second Thought has a good new video out called "You're Not Immune To Propaganda" which examines the subject from a different angle than you might be used to. Second Thought emphasises the mundane, everyday nature of propaganda in our society as opposed to the shinier, better-known instances of its use like the consent-manufacturing for the Iraq invasion; the way it manipulates our understanding of who we are and what our values should be so that we will blame our struggles on ourselves instead of the neoliberal systems of oppression that are crushing people's spirits throughout western civilization. Think about the consequences it would have on mental health to continually be bombarded with messaging that you need to keep working like a machine under whatever conditions your employer sees fit to provide, for whatever compensation your employer sees fit to offer, and that if you can't thrive in this soul-crushing environment the problem lies with you and not the system which permits such an exploitative relationship. Then consider the possibility that this is exactly what's happening.

This nonstop propaganda messaging is further bolstered by the just-world fallacy, a cognitive bias which causes people

continued on P.14...

...continued from P.13 to incorrectly assume that if anything bad happens to someone it's because they deserved it. This common glitch in human reasoning arises because of people's need to feel like they're in control of their lives; they get that feeling of control by espousing the fallacious belief that as long as people always make good common sense decisions, nothing bad will ever happen to them. As a Twitter follower named Joe Ligato recently pointed out to me, this fallacy would cause people to blame themselves for problems in their lives that actually exist because of exploitative systems.

Some people wonder why mental health conditions are so bad, while I marvel at the fact that they're not much worse. It's actually amazing anyone's functioning at all in a civilization that's ruled by exploiters and abusers who dominate the world using mass-scale psychological manipulation. It's a testament to human resilience that anyone is sane. When everyone's mind is always being pummelled with messaging that you're deficient if you can't thrive under our oppressive systems, that you're flawed if you don't look, think and act a certain way, that poverty is normal and acts of mass military slaughter are acceptable, it's a wonder we don't all snap.

When everyone's consciousness is being continually warped and twisted to suit the agendas of the powerful and keep us all thinking, speaking, working, shopping and voting in ways that advance their interests, it's surprising we're not seeing *more* suicides, *more* mass shootings, *more* substance abuse, *more* clinical depression and anxiety. In a totalitarian dystopia that's held together by mass-scale psychological abuse, it's entirely reasonable that people are finding

themselves overwhelmed with despair, alienation, depression and anxiety.

Everything seems phony, meaningless and needlessly difficult **because it is**. This isn't a statement about human nature or life as it naturally exists, it's a statement about the artificially constructed systems we live under currently. Systems that were built by people and are being maintained by people. Systems which can be changed and restructured by people, too.

In the meantime, please be gentle with yourself. If you're struggling to get by, don't heap extra problems upon yourself by beating yourself up about it. If you're feeling deficient because you can't live up to the standards of success and worthiness you're using, maybe take some time to consider whom those standards might benefit. If they're the sort of standards that would help turn the population into productive gear-turners of the capitalist machine, they're probably not the best gauge with which to measure your success as a person.

There's no real reason life needs to be this difficult. There's no reason we can't provide for everyone while technological advancement gives us all more and more free time. There's no reason we can't learn to live in collaboration with each other and with our ecosystem instead of in competition for the benefit of a few abusers at the top. All that's required is for enough of us to decide we're not going to take it anymore. Times are hard, and they're getting harder, but we can turn this thing around. Please be kind with yourself in the meantime. 🍷

Thailand: Another Round?

OPINIONS

By Gwynne Dyer · OP April 30th, 2023

THERE have been occasional violent episodes in Thai politics and one recent massacre (2010), but the struggle for a genuine democracy has usually been relatively restrained. Maybe that is why it has lasted so long.

In fact, the tug-of-war between the army, the monarchy and the conservative middle class on one side, and the peasants, the students and one billionaire's family on the other, has acquired a ritual quality. The election later this month (14 May) will mark the third time Thailand has gone around the full range of political possibilities since the turn of the century.

