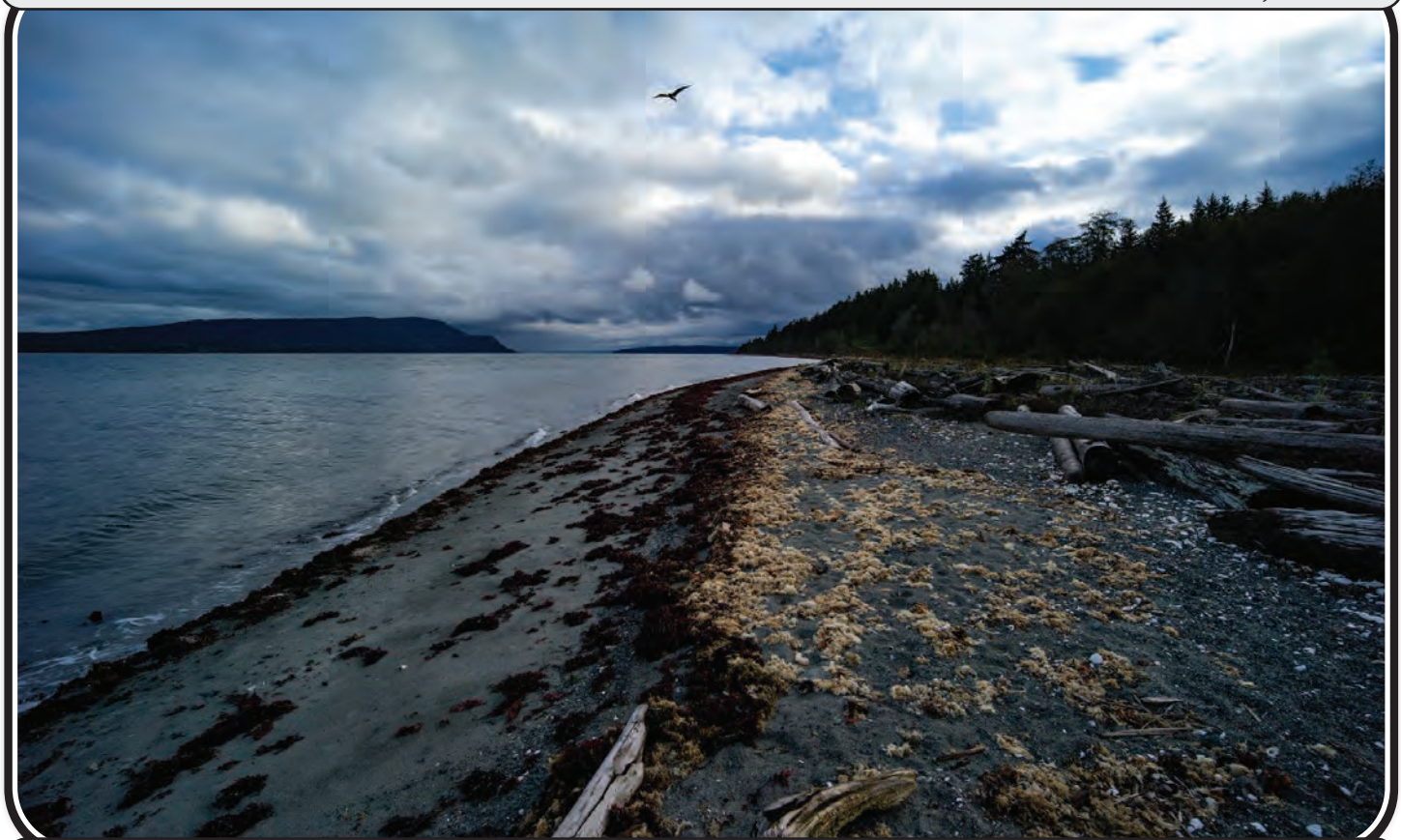




• "Autumn . . . the year's last, loveliest smile." • John. Howard Bryant •



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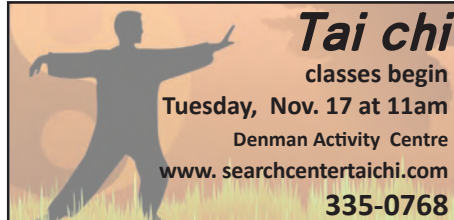
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Cover image: Approaching High Tide at Fillongley Park. Photo by Dreadful Imagery



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

Christmas Hampers

COMM INFO

By Katarina Meglic • Denman Island Community Education Society

Christmas is waiting around the corner and at DICES we are getting ready for the Christmas Hamper Program. If you want to help us create brimming hampers to help everyone on Denman happily through the Holiday season there are a few things you can do.

Help us fill the boxes by donating!

Gifts for children and adults are gratefully accepted at the Denman Hardware Store during Business Hours. For a wish list please see our website www.dices.ca. Donations are accepted until Saturday, December 19.

Non perishable food items are gratefully accepted at the Community School Portable (CAP Site) on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4-7pm

Cash and cheque donations are gratefully accepted at the General Store, and at the Community School Portable on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4-7pm or by e-transfer to dices.director@gmail.com (please specify Christmas Hamper in the memo). Donations over \$20 receive a tax receipt if you provide your mailing address.

Join in the spirit of the season by volunteering on Christmas Hamper day! This year the wrapping of presents and packing of hampers will take place on Dec 22, 9:30am-12:30pm at the Community Hall. To sign up to volunteer give us a call at 335-2058 or email us at dices.communityprograms@gmail.com. All volunteers will be required to wear a mask and to practice physical distance.

To sign up for a Christmas Hamper fill out a registration form and drop it off at the envelope outside the portable at the Community School before Monday, Dec 14th. We ask for some personal details so we can be sure the content of each hamper is appropriate for the recipient, but all requests remain confidential. The forms can be found at www.dices.ca, at the General Store, and at the Food Bank. Registrants can also contact us at 335-2058 or dices.communityprograms@gmail.com.

FreeStore Update

COMM INFO

By Krista English

FreeStore: Hours change effective November 14th SATURDAYS ONLY from 10AM - DARK. Additional COVID controls will be in effect 9am - 10am for seniors or others that prefer to shop when the store is freshest after days of inactivity. Masks will be mandatory during this hour.

