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TOUGH TALK FROM GORD JOHNS

OP/ED

by Anthony Gregson

NDP MP Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni) says that he has mentioned Denman Island more times in Parliament than at any time in its history, which is saying something considering that even one mention might be surprising. More than that, he took a suggestion from ADIMS about the need to tackle microplastic pollution straight to Justin Trudeau himself, who raised it at the G7. Is this man a friend of Denman and Hornby or not? You bet! But for how long?

With a Federal election on or before Oct 21st, Johns brought some hard, partisan realities to the Denman Activity Centre May 21st. Supporters were taken aback to learn that the Conservatives have far more than what polls [Canada 338] say is 29% support. In the riding, it is much more like 40% – enough to take back a riding they have previously held for decades.

This wasn't just election scare talk to get out the troops. There is a strong populist surge across Canada and a prime minister in trouble in the polls. There is a very real possibility that Conservatives will form the next government. If that happens, Johns said, there may be a big turn, away from the climate change agenda and its impact on the economy.

What scares Johns the most is what he called the populist campaigns of disinformation. A Conservative poll of four Western provinces poll found that 80% of Canadians believed the federal carbon tax was having a big impact on their lives.

"The biggest problem I have with that is that the poll was taken four days before the carbon tax came in." People were buying into Conservative information before anything has happened. He had a similar experience door knocking in his own neighbourhood, where people were worried about the "job-killing" BC carbon tax - even though it has been in effect for 11 years. They just didn't know.

A Conservative candidate [Byron Homer] was parachuted into Courtenay-Alberni a year ago. He was acclaimed one month after arrival. This is someone, Johns pointed out, who has never been in the community, who doesn't know the community, has never served on local government or volunteered. Top conservative movers-and-shakers, including leader Andrew Scheer himself, have been visiting. "They would only do that," Johns points out, "if they believed they can win." Hornby and Denman and pockets of the Comox

... continued on Page 4 ...

DENMAN ISLAND • BULK WATER SERVICES REVIEW *submitted by Laura Thomson*

COMM
INFO

Purpose

To provide a recommendation relating to the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) providing a bulk water service on Denman Island.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT staff be directed to set up a temporary bulk water filling station as part of the Denman Island Water Local Service Area system to provide bulk water to licensed haulers on Denman Island on a trial basis for summer 2019;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to investigate other alternatives for bulk water sale on Denman Island to inform a recommendation back to the Electoral Areas Services Committee in late 2019.

Executive Summary

In late 2018, the Graham Lake Improvement District (GLID) changed their position of supplying water in bulk to haulers located on Denman Island and no longer supply water to haulers due to concerns surrounding GLID's liability. GLID made the CVRD aware of this change in early January 2019.

Water haulers located on Denman Island have limited alternative options and as a result may be required to develop costly alternatives or possibly stop providing service entirely. Residents that depend on bulk water may face dire circumstances this summer if alternative sources are not secured.

Staff have confirmed that the existing Denman Island Water Local Service Area (DIWLSA) water license and establishment bylaw do not preclude sale of bulk water. To ensure adequate water supply on Denman this summer, staff are recommending that bulk water sales be provided from the DIWLSA to licensed water haulers on a temporary basis while the full legal ramifications of sale of bulk water from this service and other potential alternatives are explored.

While a preliminary legal review indicates similar liability concerns identified by GLID could exist for DIWLSA, these risks are likely very low and should be balanced against the impact to health and safety of those members of the Denman Island community reliant on bulk water delivery. If this recommendation is approved, staff will be mitigating risk to the service by putting in place a robust indemnification agreement with the water hauler(s) and ensuring that they follow all required licensing requirements under Island Health regulations.

If the Electoral Areas Services Committee supports these recommendations, staff will report back to the committee in late 2019 with a recommended path forward for a more permanent solution.



TIDE TABLE

• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove •

2019-05-30 (Thursday)			2019-06-04 (Tuesday)		
Time	Height		Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)	PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:29	4.4	14.4	01:14	3.4	11.2
10:47	1.8	5.9	06:00	4.4	14.4
17:12	3.6	11.8	13:30	0.4	1.3
21:54	2.9	9.5	20:56	4.8	15.7
2019-05-31 (Friday)			2019-06-05 (Wednesday)		
Time	Height		Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)	PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:57	4.4	14.4	02:03	3.5	11.5
11:14	1.4	4.6	06:39	4.3	14.1
17:59	3.9	12.8	14:10	0.4	1.3
22:48	3	9.8	21:40	4.8	15.7
2019-06-01 (Saturday)			2019-06-06 (Thursday)		
Time	Height		Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)	PDT	(m)	(ft)
04:25	4.4	14.4	02:57	3.5	11.5
11:44	1.1	3.6	07:23	4.2	13.8
18:43	4.2	13.8	14:52	0.5	1.6
23:38	3.1	10.2	22:25	4.9	16.1
2019-06-02 (Sunday)			2019-06-07 (Friday)		
Time	Height		Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)	PDT	(m)	(ft)
04:55	4.4	14.4	03:57	3.4	11.2
12:17	0.8	2.6	08:15	4	13.1
19:27	4.4	14.4	15:37	0.6	2.0
2019-06-03 (Monday)			23:09	4.9	16.1
Time	Height				
PDT	(m)	(ft)			
00:26	3.3	10.8			
05:26	4.4	14.4			
12:52	0.6	2.0			
20:11	4.6	15.1			

• Daylight Savings •

Source: tides.gc.ca



Photo by Chris Seguin



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... continued from Page 2 ...

Valley, Johns said, may be progressive, but a lot of the communities see things differently.

Johns reminded everyone that “The job of the MP is to meet with the communities and find a way through”. But what, he asked, did the Conservatives do? John Duncan, the 20-year Conservative MP for the area [whom Johns defeated in 2015] and other conservative MPs [before the electoral boundaries were redrawn in 2013 to form Courtenay-Alberni] visited the islands perhaps once in five years. They held no coffee houses (Johns has held 40) or townhalls (Johns has held 25). He is the first MP to communicate directly with the First Nations. He is very proud to be the only MP to be honoured by the Nuu-chah-nulth as a spokesman. Many MPs ignore visits to schools because kids can’t vote, but he listens and has taken up with colleagues, and raised in Parliament, what they think.