A typical trip round the circuit starts with an election that brings some member of the Shinawatra family to power as prime minister. Despite their great wealth the Shinawatras are on the left politically, and they begin to implement a programme of subsidies to poor farmers, a national healthcare system and other expensive reforms.

Most middle-class taxpayers strongly resist any government spending that isn't on them, and start protesting against it in the streets of Bangkok.

Shinawatra supporters organise counter-demonstrations, and it turns into a struggle in the streets. Sometimes the opposing sides even wear different-coloured shirts (red for

Shinawatra, yellow against) to show their loyalties.

The turmoil in the streets gives the army, the bureaucracy and the monarchy a pretext to shut down the elected government by a military coup that 'restores order'. The courts obediently ratify the army's actions and jail or ban the opposition's leaders, but now the shoe is on the other foot.

As the military junta settles into power, its legitimacy is challenged by renewed demonstrations by students, the urban poor, and farmers. Within a few years the junta leader tries to regularise his position by running for office as a 'civilian' under a new constitution written by the military. (New Thai constitutions last an average of four years.)

Sometimes the newly civilianised great leader – the current incumbent is former General Prayuth Chan-ocha – manages to 'win' the first rigged election, but by the second election after a coup one of the Shinawatras is invariably back in office.

First time around, in 2001, the new prime minister was the paterfamilias of the clan, Thaksin Shinawatra. He made his fortune in telecommunications but stayed loyal to his humble origins. His social welfare policies were condemned by angry conservatives as 'bribes' to the poor. He was removed by the military in 2006 and went into exile.

Second time, in 2011, it was his youngest sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who became prime minister. She pursued the same populist policies, and was removed from office and replaced by General Chan-ocha in 2014. She is also now in

exile, but the pattern continues.

Chan-ocha made the usual transition from general to fake civilian prime minister, and his new constitution created a 'Senate' whose 250 members are all effectively appointed by the military. That enabled him to 'win' an election in 2019 even though he lost badly in the vote by the 500 elected members of the House of Representatives.

The popular response to that was a huge wave of student-led protests in 2020, which for the first time even criticised the politicised role of the King, hitherto a sacrosanct figure. Those mass protests were crushed by an equally massive wave of arrests, but it was clear that the activist youth of the country were fed up with the old games.

So now comes Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Thaksin's 36-year-old daughter (popularly known as Ung Ing). She now leads his old party, Pheu Thai, and has been campaigning hard despite being more than eight months pregnant. The latest opinion polls give Pheu Thai 47.2% of the votes, followed by the Move Forward Party with 21.2%.

Move Forward is another reform-oriented party that is winning over a lot of first-time voters. Together with Pheu Thai they might take 70% of the 500 seats in the House of Representatives, almost enough to outweigh the 250 military seats in the appointed Senate. Make a coalition with some third party in the House, and you have a reformist government.

But here's the problem: Pheu Thai's campaign promises are virtually unchanged since Thaksin Shinawatra's policies of 22 years ago. It's offering a 10,000 baht (\$300) digital payout to every Thai aged 16 and older. It will raise the minimum wage by 60%. It will triple farmers' incomes by 2027. It will create 20 million high-paying new jobs.

All the old populist promises, in other words, and practically guaranteed to elicit the same old reactions. Maybe this election will produce a radical break with the past, but it could also be just the start of the next trip round the circuit. 🍷

Local Author Confirmed
Presenter for Alchemy of Gathering 2023

PRESS RELEASE

LOCAL Author of "A Guide to the Collective Awakening", Jenna Walker Confirmed Presenter for the Alchemy of Gathering 2023.

By Jenna Walker



Jenna Walker is an author, artist and intuitive healer who has written about spiritual and emotional fulfillment in her debut book, *A Guide to the Collective Awakening: Advice, Tools & Art Projects*. She is bringing her creative process as a healing tool to the stage at the upcoming Alchemy of Gathering. Her presentation, *Art for Healing*, explores how humanity is naturally creative and how the creative process can help us deal with our emotions and trauma. As Walker says, "We have the ability and power to heal ourselves."

