



"The earth laughs in flowers." • Ralph Waldo Emerson.



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

HITS&HIES Literacy Outreach are Thrilled to Present...

ARTS&LIT

By Hornby Island Theater Society

brought to life by a talented team of Hornby youth both on & off stage! This youth driven, mentor inspired theatre production is the result of months of hard work, laughter & the creative passion of many! Join us at the Hornby Community Hall June 2-4 & experience the magic for yourself. This project was made possible by an Island Health Community Wellness Grant.

June 2 - 7:30 pm

June 3 - 6:30 pm (Followed by a Q & A with the cast)

June 4 - 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Art show & concession

Tickets at the Hornby co-op Gas Bar & online! at : <https://hornby-arts.square.site/events>

Evening \$25, Matinee \$15

*mature content, not recommended for children under 13.

"A twisted fairy tale about friendship, love, growing up, moving on and finding magic where you least expect it, this darkly comedic bedtime story by Canadian theatre's indie darling blurs imagination with reality in order to save a family from its own destruction."

- www.playwritescanada.com

(5 out of 5 stars) *"Emotionally complex, witty and well-paced magic—literally and figuratively."*
- Examiner

Jennivieve Sarah McRae-King, co-producer - HIES literacy Outreach

Friends of Denman Forests Survey Results

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Friends of Denman Forests

Denman residents. Here are the results. Thanks to everyone who participated. If you are concerned about Denman becoming a highway to Hornby and the resulting problems with safety and environmental degradation, please come to the the BC Ferries Round Table Community Discussion re Denman East terminal expansion 4:30 -5:40 on Friday, June 26.

Also, if you are interested, we will be giving a 5 minute presentation at the preceding Ferry Advisory Committee meeting 1-3. Both meetings at Hall. As this is an opportunity for our community to demonstrate our concerns around these issues, we hope all who can will attend the BCF Community Round Table at 4:30.

Denman Island Community Survey Results

Question 1) In your opinion, in what ways is the environment affected by the summer tourist traffic? (respondents could choose more than one option)

75% air pollution

81% endangering wildlife die to cars speeding to the ferry

72% trees being cut or limber to accommodate more cars

78% risk of fire from cigarette butts

47% oil and gas run-off

3% no impact

Question 2) Please select the ways you are impacted by the summer tourist traffic.

MUSTARD - a brilliant play by Canadian playwright Kat Sandler



(respondents could choose more than one option)

86% exceptionally long wait times for the ferry

50% traffic noise

83% feeling unsafe on the roads (driving, cycling, walking) due to cars speeding to the ferry

67% stress caused by the inability to make appointments off-island due to ferry delays

43% feeling unsafe having to pass long line-ups on a single lane at Denman West

43% feeling unsafe having to pass long line-ups on a single lane at Gravelly Bay

29% health issues due to air pollution/exhaust

59% risk of fire from cigarette butts

3% no impact

Question 3) In your opinion, did BC Ferries do a fair and proper community consultation with regards to the terminal expansion project in Gravelly Bay in which over 120 trees are slated to be cut down? (respondents could only choose one option)

7% yes

76% no

17% other (many of the respondents who chose this option wrote in the comments that they were not aware of any consultation)

Question 4) How important is it to you that BC Ferries takes climate change into account when planning projects and making predictions and/or decisions for the future? (respondents could only choose one option)

63% extremely important

21% very important

9% somewhat important

3% not so important

3% not at all important

Question 5) Please select any of the following options you would support as a possible solution to the summer ferry traffic issues.

73% a ferry that goes directly to Hornby in the summer months, bypassing Denman Island

65% a reservation system for visitors to Hornby Island with priority loading for Denman and Hornby residents (with a decal or resident card)

53% a larger ferry on the Denman to Hornby route (22)

42% more holding lanes in Buckley Bay, restricting traffic there so it doesn't get backed up in Gravelly Bay

9% more holding lanes in Gravelly Bay (which, according to BC Ferries' terminal development plan would mean cutting down over 120 trees) - many of the respondents who chose this option wrote in the comments that they would support it if there were little or no trees cut down 🍷

70 Years as The Speed Bump to Hornby

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Cynthia Minden on behalf of Friends of Denman Forests quickly galvanized this past winter and has been engaged ever since in research and outreach.

Here are some brief ferry traffic advocacy highlights from the archives: (DIRRA, Through Traffic Committee, Roads Committee, Rag & Bone, Islands Trust notes, letters and the extensive research of community historian Graham Brazier.)

Between 1931 and now, groups of islanders from both Hornby and Denman have requested, petitioned and campaigned for a direct sailing from Vancouver Island to Hornby Island. In 1931, 20 years before a direct ferry service linked our two islands, Hornby Islanders petitioned the Courtenay Board of Trade for a direct ferry, an idea that originated on Hornby! Public ferry service run by the province began in the early 1950's on the routes that we now know as 21 and 22.

