




• "The world has grown weary through the years, but at Christmas, it is young." • Phillips Brooks •




D.I. General Store

HOLIDAY HOURS

- Dec 24 and 31 •
The General Store is open from 8 am. to 4 pm
- Dec 25 and Jan. 1 •
The General Store as well as the Post Office are closed
- Dec 26 •
The General Store is open from Noon - 4 pm
The Post Office is closed

Elfish delightful staff. Grumpy Boss who thinks that if you eat all the Christmas tree decorations you could come down with Tinseltitis.

THANK YOU  **D.I. General Store**

for a wonderful 2019 and Very best wishes for a Happy Healthy 2020

from Pepper, Gigi, Barnaby, Rusty, Wally, Rudy, Seamus, Barry, Deb, Sherry, Sheelagh, Sharon, Kelsey, Ocean, Jennifer, Magenta, Joey, Mandy, Corrie, Renee, Rox (formally known as Roxanne), Wayne, Michele, Margaret and Grumpy.

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250-335-2027 waypoint.ca



Denman Island United Church & St. Saviour's Anglican Church

invite you to a shared Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Readings 4-5 pm December 24th at the United Church 4575 Denman Road (just east of the Graffiti Fence).

Everyone welcome.



RE/MAX The Islands

Bente Pilgaard
Managing Broker, Realtor
250-792-0128
www.islandsrealestate.com

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- Lot 10 - 7.3 ac with mountain views
- gently sloped lot with young forest
- near new park and Chickadee Lake

listed by Bente Pilgaard

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Cover image: Rushing Creek, Gladstone Way.
Photo by Dreadful Imagery

NEW YEAR'S DANCE WITH ROOTS ROUNDUP

MUSIC

By Eli Hason

Hello all you fine residents of Denmanistan. Once again for your dancing enjoyment we have brought back Roots Roundup to begin in the new year. This crew of rowdy ska pirates will be bouncing around the stage and getting you all energized to celebrate the start of the Roaring 2020's in style. There will be childcare at the Activity Center, so please bring your kids, their jammies, and some snacks

and are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door. In terms of the schedule - starting the night out is DJ Lightning Dixon from 9-10, Roots Roundup from 10-11, DJ Eliazar 11-11:30,



so they can enjoy themselves. Also please bring a tip for the people that will be missing the party so you can come out and dance. This event is 19+, as there will be a bar, and a glass of bubbles is included in the ticket price. Tickets are at Abraxas and the General store,

Roots Roundup 11:30-12:30, and DJ Eliazar will finish out the night. We hope to see you all there to get ready to close out this year, and bring on the new year in style with your lovely community. 🍷

NEWS FROM BETTER AT HOME

COMM INFO

By Dominique Husereau

It has been a busy year for our Better at Home program on Denman and Hornby Island. We served 23 clients and we provided over 225 rides, friendly visits, dog walks, recycling/garbage pick-ups, wood briquettes deliveries and Farmer's market baskets deliveries. We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers for all their help and support of the seniors' community in 2019. This program would not be possible without your generous time. This month, the Grade 2-4 Denman School students are giving back to the elders' community by baking goodies and making Christmas ornaments.

Along with our ongoing funding, we were able to secure additional funding to be able to provide Off-Island rides for seniors' medical appointments. We will be training additional drivers in late January and are looking for additional volunteer drivers to join the program. Please connect with me to learn more about our volunteer program at Dominique@hornbydenman-health.com or leave a message at 250-898-0245.

Wishing all a great holiday season!

Dominique Husereau - Denman and Hornby Island Better at Home program coordinator 🍷

Child Care Providers for Parent Support Group

Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society seeks two child care providers for a parent support group on Denman Island.

6 Tuesday evenings starting January 28, 2020.

Please forward your expression of interest by Dec. 31, 2019 to mike@hornbydenmanhealth.com

WHO OR WHAT ON OUR ISLAND SHONE LIKE A STAR IN 2019?

By Mary Jane Stewart

COMM INFO

The days leading up to Solstice are dark, but our traditions on Deer Island keep our spirits up, and these events all depend on a communal coming together with an abundance of goodwill and volunteerism. First there was our most extraordinary Christmas Craft Fair, then Moonlight Madness with cozy welcoming shops, friendly fellow lunatics, a gentle horse, colourful lights, and Ms Santa and her Elf handing out bottles of sparkly wine to our artists in their beautiful new venue. At the Arts Centre where folks gathered to make collages, Des greeted us on the porch with a colourful display of paintings he was selling to raise funds for rescue animals. Magical paper bag lanterns led us to the Guesthouse where there was live music playing to a full house and even some dancing. Such were the vibes on this beautiful evening, it felt like a love-in. Goodbye SAD.

