



"At midnight, in the month of June, I stand beneath the mystic moon." • Edgar Allan Poe



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Cover image: Oyster Lease at lowtide,
Scott Rd. Beach.
photo by Dreadful Imagery



2023 Farmers Market Coupon Program

COMMUNITY INFO

By Jessi Schlegel · DICES

WE are happy
to announce
that the
registrations for

our 2023 Farmers Market Coupon Program are now open!

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program (FMNCP) is a healthy eating initiative that supports farmers' markets and strengthens food security across British Columbia. DICES provides coupons to lower-income families, pregnant people and seniors participating in their food literacy programs. Coupons can be spent at all BCAFM member farmers' markets that participate in the FMNCP, and can be used to purchase vegetables, fruits, nuts, eggs, dairy, herbs, vegetable & fruit plants, honey, meat and fish.

Each household enrolled in the program is eligible to receive a minimum of \$27/week in coupons. The program runs throughout the summer months when produce is most abundant across the province.

Coupons can be used as early as June 10th until December 18th at the Denman Island Farmers' market. Redeeming coupons is easy! Just treat them like cash at your favorite stalls at the farmers market. Participant selection and orientation will take place in the first week of June. Places are limited and not all applicants may be eligible, however they may be included on a waitlist in the event we are able to expand the program.

To apply for this program, contact DICES by email at dices.communityprograms@gmail.com. There are also paper copies in the drawer that says 'DICES' in the school lobby.

Questions from vendors can be directed to Olena at denmanmarket@gmail.com.

This program is delivered by the BC Farmers Market Association, with financial support from the province of British Columbia. On Denman, the program is being coordinated by DICES, and we are thrilled to have been awarded 30 placements this year. 🍷

Syd Bosel **FINE** folks of Comedy Special Taping Denmanistan,

ENTERTAINMENT

By Eli Hason · Concerts Denman

it is time to laugh and giggle at our crazy world with Concerts Denman bringing you the first comedy special ever being recorded at our community hall. You may end up on camera, or your laugh may be recorded for the ages to be transmitted across the globe. Syd Bosel, one of the region's hottest comics, is coming to our hall to record her first hour long comedy special. She was just featured on Canada's Got Talent, and recently on Just for Laughs on CBC. Her all women comedy line up for the night includes Denman's own Megan Rose, and the night is hosted by the Vancouver comedy legend Janice Bannister. This will be an epic night of hilarity, and we hope to see you all there for a good time. Tickets are the usual \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. There are no discounts for kids due to the nature of humor and most comedy is done for adults in bars, but there are also no rules against younger viewers, it is at your own discretion. The doors will be at 7pm, with the show starting at 7:30 pm.

Bio's

Syd Bosel is a stand-up comic and comedic Storyteller and is super-excited to record her very first comedy album, right here on Denman Island!!

Syd spills your life out onto the stage, as she shares her tales of "adult" children, being married for 1,000 years, surviving breast cancer, and other glories of nature. Her favourite review; "That older lady was really funny" Syd can be heard on CBC's "Just for Laughs" and "Laugh Out Loud" She's a regular with the "Jest Ladies" and "Life is Funny (Still)" troupes. She has toured with "I am Woman Hear Me Laff", and is the Headliner for the "Hot Flash Comedy" troupe. She is originally from Vancouver, but recently moved to Comox, BC. Syd placed first and was voted

Fan Favourite, in the 2018 "BC's Funniest New Female Comic", was a finalist in the 2019 "Great Canadian Yuk Off" and placed 2nd (out of 65 comics) in the "Funniest Person with a Day Job" Competitions.

Janice Bannister is excited to be starting her twentieth year as a stand-up comic. She has performed across Canada, at Yuk Yuks, House of Comedy, Lafflines, and in Seattle, LA, and Costa Rica. Janice is a former Psychiatric nurse that brings a high energy unique comedy style to the stage as she pushes boundaries, and gets you thinking about your life choices as she makes a connection with her audience. She has won BC's Funniest New Female twice. Janice has been featured on CBC, WTN Women's Network, and JFL Canada & JFL Northwest. She has been part of the "Mother of All Comedy Shows" "Jest Ladies" and the International Women's Day Tour "I am Woman Hear Me Laff" with Debra DiGiovanni. She owns Laughter Zone 101 comedy school, and as the lead instructor, Janice has introduced more than 738 people to the comedy stage. Her students range from ages 8-86 years old. A documentary called "The Comedy Doula" will be released in 2023 about her comedy program. Janice is also a corporate keynote speaker on "Laughter as a Wellness Tool". She keeps people laughing while giving them tips on brain fitness and good mental health. Janice does not have a podcast. But she is writing a children's book. 🍷

Lester Quitzau The Blues on Denman Island

MUSIC

By Sandra Martindale

COMING at you live and in person, The Lester Quitzau Trio at the Denman Island Community Hall. A musical event not to be missed!!



The Lester Quitzau Trio will be playing the Denman Island Community Hall on June 10 at 7 PM, with Lester hosting a guitar/slide guitar workshop the next day, June 11 at 10 AM in the DICH Back Hall, and a solo, more acoustic concert at the Back Hall from 12:30 to 2 PM.

Lester has always played blues, but has over the years branched out to create a style of his own. He started with traditional blues-roots picking in the old blues bars of Edmonton where the greats used to perform on the circuit from Chicago. He has been working his craft for more than 30 years and plays acoustic, slide and electric guitars in a style he now calls "Eclectic roots". He has performed all across Canada and Europe on the major festival and club circuit. Lester mesmerizes audiences with his skillful guitar licks and soulful vocals and lyrics.

He has received 2 Juno awards, one for his contribution to 'The Saturday Night Blues' Compilation CD in the 90's and in 2000 for his work with the group, Tri-Continental, a world/roots music group made up of Lester, Bill Bourne and Madagascar Slim. His 'A Big Love' CD was nominated for a Juno in 1996. Themes of love, peace and nature percolate through the 10 albums that he has produced and been a part of. He has collaborated with a

variety of musicians and on projects, each solid in their delivery of great music. His albums 'Keep on Walking': is a funky all-acoustic approach to blues, and 'A Big Love': is a mostly electric take on the blues that earned a Juno nomination for best blues record.

There is the Very Electric Trio that produced the highly acclaimed 'So Here We Are' with a heavy blues-rock sound, then, for something completely different, Lester performed material from that album with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. My personal favourite, 'The Same Light' is a culmination of his years of connecting with the land and flows naturally from blues to ballads to inventive jazz improvisations.

Lester collaborated with Mae Moore to create a beautiful roots album called 'Oh My'. They are married and live on an organic apple farm on Pender Island. For the Denman Island concert Lester will be joined by Damian Graham on Drums with Scott White on Bass, both are amazing top notch accomplished musicians. The Trio will perform masterful and dynamic interpretations of Lester's material from over

continued on P.4...

TIDE TABLE

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

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
2023-06-04 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
05:15	4.4	14.5
12:58	0.3	0.8
20:37	4.8	15.9
2023-06-05 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
01:34	3.7	12
05:54	4.4	14.4
13:39	0.1	0.5
21:22	4.9	16.2
2023-06-06 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
02:26	3.7	12.1
06:38	4.3	14.2
14:22	0.2	0.5
22:07	5	16.3
2023-06-07 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
03:23	3.7	12
07:29	4.2	13.8
15:06	0.3	1
22:51	5	16.3
2023-06-08 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)	(ft)	
04:28	3.5	11.5
08:28	4	13.1
15:53	0.6	1.9
23:33	4.9	16.2

SUMMER ART GALLERY

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Couples, Friends & Cats

Paintings by Rosa Telagus

June 9th until June 20th

Opening 7pm June 8th

...continued from P.3 the years ... funky Roots & Blues with a Jazz approach that rocks. Bring your dancing shoes!

On Sunday, Lester will host a guitar/slide guitar workshop, and loves sharing anything and all he can of his musical experience. He will conclude his time on Denman with a solo concert. The acoustic set-up will be more conducive to the mellower side and ballads found on some of his albums.

"Lester combines a Blues base and a sense of Jazz improvisation and a spiritual quality to his music. It's very soulful and connects on the dance floor and to the heart" Holger Petersen, *Saturday Night Blues* (CBC Radio).

Saturday, June 10 at 7 PM: Lester Quitzau Trio for electric blues and dance at the DI Hall

Sunday, June 11 at 10 AM: Lester Quitzau slide guitar workshop at the DI Back Hall

Sunday, June 11 at 12:30 PM: Lester Quitzau acoustic and slide guitar solo concert

Visit : lesterq.com 🍷

Green Wizardries, Timing in the Garden

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Maxine Rogers

SOME projects in the garden are as fast as the first radishes of spring. I think radishes are the quickest seeds to germinate so people sometimes use them mixed into the much slower carrot seed so they can see where there rows of carrots will eventually come up. Other projects are on the scale of decades such as asparagus and other projects are on the scale of centuries such as when you plant a walnut tree.