This sounds impossible but it's true. Walker has used the creative process as a healing tool for over thirty years. Having experienced trauma at a young age, she learned to manage that pain and express her emotions in a constructive and positive way. She has

used her personal experiences, as well as the knowledge she has acquired from kindred spirits, countless texts, extensive travel, and moments of deep reflection. Walker felt compelled to share the many tools and techniques that have helped

her in the hopes they will guide other people toward their process of awakening.

She will be joined by other speakers, artists and healers including Mary Malinski and Serena Freedombear. Live music will be provided by Jesse Epp and Anela Kahiamoe as well as a sound healing performance with Anand David Embry.

The Alchemy of Gathering wellness festival takes place from 11am to 8pm, on Saturday, June 10th, at the Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens. Tickets are \$25 with children 12 and under free and are available through the Tidemark Theatre or at the gate. Dogs welcome. For more information visit the website www.changesbyjenna.com. 5% of ticket sales will be donated to the Copper Legacy: Indigenous Empowerment Society. 🍷

Fossil Fair
~ Sat. May 13th, 11:30 - 2:00 ~
on the
Natural History Centre deck
Corner of Sollans + Central Rd.
Bring your fossils to show
or to be identified

Iconic Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club Announces Conference After Filing Constitutional Challenge Against Province

PRESS RELEASE

By VCBC

(Victoria, BC; May 1, 2023)

VICTORIA CANNABIS BUYERS CLUB announces a press conference to be held on Tuesday May 2nd.

Topic : Constitutional Challenge. The nationally known club, well known for their long standing work as a voice for patients who use cannabis as medicine, will be filing for an injunction against the province and filing a constitutional challenge in a lawsuit against the province "in response to the three raids, \$6.5 million dollars in fines and continued harassment of our landlords."

The basis of the constitutional challenge is the failure of the federal medical cannabis program on two points: the 10 mg THC limit and the lack of storefront access.

Ted Smith of the VCBC says, " We have been preparing for that challenge for years."

He goes on to say, "We are looking forward to getting our case before a competent court to resolve these issues, which not only affect our patients but impact medical cannabis users across Canada. Our amazing lawyers have prepared solid constitutional arguments that should both protect our organization and force Health Canada to make important changes to their program."

Interestingly, the province amended the regulations last fall, removing the clubs ability to argue constitutional issues in their dispute against the fine. Then they made the new regulations applicable to their matters, even though our proceedings started long before the changes in law.

"Therefore, we will also be accusing the government of abuse of power and subversion of power," explains Smith.

While this is going on, the Club and the patients they serve are still waiting on Health Canada to make a final decision about their Exemption #56 application. Smith points out that the Club has "very strong support from the city and from virtually every expert in drug policy in B.C."

Media is invited to the Victoria courthouse at 1 pm to witness the filing of the injunction and lawsuit, followed by a press conference at the entrance on Burdett Avenue.

Here's a link to May 2nd's filing: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Do674Q_H7IS46NAibPNLOznaPSPX_g9zYpZ9UciEyec/edit

More information :
<http://www.victoriacannabisbuyers.club>

On socials :
<https://twitter.com/vcbctweets>
<https://www.instagram.com/vbcig>
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076211491503>

Media Contact :

Ted Smith
Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club
250-381-4220
hellovcbc@gmail.com

OR

Tracy Lamourie
Founder, Managing Director, Senior Publicist
LAMOURIE MEDIA
"Global Award Winning PR - Toronto, Hollywood, the EU & Beyond"
*Toronto : 289-788-5881
* Beverly Hills : 424-444-8052
*Europe / Mediterranean 356 9939 0971
Email : lamouriePR@gmail.com



VCBC founder Ted Smith and Lawyer Kirk Tousaw hold a press conference on the steps of the Victoria Courthouse May 2nd after filing constitutional challenge against the province.