Item donations on Saturday 10am until we close at dark. Dedicated location, lower level door at the old school. There is a little parking spot there, please don't block the recycling exit. We can't give you your bag or container back for quarantine and organizational purposes, please donate CLEAN and shelf ready items in plastic bags.

If you would like to help but can't spare time on Saturday you can show your support by dropping cash and/or lovenotes into the donation box or by donating your bottles and cans in the recycling depot. Funds will go to improving the space, paying for ads like this, and starting new initiatives like a basic computer clinic (yay Remy), building shelves, etc.

For those islanders that have not visited the Free



Store yet, we have books, toys, home decor, clothing, footwear, jackets, baby stuff, etc. If you are interested in booking a private free store experience for you and up to 9 of your friends, we are brainstorming the idea of selling \$20/hr bookings to raise funds.

Finally, look for a DI FreeStore Facebook group coming soon. We will likely use this for online auctions, item showcases, or special messaging. Oh yeah, and please don't leave your vehicle in the recycling lineup and shop. Exit the lineup and park elsewhere. If you are unable to shop in person but require something, please email: difreestore@gmail.com and we will see what we can do to help you out. Thank you for your support. Artwork donated by Red. 🍷

Fillongley Beavers & Salmon

By Mike Morrell • photos by Dreadful Imagery

COMM INFO

For several decades Denman community volunteers have been working to protect and enhance the small, struggling population of coho salmon that remain from a once more abundant run in Fillongley/Beadnell Creek. Beavers have periodically attempted to establish themselves in the lower reaches of the creek around the park, but in my 35 years of observation, they have never been able to maintain themselves there. In the last couple of years there has been more sustained beaver activity downstream of the park foot bridge, and I know many people are concerned about both the loss of trees and possible ill effects on the salmon.

I met with David Fairbairn and another long-time Denman coho steward at the creek last Sunday Nov 8. (We don't always agree about strategy, but I greatly value their knowledge.) Water level in the creek was low, but there was significant flow. At that time there did not appear to be any adult spawners in the creek, although the entrance had looked passable to them at high tide since at least the previous Thursday. There was quite a bit of decaying seaweed in the creek near the mouth, and there was probably little or no dissolved oxygen in the water there. So the fish were probably right to remain in the chuck for now.

Further up the estuary the water quality appeared to improve, and there was a little flow. Downstream of the big pool at the campground there was a substantial beaver dam, and there was similar dam upstream just below the park footbridge. Both dams would probably be a barrier to coho at Sunday's low water level, but likely passable at higher flow. Both dams had high-water channels carrying substantial flow around the dam on Sunday; these channels could become fishways at higher water. Also, there were 2 smaller, lower dams just upstream of the campground turnaround that had been breached by humans; coho that got that far could easily have passed through.

In most streams in our region, low summer flow is the most serious difficulty that coho must deal with. Coho fry spawned the previous fall must survive the summer and the following winter in the stream before going to sea in their second spring. Our creek is normally reduced to a series of isolated pools and puddles during the summer drought. At least some of the fry normally survive the drought, but they are very vulnerable to high temperatures and predation until the fall rains. The water retention and flow stabilization by upstream beaver dams and the excellent fry habitat in accessible beaver ponds and wetlands are helpful in reducing summer low-flow problems.

The adults that enter the stream in late fall need enough water upstream to ascend to their spawning areas between the park and the Pickles beaver pond. They also need high flows to wash out the stagnant water and rotten seaweed in the estuary and to open a channel through the sandbar at the creek mouth. Impassable migration barriers like beaver dams can also leave them stuck in the estuary.



Beaver dam with high water channel to the right

In the last 10 years I've observed mass mortalities of both downstream-migrant coho smolts in spring and upstream fall-migrant adults, apparently...continued on page 5...

TIDE TABLE

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

2020-11-12
(Thursday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
03:07	3.9	12.8
08:49	2.2	7.2
15:05	4.8	15.7
21:59	1.6	5.2

2020-11-13
(Friday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
04:15	4.2	13.8
09:44	2.5	8.2
15:38	4.8	15.7
22:39	1.1	3.6

2020-11-14
(Saturday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
05:17	4.5	14.8
10:38	2.8	9.2
16:12	4.9	16.1
23:20	0.7	2.3

2020-11-15
(Sunday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
06:15	4.8	15.7
11:32	3	9.8
16:48	4.8	15.7

2020-11-16
(Monday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
00:02	0.4	1.3
07:11	5	16.4
12:26	3.2	10.5
17:27	4.8	15.7

2020-11-17
(Tuesday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
00:45	0.2	0.7
08:04	5.1	16.7
13:22	3.4	11.2
18:08	4.6	15.1

2020-11-18
(Wednesday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
01:28	0.3	1.0
08:55	5.2	17.1
14:23	3.5	11.5
18:53	4.4	14.4

2020-11-19
(Thursday)

Time PST	Height (m)	Height (ft)
02:12	0.5	1.6
09:46	5.1	16.7
15:32	3.5	11.5
19:43	4.1	13.5



From the Crow's Nest: Cracker Jacks Further Conversations with Myself

ARTS&LIT

By William Thomas • willthomasonline.net

Whoa. Wait. Stop! What are you doing? Every week beginning in April 2019 we've avidly followed your seagoing love story. Now you've blown this nearly concluded fairytale to smithereens. Why not spare your readers – and Thea – the goriest details?

Thea okayed these revelations for publication decades ago. More recently, my secret self has repeatedly clashed with the Reporter that has defined me since J-School at Marquette.

The Reporter won.

My career began on the mid-60's streets of Milwaukee and Chicago and the mud at Woodstock. Since then, I've been compelled to render in words and photographs the most accurate recounting of events I've experienced – regardless of personal cost. Which leaves me bound by the oath of my profession to tell what went down without "fear or favor".

Writing as therapy.

I'm finding nothing remedial in re-opening old wounds.

So why?

Call it context. Legacy. I'm writing the official record of an historic Canadian voyage to honor *Celerity* and her people, literally brought together by "Kismet". My professional calling demands that I report our story honestly. That's where the lessons are.

Lessons...

Put a couple in a small boat for 40,000 sea-miles and there will be lessons. Remember, after Suva we sailed together for another four years – all the way to Hong Kong and Japan.

You call these episodes, "parables".