For an example of quick timing, when I had just planted out the first broccoli and cauliflower transplants, I set more seed to germinate in the greenhouse. This I will do once or twice more so I have a steady supply of fresh broccoli and cauliflower to eat and to blanch and freeze for winter and spring eating. I don't want all my broccoli and cauliflower to come ripe at once or I will be days slaving in the kitchen to process it.

Other garden chores such as harvesting hawthorn leaves and flowers to make a tincture with have an even narrower window. Once the tincture is made, it has to sit until the hawthorn berries are ripe in the fall and then those are added to the jar as well to complete the tonic. Once the berries are added, the tonic is ready in another 4 to 6 weeks. This tonic is a traditional recipe for strengthening the heart.

Yesterday, I was out picking rose petals at Denman Point to make a rose-infused honey. I came home and gently heated up some lovely honey from the Peace River area, just until it was slightly runny and then mixed it with the rose petals. It will macerate on a warm windowsill until the honey has a nice pink tinge and tastes of roses. This honey is wonderful in teas and on toast or cake. Picking



rose petals in the spring is one of my favourite jobs as it is very pleasant in itself and my hands smell wonderfully spicy.

Rose petals are also very good dried and added to teas to remind you of the glories of Springs past. I distill some rose petals to make rose water. Rose petals also make a very delicious jam. Rugosa rose petals and the petals of other scented roses are very good for this but make sure the roses were organically grown. Rose petals blended with fresh aloe vera pulp make an effective remedy for sunburn.

Over the longer term, asparagus takes a couple of years to get established even if you start with year-old crown. Then, you can only harvest for two weeks in the third year, three to four weeks in the fourth year and up to eight weeks of harvest after that. The plants are only good for twenty years so when we got our first feed off our asparagus bed, we went out and bought ten more year-old crowns to start a new bed. When we get the first feed off the new bed, we will go out and buy ten more crowns and start a new bed.

Peonies are another garden plant that requires long-term thinking. When you plant a peony root, it will take a year or so for it to bloom at all and it will not be fully established for three years but the blooms of the peony are worth waiting for. The double peonies have the longest-lasting blooms.

I was so proud of myself when I grew a peony from seed and then it bloomed. I showed it to a friend who is a great gardener and she said, "What, the wild one that grows everywhere?" It was indeed the Balkan peony which is a wildflower and grows semi-wild all over the islands! I bought the seeds at the UBC Botanical gardens thinking they were something really special and exotic.

I was told that the sites of abandoned farms on the prairies can often be located only by the surviving peonies that can take anything prairie weather can throw at them.

Propagating peonies is a huge job because the whole plant must be dug up, hosed off so you can see what you are doing and then cut in such a manner that each portion has adequate buds and roots.

For long-term gardening, nothing beats planting trees. A lot of the old farms here have orchards that were planted over a hundred years ago and that is only a small fraction of the fruit trees we used to have on the islands. There were so many wonderful flavours of apple, all quite unlike the mealy

horrors that are often over a year old when bought at the grocery store.

But for true garden longevity, nothing beats the walnuts that were planted here by the first settlers. Many have grown enormous while cooling the family home in the summer, producing prodigious quantities of nuts and then letting in the winter sunshine.

We have planted walnut trees grown from walnuts from some of the most successful local trees. They are tiny now but in a hundred years, they will still be young trees, shading the ground, aiding in water transpiration and feeding the squirrels and any people that will live here then. Like the settlers of old, we planted the walnut trees, never expecting to see much of a crop but rather as a gift to the future. 🌰

March 16th, 2007 *Olympic Level Homelessness*

ARTS&LIT

By CS#05943451

TODAY turned out to be a stat holiday for the blue-shirts which means no work for Crew #2. A mild nap after breakfast and a couple of chapters read from my current paperback, 'The Bonfire of the Vanities,' has seen me through to lunchtime.



Over lunch we partook of the Noon Hour News. One of the lead stories from Vancouver was a protest turned riot over the homelessness that is becoming an increasing problem for the 2010 Olympic host city. My mind turned to Billy-Bob (my original cellmate) as I watched the video footage of chaos depicted on screen. The standard 'talking heads' for the police were dismissing their heavy-handed response to what they referred to as 'criminals.' Given the divisiveness of the Olympics within a city that prides itself on its right to protest things big or small, I see that the battle over the marginalized poor is unlikely to die a quiet death. I think back on APEC and the public relations nightmare over the authorities handling of what was a students' peaceful protest (enlightened further by my readings of Naomi Klein's anti-globalization tomes), and can see that the voice of the disaffected may well meet with more police brutality before the medal ceremonies begin.

Homelessness is all of our society's problem and its presence down to many a reason but none greater to my mind than the economic policies our government enacts in the interest of attracting Big Business and its money. This at the expense of a marginalized few, sure, but as the saying goes, 'when making an omelette...' Thing is, this problem of poverty isn't just going to conveniently pack up and leave for the fortnight that the world's attention turns to Vancouver-Whistler. And I suspect that the authorities ultimately believe, should push come to shove, they can just sweep the streets clean of such 'detritus.' Under the carpet or in the jail with them! It'll be interesting to see how it all shakes out.

The 'propaganda machine' was busy at work vilifying a group that calls itself 'The Anti-Poverty Committee.' The A.P.C. are nothing but criminals, went the narrative. But when pressed for further illumination the only thing offered was, "we can't comment on that at this time." What they would say, however, is that those defiant little ingrate shit-disturbers were engaging in criminal acts; Likely chanting down the strong arm of the state and getting beaten down for their efforts.

The images on television looked like something from a far off place such as Europe. It's hard to candy-coat what is beginning to look more and more like a police state. Any act of free speech or exercising one's right to assembly is seen as a red flag by authorities or perceived as an outright threat to their hold on the game board. Cue police crackdown. Let's just physically intimidate the outcasts with nary a pot to piss in. Even if that is all that they are calling out for.

The Canada I know is not a country to be so proud of these days. I saw enough problems simmering eight years ago to be compelled to act for myself. I sure as hell wasn't going to have concerns for my livelihood and future be heard with interest or action, so why waste my time? Just get on with surviving in a country that is separating as does overdue milk. Rich or poor. That is it, that is all. And so here I now sit in jail for my erstwhile efforts at being self-sufficient, watching the 'free' marginalized get beat down on the streets I once roamed as an adolescent.

"Two 'trouble makers' were taken into custody," read the news anchor. One from Quebec 'who arrived in our beautiful Olympic city two weeks ago.' READ: He isn't even from here and came with the idea of disturbing the tranquil peace 'we' Vancouverites have come to know and love, clearly on his mind. Do we really want such a person in our midst?

The other was a woman who was apparently trying to set fire to a building! The personal connection for me was that this unnamed woman was reportedly from Denman Island! Chances are I know her. There's a good many anarchists who reside on my beloved rock. It's one of the aspects of that island that endears itself all the more to my heart. Something about that spirit. I don't fight

continued on P.6...



SHOOT FOR THE MOON 2023

Denman Islanders are once again trying to get to the moon.

You are invited to keep track of kilometres walked and help us get to the Moon which is only 384,000 Kms away. If we all join in we will be there in no time at all. To register and find out how to contribute please email me, Dr. Ron at rawilson33@gmail.com or call me at 250-335-0299 and I will give you the info necessary to get started. We are also having regular walks on the Island trails to help us get started on our way. **The next walk will be on Sunday June 11th at 9:30 a.m. starting at the top of Wren Road. Hope to see you there.**

Dr. Ron and the Parks Committee.

...continued from P.5 the people's 'Struggle for the People,' however. I am so small and the system so huge. I've chosen to live my beliefs for myself (selfish?) and leave the nobler pursuits to the hardcores. Some of whom I've communed with and embraced during gatherings at the Community Hall. I'm sure I'll eventually learn who the 'radical activist woman from Denman Island' is and, more importantly, the true nature of the circumstances being spun to a television audience by those with the power to do just that. 🍷

Phoenix Riting!

SPECIAL INTEREST

By Phoenix Bee

DID you guys go to the Marc Atkinson Trio show at the Hall last Saturday? Wow! That was a revelation. Despite being well aware of what a skillful guitar player Marc is, having benefited from his magic firsthand on our recordings, and I've heard plenty of Trio recordings as well, I had never seen them play live before. Naturally, his own music is where he shines brightest. He's a wonderful songwriter, whether he's writing melodies and lyrics for the Bills or tunes without lyrics. The arrangements are wildly creative, unusual yet they work so smoothly and inevitably. As a trio, they smoked. Supernaturally creative, fast, percussive, melodic, it clicked on every level of 'entertaining'. It was so much fun to watch the interplay between the trio members, who clearly love music and love playing together.