As Hornby grew as a popular tourist destination, volumes of traffic crossing Denman Island to get there increased. Efforts to try to remedy the problems created by the burgeoning traffic continued, with Denman's APC recommending in 1976, that a study be carried out. Their recommendation was supported by the group A.C.E. (Alternatives for Community & Environment) who worked until 1980, launching a campaign to BC Ferries Peter Hughes, Supervisor of Local Ferries.

The Roads Committee was very active in 1989/ 90 directing their pleas to the Ministry of Transportation & Highways. Ferry Advisory *continued on P.4...*

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-05-26 (Fri)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:26	4.6	15

2023-05-27 (Sat)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:10	4.5	14.8
17:51	2	6.6

2023-05-28 (Sun)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:49	4.5	14.7
09:46	2.7	8.7
13:28	2.9	9.5
18:51	2.3	7.5

2023-05-29 (Mon)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:21	4.4	14.6
09:59	2.3	7.7
15:20	3.1	10.1
19:56	2.6	8.4

2023-05-30 (Tue)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:49	4.4	14.5
10:18	2	6.5
16:34	3.4	11.2
21:01	2.8	9.2

2023-05-31 (Wed)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:15	4.4	14.4
10:42	1.6	5.2
17:30	3.8	12.4
22:03	3	10

2023-06-01 (Thu)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:42	4.4	14.4
11:10	1.2	3.9
18:19	4.1	13.6
22:59	3.2	10.6

2023-06-02 (Fri)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:10	4.4	14.4
11:43	0.8	2.6
19:06	4.5	14.6
23:53	3.4	11.2

2023-06-03 (Sat)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:40	4.4	14.4
12:19	0.5	1.6
19:51	4.7	15.4

SUMMER ART GALLERY

Chemistry

Paintings by Eulalia Marmion
May 25th to June 6th

...continued from P.3 Committees were struck in 1993 and in 1995/96 the Through Traffic Committee took up the reins, surveyed islanders, liaised with BC Ferries and made delegations to Trust Council.

Trustees Mandryk and Ludvigsen, in 1995 urged BC Ferries via meetings and correspondence, to consider a direct route as the only long-term solution to the now exasperating traffic problems.

Note that the volumes of traffic and consequences arising, do not comply with Denman Island's Official Community Plan, which states among other things:

to develop strategies to manage vehicle traffic demand and diversify traffic loads rather than expand vessels or parking and staging areas (under Marine Transportation, pg. 40/41

and has as a Guiding Objective: To maintain safe tranquil, scenic roads, to maintain adequate ferry service to Vancouver Island, and to encourage walking and cycling on Island roads and ferries, pg. 36

The Denman OCP has other references and advocacy policies also that make evident the fact that islands in the Trust are not intended to be thoroughfares for large volumes of cars, service and commercial vehicles.

The results, too numerous to elaborate, include environmental degradation, congestion, danger to pedestrians, children, cyclists, wild and domestic animals, risk of fire, air and noise pollution and stress on residents and visitors of both islands enduring endless ferry waits. In July/ August 2022, 19,026 vehicles crossed Denman Island one-way en route to Hornby,

a sobering fact.

So here we are: with the dire news of climate change and our responsibilities therein, the proposed terminal expansion at Gravelly Bay has hopefully brought all stakeholders to the table.

A review of the cable ferry has just been released, currently there are two ferry docks at both Buckley Bay and Denman West and 462 Denman islanders have responded to an island-wide survey. To us, this seems like an opportunity to review the entire structure of Routes 21 and 22 and consider the best options for residents and tourists during the summer months.

The BC Ferries Commissioner is asking islanders to submit feedback on the amended budget (referred to as the PC-6), which she will sign off on at the end of September. This budget will lock in capital expenditures until 2028 and has been historically used by both the Commissioner and the Minister of Transportation to justify doing nothing with the cable ferry. Consequently, now is the time to let Commissioner Hage know what you think about the traffic and vessel issues(www.bcferrycommission.ca).

In the meantime, show up to the roundtable "conversation" and meetings this week with BC Ferries Fri May 26, 4:30-7:30, Community Hall and the Ferry Advisory Committees 1 -3 PM same day, same place. Also, please urge folks to be polite and respectful of the hard work both Denman and Hornby islanders have done in preparation for these meetings. They could very well signal BCF's commitment to finally engage meaningfully with our island communities. 🍷

Brandon Isaak Live at the Earth Club Factory

MUSIC

By Earth Club Factory

show. Foot tapping, hands clapping, singing along fun! New fans are made at every show as they leave the venue happily chatting about how great the event was!

He is a multi-instrumentalist who writes heartfelt, uplifting, funny and spiritual songs. Brandon takes his audiences on an emotional journey through the varieties of his original songs. He has honed his craft over the last 37 years and it shows. His gravelly singing voice always astounds people that wonder how that big voice comes out of his smaller frame!