Then came our Community Christmas/Solstice Dinner at our good ol' Hall. Over 400 gathered there for good food, friendship and community. It's a major feat to feed that many people in a few hours, and kudos go to Verna and Graeme for shouldering the responsibility of managing it. And to the legions of volunteers that make it all happen. In addition to real and vegan turkey and all the trimmings, there were tables laden with salads and desserts brought by attendees. We were serenaded by Dr Ron, Kevin and Tai. And best of all, there were kids running around having a ball. Their shrieks were music to the ears of those of us who, a few years back, feared they were becoming an extinct species on the island.

The glad tidings are not over yet. On Saturday, Dec. 21 there is a Community Solstice Celebration at the United Church 4:30 to 6, and on the same day at 6:30 in the Back Hall, a Solstice Potluck Dinner. And don't forget our New Year's Eve dance!

At the dinner on Sunday, attendees were asked, "Who or what shone like a star on Denman Island in 2019?" Here are the written responses folks posted:


Graeme and Verna, thanks for all you do; Health Care Supervisors, Maizie May and Alicia; Sean and Jason, Community Paramedics; Melanie, awesome garden helper!; Eli; Grumpy; Grumpy's staff; Matski; Jared, for his cooking at the Guesthouse; Phillipa for serving at the Guesthouse with elan and TLC; Stephen Malthouse; Sue Hiddick for exemplary service at Guesthouse; Peter Marshall; Mike Lindsay; Razia, Arabella and Leah, a new home in a new year!; Don Candy, my son's uncle, my buddy, his daughter born on my couch; Autumn White for organizing Xmas Fair; Stacey Armstrong; Edi and Graeme Johnston; Des Bowman; Fox; Michael Rapati; Donna and Sheldon for all the great music they bring us and for providing a hospitable venue for music, art, friendship and community; HDHCS and home support team!; Arts

SPECIAL NOTICE
 There will be NO Islands Grapevine on December 26th. The first issue of the New Year will be out on January 2nd with the January Calendar.

... continued on Page 4 ...

TIDE TABLE

• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove •

2019-12-19 (Thursday) ☾			2019-12-27 (Friday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
04:41	1.8	5.9	00:06	0.5	1.6
11:48	4.9	16.1	07:38	5	16.4
18:50	2.5	8.2	12:58	3.6	11.8
2019-12-20 (Friday)			2019-12-28 (Saturday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
00:06	3.5	11.5	00:45	0.6	2.0
05:42	2.3	7.5	08:16	5	16.4
12:28	4.9	16.1	13:49	3.6	11.8
19:44	2	6.6	18:03	4.2	13.8
2019-12-21 (Saturday)			2019-12-29 (Sunday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
01:54	3.7	12.1	01:22	0.8	2.6
06:49	2.8	9.2	08:52	5	16.4
13:08	4.9	16.1	14:42	3.5	11.5
20:33	1.5	4.9	18:49	4	13.1
2019-12-22 (Sunday)			2019-12-30 (Monday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
03:22	4	13.1	01:58	1.1	3.6
08:00	3.1	10.2	09:27	4.9	16.1
13:49	4.8	15.7	15:39	3.4	11.2
21:19	1.1	3.6	19:37	3.8	12.5
2019-12-23 (Monday)			2019-12-31 (Tuesday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
04:30	4.4	14.4	02:32	1.4	4.6
09:10	3.4	11.2	10:01	4.8	15.7
14:29	4.8	15.7	16:42	3.2	10.5
22:03	0.8	2.6	20:31	3.5	11.5
2019-12-24 (Tuesday)			2020-01-01 (Wednesday)		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
05:25	4.7	15.4	03:05	1.8	5.9
10:15	3.5	11.5	10:33	4.8	15.7
15:10	4.7	15.4	17:45	3	9.8
22:45	0.5	1.6	21:39	3.3	10.8
2019-12-25 (Wednesday)			2020-01-02 (Thursday) ☽		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>	
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>	<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>
06:13	4.9	16.1	03:39	2.2	7.2
11:14	3.6	11.8	11:05	4.7	15.4
15:52	4.6	15.1	18:40	2.7	8.9
23:26	0.4	1.3	23:12	3.2	10.5
2019-12-26 (Thursday) ●					
<i>Time</i>	<i>Height</i>				
<i>PST</i>	<i>(m)</i>	<i>(ft)</i>			
06:57	5	16.4			
12:07	3.7	12.1			
16:35	4.5	14.8			

Source: tides.gc.ca

... continued from Page 3 ...