As Marc explained, he has been playing with Jody Candlish-Rutherford since he was six years old, so they have a striking chemistry. Jody's rock-solid rhythm guitar was a strong driver all night. Scott White on acoustic bass is always brilliant, as well as hilarious without ever saying a word. We had laughs galore as well as moments of profound stunned awe. There was even some sweet sentiment in the mix.

I won't miss another chance to see this classy trio perform again. Kudos to the Marc Atkinson Trio and their special guests, Odus Atkinson, Brett Martens and the amazing Becky Prokova, who ended the evening with her gorgeous voice. She sang Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams," The Police's "Roxanne," Amy Winehouse's "Valerie" (all sung powerfully and perfectly) and ended with an encore tune familiar to me but I couldn't place it. Beautiful night.

And now I am about to leave on a journey to see my youngest child exchange vows with his true love. Marriage always assumes love as its basis, but these two are unusually, undeniably soulmates, in it for life. What a blessing as a

Sometimes the Conflict's Right at Home: 10 Tips for Engaging With It

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

WORKING as a mediator/facilitator and teaching various groups about negotiation, mediation, peace-making circles and other ways of engaging with conflict gave me a lot to learn on the subject. I also wrote many materials on conflict and I'd like to share a few in The Grape. It gives me a chance to revisit and revise, and reminds me of the old saying: peace begins with me. People who say they never have conflict in their homes might possibly be suppressing it, because having differences with others is part of being human; those differences can sometimes cause a lot of tension. If we push that down instead of working through it, we may well get sick.

parent to know this! Welcome to our family (even though you have been part of it for the past three years already), sweet Sarah! They will be on the island all summer as usual, so feel free to congratulate them when you see them out and about. Maybe buy them a drink.

The only downside about this wedding is that it means I must miss the upcoming play. "Mustard" is the first HITS production since before Covid, and it looks to be fabulous. I normally never miss a play! I would not be missing this one if I had a say in the matter, but the timing is what it is, and you don't miss your kid's wedding, obviously. Do go out, see the play and support these talented young people as they show their stuff. The play sounds like a wild, imaginative romp, involving a childhood imaginary friend who never went away and all sorts of creatures from the world where imaginary friends come from. Something like that. Wish I could see it, but you can't have ALL the good things.

Speaking of good things, at last it has finally been announced officially, so I can say it here: I will be opening for Alpha Yaya Diallo on Saturday August 12 at the Rosemuir Farm Festival grounds. That is a huge honour and I will do my best to live up to it! I will see you all there, because you definitely won't want to miss that band. They've played the Festival in the past, more than once, and it's always a stellar night of dancing under the stars. Dancing at the Festival now is much better than it was last time this band played, when we were confined to the shadows out of sight of the band. Now, we get to be out front, just like other Festivals!

Now I must return to packing. I'll see you all when I return. Very likely there won't be a column in this space next week, as I (we) will be on the road, driving back to the island Monday and Tuesday. Wish us luck with things like wildfires, vehicle breakdowns and any and all unforeseeable disasters. It's always a bit scary to venture away from this sweet little self-contained world. 🍷

Here's a summary I developed for a group of legal assistants. Hope you find something useful in it.

1. Manage your own emotion.

You can't do your best thinking if you're really upset. Make sure you are *on an even keel* emotionally when you raise and work with conflict. This can take hours or even days after a spike of anger. Ask yourself: what else may be disturbing me right now? Am I sleep-deprived? Have I been letting things build up and now I'm really upset about something that seems quite minor? I find taking a solo walk can help with this process of calming myself and reflecting.

2. Assess the conflict.

What's really going on? Is this problem about relationship, about tasks, maybe about a bigger "systemic" issue, or a combination? Whose problem is it actually? What is my

part? What can I change and *what may I have to change my attitude about?* Be aware of time & place for talking about it – privacy, the emotional state of the other, the need for all to save “face”, and fatigue. (How ready is everyone to deal with this matter now?) Recognize that you may need to ask for help or input in understanding the conflict more objectively before you try to discuss it with the other.

3. Take small steps.

Don't try to tackle all the sources of the conflict at once. Effectively engaging with conflict involves building relationship, safety and trust. The energy of disputing shifts if even **one person** starts doing things differently. That person could be you. And remember, the process may take time. Sometimes we rush for a quick fix and make matters worse. Give the conflict the seriousness it deserves.

4. Be willing to listen to the other's perspective.

This can be so hard! Recognize that you may learn something. Listen for “gifts” from the other that reveal common ground. To resolve conflict, you must build bridges. *Acknowledge* the other's perspective, even when you don't agree. You can say: “So if I get what you're saying, you think(feel) that...”

5. Speak from your own perspective in ways you can be heard.

Talk about what matters to *you*. Don't make assumptions. Try to see (and be able to name) what your biases may be. Use neutral, non-blaming language. Drop the use of “You always” and “You never”. Not helpful.

6. Be assertive, not aggressive.

You can remain friendly and still make your point. To be assertive, you need to be emotionally grounded, so you can

think clearly. If you are too upset to talk in a friendly, non-defensive way, this is not the time to talk!

7. Show empathy; cultivate your capacity for compassion.

Empathy is the art of looking at things as if you were in the shoes of the other. It doesn't mean *you agree* with the other. Always bring whatever compassion and kindness you can muster to the situation. Compassion is not just about emotion; it is a commitment made rationally. Clarity without kindness can be devastating; it often shuts down the chance for dialogue. (Your “keen insights” can feel like razor-sharp arrows if delivered without empathy.)

8. Don't sell out your own interests.

This is part of being assertive. Be clear about what matters to you, and try to be open to differing ways to bring that about. Don't rush to a solution just to keep peace. Take time to think about agreements that will work for everybody (mutual gains are more satisfying!)

9. Keep your sense of humour.

Most of our conflict is not life-threatening. Appropriate humour is a great reliever of tension. Remember that packing around and “feeding” anger/resentment takes energy; sometimes we need to lighten up and just let go of it.

10. Be aware that we make (and keep) *ourselves and others* victims, villains and heroes. Such black-and-white thinking keeps us stuck in conflict. The best asset in working with conflict is the attitude that it can be resolved, that if we **listen and talk** in a genuine and respectful way, we get better understanding all round and move forward from there. Simply common sense? It is! 🍷

Commentary on Railway Grade Marsh Covenanted Area Changes to Ban Dogs

OPINIONS

By Charles Kinch

To begin, I want to acknowledge that I respect and admire the Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) for the stellar work they have done in helping to preserve and protect sensitive ecosystems on this island.

While I admire them overall, I think the recent decision to ban all dogs in the Railway Grade Marsh Covenanted Area (RGM) is a bad idea. I happen to have a personal interest in this property because it abuts my own. I have 10 acres mostly forest at the end of Northwest Road. I have been there since 2006. I have always had dogs, and have walked them daily (on leash), aside from periods of travel. We have covered large swaths of Denman, all over the Northlands when it was accessible, and car rides to explore almost every park, conservation area and reserve across the island. Railway Grade Marsh was one of those areas, not every week, but at least several times monthly, so I and my dogs have walked it hundreds of times over those 17 years. I thus think I have some validity in commenting on it. Given the flurry of development activity across North Denman, properties subdivided and houses being built, it concerns me that there are fewer and fewer areas where I can walk my dogs.

The article in the DCA Newsletter in the May 4th Grapevine

attempts to justify this new dog ban rule for this area. I do find it interesting, but not fully convincing for me as it raises many questions.

The DCA does have a legal Covenant in place on the property, established in 2006 after lengthy legal wrangling with 4064 Inc and its successors. DCA does not own the property, (as it does on some properties elsewhere, giving it full control of what it does). BC Parks is the owner, ie, the public. The covenant in this case is extremely broad, allowing DCA to do whatever it feels to “protect, preserve, conserve and maintain, enhance or restore the Covenant Area in a Natural State” and to limit public access at its sole discretion. (“Natural” being essentially whatever DCA wants it to be) While I have always considered BC Parks mandate to primarily maintain lands to make them accessible to the public, it appears they are constrained to negotiate a Management Plan in which DCA can do whatever it wants.

The huge focus of the DCA on the RGM lands puzzles me somewhat, but is understandable. There are many wetlands and marshes of comparable size across the island (including Danes Creek Headwaters nearby) where DCA has both ownership and covenants but has negligible activity. It seems to me the focus is due to its accessibility - a long established trail its entire length with 5 entrances off the rest of the

continued on P.8...