I just thought we were going for a sailboat ride. Now I've come to recognize the mythic arc of the Hero's Journey. It's all here: The "Quest". The "Return". Romance and tragedy. Battling personal demons. "Mate" "Captain" "Ocean" "Vessel-as-Grail-Cup" – all archetypes.

After much hand-wringing over what I could omit while remaining true to Thea and history, I realized I was trying to justify the cowardice that whitewashes too many "autobiographical" accounts. And most reporting today. I needn't have worried. I'm captive to my own narrative. The Story has taken over.

You're just along for the ride.

Aren't we all?

What about those choices you mentioned?

As Lao Tzu wrote: "Those who buck the river will swallow a lot of water." It's up to each of us to make the course changes needed to remain aligned with the main

swell of our destiny. We were in service to *Celerity*. And something much bigger than ourselves.

When did you sense this?

From the beginning. Just not in Joseph Campbell's terms.

Clearly there's more to this writing practice than "taking dictation" from your subconscious.

Better not talk about it. Except to mention 3-D surround-sound memories, ink-smudged logbook entries, and an old unopened letter I've just come across from...

But I'm skipping ahead. As long as inspiration flows, I'll remain a writer surprised by the clock after wrestling with a paragraph for most of the morning.

You keep referring to yourself as "captain". Do you have a Master's Certificate?

No. I am definitely not qualified to command a 50,000 tonner.

Deckhand license?

Sorry.

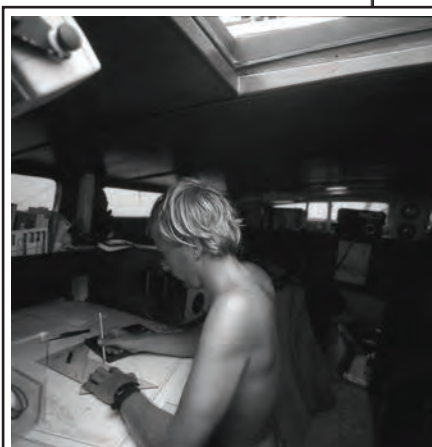
Cereal carton membership card?

I *did* obtain an official Captain Midnight Decoder from an upended Cracker Jack box. But regrettably, over the intervening decades, I've misplaced it.

Yet steam and sailing shipmasters – even a U.S. Navy navigator – have called you, "captain".

That's code for: "To get his far in that little boat, he must know what he's doing." This title of respect can only be conferred by accepting unrelenting responsibility for a seacraft and the lives of all who sail in her.

If Thea had perished under your command, any subsequent inquiry would have referred to you as the "captain" of a British-registered sailing vessel.



*Author navigating while underway
in the South China Sea.*

And rightly so. No prime minister or president exercises the sole authority – or knows the special solitude – of a master at sea. Of the three yacht skippers I met who later made fatal decisions, two went down with all hands. The third wished he had.

You must mean...

In the Marquesas we befriended the solo skipper of a Searunner trimaran, distraught because the parents of his fiancée would not let her accompany him. “Too dangerous,” they said. When we next saw him in Pago, he was ecstatic. The Princess of his Kingdom was joining him there. A...

Pago Pago must be cursed.

The American possessions we called at were very troubled places.

You met her.

A real sweetheart. The letter sent from Suva proclaimed their safe arrival and shared bliss. Made even better by his dad’s flying down for a sail.

Then a hurricane warning deliberately downplayed by the Fijian Government “to prevent panic” led him to remain at anchor with another yacht in an offlying lagoon.

The eye passed directly over them. Before their vessel sank, the couple onboard the keelboat had relocated ashore. But the tri was blown apart and capsized by intense overpressure and monster gusts.

His father told him to save himself and surrendered to the sea. His fiancée was torn from his arms and lost. Unfortunately, *he survived.*

Losing Thea overboard was my constant nightmare. But faced with a similar situation on a remote atoll, *I made the same call.* Our information was better. And we were luckier. After Thea declined to shelter in a concrete church ashore, our three biggest anchors dragged in shrieking blackness overnight. But the little grapnel I’d wedged into a sunken WWII landing craft... held.

*Photo by Thea Mortell
Scan by King Anderson*



...continued from page 3... due to extremely low oxygen in the estuary. Water cascading through, over, and around beaver dams becomes well oxygenated and mitigates low-oxygen conditions for some distance below the dam. This appeared to be happening last Sunday

So, are the beavers good or bad for our precarious Beadnell coho?
Well, both—depending on circumstances:

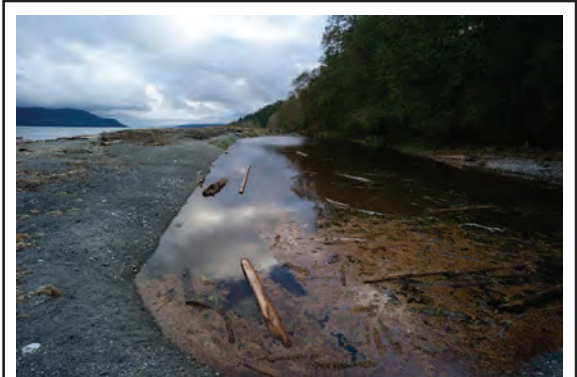
Beaver dams in the headwaters at Chickadee Lake and Pickles are essential for maintaining minimal flows through the summer. And if beaver are able to sustain themselves in the lower reaches of the creek, their ponds provide excellent habitat for fry through the critical summer period. Dams in the estuary area help remedy low oxygen in the estuary. But, of course, if downstream dams prevent the adults from getting to the spawning areas, that’s it for that season.

Beaver and coho have co-existed for many millennia, and generally the beaver are seen as a net benefit to the fish, even though migration blockages can be a problem. Typically coho spawners travel as far upstream as possible and wait below obstacles until seasonal rains increase the flow, which often improves fish passage past obstacles.