Denman; ADIMS; Dorrance Woodward; all the stars of Audio Collective and Open Stage; farmers growing us good food; the Denman in 70's show; fine folks at Denman Hardware; Christine O'Neil; Leandra; Community School and its staff, programs and events; Matta; Willow and Fiona Walker; people who do Flagstone and Grapevine; Dr Ron; all the wonderful musicians; trail keepers on this epic island; ferry workers; Tim, Wendy, Ken, Howard, and others, for walking/pedalling the talk and inspiring the rest of us; Farmers Market people; our wonderful recycling depot and free store; Readers and Writers Festival Committee; Abraxas; Kevin Mitchell; First Responders who responded to our call for help, thank you so much; Fire Department; all the volunteers that keep our community vibrant; our beloved Dora Drinkwater Library; Melisandre and the staff at Blackberry Pre-school and Daycare; community connections, like a yummy Christmastime dinner; those who pick me up when I'm out walking the roads; Gangsta x-mas; sense of community; most of what is happening; a great community spirit! Beautiful people!; all the amazing people on Denman; the whole community is wonderful; lakes, trees, ocean, deer, community, DCA; all the volunteers on DI that make this community what it is.....which is wonderful; Thankful for: "the bright blessed day/the dogs say good-night"(Louis Armstrong); peace on earth.

I guess this response sums it up: Pretty well everyone.....it's that kind of place! 🍷

FROM THE CROW'S NEST: Kerisimasi for Beginners By William Thomas ARTS&LIT

Have you ever awoken in familiar surrounds to a feeling of extreme dislocation? The kind of mental vertigo that feels as if your brain is pulsing in-and-out like a bellows?

No?

Try waking up on December 25th to the plangent strains of a Christmas carol and see if you aren't as disoriented as I felt.

Someone had thrown the switch to instant, full-on daylight. But it felt too early on *any* morning for a cloying Christmas tune.

And this was a *live* solo concert. Crawling out from under the aft-crossarm, I looked out in amazement to see that we were being specially serenaded.

Did I mention we were tied-up alongshore in... Pago Pago?

Or that our Christmas caroler was a Samoan dude seated against a tree strumming a ukulele?

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas," he crooned. This I did not doubt, since the real deal was about 80-degrees Fahrenheit and 70-degrees latitude from his present reality.

"... just like the ones I used to know."

Gazing at this incongruous sight, I should not have been surprised. *Everything* in this mish-mash of Samoan and American cultures was bizarre.

"That's nice," Thea said, joining me in the companionway.

I liked that she liked it. Despite our separate work schedules ashore, close confinement was "claustrophobic in port," she'd observed. "In one year of cruising we've spent more hours together than most couples do in five years of marriage."

My unmarried "missus" smiled and waved.

The twanging stopped.

But only because our troubadour felt encouraged. On an isle where European brains were once considered *haute cuisine*, "Jungle Bells" would have seemed appropriate. Instead, taking pity on *palagis* (pa-long-ees) far from home, our benefactor launched into that rollicking, sleigh-ride anthem, jingling all the way...

I flicked on the fan to dry the sweat beading our faces. Then we were both grinning so hard, anyone would've thought we'd been rendered jolly.

"*Merry Kerisimasi!*" Scrooge shouted to some Samoans passing along the foreshore. They acknowledged my cockpit Berlitz with whoops of laughter.

"Merry Christmas," they shouted back in flawless Californian.

I still had that competition to adjudicate. Notorious for my weekly government exposés, this representative of the *Samoa News* was the only non-Samoan on an august panel of Christmas Show judges. Though I'd never faced an ordeal as fraught for

THE WRECK OF THE FLORA By Craig Baird **SPECIAL INTEREST**

Shipwrecks are not something foreign to the shores of Denman Island, nor really anywhere along the coast of British Columbia. One of the more famous ones was the Flora, a large ship that found its own end along the coast of Denman Island.

Originally built at the Pembroke Dockyard in 1893, the Flora was 4,630 tons and measured 320 feet long. Powered by triple expansion engines and two screws, she was one of eight Astraea-class cruisers built for the Royal Navy.

In all, the ship carried a crew of 318 people, and was well armed with 13 torpedo bays.

a foreigner as judging a carolling contest on a tropical island, I could not deny my hosts' request.

Which is how I came to find myself in a hot, jam-packed Fagaitua high-school auditorium facing solemn sets of scrubbed and best-dressed schoolkids as they took turns on-stage to sing so earnestly off-key of Santa Claus, the baby Jesus... and more snow.

Meanwhile, my brand-new PALAGI t-shirt was causing consternation among the adults. No one present needed this helpful reminder of their everyday epithet for us white interlopers.

Palagi, haolie, gweilo, gaijin – Samoans, Hawaiians, Chinese and Japanese each have their preferred pejorative for the “foreign devils” whose every cultural collision was tattooed on their DNA.

Who wants to be a loser on Christmas? When the contest finally concluded, I turned in my inverted score-card like a cultural gambler trying to hide his hand.

Happily, every school won a prize.


willthomasonline.net



Unfortunately, she would only see a decade of service in the Royal Navy until Dec. 5, 1903 when the HMS Flora hit a submerged rock and settled onto a basin of rocks, listing eight degrees to her starboard side. According to the crew, officers had mistaken the calculations on the position of the ship and a seagull on a black spar buoy had been confused with another marker, which led to the ship running into the rocks.

It did not take long before news of the shipwreck spread across the entire world and tugboats raced to the area to assist the ship.