Unhealthy solution

by Thomas Provençal

*With so many asleep
and from the news not a peep
of the startling deaths by
injection*

*40% of the vaxxers repent
that they didn't hold back on
rejection.*

*As Tucker Carlson says
lies straight from the pres
are hindering a healthy
solution.*

*As you slumber on friends,
king Justin depends
on your silence for his absolution.*

*Bills become laws
that are riddled with flaws
and limit our personal freedom.
Those who protest
earn hate from the rest
so the leader can whisper,
"Go beat 'em!"*



♥ Kudos to the Cascadia Feminist Brigade for their satirical response to the sophisticated idiocy of the monthly publication Republik. Still laughing out loud. ♥ Anonymous

♥ I just finished reading Bill Engelson's latest novel 'The Life of Gronsky' and it made me feel good. About everything. ♥ Donna Millen

♥ Hooray for Phoenix for shining a light on the evils of the animal agriculture industry which significantly contributes to the climate crisis, deforestation, habitat and species loss, soil, water and air contamination- not to mention the pain, suffering and death of innocent animals.

Humans have been brainwashed for centuries that animals are there for human consumption and are to be treated as things instead of sentient beings. Animals only want what we all want- a long, happy life.

If all the plants that are grown to feed those poor creatures were meant for humans instead, conceivably, it could possibly put an end to world hunger.

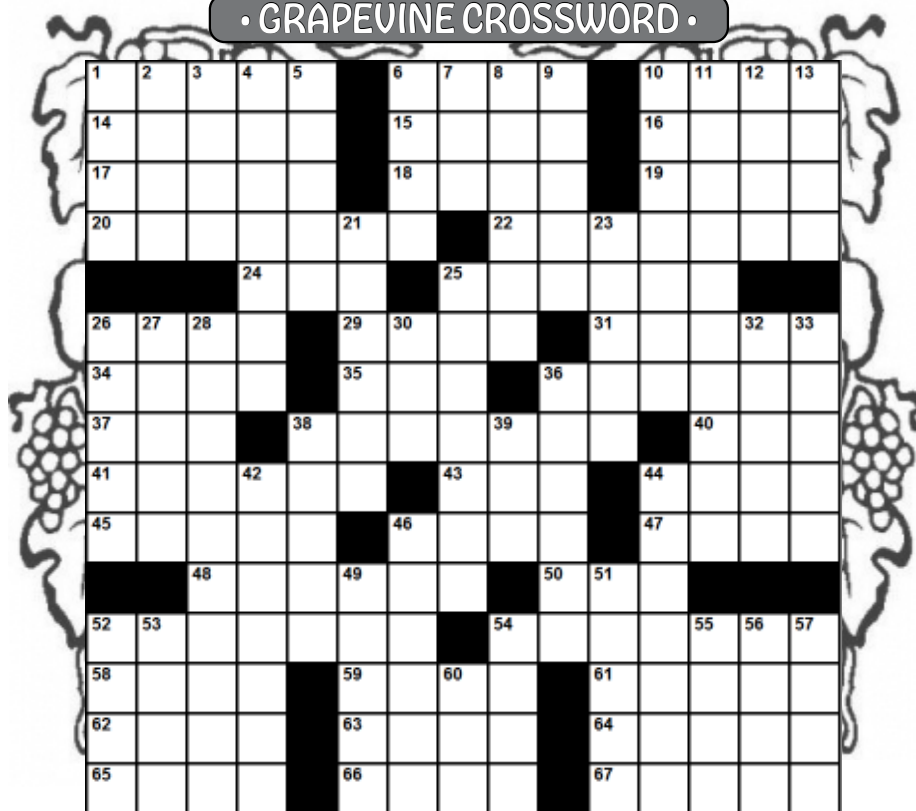
As well, with wave after wave of pandemics circulating around the globe we have also come to realize the dangers of housing large numbers of animals in confined spaces.