Johns said the NDP face challenges as only the third party on the Hill with 43 MPs. The press does not give them the same time as the government, and the NDP also has a new leader, Jagmeet Singh, who has had his own stumbles and is still learning. Getting the attention of the government is not easy, although Johns has his tactics.

Getting together in solidarity to get things done is one of them. He told the story of how former Conservative MP Duncan promised for 10 years to rid Deep Bay of sunken and derelict boats. Getting together with local stakeholders and media, they found not one boat on the bottom but three. They were gone within a week. When another boat, the Silver King, began to list, he asked what was going to be done. “Don’t worry,” the Minister said, “we’ll get to it.” “I tell you what,” Johns replied. “We’ll help you and you can watch it on TV next week.” That got action.

The issue of microplastic pollution was another success though a very different story. It started on Denman, with ADIMS, and Johns admitted he was afraid to tell them that no one in government cared about their issue. “We had to start at 30,000 feet.” Other communities came forward with more issues. “Climate change is so huge. It was like David and Goliath. It felt sort of hopeless.”



That changed for Johns with the Hanjin Seattle spill of 35 shipping containers in November 2016 off the West Coast. The cargo of Styrofoam disintegrated in the rough November seas. Together with steel wreckage, millions of

pieces of yellow foam ended up everywhere on Long Beach and surrounding areas. It was the worst spill on the coast in memory.

“When I asked kids whom they thought was helping, they answered, the government.” Asked in the Commons, Minister of Transport Mark Garneau said they had a “world class ocean protection plan.” Trudeau gave Johns the same answer. But nothing was happening. There was nowhere to turn. Eventually, Johns learned that there was a regulatory void. At sea, it was the responsibility of Transport, but in the surf zone, DFO and Coast Guard, and on the beach, DFO and Environment, with local municipal and indigenous governments. In the meantime, cleanup was left to the locals who donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to community groups like outfits like Clayoquot Cleanup and Vancouver Island Surfrider Pacific who mobilized the local knowledge and equipment. Hundreds of locals became involved. Finally, Parks Canada figured out that Hanjin was in contravention of the Parks Act and sued. But by then Hanjin was in bankruptcy [ed. for reasons other than the spill itself]. Six months later, a cheque for \$72,000 arrived, all of which went to Ottawa. The cleanup has so far received a cheque of only \$15,000 for reimbursement. “That’s the world class ocean protection plan in action.”

Johns emphasized that he sees himself as a “connector”, starting with his former role as Executive Director of the Tofino Chamber of Commerce. He put that skill to good use,

... continued on Page 6 ...

ON VOLUNTEERING In 200 Words or Probably More *by Bill Engleson*

COMM
INFO

"My record was so bad that I was first rejected by the Peace Corps as a poor risk and possible troublemaker and was accepted as a volunteer only after a great deal of explaining and arguing." Paul Theroux

And/or

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."
Muhammad Ali

For the longest time I have been grappling with the idea of writing a relatively brief essay (*likely more than 200 words, so be warned*) about volunteering.

Volunteering on Denman.

Volunteering on Hornby.

I feel the need to do so because several organizations on our two Islands are operating at a reduced Board level. By this I mean, there are not enough people volunteering to serve on these Boards.

Two that immediately come to mind are DIRA (*Denman Island Residence Association*) and the one I chair, The HDCHCS (*Hornby & Denman Community Health Care Association*.)

There are others, of course.

Our Islands are pretty much run by volunteers.

One might argue that we live in a Volunteer Democracy. This blog link captures the point I am trying to make about our own Volunteer Democracy. <https://medium.com/@lizaface/a-brief-note-on-volunteerism-democracy-and-privilege-7d980471346>

So, what does it mean when Boards of Directors have fewer people to carry the load? At the recent DIRA General Meeting, the Chair, Ron Shepherd (*and here I am paraphrasing*) made

the point that because DIRA has only four people on its Board, there are simply fewer perspectives to draw upon as they discuss the direction of the organization. Now, a considerable amount of the work done under DIRA's auspices is performed by committees. Here is the DIRA website link if want to familiarize yourself with DIRA's scope of activity. <http://denmanresidents.com/>

As for the HDCHCS, we are structured so that our two Islands should have five representatives each (*for a total of ten*) conducting the business of the Society. Our key function as a Board of Directors is to ensure the provision of contracted services which include Home Care and Child, Youth and Family support.

I think it pertinent to add that we are one of



... continued on Page 7 ...





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... continued from Page 4 ...

working with [ed. what ADIMS points out were over 40 different groups], the University of Victoria Environmental Law Dept. They produced a seminal report, Seven Reforms to Deal with Marine Plastic Pollution that got the attention of government. Johns was able to draft motion M151: A National Strategy to Combat Marine Pollution. [ed. Amongst other things, the motion enjoins the government to “create a permanent, dedicated, and annual funding for community led clean-up projects.” It passed 288-0 on the anniversary of the Hanjin Seattle disaster]. Johns relishes the government’s discomfiture. “With media attention to opposition motions, they hate that. The Government has to own it”. For Johns, it is a message of hope. Over 170,000 people signed petitions in support.

Great, but the big question in the room was whether people should vote Green after the surprise victory in Nanaimo-Ladysmith. Former Trustee Tony Law put the issue plainly: “I heard from three young couples who have little kids and jobs and couldn’t make it here, and all they wanted me to say [is] that we think it’s time to vote Green. Green is the only party out there. We got little kids; climate change is the issue for us. and we don’t see the NDP standing up as strongly as the Green party. We need to be united behind something, and the Green party is the only one with clearly a vision. . . . This is the issue that young people are thinking about, that little kids are thinking about. Its huge, its enormous.” A supporter since the days of Dave Barrett, Law found himself “wavering for the first time ever” even though he supported Johns work “one hundred percent.” There had to be a vision and a message for young people who don’t necessarily track all the other issues, but he wasn’t seeing that on the NDP website.

Johns responded in several ways. To begin with, if people are thinking that the Greens can “just steamroller across the country to victory on a single issue,” that wouldn’t happen. If anything, Canada is moving further to the right. Second, what we must understand is that climate change and the environment are about reconciliation. You must consider factors like workers’ rights. He acknowledged that young people were critical. He is waiting to see how the NDP Green New Deal is going to roll out.

Comox-Alberni is not like Nanaimo-Ladysmith which has always been an NDP stronghold. People vote differently, with a long history of Conservative support. A Green candidate was very unlikely to take the riding and would only help ensure a Conservative victory. “In fact, the smartest thing the Conservatives could do was to pay people to vote Green.”