Scows quickly arrived at the ship to begin removing stores and coal. The guns were moved as well to lighten the weight of the ship. Tugs began to try and move the ship but it was not until the sixth attempt at movement that the ship was able to move. It only moved six feet but it was a start.

On Dec. 10, five days after the ship ran aground, the HMS Grafton and HMS Egeria and many tugboats moved the ship so that the engines of the HMS Flora could power up and the ship could move to deeper waters.

Thankfully, the ship was not too

damaged and was able to sail to Union Bay to get the coal loaded and guns remounted. Afterwards, she left for Esquimalt with the HMS Grafton and entered drydock for inspection and repairs.

Captain Baker and Lt. Grant were reprimanded and told to take greater care in the future. Baker would eventually rise to the rank of Vice-Admiral.

Due to the shipwreck, Flora Islet was named for the ship off the south end of Hornby Island.

The HMS Flora would continue to serve the Royal Navy until 1922 when it was sold and broken up. 🍷

Have a question or idea, e-mail me at crwbaird@gmail.com • Find hundreds of articles on Canada's history on my website at <http://canadaehx.blogspot.ca> • Listen to my podcast Canadian History Ehx on all podcast platforms. • Information for this article comes from Nauticapedia.

DEAR CLIENTS, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS...
THANK YOU FOR 20 GREAT YEARS ON DENMAN!
I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN 2020 AND BEYOND!
Sally Dyck
A Cut Above Hair Studio

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
A special thank-you goes out to all of the wonderful volunteers for the Community Christmas Dinner.
Thanks for serving our community and demonstrating a joyful, Christmas spirit.
Verna and Graeme

Introduction

Some years ago, I offered for Flagstone consumption, a series of articles entitled Time Pieces. They were brief historical tidbits, mostly, save for the first one, extracts from an earlier Island publication, The Rag and Bone. I thought the extracts captured some of Denman's post sixties tenor.

Here they are in the order I think I submitted them. To be honest, I am not sure all of them made it into the Flagstone and initially I submitted them with a request that they be published anonymously. Given my recent exposition on secret writings, I should confess that I was trying to be cute rather than cagey. I think at one point the Flagstone editor may have accidentally slipped in my name and the cat was out of the nonsensical bag.

My introduction to each snippet was always the same. In fact, aside from that recurring introduction to each extract, and of course the selection of the material, I provided little creative energy. Regardless, I think these time pieces, and the many more still out there yet to be mined, still have merit in describing change, in shining a slight lamplight on a portion of the history of our small enclave.

With Denman's past inevitably impinging on its future, it will be the joyful task of this column to snare selected snatches of recorded posterity and give them at least one more moment of light.

Extract from the editorial by Des Kennedy in the October 1975 (issue 13) edition of The Denman Rag and Bone (a precursor to the Flagstone)

History has at least taught us that any influx of newcomers into a settled community usually results in misunderstandings, friction and some suspicion. Fair enough. Different folks have different ways of doing things. Mistakes are made on both 'sides. Offence is taken where perhaps none was intended.

Surely, however, if democracy is to have any meaning it is that people be free to pursue their legitimate private and collective ambitions in an atmosphere of tolerance and fair-mindedness. We have a right, indeed a duty, to oppose those things harmful to the common good or to the earth. But to label people as belonging to a group and then oppose them for only that reason is simple discrimination. Where discrimination flourishes democracy withers.

There are many of us here, newcomers and old-timers, determined to know each other better, to recognize each other's ideas and expectations, to live together in community. This process of exchange and learning is the foundation of a wholesome community life. It is an awkward process, sometimes embarrassing, sometimes uncomfortable, but never without value and joy. Making friends is always healthier than making enemies.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Issue #1413 signifies the year end for us at the Grapevine and, with it, an opportunity to consider the many reasons to be grateful.

Can a small newspaper survive in the vastness of the digital onslaught? Well, I'm here to say YES! To paraphrase a quote from Guy Dauncey's Climate Crisis presentation, covered in issue #1401 (Sept.26th), "with over 40 Non-government organizations on island, Denman presents a level of community organization unrivalled by most." This means the Grape gets plenty of material to share with its readers. From developments on affordable housing initiatives to our yearly beach clean-up. From the growing Baroque Fest and the more seasoned Readers and Writers Fest on through to Reconciliation with First Nations and efforts to make Denman plastic-free, each issue gives us something to anticipate.

So to our many clients, thank you for looking to the Grapevine as a means for sharing your information.

Our readers are no less engaged with their weekly. From regular feedback, both positive and negative, and the increasing frequency of Letters to the Editor right on through to promptly pointing out our mistakes each week the community shows that is paying attention to its weekly. The Grapevine feels this connection and it helps to propel us each issue. Just look at this letter we received from the summer mentioning the impact of our work:

Dear Grapevine,

I recently acquired a new table and chair set that sat level on the showroom

floor but when I got it back to my island home the sagging floor left the table rocking ever so slightly. Somewhat chagrinned I grabbed one of the new chairs and sat down with issue #1388 from June 20th. I figured a good read would take my mind off of things but the incessant wobbling was making it hard to concentrate. It was then that I realized that at a hefty 18 pages, when folded, the Grapevine was just the right thickness to correct the problem!