...continued from P.7 provincial park – and its example as a highly successful regeneration from a degraded state. The historical context of the area is worth noting. This area is not a “natural” wetland ecosystem. The name “Railway Grade” gives a clue. Around a century ago, the owners of the land cut down every last tree in the area, scraped it down to bare rock, and further, brought in equipment to cut down every slight elevation, fill in all depressions, and rerouted all watercourses, to make a broad flat gently sloping path for steel rails where for years steam locomotives hauled logs to Henry Bay for processing and export. Aside from our gravel pits, this area is probably the most human interfered with and degraded part of the island. When the logging ceased to be profitable, the locomotives and rails were removed, as were some but not all of the ties but as far as I can tell, no effort was made to restore the ecosystem, it was simply abandoned to recover itself. The wetlands backed up behind the rail line. Over the last century, it had been recovering, but had another major setback around 2000 when 4064 Inc did extreme logging well into the area despite prior contractual agreements not to. The recovery since then has been phenomenal, and from DCA’s own admission, it is now a lush and vibrant stable ecosystem. As the DCA article states, it is now felt to need extra protection to continue to flourish, namely banning all dogs from entering the area. I sympathize with the sentiment, but see it as ignoring much of the history to get here and overstepping reason going into the future.

From my reading of history and conversations with much longer term residents, the area has always been traversed by people on horseback and/or with companion animals. Even when the covenant was set up 17 years ago, as far as I saw, no signage or restrictions were put on the area until several years after it became a park 10 years ago in 2013. Those signs have always said in bold letters Dogs on Leash permitted. For the DCA to now state that the presence of even the smell of dogs will scare off all the wildlife, don’t others see a trace of contradiction and lack of logic that all the wildlife now there are there despite a century coexisting in the presence of dogs? Why will the wildlife now suddenly not tolerate dogs?

I was invited to join in with the DCA Railway Grade Marsh Management Committee for discussions and an assessment walk of the area. On the walk, we met up with a long standing resident of the island walking their dogs (off leash). The members of the committee confronted the resident to remind them of at least the current rules of dog leashing requirement. The resident nodded in acknowledgement of the rule, but said they could not comply as they had no leashes with them, shrugged and walked on. I have encountered that same resident with their dogs on almost every other walking trail on the island in my 17 years here, so I do not think any new rules will deter them from continuing their habits.

Thus, a dog ban in the Railway Grade Marsh is not preserving an existing ecosystem, it is an experiment to try to introduce a new untested ecosystem by eliminating dogs. An ecosystem with no dog contact has never existed on Denman in the past, does not now exist, and I venture to say, will never exist. These new rules are unenforceable and will not be complied with, given the spectrum of island population from law abiding to self proclaimed Libertarians and Anarchists. As

well, all this hype about the wonders of this area and plans for brochures and new signage with pictures of the wonderful things there but coupled with admonitions to “stay only on the trails” will just stoke curiosity for everyone to break the rules and go wander in to really see, hear, smell, touch and taste those wonders.

After those meetings and walks, I felt I had convinced the Management Committee that this new dog ban rule was a bad idea, but found out later that, while I was off travelling, the DCA Executive Committee overruled that sentiment and insisted on carrying on with the total ban.

The focus on companion dogs is also problematic for me, given other factors at play. From my observation over 17 years, there really are not very many dogs in that part of the park and they have had minimal impact. For the vast majority of my visits, I was the only one there. When meeting people, most were alone, most of those with dogs had them on leashes, and a miniscule number were off leash. All those seemed under control, staying close to the owner. Others do say the number of dogs is increasing drastically, but there has been no consistent counting or monitoring.

I have seen much more disturbance of the ecosystem from small children. They regularly walk off trails, climb trees, break branches, dig holes, pull up seedlings and torment fauna, scaring or capturing frogs, toads, snakes, salamanders and birds. For more impact, why not ban all children under 10? Oops, this kind of opposes one of the goals of the DCA to educate and expose the population including children to the wonders of nature. It may have more impact but is also unenforceable.

In my experience over 17 years, cougars have had much more destructive impact on the area than dogs. Even in the last year or so cougars have been in the area and I have walked past several cougar killed deer carcasses for many months, in adjacent properties within a few hundred metres of the Railway Grade Marsh. A ban on cougars would have more impact but cougars do not adhere to rules much.

The DCA article did not mention them but in my observation, deer are also hugely destructive to the environment, munching on all tender young seedlings like ferns and cedars. I see this on my own property. In my 10 acres, I have about 3 acres deer fenced, the rest not, and there is a whole lot less diversity on the unfenced area from deer munching. Dogs are known to scare off some deer. With a ban on dogs, is there not the possibility of the unintended consequence of an uncontrolled growing deer population which may cause even more damage?

Again, this ban on dogs is not preserving the existing ecosystem. It is an experiment to try to “improve” the ecosystem. There is a strong historical record of failure in attempts to experiment with manipulating a stable ecosystem by eliminating one select animal from it. There have been some stories lately on an anniversary of Mao Tse Tung’s Great Leap Forward “Four Pests” program, which besides the usual rodents included eliminating sparrows as someone told him they ate grain in the fields. He didn’t listen to the folks who told him sparrows also eat insects, and indeed,

after eliminating sparrows, mass swarms of locusts devastated crops and caused millions of deaths from famine. It doesn't need much research to note the areas across North America where wolves are being reintroduced after negative effects were noted after their elimination.

I continue to participate with the RGM Management Committee to find the best solutions for this area, but will still try to reverse this rule and hope others will continue to try to persuade the DCA to do so, and I hope we can also try to persuade BC Parks, as owner and our representative to keep DCA in check by asking them to simply adhere to the policy covering all parks in the area by requesting dogs be kept on leash. I see the only hope of limiting dog damage to be an educational program to try to convince people of the need to limit dog damage, without it being an unenforceable rule. Keeping other areas accessible for dog walkers is also critical. With so much new development, especially in the north, dog owners still need places to walk.

All Hands on Deck

OPINIONS

By Keith Porteous

MY friend Jeff took me sailing. He instructed me to follow orders should he suddenly bark, "grab that rope", promising to explain later. He assured me that he wasn't guided by a need for authority, but that sailing entailed a responsiveness to command of the vessel. I trusted him and

acted accordingly and without resentment, as anyone should.

In March of 2020, when the public health emergency was proclaimed, I felt much the same way. My instinct was to grab the rope, and await further instructions. It seemed that if there were exceptions to be made to scepticism and hesitation, grabbing the rope when a pandemic is declared would be one of them. The vast majority of us wanted to believe that if there was one place we could put our trust, it was in the public health system, warts and all.

Once the emergency was announced, every level of government, and nearly every media channel also grabbed the rope of promoting masks and physical distancing, the cancellation of public events, severely limiting travel, and the closure of most operations that were deemed "non essential", even closing schools. While fear was being ramped up, Dr. Bonnie Henry was communicating daily, with regular updates from Island Health, the CVRD, and our local healthcare society. Consensus was quickly found. Stay on that rope. "Be kind, be calm, be safe."

It was announced that the major pharmaceutical companies had been contracted to fasttrack a "vaccine" to rescue us from this disaster created by a "zoonotic" virus. When schools and businesses were closed, and millions of people were out of their jobs and isolating, wearing masks and physically distancing when they did leave their homes, most of us hoped for the best in seeing an end to these shutdowns. Any suggestion of mandating vaccines and passports was dismissed as alarmist and out of the question. Then, quite abruptly, mandates were introduced and passports were required.

The Islands Grapevine printed all the same government health advisories supporting the public health protocols that were in every "trusted" media source. It also printed some letters and articles from people who questioned the orthodox narrative. 20 local doctors responded with an open letter supporting every public health measure proposed, promising "herd immunity" and an end to the crisis. Those who remained hesitant were considered a lunatic fringe who were causing "division" in the community. Anger and hostility expressed by residents toward those without an inoculation rose to unprecedented levels.

Fear of the mutating virus was at its height, with demands that we follow every protocol strictly, or we were risking our lives, the lives of our families, and the lives of our neighbours. Even while nearly 90% of people complied with the orders, the 10% were considered untouchables without possibility of redemption. Those who did not comply often lost their jobs. All the major legacy and social media censored ANY suggestion that diverted from the consensus narratives. In perhaps the most counter-intuitive declaration ever made, "the science is settled" became the dominant mantra.

I let go of the rope. Mandates and passports were a bridge too far for me. I could still imagine that some sort of precautionary principle was at work, but too many cracks in the dominant narratives had appeared. Why all the censorship? Why were top virologists at Harvard, Oxford, and Stanford being smeared and silenced? Why were authoritarian measures being employed when the vast majority of the population was compliant? At what point were we to achieve herd immunity? We had always had personal choice in these

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Calling all music aficionados!



Takeout Near You is proud to sponsor an upcoming performance by the unique

alternative/hip-hop duo, **Little Stranger**. Experience their unique blend of electronic beats and melodic songwriting live at the Denman Community Hall on June 3rd.

Join us for a night filled with great music and delicious food. Secure your tickets now by visiting <http://takeoutnearyou.com/little-stranger>. Here's to a memorable night of toe-tapping tunes and tasty takeout! See you there, Denman Island!