Further, people were simply not sufficiently aware of how solidly the Federal NDP has been behind environmental issues. Actually, the NDP has been adamantly opposed to pipelines and tanker traffic at all times. “Go to open parliament. In the last three years, you will see any mentions of the environment are orange.”

Johns repeatedly pointed out that he doesn’t avoid the difficult conversations. He mentioned the ban on the herring fishery, Site C Dam (which the federal NDP always opposed) and the LNG pipeline, which he is sure is going to come up federally. The Greens, he mentioned, may now oppose the LNG facility but it was originally part of a plan agreed between Weaver and the BC government.

That said, Johns emphasized at several points through the meeting the close working relationship they have with Elizabeth May. But where it comes to local politics and the Conservative threat, it is a question of electoral practicalities on the ground.

To those who believe that they should vote Green for the sake of it, Johns asked what was the point of running for MP if what you say and do means nothing, if the candidate’s record and knowledge of the community doesn’t matter? Entering the parliamentary fray is a steep learning curve. “Its not an entry level job” Though he had no doubt of the quality of Green candidates, he asked that people consider his life-long commitment and experience of pushing environmental issues where he has been so effective.

The audience got the message. The Committee to Elect Gord Johns spoke up for members. This time round, NDP supporters are going to have to do a lot more than just mark a ballot.



... continued from Page 4 ...

the largest employers on Hornby and Denman and that most of our heroic staff are women.

Here is our website link. <https://hornbydenmanhealth.com/>

We are a fortunate two Islands in that we have been permitted (*in the sense that the original founders of the HDCHCS initiated and expanded upon a viable, locally propelled delivery of Home Care support*) the special privilege of providing services to our own communities, our own neighbours.

While a great benefit to our collective well-being, this privilege also brings with it huge responsibilities.

You can see that I am reaching a point where I am almost suggesting how difficult it is to serve on this Board, how onerous the duty is.

It is onerous. After a fashion. And not everyone is comfortable engaging in the essential work performed by Boards and their committees.

Currently, the HDCHCS has two Board members from Denman and five from Hornby. As with DIRA, we could use someone to serve as treasurer although we have an Executive Director, a Finance Manager, and annually utilize the services of an accounting firm so the workload is not onerous for the treasurer.

Although I have focused on two organizations, I do not take for granted

that many people do volunteer in an amazing range of venues on our two Islands.

I do believe that, moving forward, home care on our two islands will face many challenges. Recently, North Island College provided locally based Health Care Assistant training on Denman with the view to hopefully expanding our work force. A couple of years ago, Hornby had the same training program. In both cases, the HDCHCS Executive Director and the Board were engaged in nurturing these opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering on the HDCHCS Board, especially if you are a Denman resident (*because the current need is on Denman, but Hornby residents will also be needed*) please don't hesitate to contact me at 250-335-0897 or at bengleson@telus.net. 🍷

THE SATURDAY MARKET:

Danni's starts & Ima's Kitchen by Kerri Boland

COMM
INFO

It's in Danni Crenna's genes to grow plants. After all, her father was known as the squash king of Metchosin. She's selling spring starts at the market again this year, and is really excited about her squash varieties. She also has five different kinds of basil, because why wouldn't you?! Danni is also selling her homemade featherweight produce bags, which are "strong enough for potatoes and light enough to float". Let's do what we can to be plastic free at the market.

If you've spent any time at all at the market on Saturdays, you've probably noticed the lineup at Ima's Kitchen. Bronwynne and Yogi have garnered quite a following on Denman Island, and keep developing new products in addition to continuing with the crowd favourites. They specialize in all-organic breads (including cinnamon buns), middle-Eastern style dips, and vegan ice cream products. Their breads are all sourdough, and so don't use a commercial yeast, and their sourdough starter is their second baby. It comes camping with them, they feed it twice a day, and it even went to Israel with them. One of their new offerings this year are gluten-free waffle cones, dipped in chocolate and

filled with ice cream. They also have a new ice cream machine, and I'm excited to see where that takes them over the coming months. I encourage you to try the London fog ice cream, as long as you leave enough for me. It's spectacular! 🍷



GARDENING TIDBITS

by Teresa Beers

SPECIAL
INTEREST



The other day I was talking to someone about gardening and how it engages our senses in such a beautiful, healthy way. We both agreed that fragrance from plants is quite heavenly...whether it's the strong sweetness of wisteria's flower clusters wafting through the air or the delicate floral spiciness of pinks' little flowers that can only be enjoyed up close. She was saying that fragrance wasn't something she considered when establishing her garden, but now when she adds plants it is high on the list when considering whether or not it is the plant for her.

Fragrance affects us on a primal level and affects our well-being on many levels. Whether for pleasure or for supporting wellness and healing, the use of fragrance is an ancient art and one of the many gifts from nature. There is a significant body of scientific research documenting the effects of fragrance - particularly essential oils - on our brains. When engaging our sense of smell (either via essential oils or direct aroma from plants), our limbic systems are directly affected. The magical, complex effect of aroma molecules on the limbic system is astounding!

Nature's apothecary is an accessible form of earth medicine that we all can

engage in, and there is no simpler way than taking time to "smell the roses" in your own gardens. In the words of Valerie Ann Worwood, author of several aromatherapy books, "Essential oils are distilled from certain varieties of certain species of plants. Some coming from petals, others from stems, twigs, leaves, roots, trees, grasses, or fruits. These exquisite aromatic substances provide a rich treasure for human beings, in all their aspects of mind, body and spirit."

Happy gardening!

DENMAN HASHERS

SPORTS

by Buck 'The Man' Manly

What a difference a fortnight makes for your Denman Hashers sports fans. Spitball Wilson brought his 'A' game to the Union Bay Ballpark striking out a 'Buck witnessed' 3 batters over this past Sunday's double header en route to losing both tilts at Union Bay Ballpark.

I know what you're thinking. "Buck, how is it different if they lost?"

Well dear reader, it's the *manner* by which they lost.

In between innings, Spitball spoke excitedly of the mid week match against the Bulldogs.

"They're the best team the league and, *if you ignore the score*, we didn't get mercy-ed by them once!"

"Frankie, you know that as the Hashers beat writer, I can't report back to the Grapevine without a score. Think of all the shut ins who couldn't make it to the game. I need to give them something. Tell me the score and let 'The Man' spin the visuals."