I didn't want you thinking that the Grapevine is only used for fire starter.

Cheers!

T. Turtotter

So to our readers goes a big thank you! Whether to help keep you warm, to offer a measure of steadiness in shifting times, or perhaps just to stay informed, the variety of content and the many uses the Grape-



DENMAN ISLAND COME OUT TO SEE A CUMBERLAND READY MIX TRUCK LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE!! ALL LIT UP AND READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!

The Cumberland Ready Mix lighted mixer truck is coming to the Island on Friday, December 20!

After arriving on the 5:00 sailing, it will do a big 'island loop' - cruising down Lacon Road to MacFarlene Road to East Road to Denman Road, and ending at the General Store. After finishing the 'loop' the truck will be on display at the store for everyone to see.

Watch for it on route, or come to the store and see it close up! You won't want to miss it!

vine presents gives real purpose to our work, which is gratifying.

To our steady advertisers I will mention that without your unwavering support the Grapevine would likely falter. Without this dedication the gap between red and black would prove too significant to consider traversing each month. Emboldened by this backing the Grapevine looks forward to the new year and serving **all** of our clients to the best of our capabilities.

And lastly, I must offer a sincere, heartfelt thank you to our many contributors. Your craft has been a pleasure to share with our readers. From Tony's informative articles to Thomas' poems, Leo's life reflections to Will's sailing adventures, from Dawn's 'Mr. Stofer' to Gary's weekly cartoon, (what other small community newspaper has **two** cartoons?), the variety on offer each week is quite astounding. From Kerri with her 'Farmer's Market report' on over to Craig's monthly History column and then the gentrified soul himself, Bill Engleson, occasionally sharing his wit and perspective the Grapevine truly is greater than the sum of its parts. Topped off by Chris' layout and printing skill, buoyed by Remy and English Ian's technical support and assisted by Nettie's accounting tutelage I'm humbled and honoured to be a part of this team!

Here's to a wonderful festive season for all islanders and a Happy New Year!



ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AND WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



Quinquagenarianism

by Thomas Provençal

*50 times around the sun,
A daunting task for anyone;
So many memories filed away
to ruminate another day.
You've had the time to figure out
just what in life you care about.
What gets a slap; what gets a kiss.
Yet throughout the decade remember this:
It's a time of reflection
on how to mature.
You've gathered your assets,
safe and secure.
You know you have influence.
You know where your strong.
You've developed your confidence.
You've already been wrong.
The goal is to focus
on what's really at heart.
Let your conscience lead you.
You're just at the start
of a happy adventure
with you at full strength.
Yet, remember this,
as your teeth show their length.
In this second half of your century
the choices you make
live in memory.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I agree wholeheartedly with Nicole Gagne in her letter recently published in the Flagstone. We are not just losing a good doctor, we are losing a wonderful resource of information and knowledge in Dr Malthouse. He has shown over and over again how traditional and non-traditional modalities mesh to provide the best possible treatment outcomes. It is very sad when an island community loses such a knowledgeable doctor who does housecalls when his patients can't visit the clinic or he visits just to check up on them to see how they are doing. He has even responded to a "knock on the door" when making a neighbourly housecall, when an elderly lady who was visiting Denman had fallen. He visited that lady gave wonderful advice and relieved the family's anxious moments. Dr. Malthouse has also demonstrated that he cares about the whole community by offering many sessions of mindfulness training. This has helped many residents whether or not they are Dr. Malthouse's patients. The situation that we have been thrust into is not acceptable and Denman residents deserve better than to be treated by off-island doctors without the opportunity for residents to be consulted. Such a shame to lose such a dedicated doctor.

Anne Page

THE DOUGH BOY *By Leo Simmons*

ARTS&LIT

Like so many things, it began slowly and quietly. I'd taken up my usual position of staring, hands on hips, out over our domain from the front windows of our small but almost perfectly formed house. I – perhaps with a portent of what was to follow – fancied myself as the captain of an ocean liner surveying his command. Not that I command anything these days; our home is a cooperative haven of shared responsibilities and tasks, a place where conventions about gender-associated work are frequently ignored. Which is how we ended up outside, my wife atop an orchard ladder while I provided unhelpful advice at the same time as offering myself up as pudgy ballast on the end of a rope in our neighbour's front yard (angles, you see).

The twisted and split tree branch which my lady had spotted definitely needed to come down before the forecast snow event - described, depending upon where you looked, as everything from 'flurries' to 'significant amounts' - descended upon us and took the branch and our power line down. Since I have failed to fix the chainsaw as I resolved to do, we were reduced to using a pruning saw, and since my lady is the kind of woman who will prune anything she finds impudently bearing leaf, it was she who had claimed it.