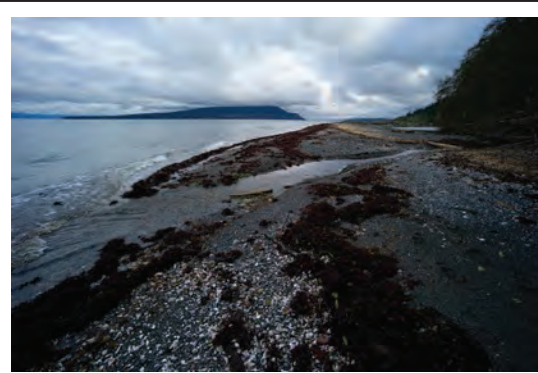
Early salmon conservationists saw beavers as a major problem and routinely destroyed dams—also beavers if possible. More recently, best practice has favored a much lighter touch. If fish are clearly blocked by a beaver dam, workers may open a small notch in the dam to allow enough flow to attract the fish, who typically respond quickly and move upstream. The beavers typically patch the breach the next night.

What do we do now?

At Fillongley, the key considerations regarding breaching the dams are stream-flow, water quality, and habitat both below and above the dam. If the adults enter the estuary too early and get stuck there under low-oxygen conditions, then opening a passage through the obstacles may be the best option. However, if there is enough water moving through the dams, the water quality is likely to be acceptable for some distance into the estuary. The other important question is whether there



Decaying seaweed in the lower estuary



The passage through the bar at the creek mouth

is adequate water upstream for the adults to find cover and enough good water; if there’s inadequate upstream habitat, there’s little point in breaching the dam.

A final issue: who is to make the decisions and breach the dams if appropriate? DFO doesn’t have the resources to steward the many remnant populations like our coho. There is no other government institution with the skills and resources to do

it. There is also no longer any local volunteer organization to monitor and deal with problems. In recent years, some veterans of decades of volunteer work with Denman salmon have done what they could to help the spawners get past obstacles. And others who notice obstructions sometimes take the actions that seem right to them. And there’s been no systematic monitoring of the effects of any actions or non-actions.

...continued on page 6...

...continued from page 5...

My personal inclination in situations like this, where any action may produce either positive or negative impacts, is to intervene only minimally, and then only if the problem and solution are obvious. Otherwise, I'm inclined to let events unfold and let nature take its course. The heavy rain and high tides forecast for the weekend may resolve the problem for this year.

See something of note and unsure what, if anything, to do?

Email: mmorrell@uniserve.com or PM me on Facebook. 🍷

Peter Walford • A Dentist a Bus and an Idea

SPECIAL FEATURE

By Anthony Gregson



Maybe it's about boats – dentistry and boats. There are similarities. “Boats,” says Peter Walford, owner/operator of the Dental Bus, “teach you about structure and forces and self-reliance. Dentistry is similar.” “In both activities, you are on your own, you and the situation. You're in a jam, maybe on a lee shore with a dragging anchor - or chair-side doing an extraction and something breaks - and you have to handle that on its own terms.” There have always been boats in Peter's life. Maybe that's why the dental bus seems a sort of vehicular boat, shuttling between Hornby and Denman.

If there is one thing iconic of life on Denman and Hornby, it's that dental bus, the ultimate example of DIY and island independence, the singlehanded delivery for three decades of a sophisticated

medical service where there can be no mistakes or substandard practice.

Now 74 (though you wouldn't know it), Walford is looking to sell. Like all businesses on the islands that deliver much needed services to the public, their sale makes us hold our breath. It takes a special combination of self-reliance, community commitment, and adaptability to the exigencies of island life to make a go of it. It's not for everyone, let alone a dentist, where there is a lucrative living to be more easily made close at hand. But those people do somehow turn up, and every time, it is a very particular story and not just an investment.

It begins with Peter's dentist father, Wally Walford, who graduated from McGill in 1933 and became the first periodontist (gum specialist) in Montreal. This was a time when the profession was just starting to branch out. Head of McGill's Periodontal dDepartment, a contributor to textbooks and journals, Wally Walford was, Peter says, a renaissance man, a mixture of blue and white collar. “He could recite the entire history of early Quebec, but also fix and make things with his son – go carts, hydroplanes, kite skaters, ice boats built from lawnmower motors.” These were key lessons for Peter in self-reliance.

Driven by the need to manage an extraordinary patient workload, Wally Walford did the only thing open to him. He kept raising his fees until he ended up under control. Hence, he specialized in treating the gums of the rich: “the people with huge old third generation estates, big portfolios, cranky dowagers. He was good with these people and knew how to work with them,” Peter recalls. But it wasn't for me. “It was the sixties, and everything was breaking out.” After qualifying for pre-med (and pre-dentistry) he spent four years at other sorts of work before he realized he had more in common with his father than he had previously admitted and returned to enroll and graduate from dentistry at McGill in 1975.

Even so, he did not attempt to take up his father's practice. Instead he headed to British Columbia, attracted by its mythology of personal freedom, a place where you could live independently, even in a float house. “Ontario and Quebec were

sort of like Britain in the nineteenth century; all about property. Every inch was allocated, and you belonged or you didn't. You could drive for hours and never see an unmown lawn . . .” But rejecting his home turf was not easy, even if it was a way of finding out what really counted for him. “For many years I felt like a sort of refugee from Quebec politics here, a displaced person. Only in my later years with all my children here and six grandkids in Courtenay (dare we mention the 800 active patients?) have I come to feel that this is now my land, home and community.”

After five years in Vancouver associated with various practices, Peter took the leap and bought a three-chair practise in Duncan, where he also lived on a boat. “I was making lots of money but dentistry at that pace became all about efficient time and motion, with little space to talk to people though I would feel drawn to them and life story.” After two years he downsized to Cumberland where he set up a two-chair practice. He didn't want a lot of money and went so far as to barter his services through a local, on-line system with a currency of green dollars. Though the system ultimately collapsed, he was eventually able to use the credits to help pay for his first dental bus.

Cumberland never really took off. “I didn't feel much kinship with the core community.” “It was a welfare town back then, nobody had much education, they didn't ask a lot of questions about the bigger world.” But the patients he saw from Denman and Hornby islands, they were happening! So the first dental bus project began with the help of green dollar people.

It was completed in five months, thanks to the green dollar aid and his dental supply man who had a knack for spotting all kinds of good deals on pre-owned equipment. This first bus shared equipment with the Cumberland practice - he would load up instruments and

large items such as X-ray processor and autoclave, and spend a couple of days on Denman and Hornby. At first it ran for four days a month, but after two years, following a big rise in ferry rates, demand grew to eight days.