"16-2."

Immediately I conjure memories of Ali's 'Rope-a-Dope'.

That he outlasted his punched out opponent to win made it a viable, albeit dubious, 'strategy.' You had to win



Back L to R - Rollin' Nolan, Dartin' Dustin, Tater Tot Tait, Spitball, C-Rex, J-Dawg, PhotoBomber, Leigh Ferryngton, Sideout Rideout

Front L to R - The Thrill, Hipswole Hipwell, Catcher Karen, Dead-pull Harrington, Tater Tait, Fishy Fishy Mitch, Psyche Ward

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though, *and* look past the longer term detriment of getting hit repeatedly in the head.

For the Hashers, the 16-2 scoreline was less about strategy and more about a refusal to be mercy-ed. There was fight in these Hashers!

This fight was on full display this past weekend. It was enough to bring a tear to ol' Buck's eyes. Like watching your child find their way, a pride swells.

There was Spitball legging out an inside-the-park homer!

Here comes Rollin' Nolan rounding third base, heading for home, with a noticeable streak of dirt down the front of his jersey....SAFE!

J-Dawg ranging the outfield and flashing the leather on several occasions. His play keeping the games from getting out of hand.

C-Rex held down the hot corner admirably making several outs look routine.

Sideout Rideout and Tater Tait showed solid communication skills covering second and even turned a double play!

'The Thrill,' resplendent in her tassled sleeves and leopard print leggings made the most remarkable catch of her storied career. Improbably placed at second base she snared a sharply hit liner that had extra bases written all over it. Not today Millennials.... back to the dugout with you!

Taking a page from their opponents playbook, Dustin Martins ran the base-paths aggressively. Too many

times the Hashers have forfeited runs at the hands...er..feet of aggressive base running... A broken play leading to chaos. Base runners taking liberties and refusing to stop running. Errant throws contributing to the mayhem.

Well, after a clean hit that saw him round first base, Dartin' Dustin ranged out midway towards second base. This caught the attentions of the Millennials defence and he now found himself in no man's land. It didn't look good initially but with 'The Man's' 'clean jerseys' remark from a couple weeks back still ringing in his ears Dustin leapt airborne back towards first. As this happened in slow motion I can confirm that his first point of contact with the ground was his chest. In fact I believe that was his only point of contact. SAFE!!

Oh sure, I know what you're thinking, "he could have played it safe and not found himself face down in the dirt in the aftermath." Sure, but then he wouldn't have been cheered for quite as lustily by his team and their **two** fans in attendance. Nor would he have a jersey that's definitely going to need some cleaning. Under all that dirt there is HEART! A bruised chest for sure but it's the heart we're focusing on.

Yeah HASHERS!

Game 1: Slushbuckets 18 - 9 Hashers

Game 2: Millennials 10 - 9 Hashers

Next games at Union Bay Ballpark:

May 30th 6:15pm vs Bulldogs

June 5th 6:15pm vs T&B

FROM THE CROW'S NEST:

ARTS&LIT

Contact! *By William Thomas*

That first midnight out of Port Vila, with Thea trustingly asleep aft as we thread an unmarked reef, I am betting the boat and her life on my self-taught abilities with the sextant. Math and I have never been friends.

So I am alarmed to see a flashing red beacon, high and away to the north-east, where no light should be. The mysterious radiance flares, dims, winks out. Only to reappear. I recheck the chart. No lights listed.

Thea takes the watch. At daybreak, I regain the deck to find our "beacon" is an erupting volcano.

Its sisters beckon ahead, smoke wisping from their jagged cones. We pass a butterfly, flying strongly, miles from nearest land.

Gusts pounce from fissured cliffs as we scoot into the lee of Ambrym's shattered coast, massive boulders strewn like toys by some cataclysmic force.

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The lagoon we seek is blocked.

“Right out of Jules Verne,” I exclaim.

A stone’s throw from the jungle’s edge, we come to anchor under a fall of ash. Rowing ashore we find old firepits, a derelict fish-rack and, at the base of the cliffs, a skull deliberately placed gazing seawards. It belonged to a goat. But still...

The rumble of surf cuts off beyond the trees. As we follow a well-worn path deeper into the jungle’s gloom, I sense unseen eyes. “Let’s go back,” I tell Thea. “We don’t have a gift for the chief.”

For three uncomfortable days we snap-roll in that open roadstead, hoping to glimpse its inhabitants. But the bushpeople are wary of a white “civilization” that shot them from motorboats for sport.

Without prelude, a dozen men and boys dressed in ragged shorts and carrying machetes and spears materialize from the bush.

“Wait!” I gesture, before striking out one-handed for the beach, a plastic bag clutched in my other fist.

The sight of a masked and flippered figure stumbling from the sea makes the kids point and laugh. But their fathers shift warily at my approach.

The air zings with our contact. Facing each other across millennia on that narrow strand, I search for an appropriate greeting. What comes out is... “Hey!”

Smiles then. A subtle relaxing of muscles. Several men throw themselves backwards full-length on the hard sand, bouncing back to their feet as if on a trampoline. I smile, think, *Hey, how’s it goin’?*

Everyone crowds close as I open the bag. “Kava,” I unnecessarily explain. I repeat “chief” and “thank you” several times, indicating the UFO improbably parked inshore. A man accepts the gift with a nod. “Thank you,” he says. The children roar.

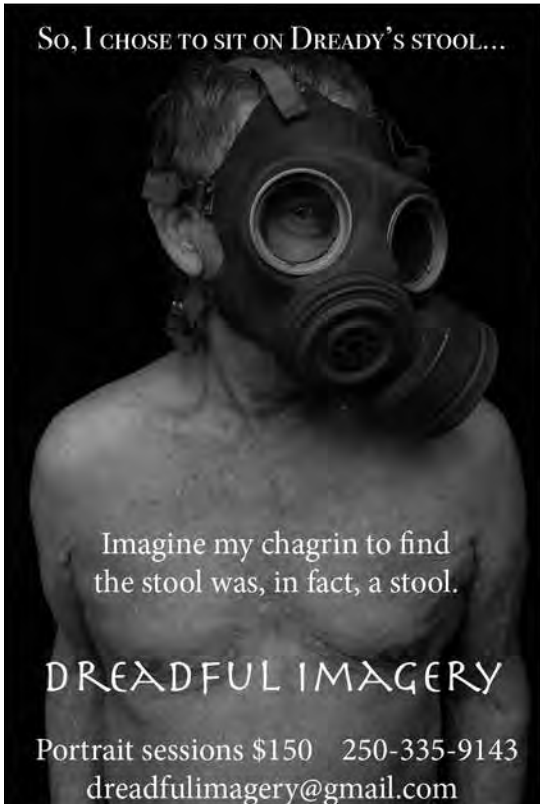
I turn to leave. *Wait!* The chorused word is indecipherable, their motions plain. Four men trot out of the bush to present a palm-leaf parcel. I unwrap it carefully to find three light-blue seabird eggs, each nearly the size of my fist, gathered on the heights with their sharpened sticks.