She'd also claimed the ladder, muttering darkly about my foot problems, my terror of being higher off the ground than the thickness of my shoe soles, and a muffled something which I didn't quite catch, but which included the phrase 'new model'. Up she went, saw in hand, and began to attack the errant branch while I tried to ensure that the large limb fell anywhere except onto our power line. These days, you see, I am best employed as ballast or a dumb weight. C'est la vie. The important factors were these: it was cold, we had the wrong equipment for the job and most importantly for what followed, we had a total absence of expertise.

DEADLOCK AT MADRID, FIRESTORMS ^{OP/ED} IN AUSTRALIA *By Gwynne Dyer • Originally published Dec.17, 2019*

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," warned UN secretary general António Guterres as the 25th climate summit (COP25) opened in Madrid two weeks ago, and the multitude of delegates from more than a hundred countries presumably understood what he meant. But they ignored it anyway.

The 'point of no return' arrives in the mid-2030s, when the rising emissions of greenhouse gases (they are still rising, not falling) pushes the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent in the atmosphere up past 450 parts per million. 450 ppm of CO₂ drives the average global temperature up past +2°C (2 degrees higher than the pre-industrial average) and into runaway.

I'll stick to the facts: a sizeable branch was eventually sawn off. A wife was thankfully not struck by the falling branch. A large and - these days - significantly doughy husband proved himself to be an almost adequate counterweight for the tumbling timber. The power cables running from pole to house proved up to the task of fleetingly supporting some of the weight of a detached portion of tree. On a positive note, I used up my entire repertoire of grunts – some of which had not been used for many years.

The plus side was that we had undeniably provided some comic relief for our friendly neighbours. At one point I thought I caught, on the breeze, the faint tinkle of wheezy laughter, and when I looked up, our friend across the street was (suspiciously, if you ask me) hurrying away around the corner of his house, as if startled. We like to think of our antics as a little gift to our neighbourhood, and a reminder to all that if you want to watch something being done the wrong way, I'm your man... 🍷

In diplomatic-speak, what happens then is ‘dangerous climate change,’ but that is actually happening already, with carbon dioxide at 405 ppm and average global temperature ‘only’ 1.1°C higher. We are seeing firestorms in Australia, rising sea levels, catastrophic storms and melting glaciers.

What happens at 450 ppm is that the two degrees of warming caused by human beings trigger natural processes (‘feedbacks’ or ‘tipping points’) that also cause warming – and once they start, human beings cannot stop them. The Big Three feedbacks are the loss of the Arctic Ocean’s sea ice cover, the melting of the permafrost zone, and the release of vast amounts of CO₂ by the warming world oceans.

Guterres called it ‘the point of no return’ because after that we lose control. The warming will then continue even if human beings eventually stop all of their own emissions. We will be trapped on an ‘up’ escalator that delivers us into a world three, four, even five degrees hotter than the pre-industrial average.

That is exactly where the World Meteorological Organisation predicts we will be by the end of this century if current promises on emissions cuts are kept, but no more is done. Long before the end of the century that would mean the collapse of food production in the tropics and the sub-tropics, famines and huge refugee flows, mass death.

They never spell these things out at the climate summits, but almost everybody there knows them. And yet, once again, they failed to produce a deal that moves the process forward. The best that can be said is that they stopped a concerted attempt by the biggest emitters, led by Brazil and Australia, to gut the proposed rules for a global carbon market.

How can they be so blind to their own long-term interest in survival? The answer, alas, is that our evolutionary past of human beings has not made human societies good at long-term thinking. Moreover, human politics is dominated by those whose interests will be advanced or damaged by what the government does right now, not in fifteen years’ time. Take Australia, for example.

Australia is the driest continent, and as the heat mounts (much of the country is expecting temperatures in the low to mid-40s C this week) the number and scale of bushfires has exploded. The biggest blaze, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, has already burned over 400,000 hectares and is still growing.

But Australia is also the world’s biggest exporter of coal, mostly to China and Japan. Coal-mining only employs 38,000 Australians, but it brings in a lot of money, some of which inevitably ends up as political contributions that link the industry with all the Australian political parties.

That’s why, two years ago, Liberal (i.e. conservative) politician Scott Morrison brought a lump of coal into parliament. It was ‘clean’ coal, in the sense that it had been lacquered so that it wouldn’t dirty people’s hands. Morrison passed it around to his parliamentary colleagues saying “Don’t be afraid, don’t be scared, it won’t hurt you. It’s coal.”

ScoMo (as the Australian media have nicknamed Morrison, presumably because it sounds a bit like ‘scum’), is now prime minister, and as the country burns he continues to deny any link between burning coal and global heating. He offers his “thoughts and prayers” to the victims of the fires, but insists that climate change is only one of “many other factors” in fuelling the bushfires.