Cumberland finally came to an end after the mayor bitterly failed to keep a promise on rezoning. There followed a period of 5 years where Walford had a time-share arrangement with a Courtenay clinic, practicing Saturdays and Mondays, and also did locums up and down Vancouver Island to meet the economic needs of his growing family of four. The locums reminded him how much money there was being made in conventional practice. More than that, they restored his confidence: "What I was doing was reputable, as good as anyone else's."

By then he was married to his Hornby sweetheart, Robin, and they were raising a blended family. After 17 years the second dental bus, the one we know today, came into being. Peter bought a second retiring school bus and built a shelter over it on a corner of his property on Shingle Spit Road. This time, the renovation experience was different. "It lasted for four years. I would come home every day, eager to do the work, and install some little thing. Any obstacle that got in the way, I would stop and roll it back until it was a smooth meditation to get the piece right." Sometimes he would have to stop for weeks to get tools, or get organized, but in the end "it was a great source of pleasure doing the conversion." That is why, Walford believes, the bus works so well aesthetically and functionally, "because it flows from that sense of integration" "And then people started helping me", becoming an interactive experience with the many craftspeople amongst his patient group.

By the time the bus was completed in 2003, Walford was a changed man. "I knew I was a craftsperson. I knew that careful, integrated, timeless building mentality, and I was at my physical best, meditating and running triathlons."

The completion of the bus was followed by what, in dental terms, Walford can only describe as a creative explosion. He took his craftsmanship to a new level. That August he attended a program given by Richard Tucker, the world's foremost exponent of cast gold technique.

Gold, you say. Isn't that old school? Only for the well-heeled?

Walford agrees but points out that the heart of gold technique is preserving tooth structure, minimally destroying teeth and aiming at maximum lifespan. After all, the goal of contemporary dentistry, ever since flossing and fluoride came in, is tooth preservation. To Walford, cast gold is "a philosophy of conservative tooth restoration rather than the more prevalent approach of full crowns, which grind off so much structure that the tooth resembles an ice cream cone." He never liked the destructiveness of that method because once the structure is gone, it's gone forever. "There's not much to that, not much thinking," he feels. "The lab does all the work. Cast gold is a thinking man's game. You use everything you've got and think long term. It is intellectually very precise."

Now that he was installing less destructive crowns for those who could afford them, he started to feel better, but he had to step out of his world to get there. "Tucker's study format was you didn't just talk about this. You sat down with other dentists in a large clinic and did the work, took pictures, discussed it, and everyone crowded around the chair, as confreres." The method Peter wanted to develop was using the new adhesive white fillings to do the same work as cast gold, but less expensively for the patient. But search as he did all the way down to California and across Canada, he couldn't find any such study group. So, he established one with six dentists from Parksville and the Comox Valley, getting approval from the dental College as a mentor in the process. Their studies were complemented by on-stage live demonstrations unique to BC dental gatherings.

At the same time, Walford also became intensely interested in a better understanding of the materials used in big "composite" reconstructions. "For normal patients, many materials will work, but for a clencher or a grinder, they are not going to hold up. I couldn't count on long term durability." There was a great deal more to

understand and "Eventually I realized that I could not explain the engineering platform for the use of the composite materials in less than a full day lecture."

Now a recognized mentor of radical tooth restoration, Walford says he has never tried to "make a business of it", but he has an extensive teaching website on his methods and his patients have benefitted. "I developed a way of taking loose teeth that most dentists would have trashed and holding the teeth together with precise inlays (which he learned from Tucker) and white cements, for an invisible method of bracing weak teeth..". He has done 500 of these and says they are all still there and working. With the old technique, "there was a fifteen percent annual failure. Unacceptable."

As one enters the dental bus, grasping the stile of a polished tree branch to climb the stairs into the cozy interior of the bus with its serene birchwood panelling, who would have guessed such intensity? Later, in the chair, getting a political education staring up at all those buttons and badges glued to the ceiling promoting every known cause?

As the only clinic in town with over 800 active patients, Walford has an outsize impact on the dental health of both islands. But he is sanguine about public health policy. He admits he has avoided getting involved in public education

...continued on page 8...



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...continued from page 7...

and debate about dental care because of some disappointments. He once attempted to teach home care workers how to floss their clients, but no one would do it, not even in a training context on each other wearing gloves. He is in favour of a government-funded dental care program and was involved in the brief experiment in BC with Denticare which today survives only as a benefit for children and adults under tightly specific circumstances. He knew it wouldn't last because, to insure the status quo, you are swimming against a fierce tide of uncontrolled but preventable disease. He thinks a deep community prevention program, such as seen in some Scandinavian countries, is the way forward. Our mouths are under constant siege from too much sugar and other foods that feed decay. To get this unrecognized epidemic of ill oral health under control, "You'd have to restrict supermarkets in selling certain foods, whole aisles would be empty." Food labels tell you all about calories and cholesterol; maybe they should add dental health?

White bread packaged like cigarettes with images of rotten teeth? Anyone?

He remembers what dental practice was like before fluoride had its impact."

It was typical for a teenager to come in and I would have to cut out every surface where the teeth touch, front to back, cut out the surfaces and replace them with silver amalgam. That was routine. Since fluoride toothpastes have become universal, we hardly ever see that any more."

Now he is concerned about seniors whose teeth often fall apart in later years. "They have crowns and bridges, everything restored beautifully, the legacy of pre-fluoride damage, and it all starts to fall apart in their later years. I ask them what toothpaste they use and nine times out of ten, it's fluoride free because they think it's healthier." A regular program of brushing with fluoride paste has kept them going for decades, but the moment they stopped using fluoride, they relapsed. Decay is relentless, a nasty biofilm disease, full of tragedy and loss. With better foods, community-based hygiene education, and other preventatives like fluoride, much of society's dental ills pain can be avoided. It is sort of the climate change of human health; avoided because it seems too hard to fix.

Ah well, there is Peter and Robin's garden, where they grow half their food. Gardening for your teeth, with careful attention to trace minerals like selenium from seaweed, planting for chromium deficiency – now there's a concept. Walford laments the lack of public discussion of the link from soil to health, hints at the possibilities of fascinating studies.