Bagging my fragile booty, I waddle back into the surf. When I turn to wave, the entire party is watching solemnly. The next night we sink the lights of Santo astern and rejoin the open sea.

willthomasonline.net



So, I CHOSE TO SIT ON DREADY’S STOOL...



Imagine my chagrin to find the stool was, in fact, a stool.

DREADFUL IMAGERY

Portrait sessions \$150 250-335-9143
dreadfulimagery@gmail.com

THE MAD DOG OF THE MIDDLE EAST

OP/ED

by Gwynne Dyer • Originally published May 29th, 2019

The ‘mad dog of the Middle East’, as Ronald Reagan once called Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, is on the brink of achieving his life’s ambition: becoming the dictator of Libya. He’s a rather old mad dog by now (75), but after a two-month siege his troops are starting to break through the defences of the country’s capital, Tripoli.

As a young officer, Haftar took part in the coup that overthrew the Libyan king and brought Muammar Gaddafi to power in 1969, and he stayed loyal to the new dictator for two decades. But he was captured during Libya’s lost war with Chad in 1987, and bought his freedom by

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switching sides and going to work for the US Central Intelligence Agency.

When Haftar's efforts to overthrow Gaddafi on behalf of the CIA failed, it resettled him in the United States in 1990. He spent the next twenty years quietly in Virginia, acquiring American citizenship along the way – but then came the 'Arab Spring' of 2010-11, and suddenly he was back in play.

He had little part in overthrowing Gaddafi, which was mainly achieved by NATO bombers. But the multifarious Libyan militias, which were mainly colourful extras playing supporting roles during the bombing campaign, took centre stage when Gaddafi was finally killed, because NATO couldn't or wouldn't take responsibility for putting Libya back together after the war.

Haftar's opportunity came in eastern Libya (Cyrenaica), where Islamist militias had seized control of the regional capital, Benghazi, and murdered the US ambassador in 2012. He created a militia, the so-called Libyan National Army (LNA), that set about the lengthy task of reconquering Cyrenaica. The centre of Benghazi was destroyed by artillery fire in the process, but by 2017 the job was done.

Who paid for all this? Haftar's financial arrangements are murky, to say the least, but his backers would certainly include France, which has a large investment in Libyan oil. Also Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Russia, all of which like dictators and hate Islamist radicals. And, since early 2017, the United States as well.

Haftar's campaign in the east completely ignored the new, 'internationally recognised' government that the United Nations cobbled together in late 2015. It's not elected, it controls nothing outside of the city of Tripoli, and in fact it doesn't control much of the city either. It's the local militias, most of them Islamist, who actually run things.

That's Haftar's main excuse for trying to capture Tripoli. He just wants to run the country, but his Saudi, Egyptian, Russian and American backers (and don't forget the United Arab Emirates) are all paranoid about Islamists under the bed, so he highlights that theme to keep them happy.

The Islamist militias of Tripoli, Misrata and the rest of western Libya are not all religious fanatics and secret members of al-Qaeda. They're mostly just local boys with guns who are enjoying the ride, and need some sort of ideological justification for behaving badly. But if the stupid foreigners think they are a real menace, Haftar will take their money.

He spent last year conquering the desert south of the country, where most of the oil is, and two months ago he moved his forces back north and attacked Tripoli. The local militias rallied to the defence of the 'internationally recognised' government (and of their own local protection rackets), and for a while it looked like a stalemate.

In mid-April Donald Trump telephoned Haftar to thank him for his efforts to "combat terrorism and secure Libya's oil." More useful were the

Russian-made cargo planes flying in to Haftar's Libyan bases from Egypt, Jordan and Israel bearing – well, who knows? Maybe dates, olives and halva. Or maybe something more useful.

And now, after almost two months of deadlock, the front has started to move. Haftar's LNA is reported to be in the eastern and southern suburbs of Tripoli and near the international airport. One LNA spearhead is allegedly in Salah al-Deen, only a few kilometres from the city centre.

Haftar's offensive may yet fizzle out. He calls himself a field marshal, but the highest rank he ever held while actually in combat command of troops was colonel, and he didn't do very well with that. On the other hand, the people he's fighting aren't exactly military geniuses either, so he could win. What would that mean?

It would mean a new Libyan dictatorship, of course, but it would also mean comparative peace in Libya and maybe an opportunity to rebuild the reasonably competent welfare state that has been destroyed in the past decade. And since Haftar is already 75, he's not going to match Gaddafi's 42 years in power.

When all the options are bad, you must choose the least bad, and maybe Haftar is it. And think how many people would rejoice in his victory: President Donald Trump, President Vladimir Putin, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, President (and ex-General) Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, President Emmanuel Macron....

If all those wise men like it, who are we to say otherwise?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joseph Denman Revisited

This letter is in response to last week's feel-good story about this Inner Island's colonial namesake. What I find of "special interest" in Craig Baird's *Special Interest* column entitled "Who Was Joseph Denman?" is the info about this so-called "honourable" man that is *missing* from the article; the absence of which, in effect, whitewashes his memory.

In 1863, the year before Rear-Admiral Joseph Denman arrived on the south coast, "Indian troubles" had become a priority for the colonial government because Indigenous uprisings had been rampant throughout Britain's global empire and they wanted to avoid a similar scenario happening in this region. Frustrated by the unsubmitive tribes who refused to engage in their treaty process, they launched what would become, at that time, the largest military assault in BC's history. This led to the bloody and fiercely-fought battles of the War of 1863 that have been meticulously chronicled by Chris Arnett in his disturbingly illuminating book, *Terror of the Coast*. One year later, in April 1864, Rear-Admiral Joseph Denman assumed his post as the Royal Navy's Commander-in-Chief for the Pacific, based in Esquimalt near Victoria, and he was soon immersed in his own battles with Indigenous nations of the region.