"Our house is on fire" and one thing we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint is to switch to a plant based diet, which with all the options these days, is not difficult.

Thank you to Phoenix and all those who speak up with the hope that one day murdering animals will be seen as barbaric. Peace begins on your plate! ♥ edijohnston@gmail.com

What great hall rentals we have here on Denman. On Tuesday I helped with Farm to Family who use the kitchen in the Community Hall, and yesterday I rented the Activity Center Lounge and Kitchen for the Graham Lake Swim Dock Fundraiser. Clean, well-equipped, good lighting, great water, room sizes for every occasion and a fantastic coordinator in DeNeen Baldwin. And thank you to DIMS for reducing the rental fees for not-for-profits! We are lucky to have such great spaces to rent on our Island. ♥ Thanks, Naomi Elliot

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Faze
6. Chapter 11 cause
10. Accessible
14. Female vampire
15. Big lunch
16. Poetic pronoun
17. Very salty
18. Maple genus
19. Made haste
20. Apple pastry
22. NASA, etal
24. Additionally
25. Awaiting visitors
26. Petty dispute
29. Long, deep cut
31. Group no-no
34. Assistant
35. Kind
36. Sleepy city in Texas
37. Chromosome letters
38. Theoretically
40. Alley cat's scrap
41. Scrooge word
43. Love, in a sense
44. Depression migrant
45. Improbable victory
46. Hit a puck too far

47. Cold war

48. Cite as pertinent
50. Frequently in a poem
52. Plead
54. Art movement
58. Calif. county
59. Candy units
61. Figurative use of a word
62. Cineplex offering
63. Figure skating jump
64. Teutonic Odin
65. Adding column
66. Actress Campbell
67. Clio or Edgar

• DOWN •

1. Linen robes
2. Homer's son
3. Islamic bigwig
4. Wind in and out
5. Composer Franz Joseph
6. Tropical woody herb
7. Common Market abbr.
8. Exhalation
9. Liberty's handful
10. Low, cushioned seat
11. Types of directories
12. Inducing gooseflesh
13. Large tree of East Indies
21. Outer area
23. Dynamo part
25. Skeptically
26. Hindu holy man
27. Locker door decoration
28. Cartilage of the larynx
30. Bavarian peak
32. Kin of an iris
33. Lone Ranger movie
36. Rarely
38. Beat
39. Apple dessert
42. Confusions
44. Natural consequence of development
46. Mountaineer's aid
49. City based
51. Islamic decree
52. Lowdown
53. Large conduit
54. Atlas dot
55. Greek letter
56. Bandy words
57. Darn socks
60. Auto gear, abbr.

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

Grumpism



“I asked the surgeon if I would be able to play the violin after the operation on my arm. She said yes, which is good, as I couldn't play it before.”

(This did NOT come from Kai GLEUSTEEN)

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• SERVICES •



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holes, lev-

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Info@coastlinepropertyservice.com

Www.coastlinepropertyservice.com



**GARDENING, MOWING, YARD
WORK.** I have five summers' ex-
perience providing gardening help
on Denman Island. This season I
have just a couple of openings in
my weekly schedule, so call soon
to book one. References available.
Chenoa Honsinger 250-465-9121.

EMBODY WELLNESS:

Registered Massage Therapist

Mary Gillian Vellet - rental

space on Denman Wed's

10:30 - 5:30 pm -

Bookings: Text:

250 202 1268 or Email:

marygillianvellet@gmail.com

LEE ANDRA'S CELEBRANT SERVICES,
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tarot readings; insightful, confiden-
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backhoe. Ideal for small to medium
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if need be.

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All large and small machinery. Yard
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automotive, sharpening, welding
and fabricating. Call Rick Graham
335-0954.(HI)

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install also repairs, for free estimate
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cell at 250 667 3233. Serving All
Areas.