But right now, as we talk, he has a model of a trimaran sailboat, one of six he has owned, ingeniously designed to fold up to normal boat width at quayside, reducing wharfage fees. After years of rebuilding other designer's boats, it's the first time he has built a boat from scratch to his own plans. BC's ten thousand islands await. As to the fate of the practice, Walford says that there are plenty of extraordinary dentists with hobbies and skills to take on the dental bus. Perhaps someone, unhappy in a mall with a three-chair practice, five assistants, overhead of forty grand a month and everything running pedal to the metal, someone might find the whole idea of a low-key dental bus somewhat appealing. Unlike Peter, they won't have to figure it all out.

Fingers crossed, but we will miss this guy. 🍷

Comox Valley Emergency Program

By CVRD

COMM INFO

Comox Valley Emergency Program offering evacuation guideline sessions for Hornby and Denman Island residents
November 10, 2020

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) will be offering Hornby and Denman Island residents a free online information session to review new evacuation guidelines specific to their communities.

"The guidelines being introduced were developed in collaboration with numerous first response agencies and other stakeholders, some of whom will be taking part in the presentation," explains Deputy Emergency Program Coordinator, Comox Valley Emergency Program, George Doerksen. "We are encouraging Hornby and Denman Island residents to register for their community session to learn more and ask questions."

Registration for the free online {Zoom} sessions will be required.

Denman Island residents:

Tuesday, November 24, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Register by visiting: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.P-lans (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.Qlans>).

Hornby Island residents:

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Register by visiting: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.P-lans (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.Qlans>).

To review the guidelines and register for a session please visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.P-lans (<http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/emergency.Qlans>). 🍷

Living Well • Week 32 • Christmas is Coming

COMM INFO

By Verna Isbister

This is normally the time of year that we begin planning the Olde Tyme Christmas Dinner on Denman Island, which usually takes place on the Sunday before Christmas week. Unfortunately, this year we will not be having the traditional community dinner. Having up to five hundred people in the hall, singing carols, sharing food, sitting in close proximity and visiting with our Island neighbours is not in the Christmas cards for this year. We do, however, have a plan to be "joyful and triumphant."

Over these many months we have been called to be flexible, creative and generous. With that in mind, the Farm to Family Program, Better at Home Program and the Olde Tyme Community Christmas Dinner volunteers will join festive forces and continue providing a traditional hot turkey dinner to our elders at home, who need some extra Christmas cheer. The social history of this community has been one of service.

Over thirty years ago, Mike and Diane Comeau, saw a need at Christmas and thought of a way to meet it. They invited Islanders, who were alone for the holidays, to share a turkey dinner with them at the Denman Island General Store. Over the years, their party grew. They passed the baton, or Christmas cracker, to Gloria Michin, who moved the event to the big hall and invited all of the Island to come for dinner. Gloria stayed up all night cooking turkeys in various downtown locales. She assembled an impressive roster of volunteers. In 2015, Gloria passed on her Christmas binder and mentored my husband and I in the art of planning the community dinner.

Last December, the Christmas dinner was attended by over four hundred happy revelers. The event brings out the best in Islanders and the volunteers. Folks were greeted at the door by choirs, served hot apple cider and serenaded with accordion music from Dr. Ron and special music from Kevin Mitchell, Tai and Ekou. Volunteers served a full course turkey dinner and then proceeded down the buffet tables to enjoy the salads and desserts provided by the guests. Coffee is supplied by the Guest House, tea from the Denman Island Tea Company and apple juice from East Cider Orchard and Orkney Farms. A highlight of the evening is the arrival of Santa. This year, we hope that Santa may make a special appearance at a different location so, "You better watch out, you better not cry ... Santa Claus is coming to town."

The party has been supported by many local businesses and donors and a roster of almost one hundred volunteers. We are so grateful for their generosity. This year, we are looking for a few more masked drivers to deliver meals on Sunday, Dec. 13. If you are interested please e-mail: vernaaisbister@hotmail.com.

These times call for creative and joyful solutions. So get ready:

*Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green (no snow please)
Here we come a-wand'ring (How long is this driveway?)
So festive to be seen.
Love and joy come to you
And to you a wassail too;
And God bless you and send you some
Happy Christmas cheer,
And God send you, happiness, my dears!*

* wassailing-meaning "be in good health"- folks going from house to house at Christmas offering food, drink, carols and good cheer!



Denman Island
Community Education Society

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 24th, 2020
at 2:45 pm.

At the Community Hall

Please dress warmly

Join us: To summarize this eventful year and to look towards what is to come



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Denman Seniors and Museum Society

November 16, 2020 7:00 PM

This meeting will be on-line by Zoom. Please notify Tony Gregson (board secretary) at 778-838-7110 or nwaat01@gmail.com to receive the invite. *following address if you plan to attend:* denmanresource@gmail.com

Local Updates

By Islands Trust

COMM INFO

Lək Wəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Islands Trust invites the public to their upcoming Eelgrass: A Climate Hero webinar, free to all on the evening of November 24.

Presenters Aimee McGowan and Victoria Postlethwaite, both graduates of Simon Fraser University's Resource and Environmental Management master's program, and Nikki Wright, Executive Director of SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, will guide participants through the vital relevance of eelgrass to the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust Area is comprised of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres in the Salish Sea.

Webinar attendees will learn about the benefits of *Zostera marina* – which include commercial benefits to our fisheries and tourism sectors among many others. The presentation will also cover how best to care for eelgrass meadows in local communities, so that those benefits are not lost.

Specifically, attendees will close the evening with a deeper understanding of: Top benefits that eelgrass, the little-known hero plant, provides to the marine ecosystem

Blue carbon and the role it plays in climate change mitigation strategies

Simple things that Trust Area community members and others can do to restore and protect eelgrass meadows

"This is the third webinar offered in our climate action speaker series, and we hope everyone will enjoy it," said Islands Trust Council Chair and cold-water scuba diver Peter Luckham. "I can tell you first hand that eelgrass is fascinating, from its role sequestering blue carbon to acting as a nursery for countless sea stars, nudibranchs, and fish within the Trust Area and in coastal communities around the world."