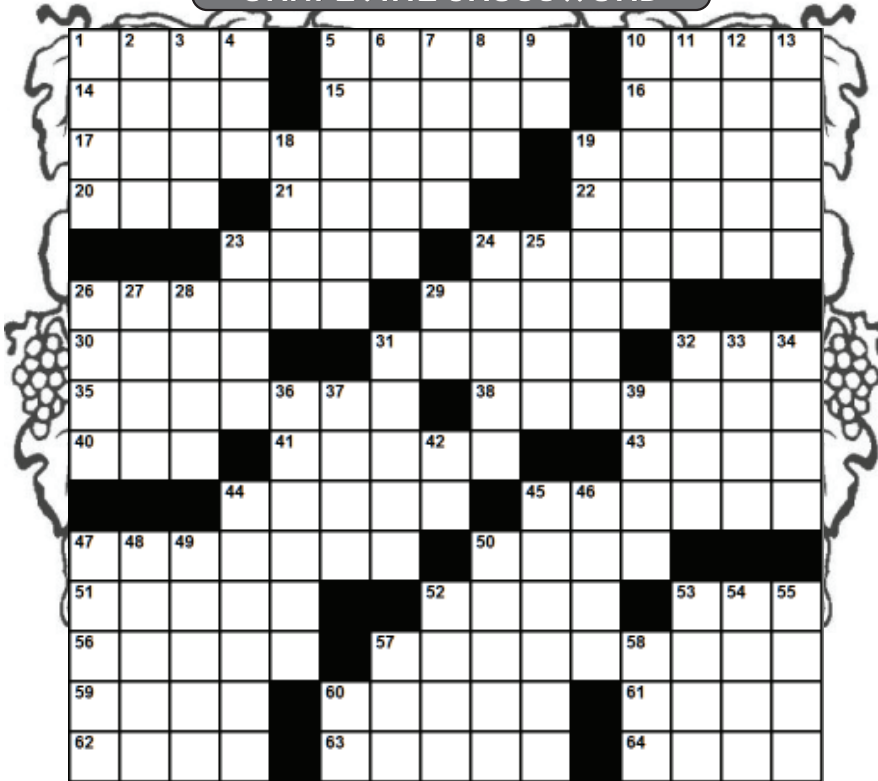
Deputy Prime Minister Deputy PM Michael McCormack takes an even more robust line, dismissing climate change as a concern of “raving inner-city lefties”. That will not endear him to the hundreds of families who have been burnt out, but there are millions of families who have not yet lost their homes, so this may still be a viable political position.

Of all the major emitters, only the European Union is taking its responsibilities seriously. The rest range from deeply conflicted countries like China and Canada, both aware that climate change is an existential threat but both hugely dependent on fossil fuels, to the outright deniers like Australia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

So one by one, we are missing all the exits on the Highway to Hell.



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Partiality
5. Cobb, e.g.
10. Fungi spore sacs
14. Curved doorway
15. Graph starter
16. Carobs
17. In an unknown place
19. Star in Virgo
20. Compass pt.
21. Chief
22. Episperm
23. Cross follower
24. Tile material
26. Halvah base
29. Court call
30. Warmonger
31. Activity area
32. Caught ya!
35. Positions properly
38. Needlework piece
40. Blighted tree
41. Cantata tunes
43. Jamaican fruit
44. Crossword patterns
45. Foreshadow
47. Amplify
50. Call up
51. Brazil's Sao
-

52. Funny sorts

53. Hundred bani
56. Tendon
57. Australian throw stick
59. Bakery fixture
60. Accord maker
61. Extra seed coating
62. Flat topped hill
63. All gone
64. Macdonald's partner

• DOWN •

1. Army site
2. Anemic's supplement
3. Crowning point
4. Common pronoun
5. Bailiwick
6. In the future
7. Byron's title
8. Breakfast
9. Pull off
10. Seem
11. Earthquake
12. Desert flora
13. Asimov or Hayes
18. To ---- it may concern
19. Little river
23. Going away party
24. Salad vegetable
25. Best of film
26. Be a blacksmith
27. Anthony of the alleys
28. Crawl, perhaps
29. If not
31. Digression
32. Aquatic plant
33. Hades

34. Extra dry

36. Constricted
37. Higher math
39. Knit opposite
42. Like
44. Lead ore
45. Paid assassin
46. Alleviate
47. City of salts
48. Artless
49. Half moon shapes
50. Type of semiconductor
52. Habituated
53. Fat for pastry
54. Camelot lady
55. Frightful
57. Animal squeezer
58. Actress Cassidy
60. That man

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• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •





• 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**

FOR SALE: 2006 FORD EXPLORER, 270,000km. Seats 7, runs very well, in good shape, well maintained. Clean, ready to go. Asking \$4800. 250-335-2576

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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.

• **SERVICES**

HIGHLY-EXPERIENCED DOG WALKER AND BOARDER now available on Denman! Going away

and need a safe, fun place for your pooch, for a few days? Or just need someone to walk your dog, when time or health doesn't allow? I provide a comfy home with lots of attention and exercise for dogs, at highly reasonable rates. Contact joelo554@hotmail.com or 604-868-1611 for more information.