Brandon has been nominated for many awards including Maple Blues for song writing, blues act of the year, guitar player of the year as well as producer of the year. He has also a Juno nomination under his belt. 🍷

BRANDONISAAK is a one of a kind world class performer! He engages with an audience getting them involved in the



New Book of Poetry - *Liminal*

ARTS&LIT

By Angelika Forray

called 'Liminal'. It is not your typical poetry. It is a bit raw, a bit humorous, and a bit deep. I explore many topics in the book; love, healing, politics, and psychology to joy and mindfulness. The book gradually moves from dark to light, from the subconscious to the superconscious. There is something for everyone.

I am hosting a meet the poet and book signing at Abraxas on Saturday, June 24th, 1-3 pm. Please mark your calendars. It would be lovely to meet you.

I moved to Denman almost two years ago and have been enjoying the community and all the brilliant minds that reside here. 🍷

HELLO, fellow Islanders. I recently published a poetry book



March 15th, 2007 'THE IDES OF MARCH.' "So where's the weed?"

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451



And officially I am one quarter of the way through my bit. The morning started on a funny note. This new fellow, a young kid named John, was outside having a smoke prior to breakfast complaining about the pervasive stench in the dorm. As any who have been here a while can attest, the diet that they subject us to takes some time to adjust. Specifically, one's digestive system. The inordinate amounts of gas and accompanying putrid odour that fill the dorm is a feature of the largest bed space in the jail. A rites of passage for any newcomer. It is here fresh arrivals must

endure until bed-spaces in the double rooms become available. Well, as we were all out having a butt this morning, John proceeds to go on in utter exasperation about the stench. Indeed, it was chili for dinner last night, a volatile fuel that can even make a grizzled long-timer feel 'new' again. "It was so thick in there that the taste is in my mouth!" he said. Which prompted me to deadpan, "it's the warmest meal you'll get in this place." As it was still quite early and the coffee everyone was nursing had yet to have its desired effect there was a palpable silence of at least a second. I began thinking I may have said the wrong thing or that I may have just formed a new enemy but then, quite in unison, everyone damn near started crying they were laughing so hard. I made a funny!

Work today saw us going to the B.M.X. track in Nanaimo. We were tasked with cleaning up the surrounding grounds which was mainly raking up leaves and a few broken branches that I suspect were the remnants of our early winter storms. Apparently, a weekend racing event was on tap and they were expecting many a would-be camper to be pitching tents all over the grounds.

C.O. Hahndel was our lead as C.O. Person was once again away for some sort of training. We slogged our way through work with little excitement but the day did have its highlights. For lunch, the head groundskeeper brought us some french fries and a milkshake. She was actually willing to purchase us some burgers as well but C.O. 'Hand-job' piped in that we wouldn't need them as we were equipped with sandwiches that we'd brought from JAIL. The very same shitty sandwiches that C.O. Person implored us to write up complaint forms about. What a maroon! Oh well, no never-mind. For as luck would have it we got a score of a different kind. While it was that Peters was the catalyst, I'm of a mind that with Al's departure this morning perhaps he had a hand in willing it our way. A sort of 'going away gift.'

There were a couple of younger guys, locals, that appeared to be working for the groundskeeper. With their trusty labrotty cross and an old beater truck they were disposing of the larger branches that the windstorms had dislodged from the towering trees encompassing the park. When Handel asked some of us to help them load up their truck a rare opportunity presented itself. Congregated around a freshly loaded pickup full of chunky branches, Peters rather casually *yet matter of factly* says to them, "so where's the weed?" Standing there, like we were, in prison issue overalls I imagine such query could appear as nothing short of desperate plea to anyone with half a brain and a sense of compassion. Well it turns out that these guys had all three. Brains, compassion and, most importantly of all, the required material. As discreetly as is required in such circumstances they slipped us a precious doobie. So over lunch, Peters, Troy, Richie and I went over to the bleachers, away from C.O. Hahndel, and imbibed our good fortune. One doobie later, we were four very stoned wards of the corrections system! In actual fact we were as giddy as schoolgirls. Fred, this native guy on our crew, came along and hung with us over lunch and while he doesn't partake of the weed, he is a laugh riot as we soon discovered. Blessed with the classic humour I've come to know most natives as having, he kept us in stitches. As it would turn out I got an extra jolt of laughter when he recounted the morning's events from Campbell House. It turns out that he is in the same dorm as the new guy, John. He was sharing with us how John was whining about the dank smell of a night's worth of chili flatulence. When Fred caught on to John's dismay and abhorrence, *and how his mouth could taste it*, he said to him, "you must be a sound sleeper cause you didn't feel a thing!" Thrown into the context of the entire morning, I see that after this exchange John must've exited the dorm to go outside for his morning smoke only to have me quip that it would be the **continued on P.6...**

Celebration of Children's Art by Anthony Gregson



THE SUMMER GALLERY is very pleased and thankful for the response to the Celebration of Children's Art, a show of work by 36 children from the Community School, grades one to seven. Gallery member Judith Scruton, who organized the show, said 131 adults and 63 children turned up over the May long holiday weekend. "Saturday the ice cream kept melting and the balloons popping, but it was chaotically wonderful." The show appealed to everyone. Sunday, a lot of people turned up who didn't have kids with work in the show. Parents were thrilled that every kid had something on the wall." Here's hoping we see it again next year. 🍷

...continued from P.5 warmest meal he'd find in this place! We almost pissed ourselves in throes of uproarious laughter.