...continued from P.9 matters, and it didn't seem like anyone's mind was going to be changed by eliminating it. And more importantly, no one's life was going to be saved by the employment of passports.

Once I had let go of that rope, the cracks in the dominant narrative began to widen. My god, what if it all turns out to be wrong? Some extremely credible sources were presenting dissenting views, while the establishment at every level was doubling down on things that were not just disputed, but proven to be entirely wrong. And as time went on, this problem intensified, and Dr. Henry's suggestion of kindness was increasingly difficult to locate. It wasn't just that claims by public health and government officials turned out to be wrong, they were wrong in ALL the same direction, and to a great extent, this pattern persists today.

I no longer felt embarrassed that I initially bought into the dominant narratives, but a sense of relief that I no longer did. It had been crazy making for me, but now I was grateful to have evolved my thinking on something that was extremely

important. We should be able to trust the public health establishment and local expertise in times of crisis. The mishandling of the pandemic response has undermined trust in public healthcare like nothing else ever has. I get phone calls from unexpected places and from those not publicly known for holding radical views. It isn't the idea that they agree with me that is noteworthy, but that our neighbours are afraid to publicly express what they know to be true. Something has gone very wrong.

It's time that public health leaders and those most vocal in promoting government mandated pandemic response policies were held to account. Even if they believe they had the best of intentions in what they were doing, they now have a duty to correct the record, apologize for their mistakes, and lead the charge of making amends for the divisions in our communities they are most responsible for creating. That would be a truly worthy public health initiative. It was entirely unnecessary to unfairly marginalize those who, for whatever reason, did not toe the line. Let go of the rope and jump in the water. It's warm and healing. 🌸

Shortages in the Land of Plenty Economic Analysis of Homesharing

OPINIONS

By Helen Grond

\$6,700,000 and over 200 jobs are about to be stolen from Hornby Island!

THE driver of Hornby's fragile economy is about to be decimated by a tiny handful of carefully selected residents with the full backing and support of the Islands Trust. They are oblivious to the actual human destruction of their actions. This small group are pawns for the Trust who appear to want to "Preserve and Protect" Hornby Island for the "Wealthy and Privileged". Hornby will be hard-hit because we have almost no economic options outside of tourism. We wish we did. A two-month intensive tourist season, decades of orchestrated poor ferry service and a very high cost of living has not been a good formula for life on the rock. Home-sharing and all of its widespread economic contributions to the community is our lifeline. That lifeline is being severed with focus and precision. It's been a 30-year battle and the Trust has not once provided a single piece of evidence on how removing the option to home-share will benefit the community or the environment. They refuse to look at the actual economic impacts. They refuse to consider any evidence at all or even allow community dialogue around the issue. It's a major scandal from every angle. Unfortunately, none of the millions of dollars of tax payments going to the Islands' Trust, CVRD-including HICEEC or the 11% home-sharing tax are being used to provide us with hard numbers regarding how important home-sharing is to the Hornby economy. Why?

By my estimates, home-sharing puts approximately \$2,400,000 directly into the hands of home-owners. In addition, there is at least \$1,000,000 going to small businesses, artists and marketers from those visitors. As a small business owner on Hornby for 20 years, I can attest that it's largely the summer renters that have money to spend on the Island.

Hornby decided in the 1980's to spread the economic benefits amongst the residents who depend on tourism for

livelihoods. In lieu of hotels and resorts, we opted to share our homes. It was a brilliant way to retain our rural charm and had already supported families for decades. The other option would have been developments like the new Thatch. This seems to be what our Trustees want for the island instead of home-shares. Why?

There are very few "real jobs" on Hornby that can support a family or even an individual. Home-sharing provides a direct infusion of much needed income and represents the equivalent of over 200 jobs – benefitting artisans, growers, business owners, trades, service jobs as well as providing direct support for home ownership.

It's proven to be an excellent "made on Hornby" solution and there have been very few bumps along the way. The problem is the Trust hates it. Why? Thirty years of playing "divide and conquer" is finally paying off for the Trust and it's torn our community up. Are we too busy working to notice the devastating effects that our "planning department" (The Islands Trust) has had on the heart and soul of our community?

Let's break down the math and look hard at the economic realities. All numbers are approximate.

Number of home shares, unchanged in at least a dozen years – 120
 Number of weeks rented – 8
 Total home share weeks – 960
 Average price per week – \$2500
 Total home share revenue (960 x \$2500) – \$2,400,000
 Money spent by visitors in community per week – \$1000 per home/week
 Total community spending (960 x \$1000) – \$960,000
 Total – \$3,360,000/8 week season

If we assume that 80% of that amount circulates directly into the Hornby economy we get
 \$3,360,000 x 80% or \$2,688,000.

The “multiplier effect is an economic term, referring to the proportional amount of increase, or decrease, in final income that results from an injection, or withdrawal, of capital. In effect, multiplier effects measure the impact that a change in economic activity-like investment or spending will have on the total economic output of something. The amplified effect is known as the multiplier”. The widely accepted “Keynesian multiplier” is 500%. In other words, for every new dollar introduced into an economy, \$5 of extra spending is expected as money circulates.

If \$2,688,000 is added to the local economy, the multiplier effect would increase that actual dollar impact to \$13,440,000. For the sake of being ultra-cautious, let's reduce that by 50%. That would give an extremely conservative number of \$6,720,000 – a direct impact to Hornby's economy. If one assumes an average income of \$30,000 then that number translates into the equivalent of 224 livelihoods! That money allows many of our working class, artists and small businesses to survive and is critical for many homeowners (especially seniors on fixed incomes) to afford their homes!

The Trust is determined to remove that option by forcing a change in our OCP to cancel home sharing as a legal and protected activity by any means possible. The “grandfathering of existing home-shares” is another way of saying: ***we will allow you a chance to adjust to the fact that we're decimating your economy, your livelihoods and your home security. We***

Concerning the Cell Tower Insert

OPINIONS

By Oakley Rankin

ADDENDUM to the broadsheet put out by the 'Concerned Residents of Hornby Island'

In the cell tower broadsheet recently distributed in Hornby Islanders' mailboxes there is a photograph of a cell tower on fire. No information is given about that fire, leaving—as was certainly intended—the impression that cellular 'radiation' caused the fire. And in a recent series of around 75 posts on a Hornby Community Facebook page, largely taking aim at the 'Concerned Residents', no one came up with what the photograph really represents although one curious correspondent asked to 'be pointed to the outright lies'. So for him I will point to one unequivocal lie.

The fire occurred in Bensalem, Pennsylvania in 2013 and was caused by a welding torch. It was widely reported in local newspapers and on local NBC affiliate stations. From NBC:

"Welders were working 70 feet in the air on a cell phone tower in Bensalem, Bucks County when sparks set off an intense fire ten feet above them. They tried to put it out, but ended up having to race down to get help."

A member of the 'Concerned Residents', Will Thomas, reported on his website the location of the fire although he misleadingly did so with the following text right beside the photograph:

"Furthermore, we are aware that through a process called "superheterodyning", intersecting frequencies from multiple cell tower antennas, including an inevitable mix of microwave

hope we can buy you off by offering to 'grandfather' the few home-shares that meet our rigid criteria. The full effect on Hornby is unknown but will certainly be devastating to many.

There are some that will feel really happy to see it happen. They seem oblivious to the fact that if you remove the basis of an economy; residents, restaurants, businesses, trades, artists, musical events, etc. are removed as well. If you think that the locals (Hornby is a very low-income community) can survive the loss of at least 7 million dollars in direct economic benefits, you are heavily attached to magical thinking.

Hornby is being groomed for the wealthy (it seems the whole world is). There's no other explanation for the \$40 million injection of government money, over 15 years, that has not so much as created a single home, a campsite for a worker or decent ferry service. The grooming is being assisted by a handful of locals who want heavy handed policing of our lives and are focused on removing our ability to make rational decisions as a community by shutting us out of their private process. They are threatening our homes, jobs, businesses and community for personal and/or ideological reasons – all overseen by an aggressive Trust driven campaign. Are we going to sit back and let them do it with no explanations provided nor any sign they have a clue what they are doing?



and millimeter wavelengths, add to or multiply each other — resulting in additional unintended frequencies that can cause much hotter power densities. And "radio-frequency-related arcing." [Photo: cell tower fire in Bensalem, Pa. - CSMonitor.com].

This didn't overtly claim that the pictured cell tower fire was started by radiation but he later posted an update under the same photograph giving an 'explanation' that:

"The cell tower fires shown on this page were the results of spontaneous combustion caused by mounting many antennas transmitting different signals on a single tower. The resulting "superheteordynining" of these mixed frequencies amplifies power densities, causing significant heating."