Like many other tribes along the coast, the Ahousaht of Clayoquot Sound were determined to proudly and defiantly defend their land, culture and sovereignty. They were well aware of the deceitful intentions of the European traders, and the broken promises of the colonial invaders who guaranteed British vessels safe access to Indigenous land and such resources as coal. Consequently, when the British trading vessel, the *Kingfisher*, sailed into their harbour uninvited in August 1864, the Ahousaht became involved in a skirmish in which the men on board were killed and the ship sunk. Outraged, Governor Kennedy of Vancouver Island retaliated by ordering Commander Pike and his aptly-named HMS *Devastation* to rendezvous with Rear-Admiral Denman's HMS *Sutlej* to employ whatever "rigorous action" was necessary to avenge their fellow colonists and to unequivocally pacify the rebellious Ahousaht. Based on reports written by Denman that are in the book, *BC Chronicle: Gold & Colonists*, when the gunboats arrived in October and the Ahousaht refused to surrender their Chief Chap Chah or any of their warriors, "The *Sutlej* [Denman's ship] began cannonading the bush around the village while, under the cover of her guns, her gigs [two-wheeled carriages] made for the shore and [the village of] Moo-yah-hah was set on fire by the landing party..." When it was all over, many people had been killed or wounded and seven Ahousaht villages had been entirely decimated.

Toward the end of that same year, the colonial government received a letter from Missionary Jordan Brown-Cave urgently requesting some reinforcements in Comox because, he claimed, some Lekwiltok (aka Eucla-

taw) had stolen "a ton of potatoes" and "threatened to kill a settler" and should be "removed" from the area. Responding to Cave's request, later in 1865 Denman's *Sutlej* and other gunboats sailed north to Comox to, in Denman's words, "prevent any resistance on the part of the Indians and to impress upon them the necessity of behaviour."

So, while Joseph Denman's anti-slavery pursuits are somewhat commendable—though of course he was only obeying orders *after* the slave trade was abolished—it's important to also remember that he was first and foremost an obedient naval officer who devoted his life to defending British imperialism and expanding their empire—an empire that was made possible in part from the vast accumulation of wealth and power they acquired during their near 200 year involvement in that same slave trade.

On a more comical note, it's ironic that the traditional Pentlatch/K'ómoks territory of Sla-da-aich/Taystayic (the Inner Island) was renamed in 1864 to honour Rear-Admiral Denman. From his militaristic standpoint, the colony of Vancouver Island, which included the offshore coastal islands, were strategically "remote" and "incapable of providing their own defence." Consequently, in the event of a war, these islands would require the "dispersal of British forces" which would weaken their ability to defend the British empire abroad. "It would be greatly for the interest of England," he advised his superiors in London, "to divest herself of these possessions."

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Sheila Nopper

Resources: *Chronicle: Gold & Colonists: British Columbia 1847-1871* by GPV Akrigg and Helen B Akrigg (Discovery Press, 1977), *The Wilderness Profound: Victorian Life on the Gulf of Georgia* by Richard Somerset Mackie (Sono Nis Press, 1995) and *Terror of the Coast: Land Alienation and Colonial War on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, 1849-1863* (Talonbooks, 1999).



FRACK OFF!

by Thomas Provençal

*I wish that I could find the words
To match my screaming heart!
Fracking has been fucked up
Right from the very start!
Shooting oil wells with torpedoes!?!
Ignoring science, void of art.
With a toxic sludge of slick water
Rock seams are smashed apart,
Releasing methane to meander
Like a subterranean fart,
While industry and government
Are lying off the chart
That in destruction of our aquifers
They did not play a part.
I knew deep down this ugly word,
Hiding in the black,
Could hold no friendly meaning.
No fracker's got your back!
But what astounds me most of all
Is the extent of all the greed
And the selfish, evil attitude
Of frack 'er up and let 'er bleed!*

• THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE •

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Grapevine is dedicated to fostering a sense of community on Denman and Hornby by covering events, issues, and the creativity of the many gifted people amongst us. The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres is published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee. Exceptions will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.
- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.

Please keep in mind that Hornby and Denman are a very small market for newspaper publication. We do our best to provide quality content at no cost to our readers but we ask you to understand that this depends on financial viability. Paper, ink, postage, equipment, and rent all add up. As it is, the Grapevine can only be brought to you with considerable subsidy of time and energy by our team which is very willingly given. The Grapevine would like to accept more content free of charge, particularly around community news, and is working on plans to expand its reach and revenue base to move towards that goal.

ADVERTISING RATES

INSERTS/HANDBILLS

\$62.97/Island

Please contact us to find out how many you should print.

- or -

we can print it:

\$7/100 (letter-sized - one-side)

\$12/100 (letter-sized - two-side)

CLASSIFIED ADS

30 words or less.

1 week • **\$8.39**

2 weeks • **\$15.40** (\$7.70/wk)

3 weeks • **\$21.00** (\$7.00/wk)

4 weeks • **\$28.00** (\$7.00/wk)

5 weeks • **\$33.25** (\$6.65/wk)

6 weeks • **\$39.90** (\$6.65/wk)

7 weeks • **\$46.06** (\$6.58/wk)

8 weeks • **\$50.40** (\$6.30/wk)

\$4.20/week for each additional 30 words

BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTINGS

6 weeks • **\$25.44** (\$4.66/wk)

12 weeks • **\$45.80** (\$4.20/wk)

25 weeks • **\$82.69** (\$3.64/wk)

50 weeks • **\$133.88** (\$2.94/wk)

PROMOTIONAL ARTICLES

Advertise your event with an article.

\$34.98

for up to 300 words and one graphic/photo.

BOX/DISPLAY ADS

Price is based on 1x1 column inches
(2.4" wide x 1.2" high)

For ads that are greater than 1x1 the spacing between columns and rows must be accounted for. For each additional column inch in width add 0.15" and for each additional column inch in height add 0.02".

For example:

a 2x3 ad (2 column inches wide x 3 column inches high) would be

2.4" + 2.4" + 0.15" w x 1.2" + 1.2" + 1.2" + 0.02" + 0.02" h

Front Page • \$21.00/1x1

Inside • \$18.20/1x1

Discounts available for placing ads for multiple weeks.