There was still 15 minutes to go in our lunch break so upon returning to the crummy we piled into the back to revel in our coup. First Troy and then Fred said, "I'm pretty sure Hahndel knows," which had little effect on any of us. Hell, we were stoned and feeling rather triumphant for that fact but then young native Richie says the one thing that would corroborate any possible suspicion from the C.O. Quietly, *almost meekly*, he says "and I come in here with an armload of prison sandwiches." We all turned our attention his way to see him sitting with a grilled ham-and-cheese in each hand, a glistening of grease encircling his maw. And at this, we were laughing like we weren't incarcerated. My cheeks and abdomen felt close to cramping. Damn, we were enjoying ourselves! If I didn't know any better I'd say that it was as close to a bonding moment as we've had on Crew #2 in my time here. Yes, it was a good day. And to top it all off, the rains held back once more only to begin just prior to dinner where it currently still falls. 🍷

Green Wizardries, The Story of Neeps

By Maxine Rogers

SPECIAL INTEREST

I was reminded of the story of Neeps when, a few days ago, I had my windows cleaned. To facilitate this, I had to take down the nets that cover the windows in our kitchen and living room. You might wonder why we have nets on our windows. It has to do with the house being badly designed. This house has wall-sized windows in the kitchen and living rooms and porches. This encourages birds to think they can fly straight through. This house is a killing ground for birds.

When we first came here to live we found a neighbour, a great bird lover, had hung streamers of plastic flagging tape from the tops of the windows to act as some sort of warning to the birds. The ground around the house was still littered with tiny bird corpses. We tried putting up black-paper silhouettes of birds on the windows and they did a little good.



Then, one day, I found a tiny female rufus hummingbird with a broken neck on our porch under the huge plate-glass bird-killing window and I refused to have this happen again. I felt horrible that she had flown valiantly from as far south as Mexico, only to be killed by my window. I knew that somewhere, her babies would be dying of starvation and exposure.

So, we hung up shellfish nets on the windows, meaning to replace them someday with lace curtains. We never did find curtains we liked but the nets, while very ugly, have the advantage of being a place fledglings can, and do, land on during training flights. It is delightful to see them peeking in to look at what the humans are up to.

We had a relative staying with us when we had the windows cleaned and she wanted us to take the nets down permanently. I had to tell her about all the dead birds that were killed by our windows and to try to make her understand, I told her the story of Neeps.

Neeps was my baby robin. I named him Neeps which is Northern-English slang for turnips. As in, "You turnip; you fell out of the nest!" We found him toddling around in the village with no parents in sight and a cat trailing him. I realized taking him home was not ideal but neither was letting him get killed by that cat.

So, he came home with us and I got him some worms from the compost bin. I managed to convince him that I was a mother bird and proceeded to fill him up with worms. Or, at least I tried to. For such a small bird, he was a bottomless pit and I fed him so many worms that he should have turned into a 25-pound turkey but he remained, obstinately, small and scruffy. Eventually, I exhausted the worms from my many compost boxes and took to feeding him alternate strips of liver and animal fat. It took more of my energy to rear that one baby robin than all the other animals on the farm combined.

Robins, American Robins, to give them their full name will lay from 3 to 5 eggs and have from one to three clutches a year. Just thinking of the labour involved in rearing three baby robins makes me turn pale but to do this heroic labour three times in one summer is demented.

I am sure other baby birds are at least as much work. So, I explained to our guest that every time a bird is killed by a stupid window that all the labour and care its parents took over it is lost and wasted. Our guest said she understood that I respected the birds too much to let them be killed for nothing. I guess I hadn't thought of it that way but yes, I respect birds a great deal.

I was talking to an old cop friend about human families and he was explaining that Mommy birds lay the eggs and Daddy birds go to work to feed and protect their brood and that is the way things should be. He thought humans should be able to be as clear, rational and selfless as birds.

I asked him if he had ever had a bird down at the station for beating up his wife and kids. He admitted that was where his ideas kind of fell apart because he has had droves of human males in cells for beating their wives and kids and for committing much worse offences against their own children. He said the worst offences of the fathers were often abetted by the mothers of the children.

So, I guess this has turned into a plea for people to be more considerate of the birds and other wild creatures around us. After all, they are clearly morally superior to most humans.