The webinar will take place online via Zoom Videoconferencing on Tuesday, November 24, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm; to register, go to <https://bit.ly/3lPzjNK>

Two other webinars in the climate action speaker series are:

Rainwater Harvesting – watch the recording at <https://bit.ly/3iFNB0y> Ecosystem-based Adaptation – watch the recording at <https://bit.ly/3kgOTzZ>

For more information on the climate action speaker series program, go to <https://bit.ly/2EGkRX8>

About the Presenters

Nikki Wright

Nikki has served as the Executive Director of SeaChange Marine Conservation Society since 1998 and as Co-Chair of the Seagrass Conservation Working Group since 2001. Eelgrass mapping, restoration, and conservation are part of the working agenda of

SeaChange (eelgrass maps for all islands within the Islands Trust Area can be found at <http://www.islandstrustconservancy.ca/initiatives/marineconservation/eelgrass-mapping/>). Ms. Wright is the Project Coordinator for the Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project and is author of two articles: Eelgrass as Teacher and First Nations Science.

Victoria Postlethwaite

Victoria graduated from SFU's Masters in Resource and Environmental Management program, with a research focus on measuring carbon storage in seagrass eco-

systems in Clayoquot Sound, B.C. This work was completed in collaboration with Parks Canada and the tri-national Commission for Environmental Cooperation and published and presented internationally with her research partner, Aimee McGowan. Victoria has worked in fishery management and ecological restoration and currently works as a Sustainability Coordinator for Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Aimee McGowan

Aimee graduated from SFU's Masters in Resource and Environmental Management program, with a research focus on assessing the extent, density, and above- and below- ground biomass carbon of eelgrass meadows in Clayoquot Sound, B.C. This work was completed in collaboration with Parks Canada and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Her research was published and presented internationally with her research partner, Victoria Postlethwaite. Aimee has worked in marine ecology and entomology and currently works as a Land Use Planner at the Agricultural Land Commission, where she contributes to managing agricultural land on Vancouver Island.

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies

representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.



Publisher's Notes

Hands up who caught the Fake News in last week's issue?

While you can't see me at current I can tell you that my arm isn't raised. Turns out I broke a cardinal rule by accepting a submission past deadline. The flurry of activity that intensifies in the lead up to each week's printing can sweep one away, if not careful. While the piece was no doubt submitted with good intent, my neglect in verifying its content caught me out. Deadlines exist for a reason. Something I'm still learning.

As reputations go, the Grapevine is committed to its job of keeping islanders informed to the best of our capability, so acknowledging when we've fallen short of this bar is no less important. Taking a page from recent events south of the border though, *I refuse to accept defeat!* Rather, I pledge to do better... for you, and for the Grapevine.

This isn't to say that I didn't bellow "Damn it!" upon learning of my slip up. *And so fell the dominoes...* It's rumoured that local wildlife photographer, Gerry Ambury, lost a potential award winning photo courtesy of my outburst, the bird leaping

startled out of frame at that critical moment. Apologies Gerry. Further to this, our island's small but busy beaver population, incapable of discerning a silent 'N', considered my cry some form of challenge. You can read about the significance of *their* work in Mike Morrell's article about the Beadnell Estuary.

Keeping things local, be sure to check out Tony Gregson's article on Dr. Peter Walford and his dental bus. On the heels of last issue's failings I can confirm Tony's piece *was* vetted by the good Dr. himself so, alongside an article about beavers, Issue #1458 bounces back with some **real** bite! 🍷



Weapons by Thomas Provençal

*What's with all the weapons
we methodically produce?
with hopes of self-protection
and fears they're put to use.
Why create a world
that is bristling with bombs?
fascinated with destruction,
ignoring energy that calms.
Greed is at the source
of this dichotomous demise.
Instead of sharing Nature's gift
we tighten corporate ties.
Money is the energy
that keeps the factories lit.
Happiness and love for life
are mired in this shit!*

The Night That Might Never Have been, Did Not Seem to Want to End, And Yet, It Finally Did.

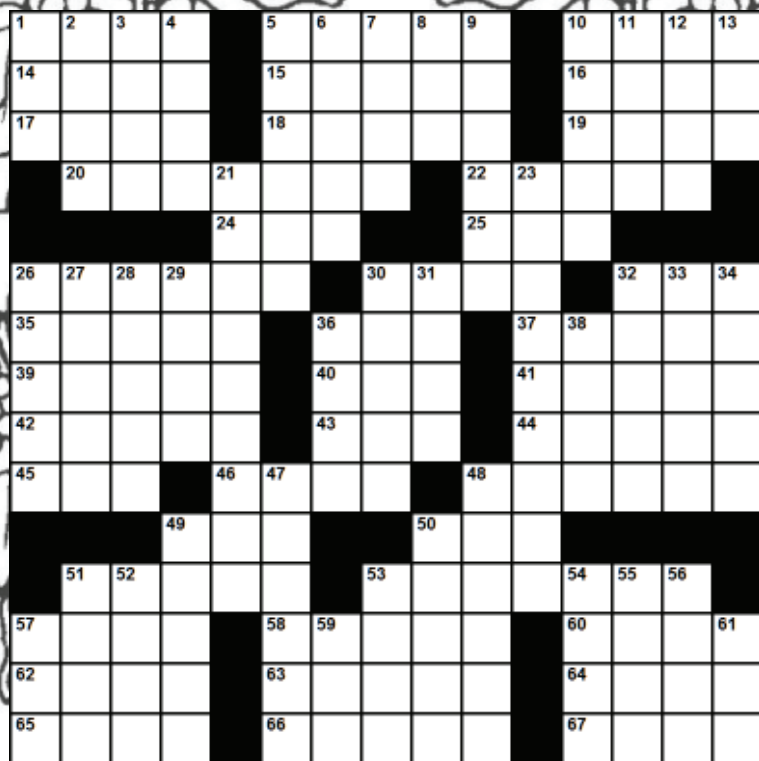
Bill Engleson • www.engleson.ca

*Brandy sniffered. Lasagna baked.
Settled in to await the news.
Who will wear the President's shoes?
Will he bellow, "that news is faked!"
These past four years, my poor brain's ached.
His every word a bleak chemtrail,
his every step, a coffin nail.
And now, this show, democracy's test,
a voting scheme, a hornet's nest:
Breath in! Breath out! Inhale! Exhale!*

Full Turtle by Alan Black

*At the feet of the sky
the gray closing in,
he goes full turtle,
crawling into his dank shell
with the sweat of the mind,
the dark ink of the soul,
he will make a ballad,
he'll sing in the
spring.*