DEADLINES

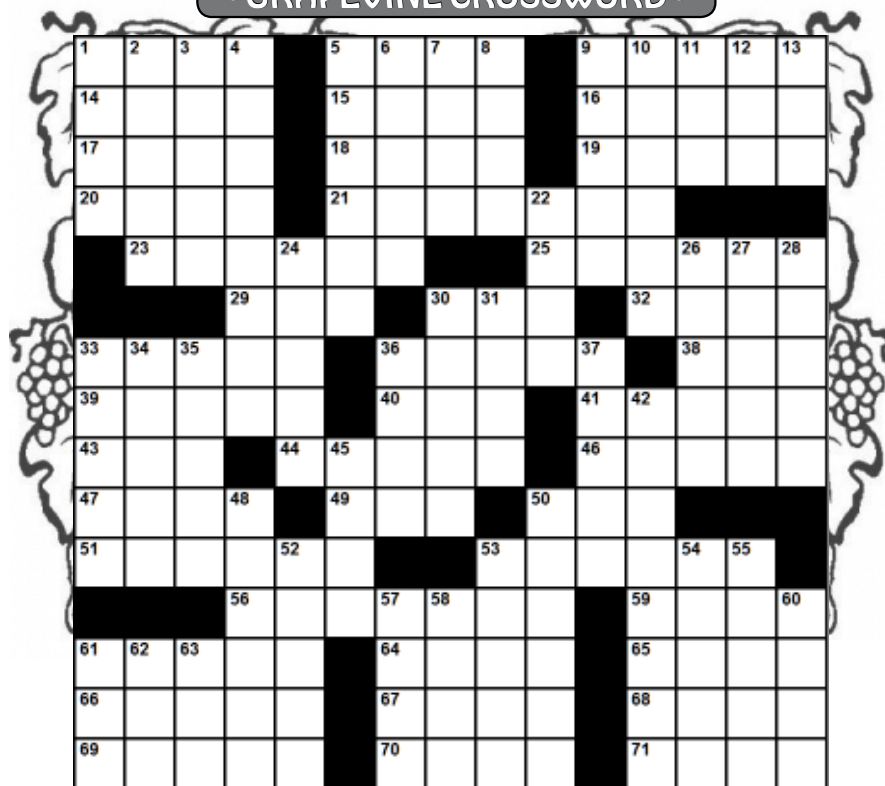
Deadline for ALL submissions is

every Monday at Midnight.

Please contact us for more information.

theislandgrapevine@gmail.com
250-335-9188

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. It's good in a pinch
5. Beetles, e.g.
9. Following
14. Stead
15. Actor Wilson
16. Sticky
17. Hebrew month
18. Supernatural power, in Polynesia
19. A Castle
20. Actor Sean
21. Delicate
23. Unemotional
25. Deny the truth of
29. Be the right size
30. Answer on Jeopardy
32. Kingly Norse name
33. One-man boat
36. Type of resin
38. Candidate to like
39. Future, e.g.
40. Luau wear
41. Barbecue minutia

43. Baseball great Mel
44. Change chemically
46. Indistinct
47. Got a hole-in-one
49. Aquatic zoo
50. Heavy imbibor
51. Vampire target
53. Leo month
56. Unsafe
59. Barely cooked
61. Ben Ezra, e.g.
64. Black cuckoos
65. Footnotes abbr.
66. Doctorate exams
67. Hawklike bird
68. Aspen, for one
69. Fibber of old radio
70. A feature of Old Glory
71. Amusing story

• DOWN •

1. Blow to a wrist
2. Adjutants
3. Inclined
4. Forks
5. Sugarplum
6. Clio or Edgar
7. Hebrew word meaning peace
8. Fishing woe
9. Acrobatic
10. Precede
11. Bearing pivot
12. Still, in verse
13. Bread or booze
22. Pitch black
24. Certain con
26. Cover story
27. Captured
28. Chris of tennis
30. Smart guy
31. Mini-play
33. Ermine in Summer
34. Sailing vessel
35. Bury
36. Auxiliary
37. Wipe the mirror
42. Ripened state
45. Beanery sign

48. Increase 100%
50. TV tear-jerker
52. Biscotti flavor
53. Actress Gillette
54. Native born Israeli
55. Attempter
57. Acorn producers
58. Apartment
60. Biblical garden
61. Chip contents, perhaps
62. Band of sparks
63. Black sheep's trio

Mr. Stofer



THE ISLANDS
Grapevine

Now you can read your Grapevine on your personal digital device . . .



email:
theisland-
grapevine@
gmail.com
for more
information.

• LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION •

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



• CLASSIFIED ADS •



CARPOOLING

RIDE OFFERED TO DEPARTURE BAY FERRY, typically Mondays from the 6:40 am.

RIDE OFFERED FROM NANAIMO TO BUCKLEY BAY, typically Thursday afternoons.
Max 335-0364

HAVE ROOM FOR A PASSENGER? NEED A RIDE? Carpooling offers and requests are free to run in The Islands Grapevine. Contact us to place your ad today. 335-9188, theislandgrapevine@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

MOVING SALE, June 2nd, 5264 Lacon rd. 10:00 till 4:00. Over 300 D.V.D.'s and 100 VHS for sale PLUS ,a couch,a Babylock serger with extras,2 single beds, 7 feet tall Bamboo shelf ,household goods. NO EARLY BIRDS

APPLIANCES FOR SALE. Ranges, washers, dryers, fridges, dishwashers, gas/ electric range. All fully restored and come with a full six month warranty. Call Rick Graham 335-0954.

WAGNER FIREWOOD will begin delivering for 2019 on May 1st. Two cord price is \$540 to Denman and \$560 to Hornby, plus tax Phone or text Scott at 334-7323. (DI/HI)

SERVICES

YVONNE'S BAKING
335-0460

ARE YOU READY FOR A NEW DECK? Outbuilding or studio? Now booking for your summer project. Richard Menard – Carpentry, Contracting and Custom Wood Finishing, 335-1877 (DI)

GUTTERS seamless, supply and install also repairs, for free estimate contact Kevin at 250 335 1986 or cell at 250 667 3233. Serving Denman/Hornby.

EXCAVATOR, BACKHOE & TANDEM GRAVEL TRUCK SERVICES. KJM Construction and John Isbister Excavating are pleased to serve the islands and beyond. Please call Kenny at 703-6512 or John at 335-2565.