I know you like your huge windows but there are a number of ways to make windows less hazardous to birds. Nets are the best way to prevent birds from smashing into your windows. You can also draw on your windows with soap or tempera paints but nothing beats netting. The hawk silhouettes are not very effective unless you fill your windows with them. Birds see the reflections on windows and think they are flying into the sky or the forest and meet their deaths.

According to a 2014 study, one billion birds a year are killed by windows in the United states alone. Let's see if we can't do better here. 🍷

Surrealist Ferry Demands*

By Ron Sakolsky

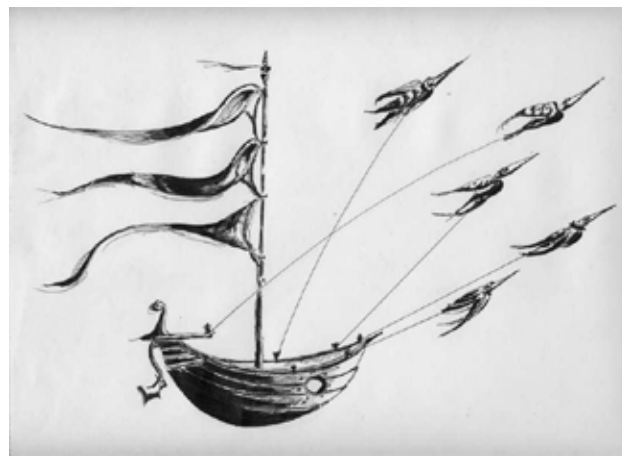
SPECIAL INTEREST

- 1) COASTAL FERRIES REDESIGNED TO RESEMBLE GIANT ORCAS, SALMON, CRABS, OYSTERS, CLAMS, HERRING AND OTHER SEA CREATURES.
- 2) WINGED BOATS CREATED TO SIMULATE THE FLIGHT OF EAGLES, WILD GEESE, HERONS, SEAGULLS AND OYSTERCATCHERS.
- 3) REPLACEMENT OF ALL BC PROVINCIAL AND CORPORATE FERRY FLAGS WITH THE JOLLY ROGER.
- 4) ALL BC FERRY AUTHORITIES MUST WALK THE PLANK.
- 5) FREE FARES FOR ALL.
- 6) AN END TO WAGE SLAVERY FOR ALL FERRY WORKERS.
- 7) THE TOTAL EROTICIZATION OF FERRY WORK.
- 8) JOYOUS SEXUAL FREEDOM AND GENDER NON-CONFORMITY ON ALL FERRIES.
- 9) FREE CONDOMS IN ALL FERRY LOUNGES.
- 10) FREE BC BUD IN ALL CAFETERIAS.
- 11) FREE ALL-NIGHT SUMMER DANCE PARTIES TO BE HELD ON EVERY FERRY DECK.
- 12) UNSCHEDULED FERRIES RANDOMLY GLIDING INTO STRANGE AND UNEXPECTED HARBORS.

WE VIEW THESE IMMEDIATE DEMANDS AS THE INDISPENSABLE FIRST STEP TOWARD A PLEASURABLE LIFE FOR ALL FERRY-GOERS.

INNER ISLAND SURREALIST GROUP

* This slightly revised 2008 proclamation envisioned ferries as floating autonomous zones. It was written out of sheer exasperation at the underlying miserabilism and lack of imagination evident in the plethora of polite pleas for mercy addressed by aggrieved ferry passengers and union bureaucrats to the corporate management and government officials associated with BC Ferries. Instead of crumbs from the cafeteria table, we desire a lavish feast. The ferries that ply the watery highway between Vancouver Island and the marvelous necklace of Gulf Islands that are widely scattered throughout the Salish Sea in British Columbia can be re-imagined. Now is the time to rock the boat, save the trees, and chart a course toward freedom! Ron



by Poète Maudit

Join us for Round Table Conversations



Denman Island (Route 21)

Friday, May 26

4:30pm – 7:30pm

Denman Island Community Hall

Hornby Island (Route 22)

Saturday, May 27

11:00am – 2:00pm

Hornby Island Community Hall

We want to hear from you on how to mitigate the impacts of the Denman East terminal development project and how to evaluate the success of the enhanced summer schedules that will be in place for Routes 21 and 22 this year.

Join us for these professionally facilitated conversations.