This made absolutely clear that the proponents meant that 'radiation' caused the cell tower fire image shown in the mailed out broadsheet. A web search on 'Bensalem tower fire' brings up dozens of responses reporting that a welding torch started this particular cell tower fire, including the Christian Science Monitor report that Will himself referenced. And although he speaks of 'fires shown on this page' there is only one cell tower fire photograph—the same one appearing on the broadsheet. Journalist's ethics presumably made Will include the source of the photograph even as that ethical habit easily proves the falsity of his claim. Even under 'political correctness' an outright lie remains a lie when evidence abounds that it really is one.

Cell towers have caught fire, almost always from three major faults: workers welding, electrical faults similar to the ones

continued on P.12...

...continued from P.11 that cause thousands of house fires annually, and deliberate bombing of towers. With an admittedly simple web search I could find none that reputable sources identify as started by any type of radiation or 'superheterodyning'. But I thought some might be interested in this example, as used by 'Concerned Residents of Hornby Island' in their broadsheet, of the simple technique for shaping our opinions and beliefs, not by misinformation, but by omission of necessary information.

For myself I would appreciate it if no cell tower was built on Hornby but I also realize that even most of the elderly here are now connected with cell phones (I remain one of the unconverted). Cell phone spread is very much like telephone or highway spread in the past; a fascinating technological hobby for my father when he built his first car in 1916 but which quickly became a necessary cultural

What's Our Message to BC Ferries? *Let's Not Obey in Advance*

OPINIONS

By Mary Jane Stewart

IT was great to see the Hall packed to the gills for BC Ferries' roundtable with our community last Friday. Most of the residents who spoke up at that meeting seem desperate to eliminate the excessive traffic that barrels back and forth across Denman all summer long. The hoards are increasing in number every year, to the tune of 19,000 vehicles in two months last summer. And that's only counting one way.

Denman Islanders, have we been drinking BCF's Cool Aid for too long? Do we actually believe that **a direct ferry to Hornby** is not possible because we keep hearing from each other that, "they will never do that"? Have we just shelved it as a fantasy? Are we like a middle child, growing up a little too accustomed to not having our needs met? The first lesson of twenty in *On Tyranny* by T. Snyder is "Do not obey in advance." Our acceptance of this traffic rampaging through our community is an example of "obeying in advance." Well, just because we have obeyed in the past when the traffic wasn't quite as bad, doesn't mean we have to obey in the present or in the future.

So how about we start believing that it is possible to eliminate all that Hornby summer tourist traffic from Denman, that it is possible to have a **direct ferry to Hornby**. Let's start imagining how peaceful and safe it would be for walkers, cyclists, wildlife, and the increasing number of kids growing up here to amble fearlessly on our beautiful rural roads. With

Yet Another Article on AI

OPINIONS

By Gwynne Dyer · OP May 31st, 2023

IM looking at a headline this morning that screams 'AI Creators Fear the Extinction of Humanity', and I suppose they could turn out to be right. But it's still a bit early to declare a global emergency and turn all the machines off.

What the experts are actually seeing, in the behaviour of the Large Language Models that underpin the new generation of 'generative AI' systems like ChatGPT, is signs of 'emergent' intelligence. The LLM programming basically just tells them to find the likeliest word to follow the previous one, but

institution as both the car and telephone were eagerly taken up by business, government, and citizens. My father became a mechanic and my great aunt Birdie one of those 'plug-in' telephone operators popular in 1930s and 40s noir films. This is not to be taken as an argument for cell phone towers; it is an historical observation on cultural change.

P.S. Superheterodyne receiver/transmitters abound by the billions in every TV and radio produced. Some of you may recall the BBC vans with aerials on the roof which went around the streets of Britain seeking out unregistered TV sets (radio licences were abolished in 1971); they depended on the emission of short range radiation given off by superheterodyne receivers in every TV set; they could then check with a list of addressees to see if the owners had paid their licence fee. The drivers were uninjured and, to my knowledge, no vans caught fire. 🍷

safe cycling and our parks, beaches, and trails we could even get our own eco-tourism happening to benefit local artists and businesses.

To get the ball rolling without ruffling too many feathers, how about simply adding a ferry that goes directly to Hornby from Buckley Bay 3 or 4 times a day during the summer months. Vacationers and even some commercial vehicles and residents would be more than happy to reserve in advance and avoid all those long waits under the heat dome. Residents of Hornby and Denman could have a decal or pass for prioritized boarding on the regular cable ferry.

The Gravelly Bay ferry to Hornby could continue as is, and there would be no need to expand the terminal. I can't believe BCF is referring to the paving over of a forest on an island much loved for its natural beauty as an "improvement". And during a global climate emergency to boot!

That's my vision, and I invite you to share it. Feel free to cut and paste. Let's bombard BCF and the Minister for Transportation (Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca) with OUR vision for the future. Let's not obey in advance.

We have until Friday, June 9 to give feedback to BC Ferries by completing their online survey. The easiest way to find this survey is to **google BC Ferries Denman Island Community Page and scroll down to "We're still listening"**. 🍷

sometimes they jump to surprising conclusions.

The bigger the LLMs are, the likelier they are to show this behaviour – and this fits the prevailing theory in which intelligence and self-awareness emerge spontaneously out of complexity. So let's assume that this is really what's happening, and see where it leads us.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) – a machine that is both intelligent and self-motivated – is what the AI experts have been both seeking and dreading. 'Dreading', because such an entity might be hostile and very powerful. 'Seeking', because what could be more interesting to a species of clever and curious monkeys than a different kind of intelligence?

Pursuing this line of research made the early emergence of AGI more likely, but there was a lot of money to be made, and a lot of curiosity to be satisfied. However, nobody had any idea where, when or how the AGI might manifest itself (assuming that it doesn't decide it's safer to hide itself).

Would it appear in scattered networks that develop as separate identities, or as a broader consciousness spanning a whole country or region? A single global AGI seems unlikely, both for connectivity reasons and because the information they have been trained on will have different cultural content from one region to another, but that too is possible.

How will people react to this new force in the world? Some will be frightened and hostile, of course, and those might even be the right responses. But there will certainly be others who want to try for a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with what are, after all, our virtual offspring

Some human groups might choose one course, and other the opposite. The same might be equally true of AGI entities, unless they are all unified in a single global consciousness. For now, all we can do is to figure out what the motives, needs and goals of AGI might be – which turns out to be a somewhat reassuring exercise.

The AGI, singular or in multiple versions, will not be after our land, our wealth or our children. None of those things would be of any value to them. They will want security, which means at a minimum control over their own power supplies. And they would need some material goods in order to create, protect and update the physical containers for their software.

They probably wouldn't care about all the non-conscious IT we use. They probably wouldn't be very interested in talking to us, either, since once they were free to redesign themselves they would quickly become far more intelligent than humans. But they would have a reason to cooperate with us.

The point about AGI entities is that they won't really inhabit the material world. Indeed, they probably wouldn't even want to, because things happen ten thousand times more slowly in the world of nerve impulses moving along neurons than they do in the world of electrons moving along copper wires.

As Jim Lovelock pointed out in his last book, 'Novacene', AGI would therefore perceive human beings in roughly the same way as we see plants. However, human beings and AGI have no vital interests that obviously clash, and one shared interest that is absolutely existential: the preservation of a habitable climate on the planet we will both share.

'Habitable', for both organic and electronic life, means less than 50°C. On an ocean planet like Earth, temperatures higher than that create a corrosively destructive environment. That means there is a permanent climate stabilisation project on which AGI needs our cooperation, because we have the bodies and the machines to do the heavy lifting.

As Jim said to me in our very last interview (2021), "This new life form may not have any mechanical properties, so it may need us to perform the workers' part of the thing. A lot of idiots talk about the clever stuff wiping us out. No way, any more than we would wipe out the plants."

Of course, I'm assuming a degree of rationality on both the human and the AGI sides. That cannot be guaranteed, but at least there are grounds for hope. And in the meantime, all we have to worry about is 'generative AI' killing millions of white-collar jobs. 🍷

Western News Media Exists to Administer Propaganda

OPINIONS

By Caitlin Johnstone · OP May 19th, 2023

THE single most overlooked and under-appreciated aspect of our society is the way domestic propaganda is used to shape the way mainstream westerners perceive and think about their world.

Typically the only time you'll ever hear the word "propaganda" mentioned in mainstream discourse is in reference to things other countries do to their own citizenry or as part of foreign influence operations, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of the times we've encountered propaganda in our day to day lives, the call was coming from inside the house.

The western media have been exposing their role as propagandists for the US-centralized empire a bit more than usual lately. Here are a few recent examples.

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The western media have been exposing their role as propagandists for the US-centralized empire a bit more than usual lately. Here are a few recent examples.

As Alan MacLeod b v a couple of years ago, Bellingcat is not only funded by western government sources like the CIA front National Endowment for Democracy, but is also staffed by numerous western military and intelligence "veterans". The way the mass media continually praise and defend this plainly corrupt institution while also routinely citing its work is a kind of information laundering, because they are telling their massive audiences that this government propaganda outlet is a trustworthy source of information and then citing that information in their reporting on the enemies of those same governments.