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Bark Mulch, all gravels, Bison
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fir mill end firewood, roof tear off,
demolition. High grade lumber. 35
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• FOR SALE •

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2559

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month warranty. Call
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\$720 plus GST. Text or call Scott at
250-334-7323

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

HIRRA ZOOM MEETING:

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30pm.

AGENDA: Updates from Is.

Trustees, CVRD Director, HICEEC,
Ferry Advisory Committee. E-mail
office@hirra.ca to register. New
members welcome!

**COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION
SOCIETY EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE:**
250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-
4034 For more info visit https://
cvts.ca

**COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM DEN-
MAN WORKS** Projector and screen:
Book with Abraxas Books and Gifts
250-335-2731 abraxas9@telus.
net Zoom meetings (unlimited time
and free recording): See denman-
works.wordpress.com/contact/

• LOST & FOUND •

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

• EMPLOYMENT •

**MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WORK
AVAILABLE** DIRCS is seeking bids
for maintenance contract work at
the Denman Island Community
Hall. Please send an expression of
interest along with resume and
references relevant to your building
maintenance experience to com-
munityhalldenmanisland@gmail.
com.



• DENMAN: 700 • HORNBY: 520 •
• E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 106 •

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V0R 1T0

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www.theislandsgrapevine.com

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

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

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

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 250-792-0128 (H/D)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)

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- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoepner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • LEO207455 • 702-0570 (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)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake • 613-447-8873 (All)

• SERVICES •

- Denman Works! • Tony Greason 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)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (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)
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac. • 250-508-8160
• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Jessi Schlegel • Personal Training & Fitness Classes • 604-329-3466 •
online & in-person (D/H)



Friday May 12
SARAH SMITH
6pm dinner & doors/music 7pm
Saturday May 13
JUNK IN THE TRUNK
Book your spot.

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ESPRESSO DRINKS, BULK STORE, FROZEN DINNERS AND POT
PIES, CALL TO ORDER SANDWICHES
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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 4

- 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

FRIDAY 5

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

SATURDAY 6

- 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
- BAROQUE FEST CONCERT Community
Hall

SUNDAY 7

MONDAY 8

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

TUESDAY 9

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

WEDNESDAY 10

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

THURSDAY 11

- 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 12

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

SATURDAY 13

- 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
- PLANT SALE see ad p.5
- FOSSIL FAIR see ad p.15

SUNDAY 14

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

MONDAY 15

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

TUESDAY 16

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- ARTS DENMAN AGM Arts Centre 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY 17

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

THURSDAY 18

- 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 Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

May 2023

BIRDATHON FLYING IN SOON

WHEN: 4 PM FRIDAY MAY 26 TO 4 PM SATURDAY, MAY 27

WHERE: ANYWHERE THERE ARE BIRDS ON DENMAN ISLAND

WHO CAN JOIN: ANYONE CAN BE SPONSORED TO RAISE MONEY FOR DCA PER SPECIES SIGHTED

BIRDATHON COMPLETE DETAILS

By the time this is printed there will be fewer than 30 shopping days before the Birdathon. Bad news if you are born to shop; good news if you love natural things. There are two ways to participate in the Birdathon. Firstly by picking up a sponsor sheet and joining in. Pledge sheets are available at the Abraxas Free Post under "B."

The Birdathon starts at 4 pm on Friday, May 26th and goes until 4 pm the next day.

According to the dictionary an "-athon" is an event noted for its length or endurance. I suppose that applies to the Denman Birdathon, although the main endurance is provided by the birds that migrate north to participate. Go out for as long as you are comfortable with. Some birders will go solo, others will join up with friends. The only hard-and-fast rule is that you have to have fun.