Learn more about the format and agenda for these events, and provide us with your questions ahead of time, at bcferriesprojects.ca/denman-east-terminal

Scan the QR code to learn more.



bcferries.com

 **BC Ferries**

Shortages in the Land of Plenty *Camas Fields Forever*

OPINIONS

By Helen Grond

LIKE most of us who live in Southwestern BC, I love and admire the camas fields that occur throughout our islands. One of my beloved springtime rituals has been to walk Helliwell at the height of bloom – mid May. Of course, who could not love the beautiful Garry oak understory plants including camas meadows that grace the Heron Rocks campground? My favourite camas field though, is at Grassy Point on Hornby's north end. Over the last ten years or so, Grassy has gone from virtually flower free to the most amazing massing any nature lover would exalt in. Meanwhile, Helliwell barely has any left. I went the other day and only saw a few dozen sparsely spaced camas in a fifteen-minute walk. I saw one measly larkspur and a handful of spring gold. At Grassy Point, on the other hand, the carpet of larkspur is stupendous. The spring gold are like thousands of bright stars shining from the glorious canvas of purple camas. The wildflowers at the Heron Rocks campground appear to be as abundant as ever.

Humans have a strange relationship with nature. We are always trying to conquer it. Sometimes our focus is to destroy it and sometimes our focus is to enhance it. No matter what, we are always looking for ways to exploit it. A number of years ago (15 to 20?) it was decided that the meadows at Helliwell Park needed protection. There are rare prickly pear cactus, Garry oak wildflowers (including camas) and the endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly. Narrow walkways were laid out in the meadows with continuous markers and barriers to contain visitors. The result is a negatively affected experience and localized heavy damage to the thin soils on the bluff. I, like many, assumed that these measures and other ongoing interventions, were well understood and would enhance the natural bounty of the meadow. Were they?

How did Helliwell flowers go from stunning to insignificant while Grassy went the opposite way in about ten years? It's a question that is puzzling and needs an answer. Science is an evolving process that is based first and foremost on observations. Observations lead to questions which leads to the formation of a hypothesis and finally a test to seek

the truth. Grassy Point is an incredibly high use local park (originally a road right of way). There can be a hundred people visiting the park on a typical summer evening to enjoy the beautiful sunsets. All day long, the park is visited by locals, visitors and families with their dogs, bikes, boats, campfires etc. I've attended beautiful weddings there. Many footsteps are hitting those wildflowers hard every day. Nonetheless, wildflower expansion is extensive and most of the small park is now carpeted. I checked out Heron Rocks the other day and the wildflowers look pretty healthy there too. Of course, a campground is an intensive use of space!

This brings me back to the pressing question of what is going on with the camas at Helliwell? I'm wondering if all the "protection" installations and activities at Helliwell are having the opposite effect? Maybe protecting the camas from those imposing human footsteps is actually killing it? Strange. We almost never hear stories about humans helping nature with their big clodhopper feet rather than destroying it. We are, however, part of nature and we definitely think of native peoples as part of nature.

I did some research to try and see what the experts say about camas and its vulnerability to human activity. The results would indicate that camas is well adapted to human activity. Native populations rigorously farmed camas for its succulent and edible bulbs by weeding, burning and harvesting for thousands of years. Those are pretty invasive activities.

Ensuring camas fields forever may require the removal of the ugly barriers and the encouragement of people to free range over the meadows. Observations could reveal if that helps their recovery. The healthy wild flower populations in high use areas such as Grassy Point and Heron Rocks would support that hypothesis. Perhaps, the horrible deep scars created by the restricted walkways could be healed and our clodhopper free-ranging feet may be just the cure for the diminishing camas at Helliwell.

We don't know what we don't know. It would be interesting to alter our perspective on many things to include that important piece of information. Science has never been about stagnation and consensus. It has always been about a continuous and open-minded search for the truth. 🌸

Ukraine: Biden's Timing

OPINIONS

By Gwynne Dyer · OP May 21st, 2023

still cross about his procrastination and worried that he has waited too long. From Ukraine's point of view, they do have a case.

Ukraine's dwindling fleet of elderly ex-Soviet combat aircraft cannot provide adequate air support to the country's long-awaited counteroffensive this summer. They are too few and too old to survive against the full array of Russian anti-aircraft missiles and the much larger numbers of Russian fighters (although those are also old).

The F-16s would change that narrative. They, too, are old (first operational squadron 1980), but their electronics have been continuously updated and in practice they are a full generation ahead of the Russian fighters they would confront. In air combat, that usually means grotesquely lopsided kill ratios in favour of the aircraft with the better electronics.

However, the White House is talking of a minimum of three to six months to train Ukrainian pilots on the F-16, and it is still

being coy about how many F-16s will actually be handed over to the Ukrainians and when.

Whereas the Ukrainian counteroffensive has to happen in the next four months, or else it risks being slowed to a halt by the autumn rains. Was Joe Biden unaware of this? Of course not. It's just that he has his own list of priorities, and Ukraine comes third.

Priority One is not blundering into a nuclear war with the Russian Federation. Biden has been in active politics through most of the Cold War era, and he remembers that avoiding direct fighting between the United States and the Soviet Union was quite literally an existential issue.

That reality hasn't changed, even though today's Russia is smaller and much less powerful than the old Soviet Union. Moscow still has thousands of nuclear weapons, and those must be respected. So while Biden supports Ukraine's sovereignty, he will do nothing that startles Vladimir Putin into a nuclear over-reaction.