SEEKING WORK of a physical nature; Firewood splitting & stacking are specialties, gardening too & other labour jobs! Stephen 250-871-6560 evenings \$15/hr.

THORLACIUS TRUCKING Top soil, bark mulch, gravel and sand. Denman stockpile for smaller loads. Driveway maintenance and grooming. Call Chris & Lora, 250-650-9986. thorlaciustrucking@gmail.com

MR. FIX-IT PLUMBING & All household major and small appliances. All large and small machinery. Yard machinery, chainsaws, outboards, automotive, sharpening, welding and fabricating. Call Rick Graham 335-0954.(HI)(12/20)

MAGNIFICENT TOPSOIL, Bark Mulch, all gravels, Bison compost, Treework,

site clean up, fir mill end firewood, roof tear off, demolition. High grade lumber. 30 years local Entpr. Call Dave 218-9667.(DI)(12/20)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMPUTER RECYCLING
* Save your old hardware from the scrap bin
* Bring new life to forgotten or outdated equipment
* Secure data destruction of all re/writable media
Contact for drop off times and location: remskolney@gmail.com

LOST&FOUND

FOUND - black hoodie sweatshirt found on East Road - please call 335-9150 to identify.

WANTED

ROW BOAT wanted - 250-335-0351

WANTED - small amount of hydraulic lime for greenhouse roof. Patrick 250 335 1605

OBITUARIES

Patricia Jane McLaughlin (nee Hedley)

June 28, 1924 – May 9th, 2019

The family of Pat McLaughlin is saddened to announce her passing on May 9th, 2019.

Pat had made her home on Denman Island since 1983 and this was truly her "happy place". She thrived on her community involvement and the many

friendships she nurtured throughout her life. Pat took great pride in her 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Her creativity, strong work ethic, love of the ocean, sense of responsibility towards community, skills on the tennis court, at her sewing machine, and in the garden are just some of the many talents and interests she shared with us.

We wish to thank all the caregivers who assisted Mom to remain in her home until the end.

A celebration of Pat's life will take place at a future time. If you would like to recognise Pat's life, we invite you to make a donation to the causes that were important to her (ADIMS, Alzheimer Society, Hornby-Denman Health Care Society)



Irmaine Earnshaw

1936-2018

Burial of ashes at the Old Denman Island Cemetery on Saturday, June 8 at 2 p.m. Gathering to follow at the Old Denman Island Hall, back room. Food and refreshments provided.

RSVP appreciated:
gwendellyn@gmail.com.
(808) 384-6315.

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

- Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)
- Denman Community Hall Rentals 335-9177 (D/H)
2 halls, commercial kitchen, new sound system
suitable for concerts, plays, meetings, weddings, etc.

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 335-2510 (H/D)
- Cloutier Matthews LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants 338-7367 (All)
- Sheelagh Mackenzie, Fair Realty 702-6362 (D/H)
- Sylvie Schroeder • Royal LePage office, Denman & UB 898-9199 (D/U)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Bobcat and Compact Excavator • Steve Isaak 335-1853 (All)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake 613-447-8873 (D/H)
- David W. Steele • Carpentry & Renovations 702-9155 (D/H)
- Dean's Digger - Mini Excavator & Small Haul 218-4534 (D/H)
- Denman Electric, Licensed, Fully Insured & Bonded 335-3122 (D/H)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather 703-6512 (All)
• John Isbister 335-2565 (D)
- Gutters Supply & Install • kcgutters@outlook.com • Kevin 335-1986 (D/H)
- Ken Fischer, B. Arch. • Home Design and Construction 335-2976 (D/H)
- Kinetic Electric, licenced, bonded & insured 335-1741 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec-Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation 335-3145 (D/H)
- Renaissance Stoneworks • natural stone/slate installation 335-0220 (D/H)
- Richard Menard • Carpentry, Construction & Renos 335-1877 (D/H)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • Licenced, Bonded & Insured 702-0570 (D/H)
- Tandem gravel truck & transfer trailer • Grant Morrison 335-0702 (D/H)
- Water Tanks and Cisterns • Steve Isaak 335-1853 (All)

• SERVICES •

- Acupuncture, Herbs • Dr. Willo Walker, Dr. TCM 335-1535 (D/H)
- Bio-Energy Healing, Empowerment, Laughter Yoga • Shari Dunnet
335-1877 (D)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Peter T. Mason - Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Tops n Toes • Mobile Haircuts & Footcare • Sandy Shaffer 778-585-9356 (D)
- Tree Service - Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Trueview Treecare, seniors' discount • Wildbill 898-7246 (D/H)
- Yoga Classes, Holistic Massage, 30 years exp. • Fiona Walker 335-1535 (D/H)

JULY CALENDAR

DEADLINE IS

FRIDAY JUNE 21ST

theislandgrapevine@gmail.com

250-335-9188



Just a friendly reminder
from the Islands Grapevine
to encourage our readers
to support those who
advertise in our pages..

• without them the Grapevine could not deliver
community-minded articles to the mailboxes of
islanders for free!

THE COMING WEEK'S EVENTS

DENMAN ISLAND (D) HORNBY ISLAND (H)

THURSDAY 30

- CAP SITE 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- D.I. FOOD BANK 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- PRESENTATION: Sarah Patton on Whale Conservation
NOTE: starts at 2pm • Community Hall(DI)
- COMPLEX PAPER Art Opening 7pm • DI Art Gallery(DI)

FRIDAY 31

- CAP SITE 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- D.I. FOOD BANK 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- SENIOR'S LUNCH "Spring into Summer Hamburger
Barbecue (Veggie Options)" 12pm • DAC(DI)

SATURDAY 1

- CAP SITE 11-2 pm • Community School(DI)
- HORNBY WILD NATURE WEEKEND • The Hall(HI)

SUNDAY 2

- DENMAN UNITED CHURCH 10:30 am • (DI)
- HOMEWARD HOUND 5pm • Back Hall(DI)

MONDAY 3

- QUILTER'S GUILD 9:30-3 pm • United Church Hall(DI)

TUESDAY 4

- CAP SITE 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)

WEDNESDAY 5

- CAP SITE 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)

THURSDAY 6

- CAP SITE 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- D.I. FOOD BANK 3-7 pm • Community School(DI)
- FAC meeting 9:30am • DAC(DI)
- LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE meeting 12:30pm • DAC(DI)