The second way of taking part is by sponsoring someone. If you don't have anyone to sponsor, please consider our "feature birder," 13-year-old Kaia Russell. Her current favorite bird is the supremely cute Golden-crowned Kinglet (much cuter than the almost Golden-crowned King Charles). Kaia hopes to identify 50 species during her Birdathon which would be an impressive feat. If you'd like to sponsor Kaia or have a pledge sheet emailed to you, contact Wendy (335-1765 or wboothroyd@yahoo.ca). All the funds raised during the Birdathon will go towards the



Bald Eagle and Black Oystercatcher Mitten Prizes

conservation work of the Denman Conservancy, and donations are tax-deductible.

On Saturday, May 13th at 8 am, we're offering a basic birding walk. If you'd like to join us, please meet Mike Morrell, Jenny Balke and me at 8 a.m. at the start of the Central Park trail system near the Old School. Most songbirds will have arrived by then and I expect them to be fully cooperative and singing lustily.

We had planned to have a post-Birdathon pot-luck event, but BC Ferries subsequently scheduled an important community meeting for the same time. Since many of us will want to let BC Ferries know how we feel about tree-cutting and parking lots, we've decided to cancel the potluck.

Instead, we'll give out prizes at the DCA booth at the Saturday markets in early June. Participants, please help us determine the prize-winners by emailing Wendy the following information after your Birdathon: oldest birder, youngest birder, most unusual bird, most birds identified by a birder who reduced her use of fossil-fuels (biking, walking, car-pooling, etc.). We'll also do random draws of the kind people who supported the Birdathon. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you out on the trails at the end of May!

- submitted by Ken Madsen



Punk Golden Crowned Kinglet

On the Land

It's been a busy couple of months wrapping up projects as springtime crept up on us and before the cycle starts anew!

Both contractors and volunteers have been busy tackling invasive English Holly and Daphne in the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Nature Reserves, particularly Lindsay Dickson & Morrison Marsh. Our manual removal efforts for these species are making a difference in priority areas, but there's still a lot of work to do. Through support from ITC, DCA will be continuing this work over the next year.

We also completed our work for the final year of the 3-year Land Stewardship grant from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF). This included continued work on English Holly in both the Settlement Lands and Central Park, installing boundary marker signs at important locations around DCA lands, and the beautiful new interpretive plant signs installed along the Winter Wren Wood nature trail. Go check them out!

DCA has been fortunate to receive another 3-year Land Stewardship grant from HCTF (running until 2026) for projects within the Central Denman Conservation Complex. A significant chunk of this work will be focused on Raven Woods and Wetlands, including trail building and signage to connect the most recently protected parcels to the rest of the complex. Get in touch if you'd like to get involved!

DCA also recently attended Isfeld Secondary's annual EcoFair, organized by the school's Environment Club. The event was attended by several school groups from the valley and DCA's wetlands exhibit proved a hit. It was inspiring to see so many interested and engaged students! We look forward to attending again next year.

Andy B.

lands.dca@gmail.com

Beaver News

Meet Your 'Living With Beaver Project' Coordinators! Lyndsay and Sadie, DCA's new 'Living With Beavers Project' co-coordinators!



These two fabulous beaver influencers will reach out to the community in the coming months to learn about your experiences with beavers on Denman. The goal of this project is to learn more about beaver-human interactions and determine how Islanders can better coexist alongside these important wetland stewards. Lyndsay and Sadie will coordinate monitoring of road culverts and stream gauges where beaver are active, as well as engage community members in citizen science. There will be

an iNaturalist project where you can record your very own beaver observations online, as well as paper beaver monitoring forms at Abraxas Free Post under 'B' in the Beaver folder to take into the field if you prefer. This is a year-long project sponsored by an environmental stewardship seed grant provided by Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

Come to the Old School Centre at 11am on May 13th for Beaver Theatre! an introductory presentation about this project and a chance to meet Sadie and Lyndsay. You can contact the beaver project via email at: DenmanBeaver@gmail.com.