That is why the US president has been so cautious in upgrading the categories of weapons he and his NATO allies provide to Ukraine. The pattern has been that he lets Ukraine have some kind of NATO weapons system (American howitzers with longer ranges, say), and then waits for the Russian reaction.

The Russians threaten bloody murder, draw a new red line NATO must never cross, and hint at nuclear weapons use. But they don't actually do anything. So after a couple of months Biden moves onto the next category of NATO weapons – the Himars rocket launchers, in this example – and waits again. And so on, through half a dozen rounds.

We have arrived at combat aircraft, the last item on Biden's list, so now the time pressure moves to the other side. Biden's second priority, obviously, is being re-elected to the presidency eighteen months from now. For that, he needs a convincing Ukrainian victory and a satisfactory end to the war within the next fifteen months.

After two generations of pointless, lost foreign wars from Vietnam to Afghanistan, Americans are dubious about the benefits of foreign military adventures. It helps Biden greatly that no Americans are being killed in Ukraine, but the war there is still unpopular with the voters and getting more so.

Biden would be offering an open goal to Donald Trump (or some other Republican rabble-rouser, if Trump is in jail by then) if the war in Ukraine is still raging in November 2024. He has to get it finished before that, so the Ukrainians will soon get their F-16s.

It's been the same balancing act right from the start. Biden is obviously cutting it very fine, but has he actually miscalculated? We shall find out in the next few months, but he may have a card up his sleeve. It might not really be three to six months before the Ukrainians have operational F-16s.

There is reason to believe that some Ukrainian pilots have already been trained on fourth-generation fighters (not necessarily F-16s) by friendly European countries, though not by the United States. Ukrainian Air Force Command has also quietly called for veteran F-16 pilots and ground crews from other countries to join up and help in the transition.

The actual planes could come sooner than Washington's timetable suggests, because the actual donors of the F-16s will be smaller European NATO member like Denmark and the Netherlands. These are countries that have taken a lead in weapons deliveries to Ukraine in the past, and they might do so again.

A decisive Ukrainian military victory, Biden's third priority, is still far from guaranteed, but Ukrainian air superiority over the front, at least, may be within reach. 🍷



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Islands Trust Council Meeting Program Announced

PRESS RELEASE

By Islands Trust

Láḱ'wəyən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust Council invites the public to participate in its next business meeting being held on Gabriola Island at The Haven, 240 Davis Road, June 27-29, 2023. There are

multiple options for participating in or viewing the meeting. The public are able to attend in-person and welcome to listen and participate by telephone, join the meeting by computer or smartphone, or simply watch the meeting on a computer or smartphone.

Trust Council meets quarterly to make decisions about matters that apply to the Islands Trust Area and Islands Trust operations. Trust Council receives, discusses, and makes decisions about policies, finances, and proposed work for the coming quarter.

Featured Sessions

Delegations and Public Comment Session – Wednesday, June 28, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Present as a delegation to Trust Council or speak at the Public Comments portion of the meeting on matters affecting the Trust Area.

Anyone wishing to present as a delegation is required to submit this form along with your complete presentation by the **June 6, 2023** deadline. Visit <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/contact-us/share-your-views/> for more details.

The final meeting schedule and agenda package will be posted to the meeting page and document library on the Islands Trust website by June 16, 2023.

Trust Council works to preserve and protect over 450 islands and their surrounding waters in the Salish Sea and, welcomes input, comments, ideas, and feedback on topics related to the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust.

The Islands Trust Area is located in the treaty lands and territories of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwəθən, səlilwətał, SEMYOME, shishálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W JOLELP, W SIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwa, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm First Nations.

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

Contact:

Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council 250.210.2553

Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust, via Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services 250.405.5192 

FACE TO FACE - for real?

Submitted by Christiane Brown
On behalf of Dag Hammarskjöld,
Diplomat and General Secretary of
the United Nations 1953

Dag Hammarskjöld, diplomat and General Secretary of the United Nations in 1953:

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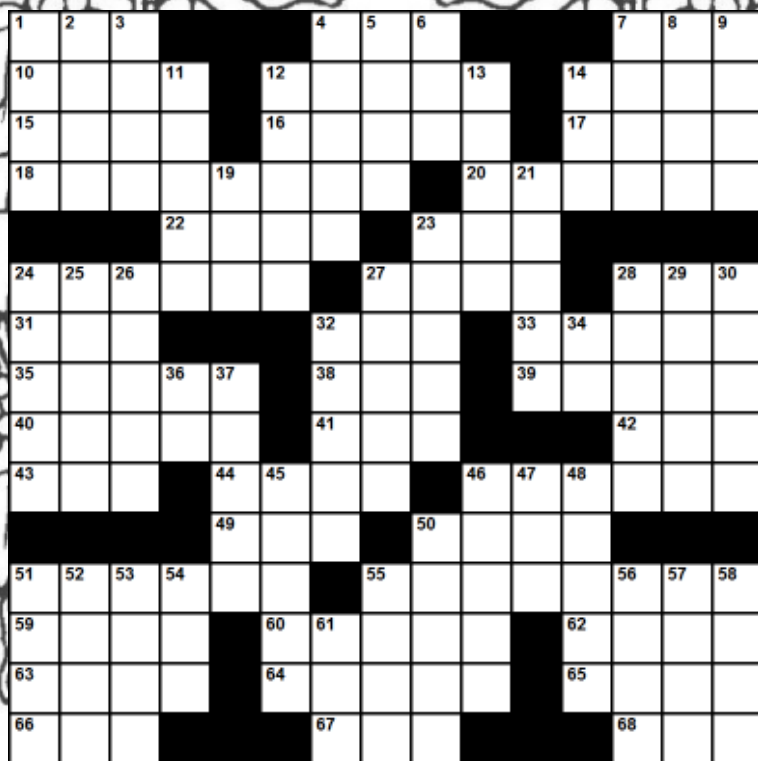
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7. PC monitor part
10. Picket line crosser
12. Too-too proper person
14. Not mine
15. Extra seed coating
16. Make new charts
17. Alpine sound
18. Faith
20. Wanted poster amount
22. Indian flat bread
23. Apricot stone
24. Disharmony
27. Close in time or place
28. Churchill's trademark
31. August one
32. Be a contender
33. Morphine source
35. Brick type
38. Adjust for proper functioning
39. Crab walk
40. A butterfly
41. Far from friendly
42. Still, in verse

43. 60 min. parts

44. Advance an argument
46. Best performance ever
49. Alley target
50. Top on a string
51. Balance sheet items
55. Lofty
59. Gusted
60. Bring forth
62. Babysitter
63. Artificial bait
64. Force back
65. Greek letter
66. Anteceding
67. Up to
68. Negative answer

• DOWN •

1. Autocrat of yore
2. A lot of land
3. Balustrade
4. Gaseous refrigerant
5. Delineate
6. NAFTA member
7. Caesar's cohort
8. German mining region
9. Marched along
11. Light pancakes
12. Father of Paris
13. New growth
14. Flexible wood
19. Ammonia, e.g.
21. Group beliefs
23. Religious devotion
24. Jagged cut
25. Closet wood
26. Catcalls
27. A family tree apple
28. Common rental
29. Noted geometer
30. Correct, in a way
32. Peace gesture
34. Letter before rho
36. Per unit
37. Blow one's top
45. Part of a step
46. Spur part
47. Appreciation for beauty
48. Welsh dog breed
50. Coarse person
51. Competent
52. Aspersions
53. Bone dry
54. Cote cutie
55. Pith helmet
56. Anemic's supplement
57. Alliance since 1949
58. Certain agent
61. Dachshund doc

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

Grumpism



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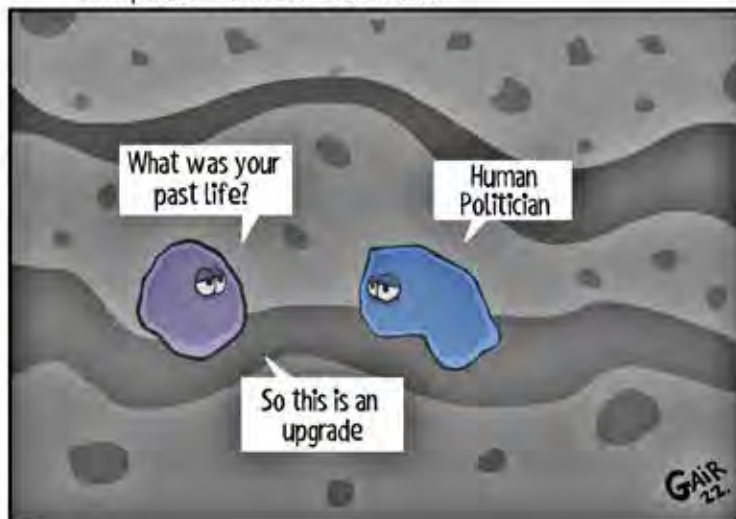
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Two pebbles stuck in wet cement...



BRANDON ISAAK in concert Friday May 26TH

See article p.4

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



FRIDAY 26

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

SATURDAY 27

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

SUNDAY 28

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 10:30am

MONDAY 29

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

TUESDAY 30

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

WEDNESDAY 31

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

THURSDAY 1

- 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 2

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm
- MUSTARD see p.2

SATURDAY 3

- 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
- MUSTARD see p.2
- LITTLE STRANGER concert see ad p.9

SUNDAY 4

- MUSTARD see p.2

MONDAY 5

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

TUESDAY 6

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

WEDNESDAY 7

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

THURSDAY 8

- 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