PAINTING/DRYWALL REPAIR. Need a second set of hands for that project? I can help. ave experience in plumbing, electrical, framing, roofing, insulation/vapour barrier and many other things. Call Tom 250-218-7682 or email taucht@telus.net (Denman/Hornby)

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.

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335-0460

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

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MAGNIFICENT TOPSOIL, Bark Mulch, all gravels, Bison compost, Tree-work, site clean up, fir mill end firewood, roof tear off, demolition. High grade lumber. 30 years local Entpr. Call Dave 218-9667.(DI)

• **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

DENMAN'S CLIMATE ACTION Winter Solstice Community Vegan Potluck is Saturday, Dec. 21st @ 6:30 pm. Please bring a 100% plant-based dish (with ingredient list) to share! Back Hall. Info: 5-1209

THE WORK BC DENMAN OFFICE IS MOVING FOR THE NEW YEAR! We are moving to the new satellite office (VSSO) in the same building of the Hardware Store, Craft Store and Abraxas. You can access the office situated in the back garden through the parking lot. We are open every Wednesday mornings and travelling to Hornby every other week. Please see our schedule posted at the General Store board next to the public pay phone. If you wish to book an appointment, Please book through our Courtenay office at 250-334-3119. We would like to thank the Denman Activity Center for the use of their rental space this past 3 years. Happy Holidays! Dominique-Work BC

SOLSTICE FARMER'S MARKET at the Hornby Community Hall, Saturday Dec.21st, 11am-2pm, Lunch available, Vendors doors@9am, \$10.00/spot.

• **LOST&FOUND**

LOST DRAGONFLY NECKLACE on Nov. 18 11:40am ferry from Hornby. 335-0204 - high sentimental value.

• **RENTAL WANTED**

MATURE AND RELIABLE environmental professional looking for long-term rental, (preferably dog-friendly). I've long visited the Gulf Islands either as a woofer or visitor, and love the nature and culture. I'm a responsible, clean and reliable tenant who works remotely, with a low-impact lifestyle, and enjoy hiking, yoga, travel and volunteering. References and security deposits available. Contact Joel at 250-335-0980 or email: joelo554@hotmail.com

• **FOR RENT**

PRIVATE OFFICE SPACE FOR HIRE Contact Abraxas - 335-2731 or drop in for availability & rates.

• 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)
- Donna & Janessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)
- Sylvie Schroeder • Royal LePage Denman Island 335-2551 (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)
- 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)
- Guffers Supply & Install • kguffers@outlook.com • Kevin 335-1986 (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. Willa 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)
- Denman Works! • Tony Greeson 1-778-838-7110 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- House Cleaning & Massage • Ruth Kirwin 250-650-3132/250-335-0822 (D)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Physiotherapy & Acupuncture • Carmen B-Gautrais RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Tree Service - Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Tops n Toes • Mobile Haircuts & Footcare • Sandy Shaffer 778-585-9356 (D)
- Trueview Treecare, seniors' discount • Wildbill 898-7246 (D/H)
- Yoga Classes, Holistic Massage, 30 years exp. • Fiona Walker 335-1535 (D/H)

JANUARY CALENDAR
DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY DECEMBER 27TH
check out the calendar online
theislandsgrapevine.com
theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com
250-335-9188



NOTICE

Check out The Islands Grapevine on the web
• theislandsgrapevine.com •
to keep up to date and check out any extras that didn't make it into the printed copy.

THE COMING WEEK'S EVENTS

DENMAN ISLAND (DI) HORNBY ISLAND (HI)

THURSDAY 19

- THE SONGBIRDS DANCE BAND 6:30pm • The Thatch (HI)
- COMMUNITY SCHOOL WINTER SHOWCASE 10:30am •
Community School (DI)

FRIDAY 20

- CENTRAL PARK WALKING GROUP 3:30pm • (DI)
- CUMBERLAND READY MIX XMAS LIGHT TRUCK 5pm

SATURDAY 21

- COMMUNITY SOLSTICE CELEBRATION RITUAL 4:30pm
• United Church (DI)
- WINTER SOLSTICE VEGAN POTLUCK 6:30pm • Back
Hall (DI)

SUNDAY 22

- DEATH CAFE 11am • Guesthouse (DI)

MONDAY 23

TUESDAY 24

- DI UNITED & ST. SAVIOUR'S ANGLICAN CHRISTMAS
EVE SERVICE 4-5pm • United Church (DI)

WEDNESDAY 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THURSDAY 26

FRIDAY 27

SATURDAY 28

SUNDAY 29

MONDAY 30

TUESDAY 31

- NEW YEARS EVE DANCE with ROOTS ROUNDUP 8pm •
HAPPY NEW YEAR! Community Hall (DI)

WEDNESDAY 1

THURSDAY 2