Dogs and the Railway Grade Marsh Conservation Covenant Area

"If there are no dogs in Heaven,
then when I die I want to go where they went."

Will Rogers

The Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) has no quarrel with dogs. In fact, some of us on the DCA Board of Directors have dogs who are cherished members of our families. However, the Board recognizes that the presence of dogs and ecological values can be in conflict and because of this, dogs are not permitted on the Railway Grade Marsh (RGM) Conservation Covenant Area. We may not recognize that our dog friends are a threat to wildlife, but the scientific evidence is clear. Also, we now recognize the extremely significant importance of wetlands as a safeguard against the effects of climate change, especially during droughts – a first line of defense for mitigating forest fires.

The Railway Grade Marsh Covenant Area is composed of critical wetlands that are maintained by the continual activity of beavers, building and repairing dams, thus retaining essential water levels. Dogs simply enjoying themselves in wetlands can disturb, stress, injure or transfer disease to beavers, disrupting their normal activities. Canines are known predators to many species, so even the scent of dogs may stress wildlife. Often, dogs in the vicinity can cause wildlife to leave a sheltered spot or even their territories temporarily or permanently, thus exposing them

to predation, conflict with other wildlife, as well as reducing the available habitat in which to feed, breed and rest.

Railway Grade Marsh is a long, narrow protected area with a trail running along its entire length, thus the exposure of dogs to wildlife is prolonged. Notable species in the protected RGM affected by dogs are beavers, waterfowl and many ground nesting birds. These animals if under repeated stress can also experience long-term impacts affecting reproduction, growth, and the immune system. Overall, the diverse and vibrant plant and animal life in the RGM depend on the healthy wetlands.



Railway Grade Marsh

With Denman's population growth, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of dogs in the community. Pressure on this area is compounded by new residential development to RGM's north and east. DCA has exercised the precautionary principle by excluding dogs from the RGM and this policy is confirmed in the Management Plan, which was approved by BC Parks/ Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in December 2022.

DCA has worked long and hard to protect the RGM system. The history of DCA's legal interest in the RGM in the form of a Conservation Covenant predates the establishment of the Denman Island Provincial Park. DCA received the covenant 17 years ago as part of settlement of its legal case against 4064 Ltd. DCA has conducted studies and monitoring on the marsh

system since that time. The current policy decision is a recognition of the critical value of those intact wetlands.

Throughout all these years, we recognize that an increasing number of dogs and people have grown accustomed to using the RGM trail. But please remember that while this decision for the RGM is upsetting for some dog owners, leashed dogs are allowed on other lands that DCA owns and manages including Central Park, Winter Wren Wood, Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve and Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve. Additionally, the Provincial Parks allow leashed dogs and Regional District Parks allow dogs under the owners' control.

Contrary to rumours, DCA is not installing surveillance cameras in the RGM, nor will the area be "policed." We do not have the capacity to enforce this policy, but rather we will rely on the community to support the protection of one the most environmentally sensitive areas on the Island.

Contact: info@denmanconservancy.org



RGM nature walk- 2022

DCA Board News

For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM in February, here is a list of the Board of Directors as it now stands, in no particular order.

DD Fuchs – Co-Chair

Luise Hermanutz - Co-Chair

Susan Marie Yoshihara

Steve Carballeira

Doug Bell

Dylan Gale

Steve Morgan

John Millen

Olena Russel

Erica Bland

Stirling Fraser

Karen Stewart

Francis van den Dam – New Treasurer

We want to welcome Francis van den Dam to the Board as the new treasurer. He has taken on a task that is not for the meek. Also, a warm welcome to Stirling Fraser and Olena Russell, our other new Board members.

DCA will also be in attendance at the Denman Saturday Market starting soon. There will be T-shirts and new Denman Island Conservancy maps of protected areas for sale and free information about all our projects and trails. Come and chat with us!



Sea lion at the annual herring feast earlier this year