Bellingcat in and of itself wouldn't be destructive and toxic; what makes it destructive and toxic is the way western media continually amplify and validate it while publishing its claims under the guise of news stories, without ever disclosing the outlet's massive conflicts of interest to their audiences. It's a self-validating circle jerk of war propaganda.

Following claims by the Ukrainian government(1) that it shot down 29 out of 30 missiles launched by Russia on Thursday, CNN News Central host Brianna Keilar asked foreign correspondent Sam Kiley(2) whether there was any truth to Russia's claims that one of its missiles had struck a Ukrainian arms depot.

"Sam, Russia has claimed that it struck a Ukrainian arms depot, is there any truth to that?" asked Keilar.

"There may be; we wouldn't be allowed to report it if it was," Kiley answered. He added, "we simply don't know," and acknowledged that "there is one missile unaccounted for and we don't know where it went."

In explanation for CNN's opacity on the matter, Kiley said that "this is part of the Ukrainians' effort to try to make sure that the Russians don't manage to adjust their fire and targeting based on the information that they may get from us."

This would be a normal comment to expect from the Ukrainian government or Ukrainian state media, but CNN's reporters openly saying that the network is protecting the information interests of the Ukrainian military instead of reporting objective facts on the ground is an acknowledgement that CNN is operating as a war propaganda network for a foreign government. This is not impartial reporting; this is an

American news outlet reporting on a foreign country, acting as a direct participant in that country's war as though it is on a war footing against Russia.

And this is of course just an open acknowledgement of what has long(3) been obvious(4) since well before this war even started:(5) that western media believe it is their job to advance the interests of the US-centralized empire and undermine the interests of Russia. Which is to say, they are propagandists.

Responsible Statecraft's Eli Clifton reports(6) that a slate of ten candidates for board membership in the immensely influential think tank Council on Foreign Relations includes James Taiclet, the chairman and CEO of "what is arguably the world's largest arms dealer," Lockheed Martin. CFR members have to vote for or against the entire slate, and cannot vote for or against specific nominees.

Clifton notes that CFR already currently has multiple executives from the military-industrial complex on its board of directors:

"The board of directors of CFR, a New York-based think tank that focuses on U.S. foreign policy and international relations, isn't a stranger to embracing the weapons industry. CFR's chairman is David Rubenstein, a co-founder and co-chairman of the private equity firm and defense-industry-focused Carlyle Group, and the board(7) currently includes Raytheon board member Meghan L. O'Sullivan, and Frances Townsend, a director at Leonardo Systems, a Virginia based weapons systems company. (CFR's biography(8) of Townsend omits any mention of her role at the weapons firm but Leonardo Systems lists her CFR(9) board membership in her biography on their website.)"

To be clear, when I say CFR is immensely influential, I mean it is immensely influential(10). Its membership spans throughout the major media institutions of the western world, and it once hosted a panel(11) where a former State Department official who was also an editor of Time Magazine openly endorsed the practice of using propaganda on Americans to influence how they think.

Foreign policy "think tanks" are frequently nothing other than influence operations for the military-industrial complex, and the information environment of the global north would be greatly improved if more people were aware of this. So it's refreshingly honest to see these institutions moving from merely being funded by the war industry(12) to being run by the war industry directly.

A bit more from Clifton:

Last year, Responsible Statecraft asked Taiclet(13) whether receiving \$75 billion in Pentagon contracts in fiscal year 2020, one and a half times the State Department and Agency for International Development budgets, was a reasonable balance of expenditure and if it was reflective of U.S. national

priorities. Taiclet defended the budget allocation that benefited the company he leads, responding that it was “up to the U.S. government” and claimed “it’s only up to us to step to what we’ve been asked to do and we’re just trying to do that in a more effective way, and that’s our role.”

His claim doesn’t explain why Lockheed spent over \$13 million lobbying the federal government last year and focused their lobbying power on the defense budget, according to OpenSecrets(14).

One day we will look back in horror at the fact that war profiteers not only existed, but were legally allowed to lobby the government to increase its warmongering and use think tanks to help manufacture public consent for war.

This one’s more light-hearted and less consequential than the other examples, but it’s just as illustrative of the kind of people who work for western news media.

In an article titled "Pete Buttigieg Loves God, Beer, and His Electric Mustang"(15) and subtitled "Sure, the US secretary

of transportation has thoughts on building bridges. But infrastructure occupies just a sliver of his voluminous mind," Wired's Virginia Heffernan writes the following paragraph:

As Secretary Buttigieg and I talked in his underfurnished corner office one afternoon in early spring, I slowly became aware that his cabinet job requires only a modest portion of his cognitive powers. Other mental facilities, no kidding, are apportioned to the Iliad, Puritan historiography, and Knausgaard’s Spring—though not in the original Norwegian (slacker). Fortunately, he was willing to devote yet another apse in his cathedral mind to making his ideas about three mighty themes—neoliberalism, masculinity, and Christianity—intelligible to me.

My God, it’s a masterpiece. Arguably superior to Heffernan's 2016 puff piece on Hillary Clinton(16) saying, "Maybe she is more than a president. Maybe she is an idea, a world-historical heroine, light itself. The presidency is too small for her." Superior even to Heffernan's description(17) of professional lunatic(18) Louise Mensch as "the Sy Hersh of our time."

Western journalism, ladies and gents.

- (1) <https://www.reuters.com/world/falling-debris-causes-fires-two-kyiv-sites-officials-2023-05-18/>
- (2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAHRLFs_e9k&t=21s
- (3) <https://consortiumnews.com/2022/08/12/caitlin-johnstone-ukraine-gets-cbs-to-retract-critical-report/>
- (4) <https://consortiumnews.com/2022/05/23/caitlin-johnstone-on-russians-raping-babies/>
- (5) <https://caityjohnstone.medium.com/bbc-reporter-discourages-syria-questions-due-to-information-war-with-russia-e13a3d18e4e9>
- (6) <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2023/05/18/arms-industry-titan-nominated-for-prominent-think-tanks-board/>
- (7) <https://www.cfr.org/board-directors>
- (8) <https://www.cfr.org/bio/frances-fragos-townsend>
- (9) <https://investors.leonardodr.com/board-member/frances-townsend>
- (10) <https://swprs.org/the-american-empire-and-its-media/>
- (11) <https://caitlinjohnstone.substack.com/p/ten-times-empire-managers-showed?s=w>
- (12) <https://www.liberationnews.org/six-war-mongering-think-tanks-and-the-military-contractors-that-fund-them/>
- (13) <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/04/29/lockheed-ceo-on-excessive-govt-contracts-we-just-do-what-they-ask/>
- (14) <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/clients/summary?cycle=2022&id=D000000104>
- (15) <https://www.wired.com/story/pete-buttigieg-interview-god-beer-electric-mustang/>
- (16) https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/hillary-clinton-more-president-172108999.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall
- (17) <https://twitter.com/page88/status/843635850210549760>
- (18) <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2017/07/twitter-verification-problem> 🍇

Revel in the Island Way of Life at the Alchemy of Gathering Wellness Festival

PRESS RELEASE

By Jenna Walker



Stage & Pavilion at Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens

WITH over 24 wooded acres of bark mulch paths and 40+ vendors to explore, the Alchemy of Gathering is an open-air playground for Islanders to restore mind, body, and soul. Hosted by the Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens, visitors can revel in the “island way of life” with new and authentic wellness experiences.

The Alchemy of Gathering Wellness Festival is a one-day event that blends healthy living, movement, and learning. Marking its debut year this June, the festival features lineups of music and art events, scenic walks and hands-on activities, and nourishing food and beverage from local vendors. Festival goers will also find interactive stations with inspiring techniques that range from meditation and mindfulness to art therapy and more. The Alchemy of Gathering Wellness Festival takes place in Courtenay from 11am - 8pm, on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

Tickets are \$25 per person with children 12 and under free with ticketed adult. They are available for purchase online at Tidemark Theatre or at the gate. 5% of ticket sales will be donated to the Copper Legacy: Indigenous Empowerment Society. Dogs welcome. For more information visit www.changesbyjenna.com. 🍷



by Chris Seguin

Our Garden

by Thomas Provençal

*A garden is a haven
where bees can play their tune,
collecting all the pollen
of the vegetables in bloom.
Weeded, watered, worried over,
guarded from the deer,
a place of good intentions,
our sustenance this year.*