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Assess
5. Cymbal sound
10. Gee's kin
14. Bolster up
15. Bane of pool owners
16. Capable of
17. French Sudan, now
18. Board
19. Evil grin
20. Ohioan
22. Dramatize
24. Archaic
25. 18-wheeler
26. Identifying documents
30. Fresh air foiler
32. Actor O'Brien
35. Dwelling
36. Barely manage
37. Shake a leg
39. Sub arctic forest
40. Be the victor
41. Boy scout unit
42. City in W. Germany
43. Australian runner
44. Back comb
45. Born as
46. Star Trek speed factor
48. Partial
49. Droop
50. Amount of money

51. Dried coconut

51. Dried coconut meat
53. Smarty pants
57. Sullen
58. Humid
60. Opinion page, briefly
62. Days of old
63. Hearing related
64. Decorated metalwork
65. Alternative word
66. Engraved pillar
67. Exclusively

• DOWN •

1. 45 or 78, e.g.
2. Bedouin tribesman
3. Fragrant gum
4. Big story
5. Caravan animals
6. Bridges of Hollywood
7. Feverish situation
8. Bernardino beginner
9. Different, pref
10. Soviet labor camp
11. Cartel since 1961
12. Cancel a dele
13. 90 degrees from vert.
21. 1950s Asian conflict
23. Dark
26. Church plates
27. Humble
28. Aplomb
29. Apply rickrack
30. Cut corners
31. Cafe card
32. Malay canoes
33. Came up
34. Keyed in data
36. Big pitcher
38. Plastic ingredient
47. Colorful lizards
48. Move busily
49. Joyride
50. Fiber for rope
51. Beatnik's all right
52. Not his and hers
53. Cablegram
54. Be present at
55. Current with
56. Cry out
57. Change the locks
59. Alibi
61. Susan of L.A. Law

Mr. Stofer

www.stofergallery.com



He remembered

THE ISLANDS
Grapevine

DEC CALENDAR

deadline is

FRIDAY NOV 20TH

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

250-335-9143

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• FOR SALE

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• COMMUNITY NOTICES

DENMAN ISLAND Preschool/Blackberry Lane (BBL) is very pleased to advise that we have been approved as beneficiaries in the Thrifty's Smile Card Fundraising Program. If you still have a card previously issued by BBL, please continue/resume using

it to purchase groceries at Thiftys. For more information or to receive a Smile Card please contact Gloria at 335-0730.

DENMAN ISLAND Growers and Producers Alliance AGM & Growers' Forum Saturday November 14th, 2020 @ Community Hall

3 – 4:15 p.m. Growers' Forum

4:30 – 5 p.m. GPA AGM

We are holding a Growers' Forum prior to our AGM. We want growers to come help us brainstorm and vision the future of agriculture on Denman Island. COVID PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

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

• EMPLOYMENT

DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY EDUCATION Society invites applications for Program Coordinator and /or Teen Night staff. The candidate should be experienced in delivering programs for children and youth and have strong written and verbal communication skills. Must be a reliable individual, willing to work evenings and weekends. Find a full job description at dices.ca, submit resume to dices.director@gmail.com by Nov 16

WANNA GET YOUR HANDS on some chocolate? Come join our production team at Denman Island Chocolate. Full or part time available. Email dichoc@telus.net

• MISSING

CAT MISSING - small, black short-hair with one clipped ear, north Lacon Rd. area. Recently relocated from south end, so could be traveling. If spotted, please feed and contact DI MEOW @ 335-1209. Thanks!

• WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Stationary bicycle Please call 250-335-2069

• 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)

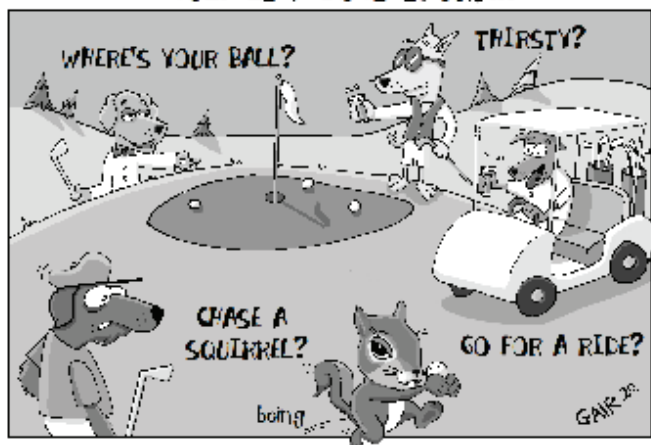
• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoepfner 335-2037 (D/H)
- Bobcat & Compact Excavator • Steve Isaak 335-1853 (D/H)
- 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)
- Gutters Supply & Install • Kevin 667-3233/335-1986 (All)
- Kinetic Electric, licenced, bonded & insured 335-1741 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec-Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation 335-3145 (D/H)
- Denman Renaissance • tile & stone installation 334-6644 (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 & Cisterns • Steve Isaak 335-1853 (All)

• SERVICES •

- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac 778-992-0165 (D/H)
- Acupuncture, Herbs • Dr. Willo Walker, Dr. TCM 335-1535 (D/H)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- DB Excavations & Clearing • Dorianbaker56@gmail.com • call or text
465-1889 (D)
- Denman Works! • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)
- Edwardsen Tree Service • Jered 250-580-7127 (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Physiotherapy • Christopher Mainella • 514-605-9398 (D/H)
- Mandala Massage • Lisa Larkin • CHMP • text 871-8701 call 335-2836 (D)
- Physiotherapy & Acupuncture • Carmen B-Gautrais RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Trees Service • Chipping • Certified faller • Antoine 207-3884 (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)

GOLF IS A DOGS SPORT...



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

THURSDAY 12

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm
- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm
- MINDFULNESS FOR HEALTH 7pm

FRIDAY 13

- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm

SATURDAY 14

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm
- DENMAN FREE STORE 9-Noon
- DIGPA AGM/Forum Community Hall 3pm-Forum
4:30pm-AGM

SUNDAY 15

- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm
- DSMS AGM Zoom meeting 7pm see ad on page 9

MONDAY 16

- DENMAN FREE STORE 4-7pm
- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm

TUESDAY 17

WEDNESDAY 18

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm

THURSDAY 19

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK 4-7pm
- DORA DRINKWATER LIBRARY 1:30-3:30pm
- MINDFULNESS FOR HEALTH 7pm