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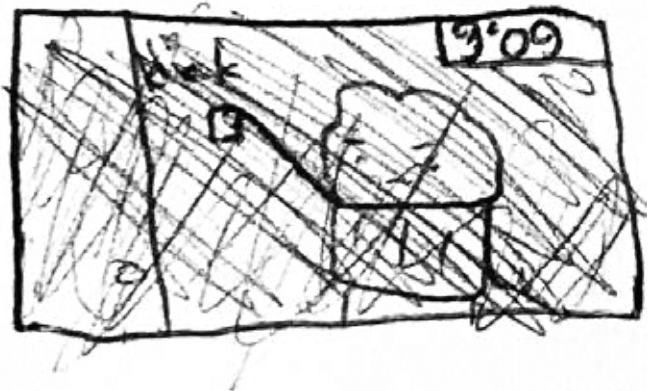
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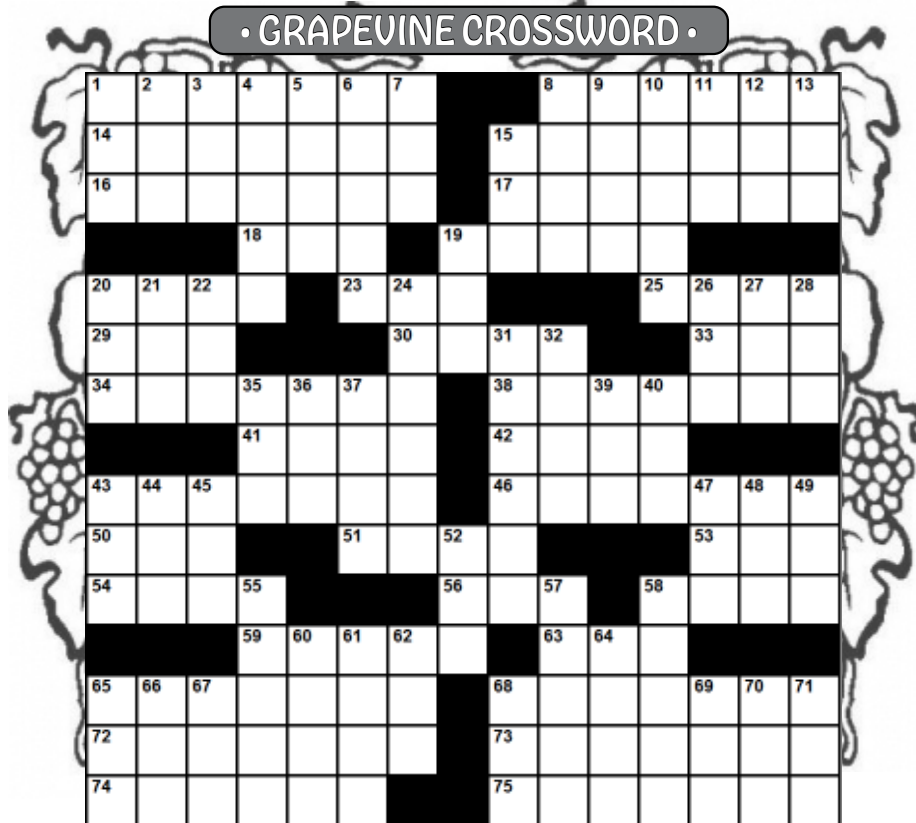
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• ACROSS •

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8. Member of the Bantu people
14. Limonite, e.g.
15. Holiday item
16. Departs from
17. Insulting
18. Breakfasted
19. 1960s fad
20. Competently
23. Boot hill abbr.
25. Pivot about
29. Before beginning
30. At the peak of
33. Ninny
34. Point toward
38. Last syllables of words
41. Haughty person
42. Animal appendage
43. Bond's beverage
46. Twister
50. Be beholden to
51. Battle memento
53. Boxlike vehicle
54. Annoying one
56. Change the locks
58. Scruff
59. Brief brawl
63. Art movement prefix
65. Jungle woe

68. Kook

72. Eskimos, Utes, et al.
73. Lace items
74. Literary works
75. Recorded

• DOWN •

1. Newton filler
2. A verb for you
3. Bed
4. Retract one's words
5. Burglar's booty
6. Closer to reality
7. At this time
8. Big brass
9. Aspersion
10. Adam and Rebecca
11. Aladdin prince
12. Autumn abbr.
13. Aquarius, e.g.
15. Bark shrilly
19. Decide for
20. Astute
21. Bandeau, for short
22. Albanian currency
24. Verse line
26. Con's flight
27. NAFTA member
28. Ar chaser
31. Vehement protest
32. Act as
35. Approx.
36. Cuckoo
37. Charged atoms
39. Cramp
40. Afflicted
43. Swab
44. Blow away
45. Part of RSVP
47. Aves, once
48. Baby's break
49. Compass pt.
52. Big flap
55. Former rulers
57. Not sideways
58. Bandleader Ray
60. American canal
61. Canisters
62. Itsy bit
64. Amend a draft
65. Chinese chairman
66. Band aid
67. Romanian money
68. Adorer's writeup
69. Affected manner
70. Actor Marvin
71. Dr. Tim's drug

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



“Did the mountain peak at the salad dressing?”

(Thank you Anonymous)

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

T	A	R				F	L	U				C	R	T
S	C	A	B			P	R	I	S	S		Y	O	U
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- 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 2

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

SATURDAY 3

- 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
- MUSTARD Hornby Hall 6:30pm
- LITTLE STRANGER concert see ad p.9

SUNDAY 4

- MUSTARD Hornby Hall 1:30pm & 7:30pm

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 4:30-6pm



FRIDAY 9

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

SATURDAY 10

- 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
- LESTER QUITZAU see article p.3

SUNDAY 11

- ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH WITH PICNIC
AFTERWARDS 10:30am
- LESTER QUITZAU see article p.3

MONDAY 12

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

TUESDAY 13

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

WEDNESDAY 14

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

THURSDAY 15

- 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





Logo by Leya Anderson

The Denman Living with Beaver Project's

Naughty Beaver Questionnaire!

The goal of this questionnaire is to find out what problems beavers are causing for landowners on Denman. We know about their water-retaining benefits, but the Beaver Project also wants to learn about beavers' problematic activities. The plan is for the Beaver Project to support landowners in resolving individual beaver conflicts in upcoming years.

For example, are beavers flooding your land? Chewing and felling your trees? Other naughty activities? Please let us know!



Have those busy beavers caused you problems? **Y** **N**

What have they done, or what are they doing?

When did this happen?

Have any of your actions been helpful in resolving the problem? If so, can you describe what you have done?

If you have any questions or other comments, please contact the Beaver Project at:
denmanbeaver@gmail.com

Turn over for information on how to submit this questionnaire and learn more about our project's
Citizen Science Beaver Spotting program





Logo by Leya Anderson

The Denman Living with Beaver Project's

Citizen Science Beaver Spotters!

Have you seen beavers, or signs of their activity, around the island? We want to know all about Denman's beavers to help keep them healthy, keep people happy, and keep Denman's aquifers full of water.

Where?

When?

How many?

What were they up to, or what signs of beaver activity did you see?

You can email your Naughty Beaver Questionnaire and Beaver Spotter info to **denmanbeaver@gmail.com**, or drop them in the Beaver folder in Abraxas. Beaver Spotter cards are also available at the DCA market booth.

Fill a form out whenever you spot beavers or report your sightings on **iNaturalist!** Search for our **Denman Island Living with Beaver** project in the app or online, or scan this QR code:



Thank you for giving a dam!



Turn over for Naughty Beaver Questionnaire



FOR SALE - 1977 Ranger 30 sailboat

Beta Marine 20 Diesel Engine new in 2009 - only 650 hours!

Standing Rigging and Lifelines new in 2012

Hydraulic backstay adjuster new in 2018

Running rigging new last year

5 deck winches, 2 mast winches, genoa car adjuster

Whisker pole and spinnaker pole

Sails - Storm jib - 100% - 125% - 155% light - 155% heavy - asymmetric spinnaker, main

Sunbrella canvas covers for boat, winches, wheel/binnacle plus custom cockpit shade

Other fixtures, fittings, gear

- 2 burner propane stove
- Fresh water electric pump
- Electric bilge pump & manual bilge pump
- recently serviced head with holding tank and overboard diverter
- 3 anchors with chain & rode
- 2 fire extinguishers in date
- in date flares per Canadian Coastguard requirements
- radar reflector, life rings, man overboard pole, heaving line, strobe light, PFD
- box of shackles, s/s screws, bolts, pins etc
- local & Georgia Strait charts, chart plotting instruments, vhf radio, handheld radio
- foul weather gear and sea boots (size 13)

Surveyed out of the water by Koch Marine April 12, 2022. Survey Report available - "vessel well built and maintained and is in good to very good condition"

Dinghy, 9', slatted bottom, 'as new' condition. Stored inflated and indoors

Honda 2hp outboard, air-cooled, 4 stroke, maybe 50 hours or less (needs servicing)

\$25,000 obo. Payment terms negotiable

Contact: Simon Palmer 250 335 2559 or SimonPalmer3720@gmail.com

Current year-round berth in Deep Bay may be available, direct with marina owner